Book Productions
The Latest in
Computer-Generated Literary Art
nom de nom
a.k.a. Nick Montfort
nickm.com
@party
10 June 2017
1. Introduce myself & my work
2. Compare demoscene productions with computer-generated books
3. Discuss 10 compelling books (being handed around now)
4. Announce a new series of computer-generated literature
5. Read from The Truelist (my next one, forthcoming in December)
perl -le 'sub b{@_=unpack"(A2)*",pop;$_[rand@_]}sub w{" ".b(cococamamade
bapabohamolaburatamihopodito).b(
estsnslldseckregspstedbsnelengke
msatthewsnhtarshnknnd)){$_="\n\nthe
".w."\n";$_=w." ".b(attoonnoof).
w if$l;$_=/[au][ae]/a;/print;$l=0;f$l++>rand 9;sleep 1;redo} #Rev2'
WORLD
CLOCK
NICK MONTFORT

ME
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RT
NICK MONTFORT, SERGE BOUCHARDON, CARLOS LEÓN, NATALIA FEDOROVA, ANDREW CAMPAÑA, ALEKSANDRA MADECKA, AND PIOTR MARĘCZ

2×6

OP/AUT

NICK MONTFORT

LES FIGUES PRESS
LOS ANGELES
Here he stood. Here he sat. Here he knelt.
Here he lay. Here he moved, to and fro,
From the door to the window, from
The window to the door; from the window to the door,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demoscene Productions</th>
<th>Computer-Generated Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code/computing key</td>
<td>Code/computing key</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-interactive</td>
<td>Non-interactive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure &amp; “design”</td>
<td>Structure &amp; concept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphics &amp; music</td>
<td>Printed language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often collaborative</td>
<td>Often solo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-contained, original</td>
<td>Network data, derivative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executables spread</td>
<td>Source or nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demoscene Productions</td>
<td>Computer-Generated Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New graphical effects</td>
<td>New literary effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parties</td>
<td>NaNoGenMo, publishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For show/performance</td>
<td>Few of us, not mainly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform-specific</td>
<td>Only mine?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sizecoding</td>
<td>Only mine? But Twitter <em>output</em> is constrained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Books Circulating
THE POLICEMAN'S BEARD IS HALF CONSTRUCTED

Computer prose and poetry by Racter

Illustrations by Joan Hall
Introduction by William Chamberlain

A Bizarre and Fantastic Journey into the Mind of a Machine
Tristano
A Novel

11272

Nanni Balestrini

Balestrini’s readers have become co-authors (or maybe sole authors) by exercising their own creativity.
From the foreword by
Umberto Eco
HOW IT IS

Common Tongues

Mark Avery & Daniel C. Howe
A Sonic Atlas
of English Language

David Gissen
A SLOW YEAR
GAME POEMS
4 VIDEO GAMEs 1k MACHINED HAiku
Ian Bogost
Counterpath Press, Denver

Nick Montfort, *The Truelist*

Rafael Pérez y Pérez, *Mexica: 20 Years–20 Stories Mexica: 20 años–20 historias*

Allison Parrish, *Articulations*

Li Zillers, *Machine, Unlearning*

Ranjit Bhatnagar, *(A Pentrametron book)*

... and more? ...
Bonus Slide: Resources

- A good Python library for NLP: https://textblob.readthedocs.io
- A bibliography of computer-generated books: https://nickm.com/post/2016/07/computer-generated-books/
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Thanks – questions?
nom de nom, aka Nick, nickm.com