

# **Jacob Wheeler**

**LEVEL & WORLD DESIGNER** jacobryanwheeler.com

LinkedIn.com/in/jacobryanwheeler

## **SKILLS**

- Blockout / Level Layout
- Gameplay & Mission Scripting
- Environmental Storytelling
- Rapid Prototyping / Iteration
- Technical Documentation
- Communication / Collaboration

# **ENGINES & EDITORS**

- Unreal
- Unity
- Creation Kit
- Source (Hammer)
- Chrome Engine (DLDT)

### **SCRIPTING**

- Unreal Blueprints
- Text-Based Map Editors / C#
- Input / Output

# **TOOLS**

- Jira / Monday.com/ ClickUp
- 3DS Max
- Photoshop
- Perforce / GitHub
- Excel / Google Sheets

# **PASSIONS**

- Playing drums and games
- Travel, nature, and photography

#### **EDUCATION**

- Professional Graduate Certificate Digital Game Development, Design (40 Credit Hours) The Guildhall @ Southern **Methodist University**
- Master of Science **Higher Education Administration** New England College

## SHIPPED GAMES

**LEVEL DESIGNER**, Guildhall (Southern Methodist University student) | Team of 30 Light of Alariya - Single-player | 3D Open-World Exploration | Unreal 5 | 7 mos

- Blocked out the Red Sands Cave and whiteboxed combat in Unreal 5; co-designed and built the layout, puzzles, and combat for 3 POIS and the Yellow and Black Sands puzzle areas
- Refined the game's original characters, story line, objectives, and 3 types of collectibles on a world-building strike-team of 4 in Miro; enhanced gameplay and conveyance by modifying terrain and collision in all open-world locations using Unreal's terrain and asset-editing tools
- Prototyped 20+ environmental hazards, combat encounters, and puzzle elements using the materials and blueprint system in Unreal 5; optimized asset collision

LEVEL DESIGNER, Guildhall (Southern Methodist University student) | Team of 60 2022 Hex Rally Racers - Multiplayer | 3D Kart Racer | Unreal 4 | 3 mos

- Co-designed the "Shroom Shire" map; implemented track splines, ramps, props, and collision volumes in Unreal 4; modified terrain and collision for better gameplay and aesthetics
- Scripted and developed functional player traps and weapons with Unreal 4 blueprints on a strike-team; optimized 10+ assets in Unreal's LOD settings; prototyped sequencer footage

LEVEL DESIGNER & QUALITY ASSURANCE LEAD, Lunarfall (Indie) | Team of 70 Mollie & Mordecai - Single Player | 3D Puzzle Adventure | Unreal 4 | 9 mos

2022

- Soley designed and implemented "The Conservatory" and "Mausoleum" levels in Unreal 4; co-designed, implemented, set-dressed, and debugged 8+ other levels / world areas
- Directed 10+ quality assurance interns; documented feedback and developer tasks in ClickUp and Redmine; collaborated daily with the entire team through Discord, GitHub, and ClickUp

LEVEL DESIGNER, Guildhall (Southern Methodist University student) | Team of 40 2021 Snowpainters - Multiplayer | 3D Kart Racer | Unreal 4 | 3 mos

- Designed and implemented the vertical slice map on a strike-team of 4 in Unreal 4; led a research group of 4 to identify and document risks and mitigations of a new procedural tool
- Created terrain and 100s of collision volumes as a team specialist for the larger project; used terrain tools, collision, and blueprints to solve gameplay problems creatively with leads
- Heavily collaborated with the art and software development teams daily; reported to 4 separate leads and used spiral and Agile methodologies alongside Jira and Monday.com

## OTHER GAMES EXPERIENCE

**INSTRUCTOR,** Dallas College | Interactive Simulation & Game Technology

2023

- Taught students (4 classes) how to use Unreal 5 (blockouts, terrain tools, asset placement, blueprints, debugging, audio implementation, and character retargeting), as well as, how to problem-solve through information-sourcing, research, playtesting, and iteration
- Produced 2 game projects using Unreal 4 while training 25 students how to simultaneously work on a successful game project together through peer file-sharing with GitHub, team communication standards, pipelines, peer evaluations, and RACI charts, and tools such as Miro, ClickUp, Google Suite, and Microsoft Teams
- Introduced students to game development careers, game and level design best practices, and project management methods (scrum, kanban, milestones, leads, pipelines, etc.)

LEVEL & QUEST DESIGNER, Personal Projects | 2 - 5 mos each

- Planned and developed a capture the flag map in Unreal 4 as a freelancer for Trickshot, a multiplayer, third-person extreme sports shooter developed by Meddling Kids (Indie)
- Modded 10+ level maps and quests for AAA titles such as Dying Light, Half-Life 2, Portal 2, and Fallout 4 in map editors such as the Dying Light Dev. Tools, Creation Kit, and Source
- Implemented and iterated on 4 multiplayer maps in the Unreal Tournament Editor

**LEAD LEVEL DESIGNER,** Richland (Dallas College student) | Team of ≈ 40 | 4 mos

2020

• Led a group of 6+ level designers, alongside other team leads, to develop a multi-level, firstperson, sci-fi game project in Unreal 4; collaborated through Discord, GitHub, and Trello.