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## Ten Signs Of MMORPG Addiction

By Bob Janeway

With the advent of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPG), a lot of people

have suffered from MMORPG over-addiction, so much so that some of them have slowly confused the real world with the fantasy environment of the games they're playing. I kid you not! This seeming merger of truth and fiction is not restricted to costume plays (or cosplays), sci-fi conventions or game launches. It has extended to everyday life. And if you have been playing a particular MMORPG for hours upon hours, each and every day, you might be suffering from MMORPG over-addiction yourself!

How would you know?

Here are 10 signs that can be observed if ever you have too much MMORPG adrenaline in your system.

1. Whenever you want to buy something, you think in terms of gold instead of dollars. Gold, of course, is the unit of currency in most MMORPG game worlds.
2. Whenever you accomplish a significant deed, you subconsciously expect to level up, coupled with a sound in the background to inform the world of such a feat. MMORPG programs reward players with experience points which can be used to increase their levels.
3. You find yourself speaking in Old English. Quite a number of MMORPG systems require the players to role play their characters as if they're living in a fantastical, medieval world. This includes conversing in Old English. So hear `ye, hear `ye, hear `ye, if thou hath been speaking the tongue of ages yore, thou hath been possessed by the soul of thy machinated character.
4. You start referring to you bag as your inventory. A staple of MMORPG programs is a limited inventory screen that allows your character to carry a certain number of implements.
5. You start describing your irritating acquaintance as a "re-spawning monster." The monsters in all MMORPG systems persistently re-spawn so that players would always have something to kill for some experience points.

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6. Whenever an item, like a gadget perhaps or a book, is priced beyond your budget, you start to subconsciously hope that you'll get it soon with a future "drop." In MMORPG programs, monsters drop useful items whenever they're destroyed. Sometimes, they drop some very rare and very valuable items.

7. When ever you need the help of a friend in the real world, you sometimes inform him by screaming "tank!" or "aggro!" The terms tank and aggro are MMORPG–generic words that refer to a variety of support from party members. Tank refers to the act of having someone with higher HP attack a monster first. The monster would focus on such a player, and the other player with lower HP would attack it from behind and claim a majority of the experience points. Aggro refers to a slew of support spells from the magic users of the same adventuring party.

8. At the end of every month, you'd be surprised to discover that you have exhausted all your vacation and sick leaves from work. In South Korea, for example, where MMORPG programs are a huge hit, employers complain of massive employee absences whenever a major game is released. Indeed, an MMORPG has the power to take over your virtual as well as your real life.

9. You spend countless sleepless nights thinking of strategies that would help you build your character, or defeat a seemingly undefeatable boss. MMORPG programs often require more strategy that what you'd expect, and trying to discover the best tactics that work is part of the fun.

10. Whenever you're planning your monthly budget, you give paramount importance to allotting payment for your MMORPG's subscription. There is no shame here. We're all guilty of the same thing.

Should you start worrying?

Should you begin to consider a change in lifestyle?

Should you consult a therapist?

For as long as the other aspects of your life, which are more important than your need for an MMORPG fix, are not compromised, then your preference for MMORPG programs, whether casual or a product of an addictive tendency, can still be considered as healthy.

But if you start jeopardizing your health, your job, your family and your overall wellbeing, then dude! You have to realize that though an MMORPG offers a world of endless fun, it's just a game, and your life is not.

So, you've finally decided to take the plunge and entered one of the many magical worlds of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games, or MMORPG.....maximize your playing time with tried and tested MMORPG strategies at

<http://www.onlineroleplayinggames.com>

### **Free MMORPG Aplenty!**

**By Bob Janeway**

Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games, or MMORPG, are quite the rave these days. There is something truly fascinating about immersing yourself in a world of mythical wonders and high fantasy. You could be the knight who would brave the darkest forests and the most perilous terrains to slay the dragon and lay claim to untold riches. Or you could be the mage who would become the most powerful sorcerer across the known world. Or perhaps the dark lord who will emerge from the shadows to rule the continents. With MMORPG, you could be anyone, and anything, you want to be. The limits are only bounded by your imagination.

The problem is, not many MMORPG programs come free. Often, you'd have to pay for the game, if not the monthly subscription, to avail of some playing hours you could spend in leveling up and beating the challenges that will be presented before you. But this causes even more complications. A majority of MMORPG systems, you see, would require a lot of hours before you could achieve prominence in their virtual world. You will have to spend time - lots of it, in fact - before your peon can become a knight, or before your apprentice could become a full-fledged magic user.

And with MMORPG programs, time often comes at a cost - in dollars more than in sweat, blood and tears.

So a lot of devout gamers have searched far and wide for free MMORPG programs that are worth their commitment. But let's face it, most of the MMORPG programs that don't charge a fee... well... to put it bluntly, they suck. They're either works of amateurs or commercial undertakings that were poorly made and failed to sell in the global market.

But... oh yes, there's a but and a big one at that... there are some great, great MMORPG programs out there that you've probably never heard of before. These are the next big hits. These are the bestsellers of tomorrow.

Why are these MMORPG programs free? Most of the time, they are on open or closed beta periods. Beta periods are those times when the distributors are checking their MMORPG systems for bugs, glitches, balance issues, server limitations and the likes. Naturally, they'd need as many players as they could to look for these possible problem points. Additionally, distributors use beta periods to promote their MMORPG products. What better way to get them hooked than to offer the subscription for free, at least initially?

These free MMORPG programs can be classified into two groups: those which are developed by American publishers and those which are developed by South Korean publishers. Thanks to Starcraft, South Korea has become a major force in the MMORPG industry. They pump out free MMORPG programs left and right before they get into paid subscription mode, and most of them are award-winning games at that.

Let's take a look at the free MMORPG programs offered by American developers first.

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1. Dark Age of Camelot. Experience the Middle Ages post–King Arthur in an alternate reality where darkness has engulfed the land. Get a 14 day trial at

[www.darkageofcamelot.com](http://www.darkageofcamelot.com)

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2. EVE Online. If one world is too small for you, try an entire universe in this futuristic, space–spanning adventure. Get your 14 day trial at

[www.eve-online.com](http://www.eve-online.com)

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3. A Tale In The Desert II. Tired of the usual combat fare? How about civilization building? Try this game for 24 hours at

[www.atitd.com](http://www.atitd.com)

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4. Everquest II. The sequel to the award–winning and genre–defining original, Everquest II invites you visit the beautiful but deadly world of Norrath once more. 7 day trial is available at

[www.trialoftheisle.com](http://www.trialoftheisle.com)

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5. Star Wars Galaxies. A long time ago and a galaxy far away can be within your reach from the comforts of your own home. For the Republic or for the Empire, as a Stormtrooper or as a Jedi, wage you war for 7 days by registering at

<http://starwarsgalaxies.station.sony.com>

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Then we have the South Korean free MMORPG programs that are slowly taking the world by storm. Here are the 5 games in this genre:

1. Ragnarok Online. Simple graphics, simple game play, addictive MMORPG. The end of the world has never been this fun. Play for 15 days at

[www.iro.ragnarokononline.com](http://www.iro.ragnarokononline.com)

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2. Flyff. Why walk when you can fly? Introducing the first free MMORPG where you could actually soar through the skies for your many, many adventures. It's on beta too. Register at

[www.english.flyff.com](http://www.english.flyff.com)

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3. Maple Story. Here's a unique free MMORPG... a game that is presented as a side scroller. Don't let such fool you, though. It's still an RPG. And it's still massively multiplayer! Still on beta. Register at

[www.mapleglobal.com](http://www.mapleglobal.com)

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4. MU Online. Remember Blizzard's amazing Diablo series? This is a Diablo clone, from the game mechanics to the look, but with the multiplayer twist. It's still a free MMORPG at

[www.muonline.com](http://www.muonline.com)

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5. Gunz the Duel. Free MMORPG programs don't have to be all about sword and sorcery. They could involve guns too. If you love Quake or Doom with the MMORPG twist, then this game is definitely for you! Get it free at

[www.gunzonline.com](http://www.gunzonline.com)

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Most of the games we have discussed here, especially the South Korean ones, have been in open beta for more than a year now. Don't let that mislead you, though. They are great games, perhaps even better than those you have to pay for. It's just that they're looking for US publishers. And while the US publishers have yet to discover these fantastic gems, make the most out of these free MMORPG programs as much as you could! They're too good to remain free forever.

So, you've finally decided to take the plunge and entered one of the many magical worlds of Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games, or MMORPG.....maximize your playing time with tried and tested MMORPG strategies at

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