That Old School Feeling

Processes of Mythmaking in Old School RuneScape

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Misplaced Items, n.d.

Graph generated on 17 October 2020
# A Brief History of RuneScape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Developers</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeviousMUD</td>
<td>Andrew Gower</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Open to the public for one week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RuneScape</td>
<td>Andrew and Paul Gower (later Jagex)</td>
<td>2001-2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RuneScape 2</td>
<td>Jagex</td>
<td>2004-2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RuneScape Classic</td>
<td>Jagex</td>
<td>2004-2018</td>
<td>Original RuneScape kept online alongside 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RuneScape 3</td>
<td>Jagex</td>
<td>2013-present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old School RuneScape</td>
<td>Jagex</td>
<td>2013-present</td>
<td>Launched using a backup of RuneScape 2 from August 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The December 2007 Pay to PK Riot, also known as the World 66 Riot, the First Wilderness Riot, the End of RuneScape Riot, the Free Trade Riot, and the Falador Riot.

gif taken from RuneScape Wiki ‘Pay to PK Riot’, 2019
Hi everyone,

Last week, Mod Mark posted a thread on our forums highlighting some of the nostalgic and often passionate discussions within the community around a desired return of an ‘old school’ version of RuneScape. Specifically, the fine vintages of 2006 & 2007 appeared to be the high point of collective interest. Our team then set out to see if we had a backup that went that far back; if restoring the backup was even technically possible; and what specific content these potential old RuneScape backups might contain.

The team has spent many late nights and the past weekend digging through dusty old backups and restoring them, in the hope of finding more than just the old IT manager’s MP3 collection of 80s rock power ballads! 😊

Finally, I’m very happy to report that we have indeed managed to recover a full RuneScape backup from August 2007. This is a complete snapshot of the game, which we have been able to verify would work, with some time and effort invested in it. Ironically, in October 2007 we actually changed our backup systems, so we have no complete content versions from August onwards that are viable for this purpose.

(excerpt from a RuneScape News blog post, Gerhard, 2013)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old School Features</th>
<th>0 - 49,999 Votes</th>
<th>50,000+ Votes</th>
<th>250,000+ Votes</th>
<th>500,000+ Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007 server launch?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of on-going development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Small team</td>
<td>Additional dedicated development team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of service</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Additional membership fee of around $15</td>
<td>Additional membership fee of around $5</td>
<td>No Extra membership fee**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of maintenance</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Critical only</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-bot &amp; Anti-gold farming upgrade</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular membership polls to decide new content</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jagex, 2013c
Myth

ossification    fossilisation
Old School-ness

- Art style
  - Style of humour
- Combat system
- Sound style
  - Regular updates
- No "real-world politics"
- No microtransactions
An implied game object does not exist, but is imagined by the player as what the game is, or ought to be. A game riddled with software bugs, for example, is perceived as merely the flawed, actual version of an uncompleted, implied game. We conceptualize the real game as being without the annoying bugs, and the present version as a premature, unwanted stand-in version for the real (implied) thing.

Aarseth 2011, p.66
In-game protests ~15 minutes after the Pride 2017 event launches (m_i_i_t, 2017)
What’s old school about Old School?
References


m_i_t_t. (2017, June 8). 15 mins after the update hit [Forum discussion]. Reddit. https://www.reddit.com/r/2007scape/comments/6g0axm/15_mins_after_the_update_hit/
