

THE DYNAMIC LAYER

Topics

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- **The Dynamic Layer**

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- **The Dynamic Layer**
- **The Role of the Player**

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- **The Dynamic Layer**
- **The Role of the Player**
- **Emergence**

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- **Dynamic Mechanics**

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- **Dynamic Aesthetics**

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- **Dynamic Narrative**
- **Dynamic Technology**

The Dynamic Layer

The Dynamic Layer

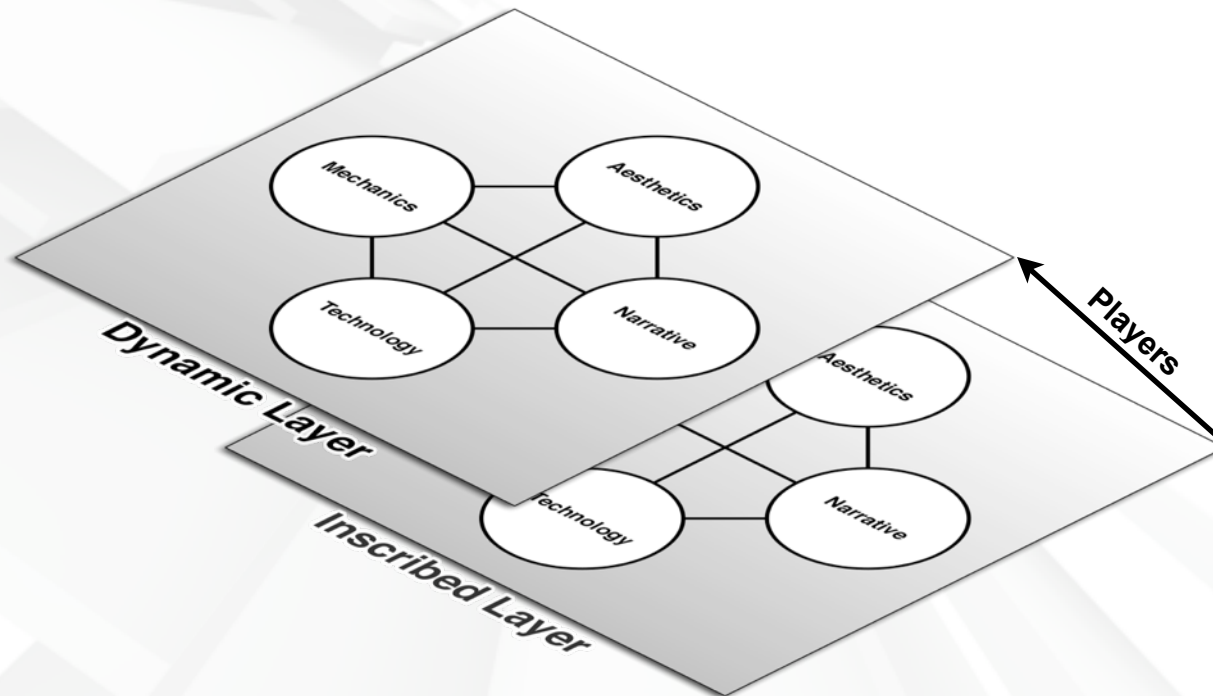
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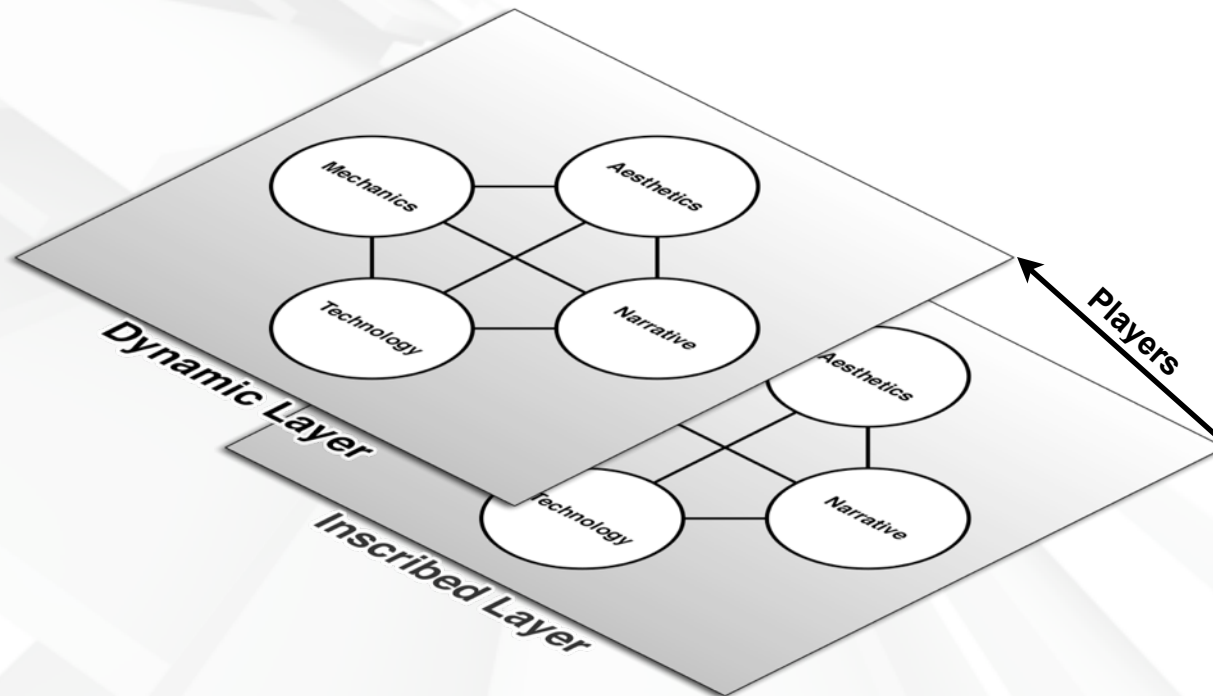
Play, strategy, and meaningful player choices all emerge in this layer.

The Role of the Player



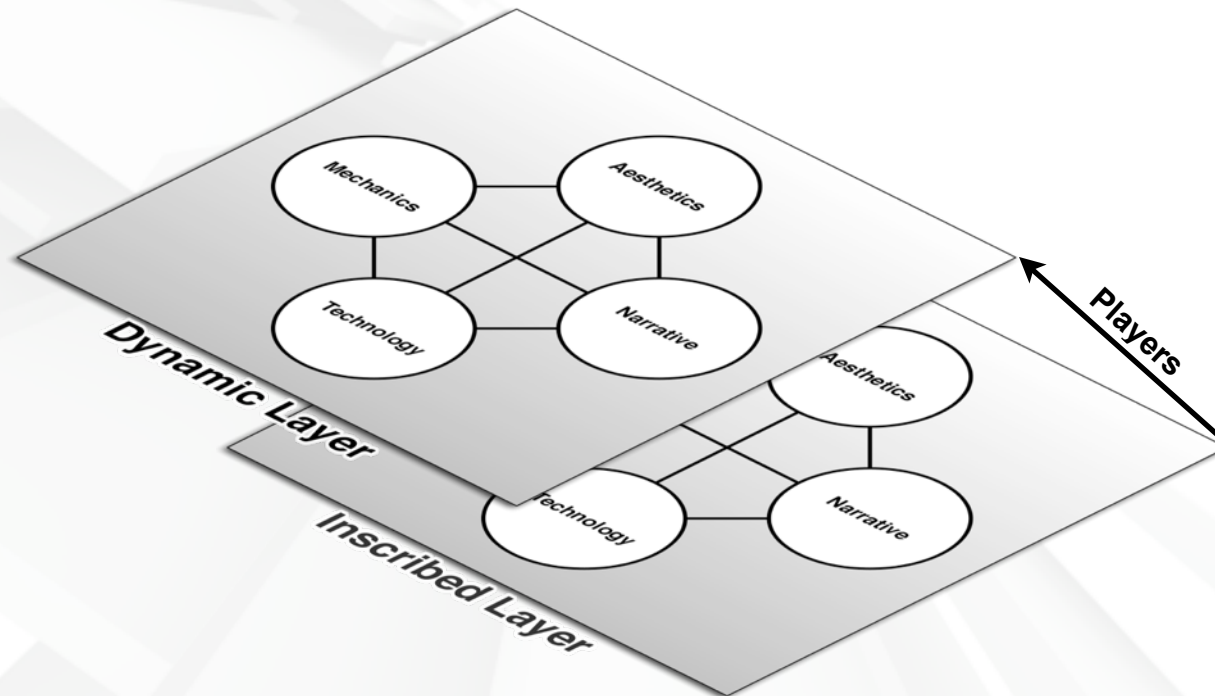
The Role of the Player

- A game isn't a game unless someone is playing it



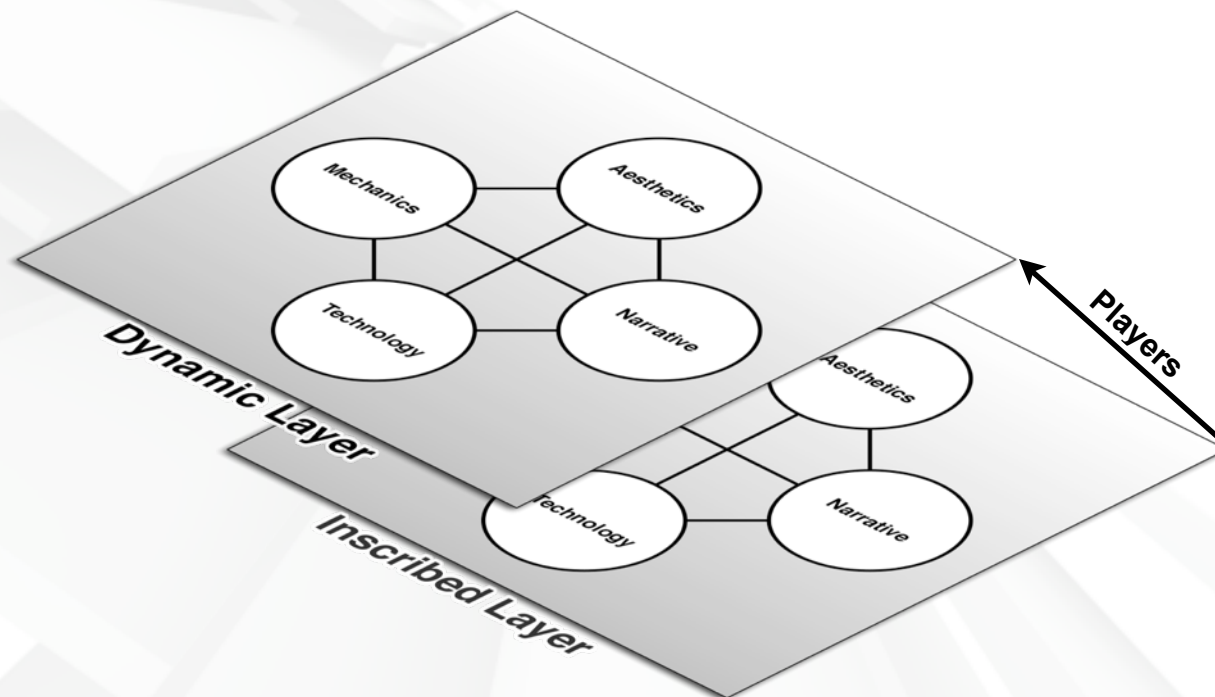
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- A game isn't a game unless someone is playing it
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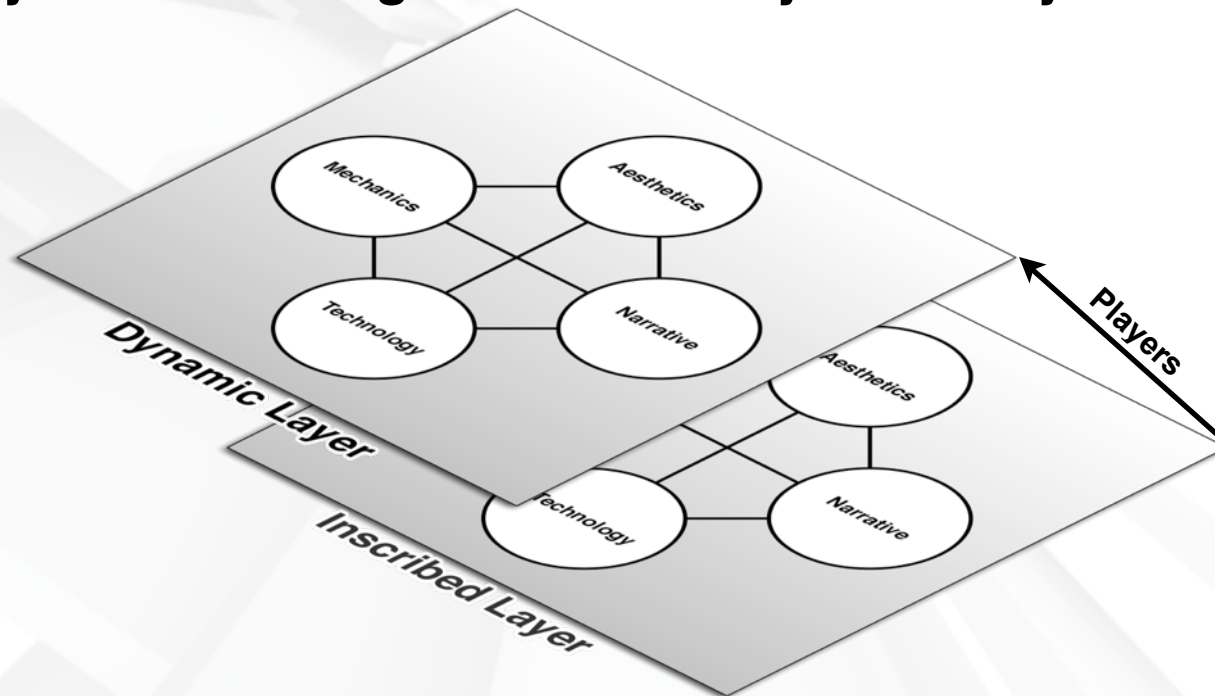
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 - But a game is fundamentally altered by the participation of the player



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 - Players move the game into the Dynamic Layer



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 - Playtesting is a critical tool for helping the designer discover this range

The Dynamic Layer: Mechanics

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- Six aspects of Dynamic Mechanics

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- **Six aspects of Dynamic Mechanics**
 - **Procedures**

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- **Examples:**
 - Passing GO and collecting \$200 in *Monopoly*
 - Bluffing in *Poker* – Though this is not specifically described in the rules of the game, it is a common procedure

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- **If actions do not appear to the players to be meaningful, players can often lose interest in the game**

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- **Many player's first foray into game design!**

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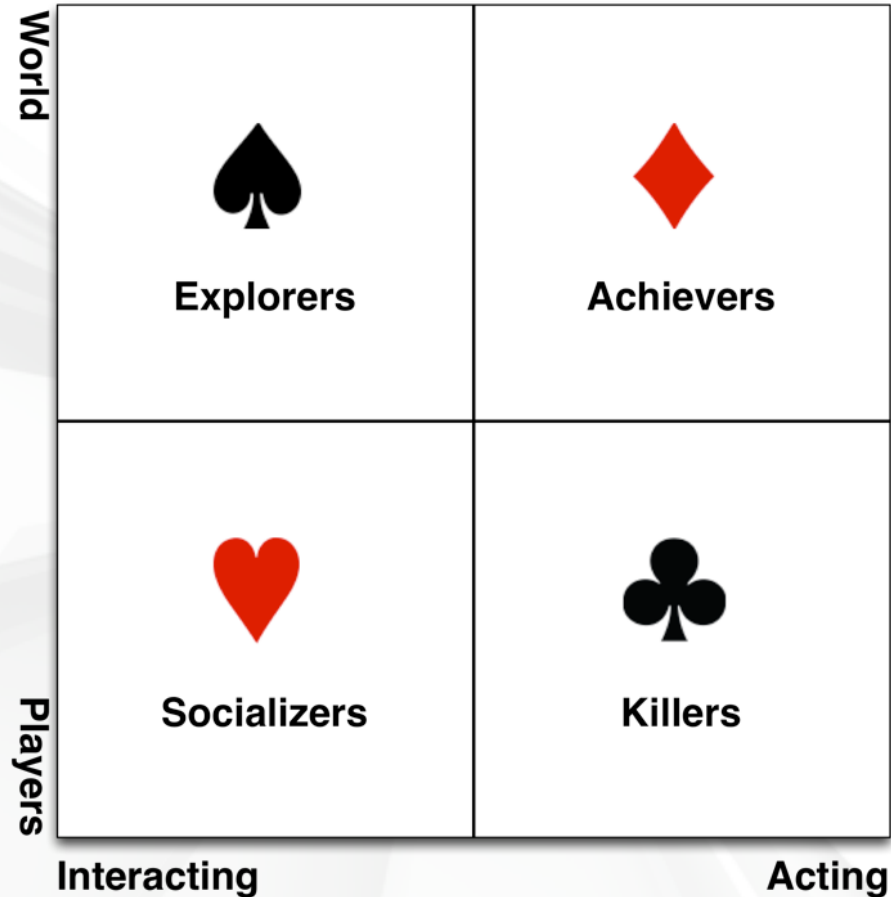
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Bartle's types in a 2x2 continuum

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- Two types of players you *don't* want in your games
 - **Cheater** - Wants to win. Doesn't care about integrity of the game.
 - **Spoilsport** - Doesn't care about winning. Wants to ruin game.

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- **Outcome**

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- **Cumulative** - The result of working toward a goal over time
 - Example: Gathering experience points until eventually leveling up
- **Final** - The outcome that ends the game
 - Death is often not a final outcome
 - Some games (like pen and paper RPGs) often lack a final outcome

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 - Aesthetics that are generated on the fly via programming
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 - The aesthetics of the environment in which the game is played

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- **Procedural Aesthetics**
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The Dynamic Layer: Aesthetics

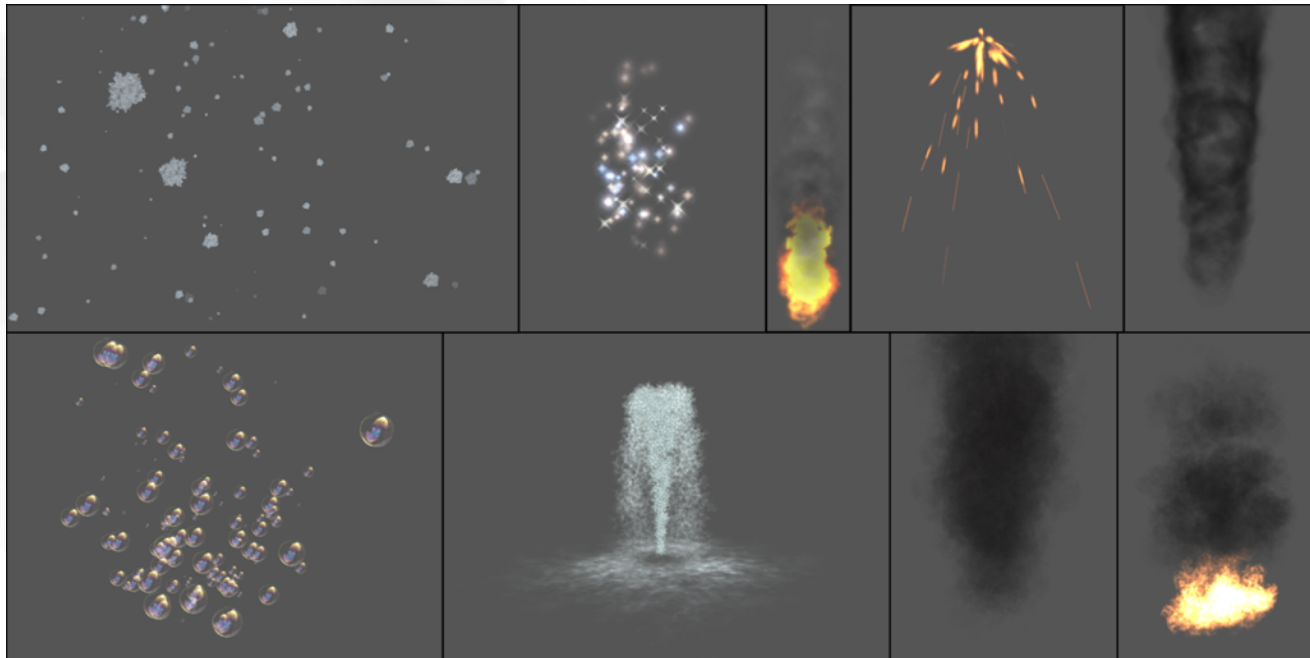
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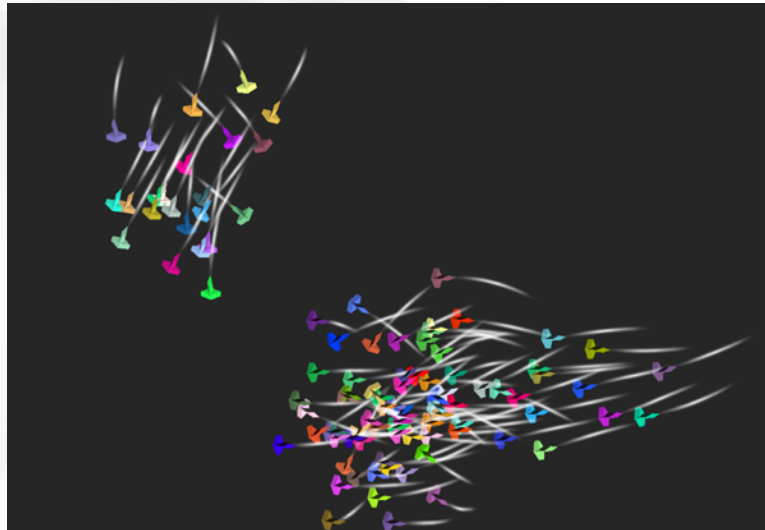
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 - Example: The story of the Balrog and the Rod of Splendor from the chapter

The Dynamic Layer: Technology

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