

GamersCast

UPDATES!

Well, I know we haven't had one of these text documents on the episode, but I have just been making a few changes to GamersCast. I know that I normally get you guys all psyched about some new features that are going to be up, but then they don't come. So, now instead of giving you our ideas, I am going to tell you what WILL be coming, and what I have already finished as new features to the show.

UPDATE #1 - Updated RSS feed

The GamersCast News Feed (formerly called the GamersPad RSS Feed), has been moved to a new location, and has new features added to it! It can now be found at:

<http://www.gamerscastpodcast.com/news/rss.xml> Along with that we also have made an Atom Feed, in case your browser doesn't support RSS, or if you do not have a program that can read it. The Atom Feed contains the same information as the RSS feed, but can be found at:

<http://www.gamerscastpodcast.com/news/atom.xml> But this time, don't worry, it WILL be updated much more often than our last feed! These new feeds do have even more features added to them, but some of these features are best described in the updates below.

Update #2 – More User Interactivity

Now, the new RSS feed will be in perfect synchronization with our brand-new news page on the website. And to make things even better, every single article that is posted onto our new RSS feed is linked to that full article on our news page (powered by Blogger). And now, you can make comments to each article that is posted on the news page, and those comments may be read and put up for discussion on a future episode of GamersCast! But don't worry, because being a member in the Joomla section of our website will soon also have its benefits. There is a sign-up link on the right-side of the news page, which can be found at: <http://www.gamerscastpodcast.com/news/>

While still being along the lines of user interactivity, we will now be holding SkypeCasts, (<http://skypecasts.skype.com>) so now up to 100 people can listen to our podcasts being recorded LIVE! And we will be taking comments from listeners involved in the SkypeCast throughout the show. And you could even be able to talk with us during the show if you have a microphone (although it is not required to submit text comments). Having Skype (version 2.5 or higher) is the only requirement. To get Skype, go to: <http://www.skype.com/download> We will announce more details on the episode after our three E3 conference commentaries are posted onto the feed.

Update #3 – New Tournament Layout

We at GamersCast learn from our past mistakes, thus we used some of the mistakes from our last tournament (Mario Kart DS) to make an entirely new layout. For the last tournament, many people didn't bother to check the page for updates, and didn't know when their matches were. For this, we have made a solution. An entirely new podcast dedicated just for updates concerning our video game tournaments, along with a new sign-up method. This way, you can automatically download updates concerning one of our tournaments. Matthew Goldzman (me) will be hosting tournaments over the Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection and Adam Shear will be hosting tournaments held on PlayStation 2 and Xbox Live. More details can be found on the podcast feed. The podcast feed is located at:

<http://www.gamerscastpodcast.com/GCtory.xml> And the iTunes podcast page is located at: <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=157773124> The podcast will soon appear on many other podcasting clients as well.

Update #4 – Newsletter

We now our releasing a monthly newsletter to all of our members who signed up for a membership with GamersCast via Joomla, but people signed up via the forums will soon receive an e-mail informing them of this, as they will not receive the newsletter with solely a forum membership. The Newsletter will contain every gaming news story over the past month. Newsletters will be sent in HTML format, but if your e-mail client does not support HTML messages, a link at the top of each Newsletter issue will link you to a viewable version of it.

Update #5 – Off-Topic Podcasts (tentative)

We have already announced that we may be releasing off-topic episodes to act more well-rounded, but this podcast is about video games, so I have decided to only have one annual off-topic episode per year on the GamersCast Feed (excluding next year's Harry Potter episode on 7-7-07). For everything else, we may be making an entirely new podcast for (which will not be known as GamersCast). The podcast would simply have some off the most entertaining videos on the internet, in a format available for 5th Generation iPods (iPod Video) and PlayStation Portable (PSP). The one annual podcast will be about the National Technology Student Association Competition/Conference (TSA). Every year, if I qualify at the state competition I go to the national competition to compete. Every year, I find out new things which sometimes I use to incorporate into the podcast (for example, this year I learned something that will be used in the tournaments). **However, keep in mind that this idea is in a tentative state.**

Update #6 – New Website Layout

Right now, there isn't much to brag about on the GamersCast website, as the current website host does not support many of the features that I would need it to have. So, next month (August 2006) I will be switching to a new host which should support many more features including:

- Live Chat
- Total Joomla Compatibility
- Removal of GoDaddy ads
- Media Support
- Streaming Support
- Higher Bandwidth
- Support Forms
- Cleaner and Sleeker Layout
- Flash Support
- And More!

Update #7 – Episode Directory

Soon a complete directory of every episode will be listed online, along with a download link, so if you don't like using a podcasting client and would prefer a manual download, you can now do so. An announcement of this will be sent out to the Newsletter subscribers once it is completed.

Update #8 – New Podcast Segments and Discussions

We also have a brand-new way of going about the episodes. I have now thought of a more organized manner, so that we can avoid awkward pauses in the episodes. We also are now going to be reviewing games (keep in mind we will try to do as many as possible, but it is impossible to have every game reviewed, especially considering our budget) along with many other new powerful segments. But as for what those segments are.... I'll leave it as a surprise for later.

And this is all just the beginning. We will also soon have many more contest, prizes, promotions, and giveaways. We might even be able to get some flash games onto the website! It's all part of the Dawn of The Next Day (winks at LOZ fans)...all part of The New GamersCast!

- Matthew Goldzman (Founder of GamersCast)