



# Create a game to tackle social rejection

Ensure feelings remain ambiguous

Provide a means of reflection and resilience

### **Platform**

"Pick up and play" – PC, Mobile or Tablet

## **Number of Players**

• 3 players minimum with multiplayer (local or online)

## Game Length

 Duration appropriate to design: multiple moments for rejection and building resilience

## Target Audience

• Adolescents (11-16), male & female, emotionally vulnerable / sensitive to rejection

## **Additional Requirements**

- Casual, easy to play (narrative optional)
- Capture in-game data for later analysis







Limited Communication



Buffs & Debuffs



Team Anonymity

Gather fuel and refuel your team's ship



## Feedback from client playtest session

- Multiplayer aspect was good
- Fun atmosphere
- Controls were good
- Too fast
- Too casual
- Too much information onscreen
- User interface was very unclear

The feeling of rejection was lost.





Team Structure



Voting System



**Communication System** 



Round System



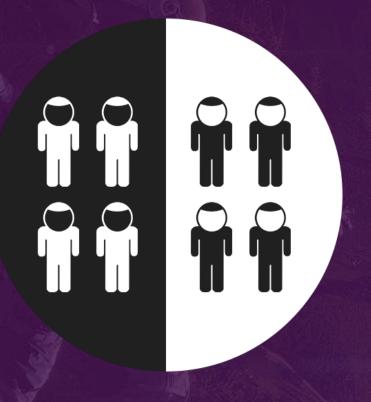
**End of Round Information** 



**End of Game Statistics** 



Player Usernames





Anonymous team system proved too confusing and the end goal to reveal your team at the end of the game was not particularly meaningful.



## Free-for-all multiplayer

Removal of teams should lead to a more personal experience and offer more opportunities for rejection. Clearer and more easier to understand.



Fuel crates requires an exact amount of players before the countdown begins

During the countdown, if the amount of players at the fuel crate exceeds the amount required, the voting system is initiated

Players anonymously vote and one player is rejected from the fuel crate and does not receive the fuel



Voting system designed to intervene if and when required

System can detect if a player is being persistently voted out and can grant them immunity depending on the circumstances

Since votes remain anonymous and hidden, players do not know that the system has intervened



## Replace icon dropping

Icon dropping was hard to interpret and contributed a lot of visual noise during the game. These controls were particularly cumbersome too.



## **Sonar communication**

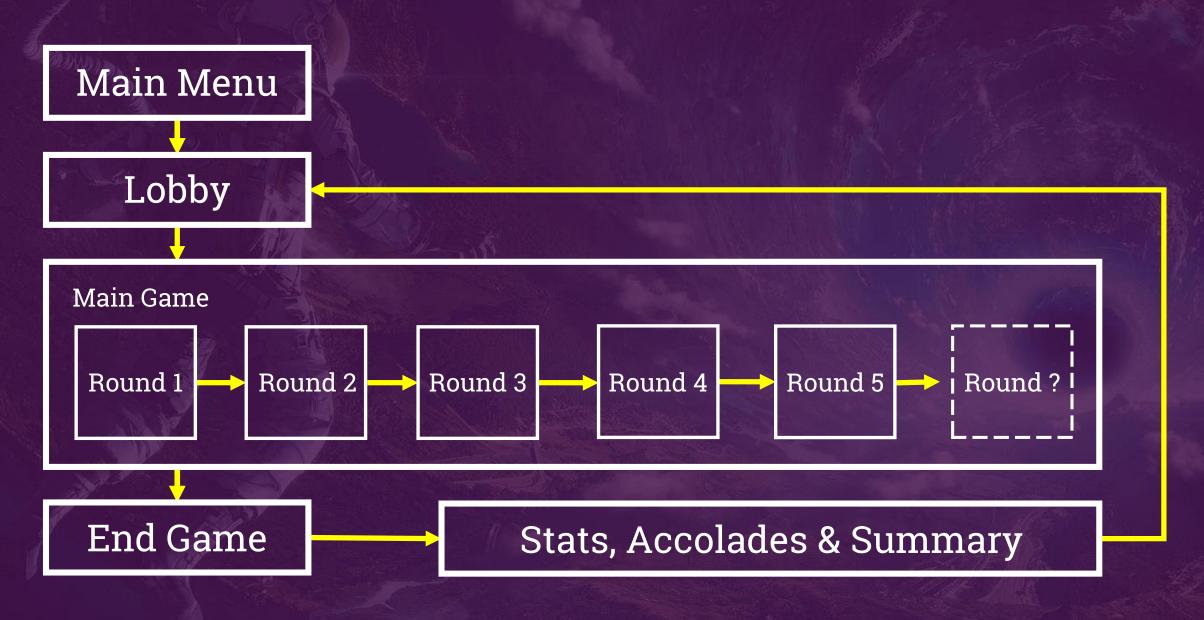
Players will be able to emit a sonar pulse to highlight their position and potential state. Radius and falloff may be subtly adjusted behind the scenes where required.



Introduce round system to keep players engaged and involved for longer

Rounds will provide the opportunity for players to regularly succeed and fail whilst keeping the pace of the match fast and fresh

May allow for bonds to form and for unexpected betrayals to occur over the match's rounds





A short break will occur at the end of each round

Players will be notified at the end of the round on whether or not they won that round. The winner of the round is never revealed to other players

Intentionally hiding stats and victors ensures that player actions are not motivated by the game's stats and state



Various statistics and facts are provided at the end of the match

Using the statistics, players may be able to understand the actions and behaviours of other players in order to provide resolution and reflection

Each player will always be praised by receiving a positive accolade determined by stats gathered in-game



To potentially identify players across different matches, players will be able to choose and set a username

Usernames will be matched and revealed with the corresponding player colour at the end of every match

Some colours may have multiple usernames due to disconnections which may explain unexpected changes in player behaviour





Reflecting back, we were not fully pleased with the overall art style and direction

Sudden design changes, team complications and different specialities resulted in confliction and inefficiency

Fundamental asset list established and 12 more weeks to produce art content for the game: reset the art style

#### **OLD ART STYLE**





#### **OLD ART STYLE**





#### ART STYLE DEVELOPMENT



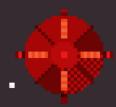












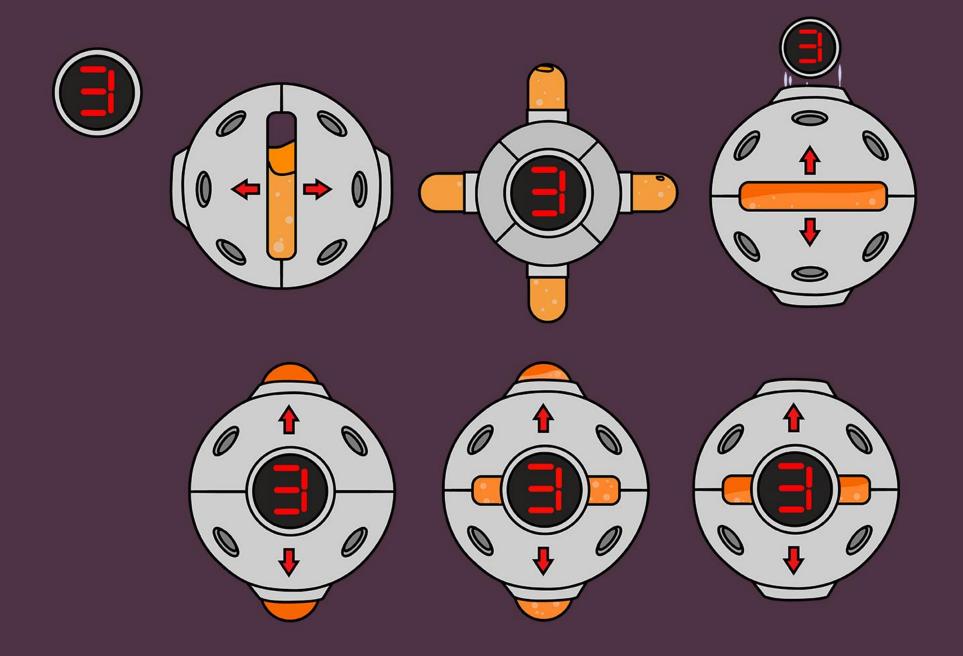


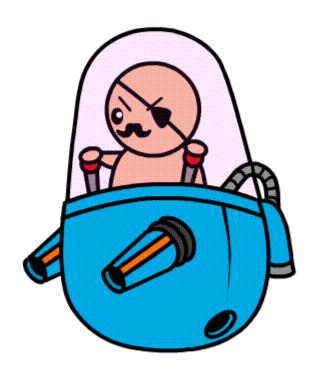


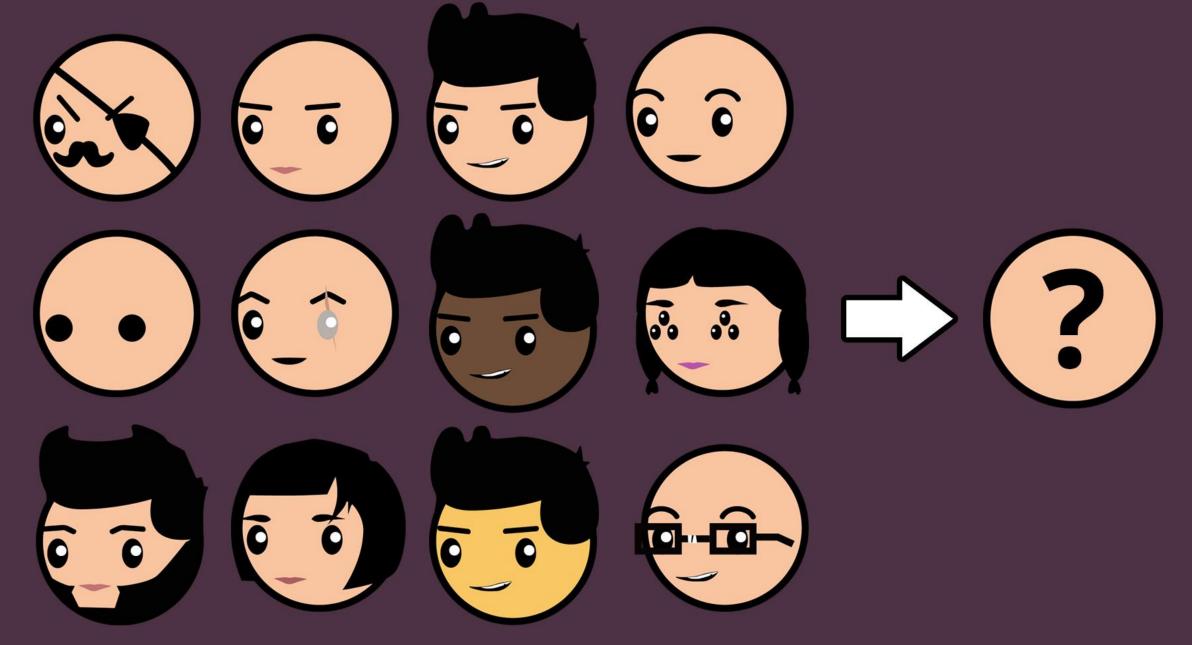
#### ART STYLE DEVELOPMENT

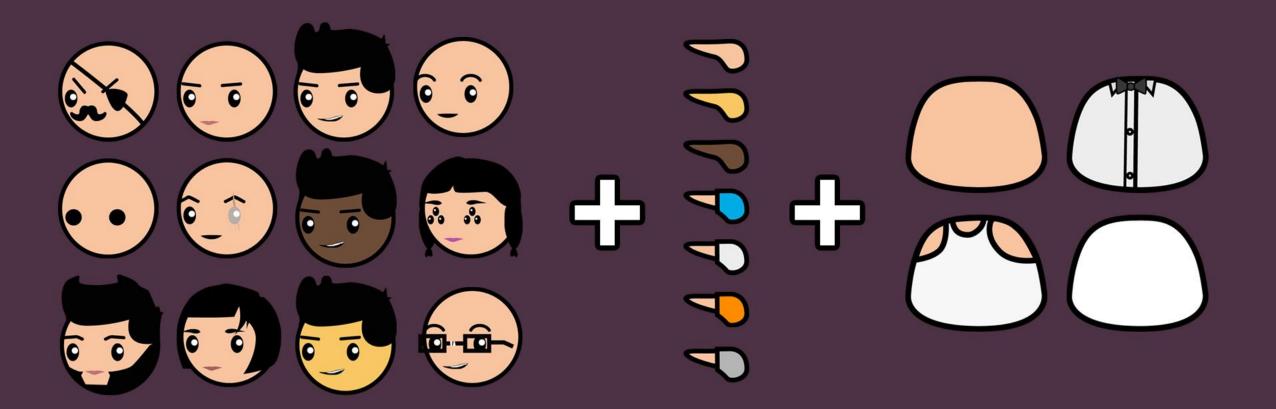














## MY CHARACTER

**USERNAME** 

**ENTER HERE** 

**HEAD** 



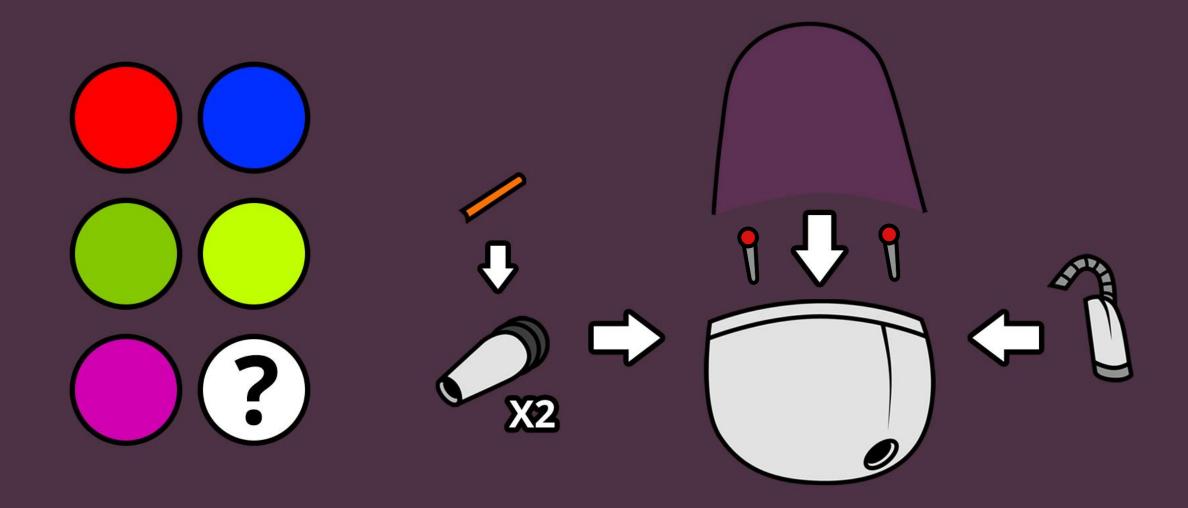


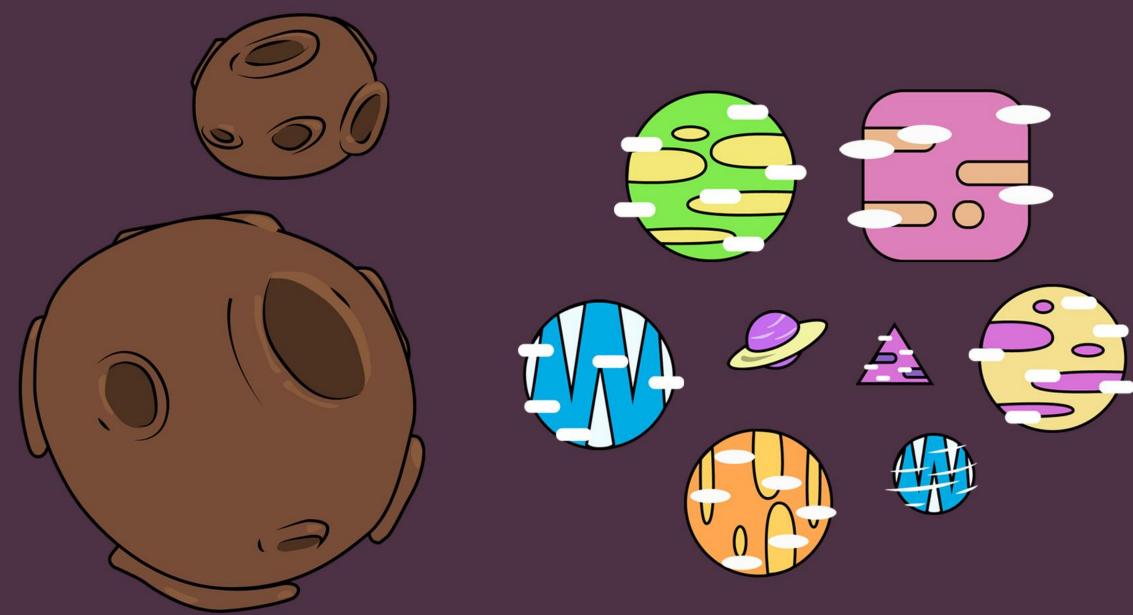
**BODY** 

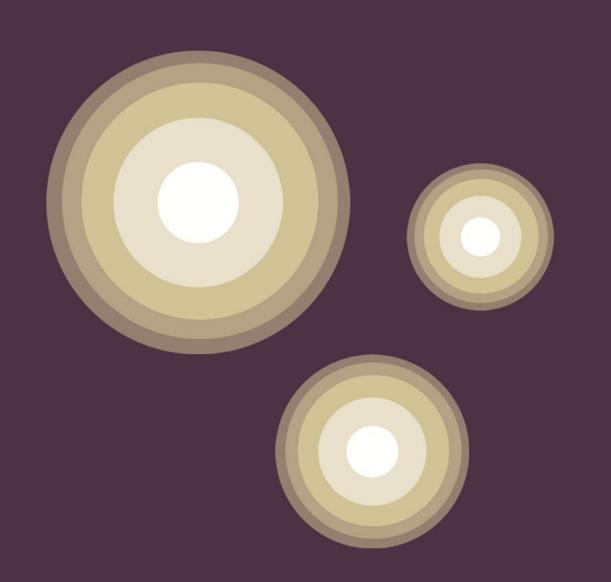


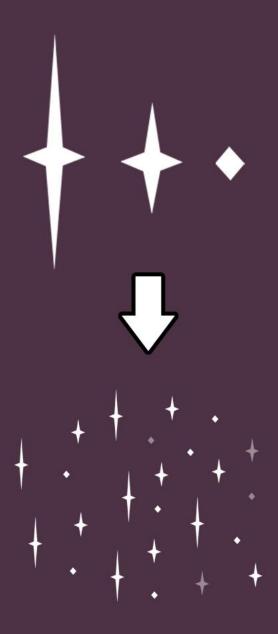


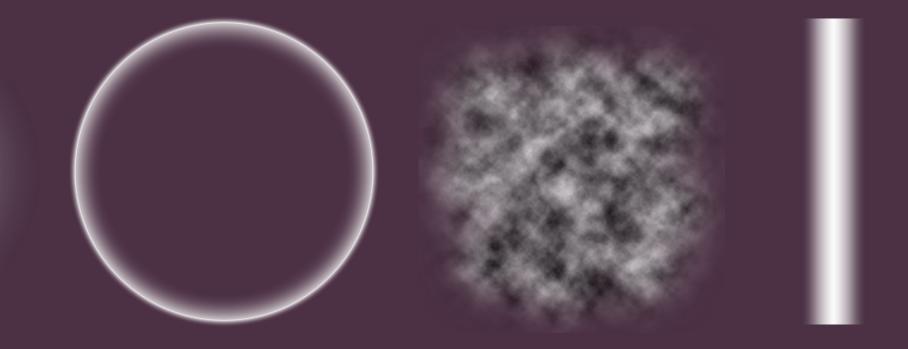
**SAVE CHARACTER & RETURN** 







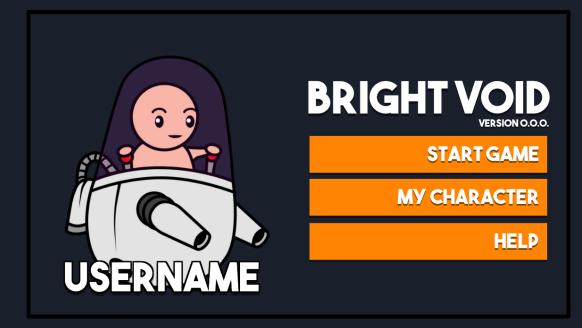


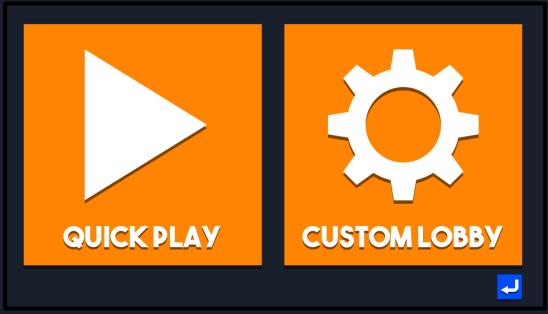


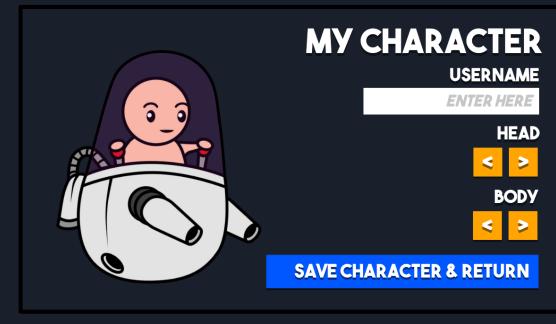
RESIZE
LAYER
ADJUST OPACITY
ADJUST COLOUR



#### **ART STYLE**



















SWIPE TO VOTE





# RECEIVING RESOURCES

Collecting resources from resource crates was a core system from the first iteration of the game. This required a means of providing and limiting carried resources per individual player.

### **DEPOSITING RESOURCES**

To make resources meaningful, a system had to provide a means for players to individually deposit resources to their own assigned ship. This would determine the win state of the game.

## PLAYER VOTING

To provide the feeling of rejection, a voting system would be initiated when the nearby player count exceeded the required player count. This system allowed individual players to place a vote which would determine what player would not receive resources.

## **MOVEMENT**

Player movement provided some problems as each player's movement and location had to be synced accurately and efficiently across the network to each player's device.

## BASE NETWORKING

Due to inexperience with online networking and the complicated nature of this area, many unexpected problems occurred. With the game being multiplayer and on mobile, this was difficult to diagnose and fix without multiple devices.

## PLAYER IDENTITY

Consistent and synced player identities was problematic due to the individual, unique lobbies per game session. This would result in mismatched player colours, ships and scores.

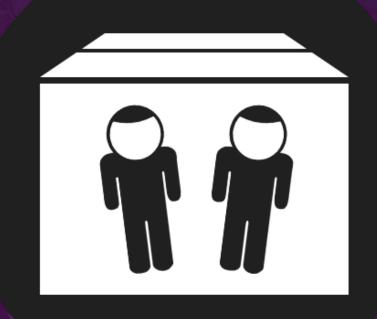
### **VOTING INTERVENTION**

Since the game consists of multiple rounds per match, storing the voting-related data across each scene transition causes problems. Additionally, if a player disconnects, the system would need to adjust significantly or reset in response to this.

## **USERNAMES**

Creating and storing usernames locally is simple and currently functions in the game. However, problems occur when transferring and syncing this information from offline to online due to lack of server storage functionality.





Initially worked in reverse by removing old existing content before producing the new game based on the new design

Continued to work closely with the client to produce a functional game that meets our client's specifications

Client was open to playtesting the game when it's functional therefore builds would have be provided where possible throughout the term



**Remove Teams** 



**Voting System** 



**Player Usernames** 



**New Comms System** 



**Endgame & Accolades** 



**Round System** 



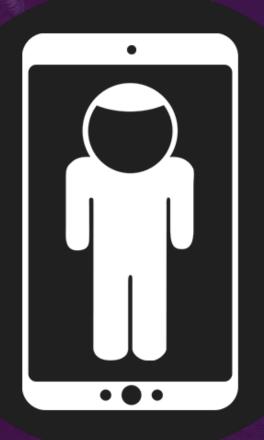
**Voting Intervention** 



**Round Win State** 



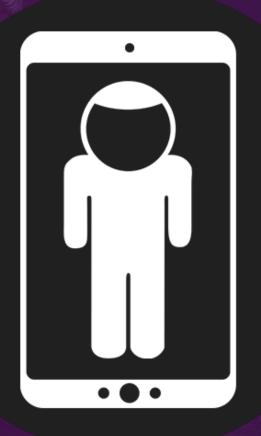
**Game Analytics** 



Significant difficulties with the playtest and iteration loop through development

Due to the game's tight and precise design, all systems had be implemented and functioning

Unexpected scope and networking problems hindered proper playtesting – playtesting became bug fixing



Main focus of playtesting would have been to verify the integrity of the targetted feeling of rejection

With 5 players and scattered resources, object placement and player movement would have to be iteratively adjusted

Verify the effectiveness of the game's controls, objectives and user interface to improve the overall user experience



Development significantly hindered by online multiplayer and networking

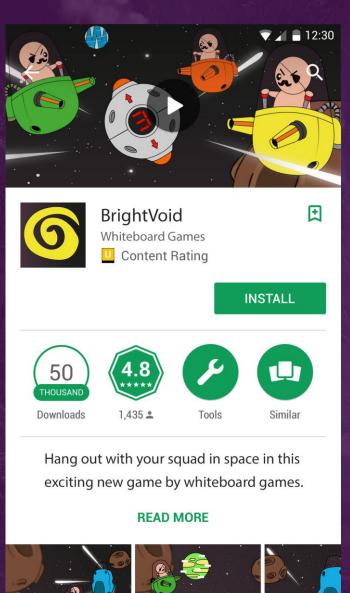
Naturally difficult to account for all network possibilities and errors:

- Poor player connection strength
- Unintentional player disconnections
- Intentional player disconnections
- Replacing disconnected players
- Priority system for disconnected players
- Lobby status reporting
- Minimum lobby player count
- External server errors
- Duplicate usernames
- Player cheating or exploitation
- ...and a lot more!



#### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**









#### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**













### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**







