Troff: A Parody Game Concept

By

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Inspired by Tron by Steven Lisberger

1   INT. PROGRAMMERS CUBICLE - EVENING

         BOX is typing at a computer console, getting frustrated at
         the computer's responses.

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    Dah! Stupid thing.

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    What's up Box?

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    Oh Hi Jeff. Hey, have you got
                    that money you owe me yet?

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    Erm, yeah, I'll have it for you
                    at the weekend. What are you busy
                    doing?

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    I'm trying to compile my new
                    trace program but the giant
                    command program won't let me. I
                    tried writing a program to
                    calculate the value of PI but it
                    wasn't enough to keep it
                    distracted. I think I'll play a
                    few rounds of impact velocity.
                    The strain on the graphics F.P.U.
                    might just swing it.

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    Cool. I'm off to see the boss, he
                    wants me to make some
                    modifications to that anti-hacker
                    code I invented. See you later.

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    Bye. Okay Impact Velocity,
                    prepare to meet your match.

2   GAME

         5 levels of gameplay.

3   INT. PROGRAMMERS CUBICLE - EVENING

         JEFF interrupts BOX from his gameplay.

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    Hey, Box!

                    BOX BRIDGES
          You startled me.

                    JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
          The boss wants to see you right
          away.

                    BOX BRIDGES
          David Warner wants to see me? I
          wonder what that's all about.

4   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

                    DAVID WARNER
          I hear you like playing computer
          games in company time.

                    BOX BRIDGES
          No... well... Mr Warner, I've got
          a new trace program running and I
          needed to keep the mainframe
          occupied while it ran.

                    DAVID WARNER
          A new program? Part of the Giant
          Command Program?

                    BOX BRIDGES
          No it works independently.

                    DAVID WARNER
          The Giant Command Program won't
          permit that!

                    BOX BRIDGES
          IT won't permit it? But it's only
          a computer program.

DAVID WARNER lifts his arm to reveal a chromium hand.

                    DAVID WARNER
          Oh no, it's much more that that.

                    BOX BRIDGES
          Oh my God! A robot hand! You're
          part of the G.C.P!

                    DAVID WARNER
          And soon you will be too...

DAVID fires an energy ray from his hand into BOX. BOX
squeals in startled agony.

CUT TO:

5   EXT. DIGITAL SPACE

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  Welcome to the game grid, user.
                  Let's see how you play Impact
                  Velocity for real.

6   GAME

        1 level of gameplay.

7   INT. BOX'S POD

                        BOX BRIDGES
                  Hey I get the idea. It's just
                  like the arcades back home.

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  I'm having fun watching you Mr
                  Bridges. Let's start things nice
                  and easy.

8   GAME

        5 levels of gameplay.

9   INT. DIGITAL SPACE - EVENING

                        BOX BRIDGES
                  This is no problem G.C.P!

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  You forget that there is no way
                  out Mr Bridges. We play until you
                  die, and we are only just
                  beginning. Let's see how you cope
                  with falling blocks.

10   GAME

        2 levels of gameplay with falling blocks.

11   INT. BOX'S POD

        BOX is interrupted by a flying, spinning object of pure
        energy.

                        BOX BRIDGES
                  Hey who are you?

                         BIT
          One.

                         BOX BRIDGES
          What do you mean 'one'?

                         BIT
          One.

                         BOX BRIDGES
          Oh I get it your a bit, right?

                         BIT
          One.

                         BOX BRIDGES
          How do you like this game so far?

                         BIT
          Zero.

                         GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
          You're losing concentration Mr
          Bridges. Let's see how you handle
          my data balls.

12   GAME

      5 levels of gameplay with data balls.

13   INT. BOX'S POD

                         GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
          Your skills impress even me.
          These pickups should make your
          death more interesting to watch.

                         BOX BRIDGES
          Keep them coming G.C.P. I've
          beaten harder games than you.

                         BIT
          One!

14   GAME

      10 levels of gameplay with pickups.

15   INT. BOX'S POD

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  Now let's make this a team
                  effort.

A new pod containing a man, ROM, falls from the sky in
sight of BOX.

                        BOX BRIDGES
                  Hey. Who are you?

                        ROM
                  I'm Rom. What's going on here?

                        BOX BRIDGES
                  This is the game grid. Get seated
                  in that top pod and just follow
                  my commands.

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  It's not that easy Mr Bridges,
                  Rom's pod will have reverse
                  controls.

                        ROM
                  I don't like that idea.

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                  This is fun, two deaths for the
                  price of one.

16   GAME

5 levels of gameplay with two players and reversed
controls.

17   INT. ROM'S POD

                        ROM
                    (whispered)
                  Box, the next level has a weak
                  spot. Let's see if we can break
                  out of this death trap.

18   GAME

1 level of gameplay.

19   INT. BOX'S POD

                    BOX BRIDGES
          Woo hoo we've done it! We're
          inside the circuits of the giant
          control program.

                    GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
          You cannot escape. My back door
          has more firewalls and security
          protocols than any other computer
          in history. Surrender at once. In
          terms of intelligence, only the
          Dragon 32 came close.

20   INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

         A Dragon 32 computer is here, plugged into an old
         fashioned television. The screen shows 'I THINK THEREFORE
         I AM' in is characteristic green on green text.

21   GAME

         Several levels of gameplay

22   INT. ROM'S POD

                    ROM
          Agh. I've been hit. Vital fluids
          leaking... data fragmenting... I
          wish I'd backed myself up more
          often.

                    BOX BRIDGES
          Relax you're not going to die...
          you'll be fine. ROM? Can you hear
          me? He's dead isn't he.

                    BIT
          One.

                    GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
               (with evil relish)
          Mwahahaha.

                    BOX BRIDGES
          You'll pay for that G.C.P.

23   GAME

        More gameplay with one player and lots of features.

24   INT. BOX'S POD

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                I sense your imminent death, Box.
                You are about to enter my
                anti-virus nexus.

                        BOX BRIDGES
                Bring it on!

25   GAME

        Several alien levels ending in guardian.

26   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

                        DAVID WARNER
                Giant Command, what's the
                problem? My computer keeps
                crashing, and my arm hurts.

                        GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                    (spoken dialog also appears
                     on DAVID's computer screen)
                Sorry Mr Warner. Box Bridges is
                giving me trouble.

                        DAVID WARNER
                I'll see if I can help. I'll get
                one of the programmers here to
                put up a few barriers.

        JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER steps out from the shadows of the room.

                        JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                I'd be pleased to help Mr Warner
                sir.

27   INT. BOX'S POD

                        BOX BRIDGES
                Hmmm, looks like were entering
                some sort of fragmented space
                here.

28   GAME

Several random levels, fully featured.

29   INT. BOX'S POD

> GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
> You have taken up too many of my
> cycles Mr Bridges. My new and
> improved firewall system is about
> to come online.

> BOX BRIDGES
> This is more difficult than I'd
> hoped for. Bit, is there some
> sort of rebel alliance of rogue
> programs in this computer system?

> BIT
> One.

> BOX BRIDGES
> I'm glad you didn't have to
> explain that. Get them on the
> radio. I think I'm going to need
> them soon.

> BIT
> One.

30   GAME

One level with deadly fire gaps.

31   INT. BOX'S POD

> BIT
> One One One One One!

> TEDDY (O.S.)
>   (on radio)
> Hello box! This is Teddy, the
> failed 1980's game character.

> BILL GATES (O.S)
>   (on radio)
> This is the real Bill Gates. I
> was digitised in the late 1970's
> and in a freak accident the
> electronic me entered the real
> world, and I've been stuck in
> here ever since.

                         CLIVE SINCLAIR (O.S)
                              (on radio)
                    This is Clive Sinclair. I've
                    always lived inside a computer.
                    Ready to rock and roll!

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    Glad to have you on board. Now
                    suit up.

                         GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                    Those 8-bit nobodies can't save
                    you. Prepare to die!

32   GAME

          Several levels with four players which start with a slow
          ball.

33   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

                         GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                    Box Bridges is getting close to
                    my kernal files.

                         DAVID WARNER
                    No problem G.C.P. I've got
                    everything under control.

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    We can catch anything you can
                    throw.

                         DAVID WARNER
                    Very impressive, Box, but you're
                    forgetting that here in the real
                    world I can delete any programs I
                    want.
                         (to JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER)
                    Mr Brucelightner, delete the
                    rebel scum.

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    Yes sir.

                         TEDDY, BILL GATES, CLIVE SINCLAIR
          (O.S.)
                         (together)
                    Noooo!

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    Jeff!? How could you?

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    We were destined to collide Box.
                    I'm on the way up, and you're on
                    the way down.

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    You can't delete me that way, I'm
                    a user.

                         JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
                    But I can turn up the speed...

34   GAME

        Several levels, faster

35   INT. BOX'S POD

                         BOX BRIDGES
                    This is it bit, were right near
                    the CPU core.

                         BIT
                    One.

36   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

                         GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
                    Help me David. Take all of my
                    power.

        DAVID WARNER'S arm glows with blue energy.

                         DAVID WARNER
                    Yesss. I feel it. Now Mr Bridges
                    I shall destroy you personally.
                    Open a portal G.C.P. I'm coming
                    in. Oh and Jeff, give me infinite
                    lives. Having one life is sooo
                    tedious.

37   GAME

        Some pong-style levels one on one, all of which DAVID
        WARNER wins.

38   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

        CLIVE SINCLAIR emerges from the shadows.

>   CLIVE SINCLAIR
>   Hold it Jeff, this is Clive
>   Sinclair. My deletion merely put
>   me back in the real world.

>   JEFF BRUCELIGHTNER
>   Oh Crumbs!

CLIVE SINCLAIR punches JEFF, sending him to the floor, unconscious.

>   CLIVE SINCLAIR
>   Now that he's gone let's make
>   this fight a little fairer. One
>   life ought to do it.

39   DAVID WARNER'S POD

>   DAVID WARNER
>   Curse you Clive Sinclair! I can't
>   control my lives but I can
>   control this world. Let's see
>   what you're really made of Box
>   Bridges. This time only one of us
>   walks away.

40   GAME

One fast pong-style level.

41   INT. DAVID WARNER'S OFFICE - EVENING

BOX BRIDGES flies out of the computer screen into a heap on the floor. The room is in semi-darkness. The computer screen is blank. He struggles upright.

>   BOX BRIDGES
>   Hey, what happened!? I'm back in
>   the office.

CLIVE waves a computer cord with plug.

>   CLIVE SINCLAIR
>   That was down to me. I pulled the
>   plug on the G.C.P. Watch...

CLIVE plugs the plug back in. The computer lights up once again. The classic Windows Start-up Sound plays.

>   BOX BRIDGES
>   Oh, you turned him off and on
>   again. Why didn't I think of
>   that?

                    GIANT COMMAND PROGRAM
          How about a nice game of chess?

                    BOX BRIDGES
          That's much more civilised.

                    BIT (O.S.)
          One!