DEMI MARK - FREELANCE PRODUCER

THE IMPORTANCE OF NETWORKING

Discussing the benefits networking can have for you and success stories.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/demimark-zedzinc/

INTRODUCTION

How I got into Networking

Freelance Producer from Northern Ireland, working as a volunteer mentor whilst also pursuing a career in the industry.

WHAT IS NETWORKING?

01

Friendship / Mentoring

Building friendships and meeting professionals with the opportunity of getting a mentor or inside guidance.

02

Job / References

Find job opportunities and get references from others you have met through networking.

03

Collaboration / opportunities

Find others to colloborate with either through game jams or your own start up company.

HOW TO NETWORK

Networking can be simple if you know the resources you can use to find other like minded individuals that have the same passion as you do. Here are a few ways in which you can network through these social platforms: -

LinkedIn

Polygon

Discord

NexusMods

Twitter

ArtStation

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO NETWORK?

RELATIONSHIPS

CAREER

GUIDANCE

KNOWLEDGE

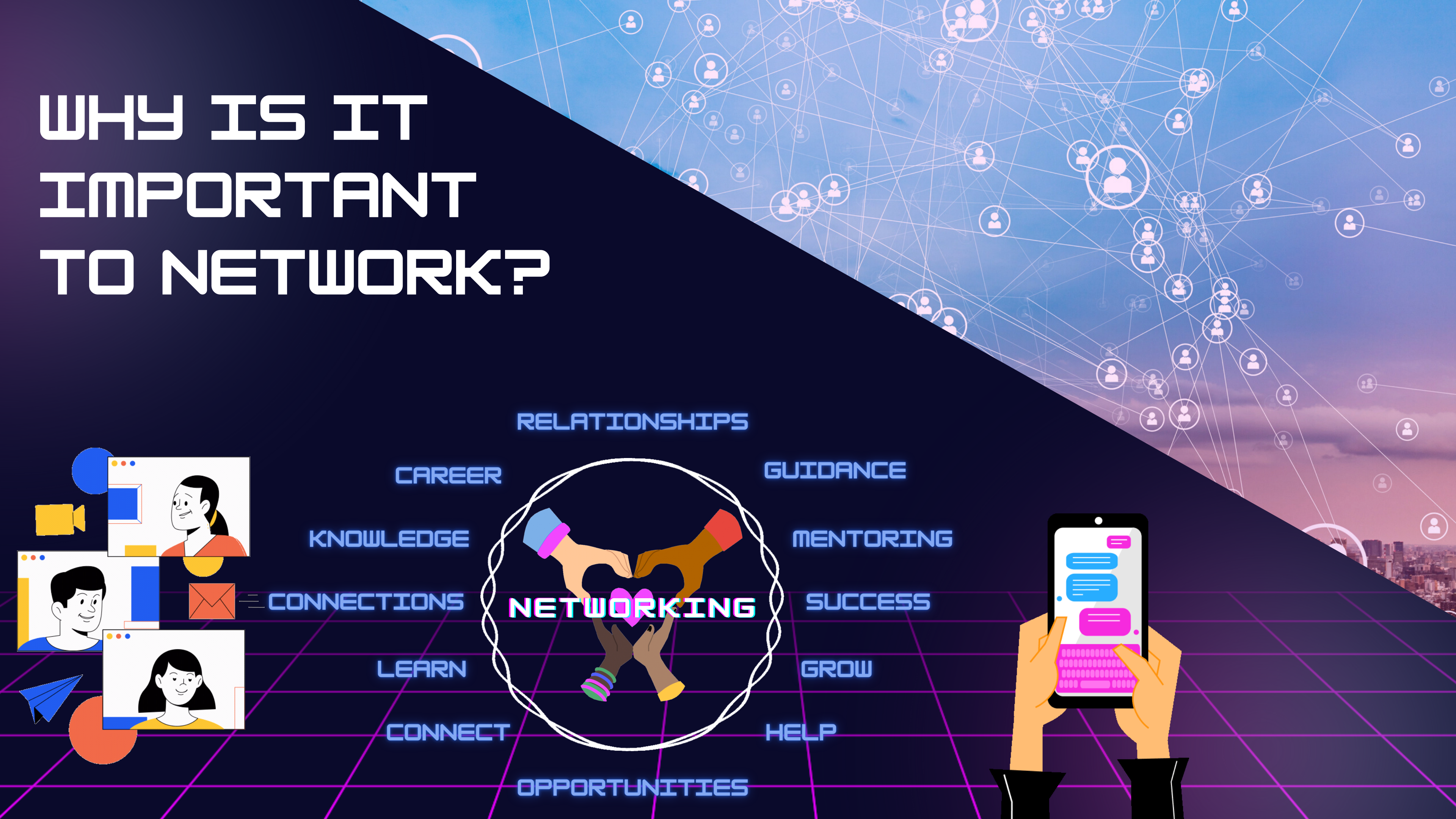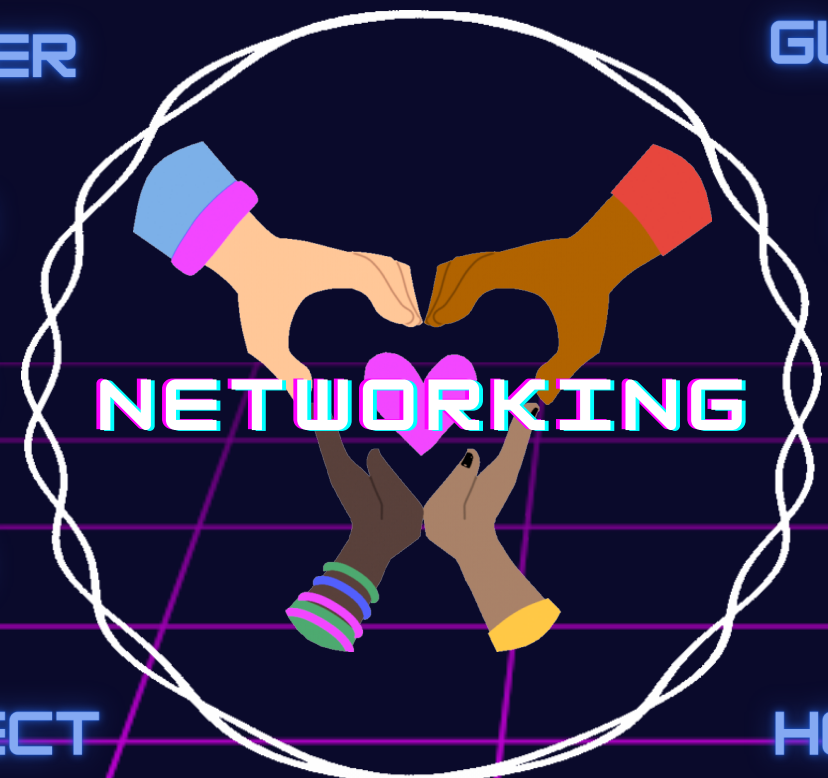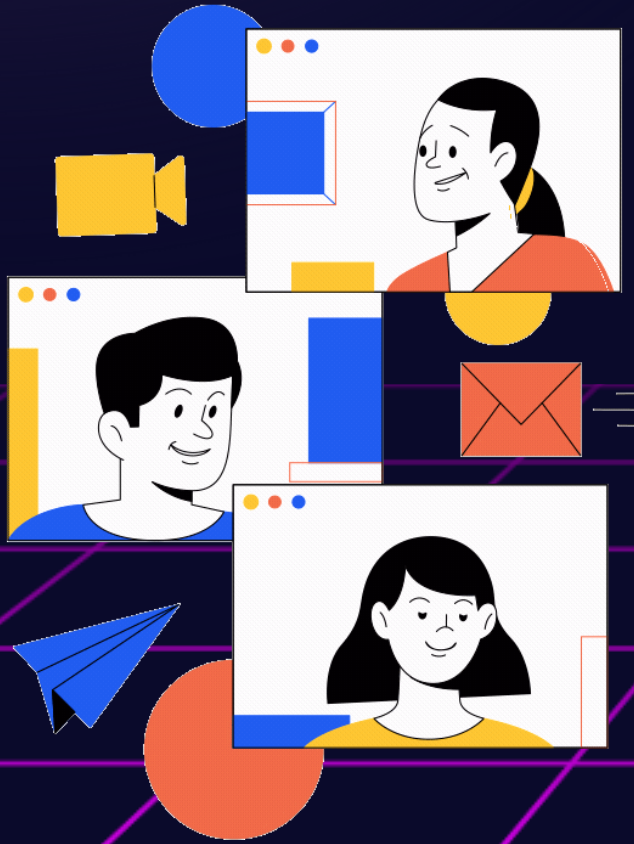MENTORING

CONNECTIONS

NETWORKING

SUCCESS

LEARN

GROW

CONNECT

HELP

OPPORTUNITIES

SUCCESS STORIES

"For people who feel intimidated because of imposter syndrome, or because they are introverted: There are events out there that are no / low barrier to entry, you can find a like-minded community, you can find smaller events or ones that allows for quiet participation.

Over time it will get easier, and you will become more comfortable with your own boundaries on when to leave when it gets too much. Set goals for an event and measure your success by achieving those goals – not by what you haven't achieved, let alone what social expectations you believe others may have."
- Juney Dijkstra

Juney Dijkstra

Netherlands
Legacy Portfolio Manager at Paradox Interactive

A DEEP DIVE INTO A PUBLISHER ASSESSMENT OF A NEW DEAL – WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH?
JUNEY DIJKSTRA
LEAD PRODUCER SOEDESCO PUBLISHING
MeetToMatch

INDIEGAMEBUSINESS

HUNGRY ANTEATER! WORKING TITLE

SHADOWRUN TRILOGY

SUCCESS STORIES

Kevin McKenna

New Orleans, USA

Project Management Consultant at S3 Consulting Agency

"Volunteer, always introduce yourself, always remember people's names, if you have to write them down on your hand, remember people's names, there is so much value in knowing their name. If you can, also, remember something about them."
- Kevin McKenna

SUCCESS STORIES

Manuel Correia

Portugal, Lisbon

Senior Game Designer at Resolution Games

"Don't approach it with a specific goal in my mind. I've seen people trying to get close to their heroes specifically because they want a job at their studios and it never goes down well. They can tell by the way you approach! It's more about building friendships, not an exchange or transaction.
The game development can be very supportive of each other, and everyone wants to see each other succeed."
- Manuel Correia

MIND IS SOFTWARE
Porting SUPERHOT from the screen to the table
Manuel Correia, 2021

Agent Decker [scripted]
Tabletop Simulator
Added on 11 Apr @ 7:40pm
Last Updated 12 Jan, 2018 @ 7:38pm
✓ Subscribed

Blight Chronicles: Agent Decker
Tabletop Simulator
Added on 11 Apr @ 7:40pm
Last Updated 7 May, 2018 @ 11:16pm
✓ Subscribed

Agent Decker

SUCCESS STORIES

Keidy Zuniga

San Francisc, USA

Art Director at Media Monks

"Network as soon as possible, start with your friends, classmates etc. I do have friends in the industry who help me out by answering my questions or connecting me with someone who might help me. Start small with your social group in your college and expand from there. And make sure you keep in touch with people from your college, because they won't be a junior forever. Good things will come, you might not see it right now, but you have to think long term and this is a long term strategy."
- Keidy Zuniga

KEYFRAME KILLA

NEVER WINTER

ASSASSIN'S CREED

SUCCESS STORIES

"Just be open minded, try to hit up people, check up on them, see what's what and try to form meaningful connections, give networking a chance, as its one of the key components of career growth. If you don't network, you miss out on opportunities."
- Radu Posoi

Radu Posoi
Craiova, Romania

QA Startup (Company Founder) at Alkotech Labs

ALKOTECH LABS
PROFESSIONAL GAME TESTING SERVICES
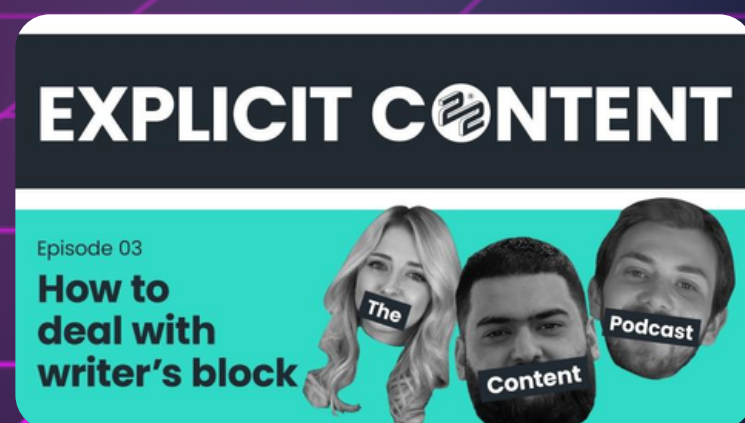
SUCCESS STORIES

Molly Johnston

Wakefield, West Yorkshire

Head of Brand and Marketing at Into Games

"Remember that everyone is in a similar boat, no matter how many events you go to, there is always someone new there, and making that first move can break the ice and make it less scary. Put yourself in the position where you can be networked with; going to events where you meet people in person, be friendly and approachable. Don't just stay on your phone or laptop, your body language is important too."
- Molly Johnston

EXPLICIT CONTENT

Episode 03
How to deal with writer's block

The Content Podcast

DIGITAL TAKE TWO
EPISODE 03
Digital 22

into games
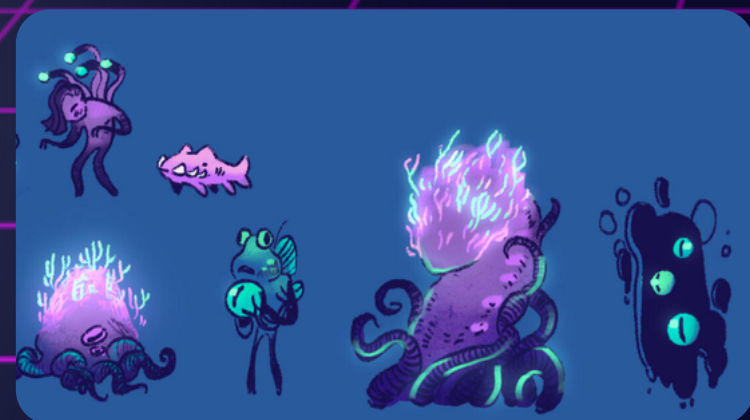
SUCCESS STORIES

Sofia Hayden

Florida, USA

Lead Artist at an Indie Studio (Start up)

"I think to just forget the whole word networking, because really, networking is just to be genuine and connect with people. Trying to go into networking on purpose can be nerve wracking. So, think of it from a different perspective, think about connecting as a human with other humans, find communities of like-minded people and people like you and make friends. Don't go into it thinking, I want to get a job, be normal, be chill and don't think about it as getting benefits from another person. They are a human at the end of the day and its better to build friendships."

- Sophia Hayden

SUCCESS STORIES

Gordon Bicker

Dundee, Scotland

Games Journalist /
University Student

"It's absolutely okay to be nervous at first, just make that first step and see what happens, you miss all the chances you don't take. Reaching out to people, networking a bit, take that first step and it will become easier. Most importantly, HAVE FUN! Even if you are still a student, you can still make a massive impact and making sure to enjoy yourself through the journey is just as important. You get one shot at life, better to live it having fun and doing things you enjoy, be proud of yourselves, you all will make a difference for the industry and create wonderful experiences!"
- Gordon Bicker

Venture 4th

AOTF

SUCCESS STORIES

Connor McNeice
Belfast, Northern Ireland

3D Environment Artist

at Outsider Games

"Get yourself out there and don't be afraid to talk, everyone is in the same boat in this industry and its hard to gain that confidence, don't be afraid to talk to someone in discord or throwing out a direct message on LinkedIn, more than likely they are going to respond, worst thing that's going to happen is that they don't respond, and you'll forget about it. What happened with John is that I reached out to him to look at my work and it worked out well for me."

- Connor McNeice

SUCCESS STORIES

"*Reach out to people, go on LinkedIn, go on twitter, reach out to designers, ask them questions about their career or feedback on your portfolio. I have found that many people in the gaming industry are open to helping others. Worst thing they could say is no or not respond.*"
- Nathan Kellman

Nathan Kellman

Texas, USA

Associate Designer at Hanger13 Games

SUCCESS STORIES
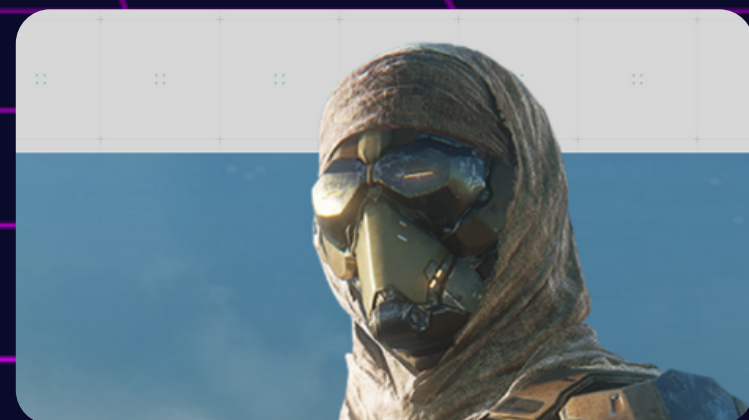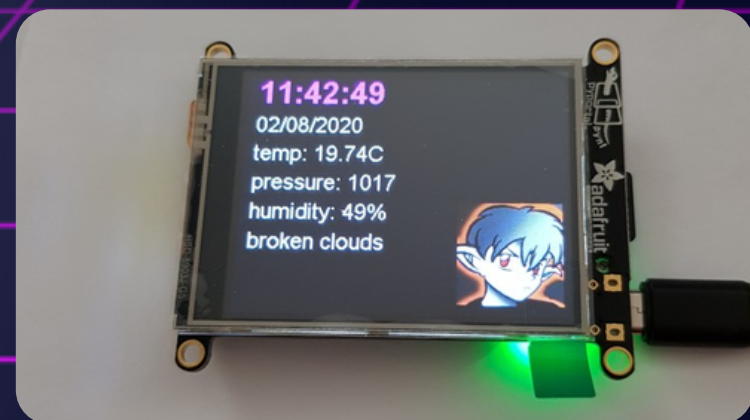
Peter Goodwin

London, UK

Senior Tools Programmer at Cloud Imperium Games

"If you think you can talk to someone, try, worse that could happen is they shut you down. Talk to your co-workers or other classmates to get you started. Internships are a great way to get contacts because you can reach out to people you have met from that program and see what they are working on. Pay attention to what is being said around you and look out for other opportunities, because luck can be a play a big part of it."
- Peter Goodwin

CLOUD IMPERIUM

WHERE TO START?

#1 **DISCORD**

Discord is an amazing way to get CV, portfolio, cover letter feedback as well as advice on how to get into the industry and software questions.

#2 **LINKEDIN**

Linkedin is a great way to find your local games studios, connect with others in the industry and ask your role models questions.

#3 **EDUCATION**

The people that are around you are also people seeking to get into the industry. Creating those connections early can be beneficial in the future.

LET'S NETWORK

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Email

zedzinc@outlook.com

LinkedIn

https://www.linkedin.com/in/demim
ark-zedzinc/

Discord

Demo#2929

Resources will be pasted
into the chat