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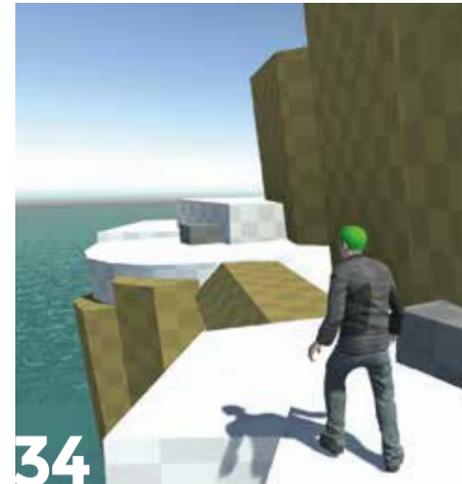
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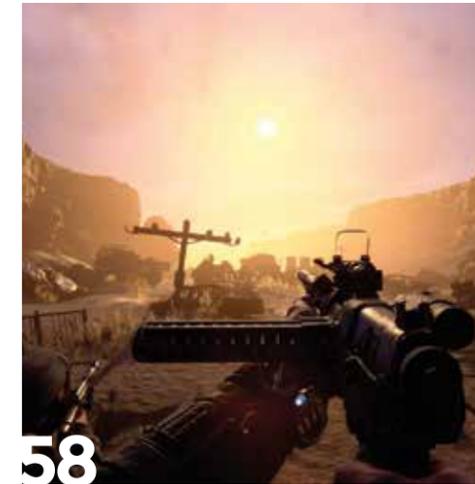
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WELCOME

As you'll see on page 65, we've been playing *Tetris 99* quite a lot this month. It's a barebones yet unnervingly addictive multiplayer take on the falling-block classic.

Keen to sharpen my skills, I started looking at how other, better players (which is, I'll admit, all of them) approached the game on YouTube and Twitch – and in the process, I came to realise that *Tetris 99*'s 2D action is as gripping to watch as any other esports game you could mention.

For proof, look no further than Ray Narvaez Jr's recent game, which he also shared as a clip on Twitter (wfmag.cc/tetris99). In the space of a couple of minutes, Narvaez Jr somehow manages to avoid death by falling junk blocks at least a dozen times. No matter how cluttered the screen becomes, he keeps his cool and carries on, carefully slotting the tetrominoes into the handful of spaces he has left.

In the video's dying moments, defeat seems inescapable as blocks continue to flood the play area. But somehow, Narvaez Jr snatches a first-place victory in the last fraction of a second – a turn of events so improbable that even he looks stunned.

Suspense, jubilation, a pulse-quickenning soundtrack: it is, quite simply, an underdog drama to rival *Rocky*.

Ryan Lambie
Editor



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