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## **The Good Old Arcade Game: History And Development**

**By Rudolph Jones**

Gaming is already a part of our lifestyle. Starting in childhood, once we see moving images of gaming characters, we have the curiosity to try controlling it. It lasts until our teenage and adult years; we consider gaming as one of the entertainment alternatives when we are feeling bored.

Different genres of games are starting to pop up such as online strategy and role-playing games. But do you still remember the good old arcade games? That Pac-man eating yellow dots and Mario and Luigi consuming mushrooms and flowers to rescue the princess from King Koopa? These games are considered to be the ancestors of the games that you play today on your computer or videogame station.

### **History Reminisced**

Old arcade games started after World War II, after Ralph Bauer invented the perception of creating an electronic game system to the television screen during the early 1950's. When he presented his ideas to Magnavox, a television company during that time, it was approved and resulted in the release of a refined version of Bauer's Brown Box prototype, which is known as the Magnavox Odyssey in 1972.

It displays only spots of light on the computer screen and it requires the use of translucent plastic overlays to reproduce the appearance of the game. In other words, this gaming version is prehistoric compared to present gaming standards.

The first gaming console system that was invented is known as the Atari 2600, which was released in 1977. It used plug-in cartridges in order to play different games.

After the release of Atari 2600, old arcade games started their Golden Age in the gaming industry. This is considered to be the era when the popularity of such games increased drastically. It began in the late 1979 when the first colored arcade game appeared.

Old arcade games started to gain their momentum in the gaming industry during the release of the following:

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· Gee Bee and Space Invaders in 1978 · Galaxian in 1979 · Pac-man, King and Balloon, Tank Battalion, and others in 1980

During this era, arcade game developers began experimenting with new hardware, developing games, which used the lines of vector displays as opposed to the standard raster displays. Few arcade games derived from these principle, which became a hit including the Battlezone (1980) and the Star Wars (1983), which are all from Atari.

After the vector displays, arcade game developers were experimenting with the laser-disc players for delivering animations like in the movies. The first attempt is the Dragon Lair (1983) by Cinematronics. It became a sensation when it was released (there are instances that the laser-disc players in many machines malfunctioned due to overuse).

New controls were also cropped up in few games, although joysticks and buttons are still the arcade game standard controls. Atari released the Football in 1978 which used the trackball. The Spy Hunter introduced a steering wheel with resemblance to an actual one, and the Hogan's alley made use of tethered light guns.

Other specialty controls like the pedals in racing games and a crossbow-shaped gun in Crossbow were also developed in this era.

Now, with the enthusiasm of modern game developers, they tried to revive this old arcade games by means of enhancing its graphics and producing newer versions. This manifestation only shows that good old arcade games are still a great alternative to modern computer games.

Rudolph Jones is the owner of Pc Game Station, A meeting place for gameing enthusiasts.

<http://www.pcgamesstation.info>

### **Looking Back To Some Classic Arcade Games**

**By Dana Goldberg**

A kid asks his dad. "Dad, how did arcade games look like during those times?"

The father replied, "Well son, at the moment arcade games are fantastic. But I tell you son, twenty years ago I did play Pac-man and Pong."

Isn't it great to think that even our parents also played arcade games? Imagine this, parents during their teenage days grabbed every chance to brush up with his or her joystick skills and wrestled with the arcade game for dominance.

Arcade game companies started during the midyear of 1960's and continuously grew up to the present time. They all transformed arcade games into a much more significant direction.

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Arcade games since they were established, have become one of the fastest growing and profitable industry technology sectors. For the past several years, the arcade game was made simple and plain.

Now going back to the classic arcade type of game, what was the scenery like in the golden age of arcade games?

During the early times of the arcade games, the games backgrounds did not use any Macromedia Flash Software or Java Sun Plugging. The setting was only made basic and simple.

There were only few games that used web browser during those times. The most common type of games was leaning towards more on funny and humorous kinds like "Swat the Clown".

At the present times, the golden era of the arcade games is republished on some arcade websites. Most of the websites that reinvented retro arcades have captivated the mid 60's and 70's arcade period.

As a matter of fact, parents can still enjoy the classic board games like Stratego, Shoot them Up, and on to casino games and puzzles.

During the premature time of arcade games, the multiplayer game was set for one player only. On the other hand, during those times there were also multiplayer games but only for limited number of players.

A casino game is also the peak rank when it comes to classic arcade games. Nowadays, it is also updated over the net continuously. Grown-ups can enjoy the chance to gamble without the financial risks or gains. The classic arcade game is still there like poker, lucky 9, black jack and other casino games. It is very economical because the player is not going to spend a single cent.

Another game is Falling Asteroid. This game is one of the oldest invented arcade games. This game is all about trying to maneuver falling debris coming from the outer space. This game also has a new type of version. The new version follows the trend that the retro setting has. The asteroid is still falling and

the player can still drive his ship away to the outer part of space.

There are also some classic games that are still alive nowadays. Games like Prince of Persia, Donkey Kong, Frogger and dozens that once invaded arcade's kingdom and barrooms are still kicking some joysticks.

Puzzle games overload the classic arcade games. With such games like Tetris, Connect 56 and Strategy War bumping the line edge of the classic board amusement.

Sports games never stop to amuse and entertain its players. Classic games like gold racing, skate boarding and sliding can still be played at a lot of places and of course online.

It is never too late to play those classic arcades games again, and believe me, it is a lot of fun!

D. Goldberg is the editor of Arcade Games Station. Download the best arcade games of the 80s.

<http://www.arcadegamesstation.info>



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