What is a Puzzle?

Four Kinds of Play

- **Game**
  - Rule-based
  - Against an opponent
  - Goal is to beat opponent
  - Entertainment
  - Education

- **Puzzle**
  - Rule-based
  - Opponent is self
  - Manipulatable game
    - with a goal

- **Toy**
  - Manipulatable game
  - Has no set goal

- **Experience**
  - No goal, no opponent, no goal

Material taken mainly from Scott Kim’s Presentation in 2000 Game Design Conference

Genres of Puzzles
**Designing a Puzzle**

- A puzzle is **fun** and has a **right answer**

- As opposed to everyday “problems”
- As opposed to a game (no answer) or a toy (no goal)

**Is fun**

Can you figure out which letter of the alphabet I folded just once to make this shape?

Hint: the answer is not L.

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**Has a right answer**

Helping out: It comes from this sans-serif type:

ABC DEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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**Algorithm: Designing a Game**

- Start with a fun game you know
  - The secret to all successes
  - That's why spoof / parody is easy fun!
- Find New Coherent Story
  - Clear understanding of the rules
  - Description of all options and outcomes
  - Fair, fun and reasonably challenging
  - Multi-leveled based on developed skills
Designing a Computerized Game

- **Direct** translations do not always work  
  - E.g. Computerized Rubik’s cube
- **Create something that takes advantage of the medium**  
  - E.g. Cogito
- **Limitations** of the computer  
  - Screen size, resolution, audio, response time, interface tools, storage, connection
- **Advantages** of the computer  
  - Undo, on-demand help, low-ego opponent, never-tired opponent, updated games
- **Unique** to the computer  
  - *Arthur’s* music box

Possible Screens in a Computerized Game

- Introduction screen
- Instruction screen
- Back-story screen
- Game background screen
- Screen between levels
- End of game screen
- High score screen and High score display screen
- Payoff screen

See the online *Art of Computer Game Design*  
And Chapters 1 and 2 of *Advanced Lingo for Games* by Gary Rosenweig at  
http://clevermedia.com/

Answer to the letter puzzle

- Just to make things more exciting,  
  the answer to the quiz you saw in the previous slide  
  is the **only** letter  
  that does not appear in this sentence.
- It does not appear in the whole slide either!
- Do you need even more help?  
  Or are you annoyed?