

Kudos and Criticism

by Ambrosia Software Users

This section features reader responses to Ambrosia's software & service. We will include the good with the bad, and address any problems brought to our attention.

These are real people writing real letters about real issues. Feel free to drop us a line.

Escape Velocity Reactions

WHOOOOOOOOOOOOEYYYY!!!!!!! Escape Velocity is the BEST game Ambrosia ever made! It involves thinking, moving, buying, trading, killing, dying, landing, etc, etc, etc. Right now (on EV), I'm saving up credits to buy a ship, and get fighters, killers, flyers, thinkers, movers, buyers, landers, etc, etc, etc.

-DMO

Well, we are glad you enjoy it. What we could do with your vocabulary.

I'm an addict! Oh yes I am! EV should prompt the user every 2 hours that perhaps should go outside and enjoy life... EV is only a game!!!!

-Jason Whong

Really? You don't think it should be the other way around? I think life should prompt you every two hours to go play EV. What do you think?

Let the guys at Ambrosia know that Escape Velocity should ship with marriage counseling software.

-Exter@AOL.com

We can't get involved in marital affairs. We leave that for the experts.

I was wondering... do you have an EV Anonymous group or something?...

-Captain Dirkinator

Yes, but we do not know who runs it, nor who any of the member are. Strange...

Escape Velocity is, in short, the most fun I've ever had with my pants on.

Actually, it probably would be the most fun I've ever had with my pants off too, if only the "Hire an Escort" function worked like I first expected it to. ;-)

-Peter A. Cohen

Umm... You've been reading the personals a little too much.

My first E-mail letter contained the following line: "Space exploration, and trading gave me the impression that EV was akin to Monopoly only more so." The key word here being *akin*, not suggesting a copy.

Is there some reason spaceyard warships cannot be renamed business units, and these bartered on various planets? When a player gets enough properties on a planet, he collects the tribute as a merchant prince rather than a pirate. You've got lots of planets to be subjugated, and perhaps the Confederation would object just as strongly to cartels as to pirates.

Likewise with the weapons window, remove some exotic weapons and put in some commercial enterprises for the successful trader

to invest in.

Stock market?

Keep the piracy feature if you must, but not as the primary objective.

Make it more difficult to amass a fortune. In the present form, it's only a matter of flitting from place to place, and the player becomes a millionaire.

Community Chest on the Monopoly board.)
Add some setbacks in the play sequence. (Chance &

Allow players to operate more than one ship, and to trade under aliases.

Multiple players? Preferably just me and the computer, but the rage now seems to be networking games.

-JWGlover@AOL.com

We welcome all comments and criticisms. We are still tweaking EV and hope to have a very well rounded game when we are done.

Maelstrom Rock

These are really good folks...They once gave me permission

to use

Maelstrom as an example in an object-oriented programming course I

Maelstrom and play was teaching. The first day I had all 23 students load

it. There really was a pedagogic reason for that, but the most fun was the

incredible noise 23 people can make if they play a shoot-em-up

simultaneously with the sound cranked to the max. We cleared the

computer center and I could legitimately give a smug smirk to the

director. Ah yes, those were the days. Then I wrote my CS1 text and

life in the computer center got dull again.

- Rick "WoBbing again" Decker

Kinda makes you want to change the lesson plan, eh?

Barrack debate continued: Is Barrack a Word?

Ir. dial.] barrack v.i. & t. Orig. & chiefly Austral & NZ. L19 [Prob. f. N.

O spectators at games etc.: shout vociferously (for), jeer (at).

action, of barrack n. Austral & NZ. L19 [f. barrack v.i] An act, or the
barracking a person, team, etc.

'barrack for the In every day use, Australians 'barrack for Carlton' or
the team Adelaide Crows.' The word is used as a shorthand for 'this is

depressed on I hope wins each week and if they don't I'll be vaguely

that beat Monday morning and if someone barracking for the team
them comes near me to gloat I'll probably growl at them.

meaning of 'root As far as I can work out, it encompasses some of the
territory taken by for' as used by USonians but also covers some of the
the phrase 'to follow' (eg 'I follow the Cincinatti Reds.').

involved It's interesting to observe that the term is reserved for teams
Australia in domestic competitions. Australians don't 'barrack' for
cricket, soccer, when it is playing an international fixture (whether it be
hockey, netball or whatever).

any level: Moreover, Australians don't 'barrack' for cricket teams at
cricket is played District; First Class; or Test (International). First Class
to identifying between states, so identifying your home state is tantamount
follow which team you want to win the Sheffield Shield. People who
District cricket tend to identify themselves as 'supporters' of

a particular

team rather than suggesting they 'barrack' for said team.

-Brian Forte

Yea, well... so what?

Andrew's Parents Gotta Be Proud

In the comp.sys.mac.games.action newsgroup, Andrew wrote:

"Barrack Discretion allows you to permanently change two sounds in Barrack that some may find objectionable or not suitable for children.

You guys are *truly* a class act. As a hard-core Christian, I was a little put out by the "oh my God" statement that I found in the game. But, knowing that not everyone believes the same way I do, I chose not to say anything to you guys because I know you're so busy doing other projects, etc. That, along with the fact that it isn't a pattern with you guys to insert questionable (morally that is) sounds into your games. So, to have you offer to change the sounds, just in case it might offend someone, really speaks highly of you and your organization. I commend you and Ambrosia for your sensitivity to others and children and for consistently producing outstanding work. Keep it up Andrew!

-Chris Vaughn

Hey, it's the least we can do. Besides, we don't want folks poking around the Barrack files with ResEdit. Only trained professionals should be performing these operations. I feel like Mr.CyberWrench.

Great Game, But...

I had just picked up 20 tons of industrial goods in the

Antares system.

III," when

known

nowhere to

escape, but,

excuse to keep

the

he

I was cruising back to Earth in my shuttlecraft "Magellan

out of nowhere appeared the most dispicable creature in the

universe. I was caught red handed - nowhere to escape,

hide. If I'd had more warning, I might have been able to

alas, I knew that I was doomed.

Fortunately, I was able to come up with a good enough

my boss from firing me on the spot. I told him I was checking

color bands and pixel widths on my monitor. Can you believe

fell for that?

-DMcnab1959

Bosses are pretty dumb. It's amazing what you can pull off. I remember this one time... oh, Hi

Andrew.

Hector Under Glass...The Threats Keep Coming

From the Comp.Sys.Mac.Games.Action.Newsgroup, Andrew wrote:

"Geez! Bloodthirsty bunch out there -- everyone wants to roast poor Hector. :)

If he jumps in the middle of one more furball, I AM going to roast him! ;)

EAT JAVELIN, YOU FEATHERED FREAK! :)

-Chris Krueger

Poor Hector. We give him a job and people use him as target practice. He just can't win.

A High Price to Pay

One of my colleagues (an unemployed lawyer) and I (an

employed
8 weeks.
lost time

lawyer) have had a running competition on Barrack for about
We figure at \$180/hr we have clocked up over \$200,000 in
on this bloody game.

-Emmanuel

Golly, is that what you guys make? I'm in the wrong business.

Poetry Corner

Ambrosia is like a shinning light,
It brightens my day and keeps me happy all night,
When I score big, it cheers me no end,
And best of all, my girl's still my friend,
Cause she loves 'em too, the first time ever,
It's Maelstrom that won her all the shootin' and fervor,
Now that is what gamin' is supposed to be meaning.

-Andrew aka Bladez

Ahhh... I can feel the love.