

Contents



6

Attract mode

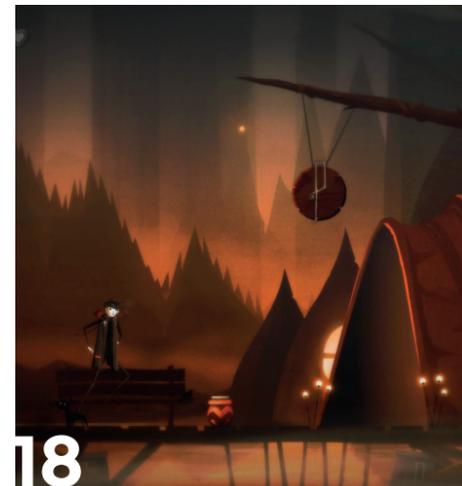
- 06. Void Bastards**
System Shock 2's Jon Chey on his new strategy shooter
- 10. Metro Exodus**
Hands-on with 4A Games' latest post-apocalyptic horror
- 12. Sable**
Inside a world of exploration and mystery
- 16. Incoming**
Barren moons, skating birds and woolly dinosaurs

Interface

- 18. To hell and back**
Thomas Brush reflects on the sometimes hellish making of Pinstripe
- 22. Automata**
Mel Croucher takes us through the birth of the UK game industry
- 44. GameSalad**
A closer look at an appetising codeless creation tool
- 50. Amy Hennig**
One of modern gaming's leading lights profiled



61



18

Toolbox

- 28. CityCraft**
The pitfalls to avoid when designing a game city
- 32. Source Code**
How to recreate the whipping alien tail from R-Type
- 34. Localisation**
Prepare your game for a global audience
- 38. Level design**
Six tips to make your level designs shine



50

Rated

- 56. Travis Strikes Again**
Suda51's manic action hero makes a welcome return
- 58. Gris**
An artistically stunning exploration of grief
- 61. Monster Boy**
A delightful successor to the Wonder Boy series
- 63. My Time at Portia**
The devil makes fun farming work for idle hands

WELCOME

It was a truly shudder-inducing image. On 21 Jan, Twitter's VisionsofMatt posted a photo of his Nintendo Switch: punctuated by dozens of dog bites, the little console was chewed up beyond repair. The image has hundreds of responses from Twitter users sharing in Matt's pain: there are expressions of horror and sympathy; GIFs of guilty-looking canines, and more besides.

Those reactions say a great deal about the emotional connection we can have with our game hardware. Sure, the Switch isn't a cheap system, but the visceral response goes beyond the thought of having to buy another one. It's hard to imagine the same reaction to an image of, say, a dead fridge freezer, even though they're likely to cost more than a Switch.

It's also easy to join in the collective shudder if you've lost a console to a pet yourself. I once owned a cockatiel that would nibble through the cable of my Sega Game Gear's AC adapter; I'd save up for weeks to buy another, and then the feathered assassin would do the same thing again.

Then again, pets aren't always to blame. I once killed a rare console by accidentally using the wrong AC adapter. As soon as I caught the whiff of burning circuits, I realised my mistake. Never mind the pets: when it comes to expensive, much-loved gaming equipment, we can't even trust ourselves. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to lock my Switch in a vault.

Ryan Lambie
Editor

