Creating Interactive Fiction with Inform 7

By Aaron Reed

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CREATING INTERACTIVE FICTION WITH INFORM 7 is a jargon-free, step-by-step guide to mastering the basics of creating dynamic, text-based story worlds. Inform 7 is a free multiplatform interactive fiction authoring environment that uses an intuitive natural language syntax. A tool focused on writers, not programmers, Inform allows users construct complex, rich storytelling worlds by writing sentences as simple as "Tom is a person," or as complicated as "Instead of attacking Tom when something lethal is held, now every nearby watchdog owned by Tom hates the player." No prior programming experience is required. Throughout the book, readers develop a full-length, release-quality example game, exploring the real-world issues involved in authoring participatory narratives and gaining skills that can be applied to the creation of future games and stories.

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Editorial Review

Review
Introduction: Why Interactive Fiction? 1. Understanding Interactive Fiction Chapter. 2. Introducing the Inform Application Chapter. 3. Creating a Story World Chapter. 4. Describing the Story World Chapter. 5. Making Things Happen Chapter. 6. Understanding the Player Chapter. 7. Logic and Control Chapter. 8. Time, Scenes, and Pacing Chapter. 9. Creating Other Characters Chapter. 10. Challenging Assumptions Chapter. 11. Polishing and Finishing Chapter. 12. Further Pursuits.

About the Author
Aaron A. Reed has worked as a travel writer, web monkey, offensive t-shirt designer, graphic artist, filmmaker, and murder mystery producer. His fiction has appeared in "Fantasy & Science Fiction" magazine, and his interactive fiction has won acclaim from indie gaming, electronic literature, and new media circles. His 2009 project Blue Lacuna has been called "the most ambitious interactive story of the decade," and is the longest work yet produced in the Inform 7 language. Reed is currently working with the Expressive Intelligence Studio at UC Santa Cruz developing new forms of participatory storytelling.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ian Ashlock:

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