



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Video Game Pioneers Oral History Collection

NMAH.AC.1498

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The Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Entertainment Software Association for this oral history project.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Video Game Pioneers Oral History Collection
Date:	2017-2018
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1498
Creator:	Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. (Compiler)
Extent:	45.6 Gigabytes (19 .wav files) 12 Documents (12 .pdf files)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Born-digital audio interviews and transcripts with individuals involved in the early development of video games.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Made for the National Museum of American History.

Preferred Citation

Video Game Pioneers Oral History Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access and use of born digital audio materials available in the Archives Center reading room.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Accruals

Further oral histories are expected.

Historical

The oral histories in this collection were conducted as part of the Lemelson Center's Video Game Initiative launched in 2017 to preserve first-hand accounts of the invention, development, marketing, and play of video games. The oral histories capture the interviewees recollections, emotions, and other perspectives often missing from written

records. The Video Game Initiative is intended to support scholarly and public history research; public engagement with science, engineering, and innovation; and future exhibitions at the National Museum of American History.

Content Description

Born-digital audio interviews and transcripts with video game pioneers: Allan Alcorn, Nolan Bushnell, Samuel "Ted" Dabney, Donald Daglow, Daniel Edwards, Martin Graetz, Brenda Laurel, Stephen Piner, Stephen Russell, Peter Samson, Robert Saunders, and Wayne Wiitanen.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Transcripts, 2017-2018

Series 2: Audio Files, 2017-2018

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Transcripts
- Video games

Types of Materials:

- Born digital
- Oral history -- 2010-2020
- Video recordings

Names:

- Alcorn, Allan, 1948-
- Bushnell, Nolan
- Dabney, Samuel Frederick "Ted", 1937-2018
- Daglow, Donald
- Edwards, Daniel
- Graetz, Martin
- Laurel, Brenda
- Piner, Stephen
- Russell, Stephen, 1937-
- Samson, Peter, 1941-
- Saunders, Robert Alan
- Weaver, Christopher
- Wiitanen, Wayne

Container Listing

Series 1: Transcripts, 2017-2018

Scope and Contents: This series consists of 12 interview transcripts. The series is arranged alphabetically by last name of interviewee.

Allan E. Alcorn, 2018-03-16
[Digital Content: Allan E. Alcorn: 2018-03-16-](#)

Nolan Bushnell, 2017-11-17
[Digital Content: Nolan Bushnell: 2017-11-17-](#)

Samuel F. "Ted" Dabney, 2018-03-15
[Digital Content: Samuel F. "Ted" Dabney: 2018-03-15-](#)

Donald Daglow, 2017-01-09
[Digital Content: Donald Daglow: 2017-01-09-](#)
Notes: Correction to transcript on page 21: "Snowball" should read "SNOBOL."

Daniel James Edwards, 2018-11-30
[Digital Content: Daniel James Edwards: 2018-11-30-](#)

Martin J. Graetz, 2018-11-30
[Digital Content: Martin J. Graetz: 2018-11-30-](#)

Brenda Laurel, 2017-01-10
[Digital Content: Brenda Laurel: 2017-01-10-](#)

Stephen Piner, 2018-11-29
[Digital Content: Stephen Piner: 2018-11-29-](#)

Stephen (Steve) "Slug" Russell, 2017-01-08
[Digital Content: Stephen \(Steve\) "Slug" Russell: 2017-01-08-](#)

Peter Samson, 2017-01-09
[Digital Content: Peter Samson: 2017-01-09-](#)

Robert Alan Saunders, 2018-11-29
[Digital Content: Robert Alan Saunders: 2018-11-29-](#)

Wayne Alfred Wiitanen, 2018-11-30

Digital Content: Wayne Alfred Wiitanen: 2018-11-30-

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Series 2: Audio Files, 2017-2018

Scope and Contents: This series consists of 19 .wav audio files for 12 interviews. Access and use of born digital audio materials available in the Archives Center reading room.

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