

Yahoo! Games

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Sunday, 11 November 2007
Last Updated Sunday, 11 November 2007

Yahoo! Games is a section of Yahoo's network of sites where users can play and download single and multi-player online games. They offer many browser-based Java applet games as well as several larger games that require users to download. Featuring a variety of classic arcades, popular titles, and games with movie and television tie-ins, they provide some of the best selection available for online players and provide hours upon hours of fun and entertainment. Their offerings include various shoot-em-up's, action arcade games, classic board games, card games, skill games, puzzles, and word games. The site's history can be traced back to 1995, when Joel Comm, an internet marketer and a young programmer got together. Back then, the programmer had built and started a Java-based gaming website called SpringerSpan. It garnered a little attention, mostly from students who played games to kill time. The website, a personal hobby for the owner that brought no income whatsoever, allowed its users to play chess, checkers, go, backgammon, spades, bridge, reversi, hearts, xacks, and hex, among other classic titles. While this was no longer unique at the time, the system had one ace up its sleeve: the Java technology that powered the site allowed users to play the featured games in multi-player format. Comm contacted SpringerSpan's owner, proposed a joint venture and they established Classicgames.com. Comm shopped the site around for a while but found no takers. Later in 1997, he was contacted by Yahoo - one of the few companies he didn't pitch the sale to - who bought the site shortly for a cool one million dollars and later rebranded the system as Yahoo Games. SpringerSpan's original programmer and owner came on board with Yahoo as well, helping to refine their gaming platform over the next 7 years. Majority of the games in the site have been created in-house, with a few being bought with full rights from third-party makers. With its large base of users for its numerous services, Yahoo Games continues to gain new fans and, with over 400 games in its arsenal, remains one of the most popular destinations for online entertainment.