GameSpy Web Comic v1.0(6)

Contents:

Project Purpose:
Reinstate Web Comics for GameSpy with new layout and features.

Business Goals:
The goal of this project is to reinstate a popular section onto GameSpy in order to increase page views and user retention through addition of community features.

Tracking:
ATA tracking to determine how often blog pages are accessed.

Exclusions:
This document only covers topics directly related to reinstating Web Comics on GameSpy and peripherally to adding a new Web Comics forum to GameSpy Forums under the General category.

Requirements:
The SEO group needs to be involved during development to ensure that appropriate search engine optimizations are implemented. Developers, please consult with Brad Morris before and during development cycle.

UPDATES:

v1.0(3) – Fixed Notes numbering on Page 2 and Page 5. Added clarification for Meta Description on Page 2.2.

v1.0(4) – Changes to Page 2.5, Page 3.5 and Page 3.7.

v1.0(5) – Added Note 3.11 regarding right column flexibility.

v1.0(6) – Added additional details to Page 3.5. Removed requirement for display of replies on Hot Forum Topics on Page 3.10 and renumbered Notes accordingly.

GameSpy Web Comic v1.0(6)

Overview

Description: Comic page (1).

Entry Points: Episode guide page, via "Previous", "Next", "First" and "Last" navigation buttons, direct link.

Notes

1 **Title tag.** Title tag forComic pages should follow this template: <comic series name> – <name of comic> .
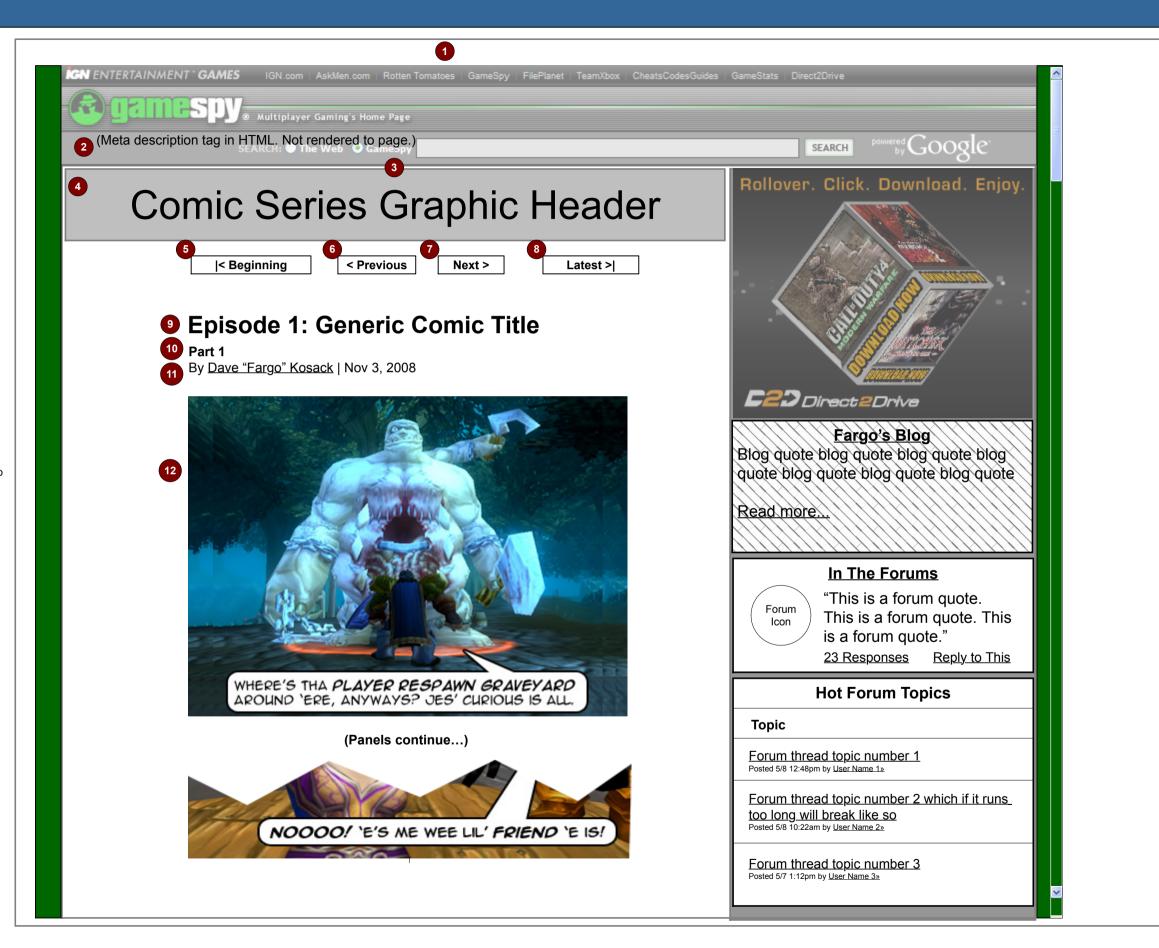
Example:

Flintlocke's Guide to Azeroth – Second Annual Holiday Special

2 **Comic Series short description.** Editorial should provide a short description with each Comic to be included in a Meta Description Tag.

3 **Web Comic page dimensions.** Web Comic is designed for standard 1024 screen width. Actual page is 978 pixels in width.

4 **Comic Series Graphic Header image.** Graphic image featuring series name.

5 **Navigation – Beginning.** Navigation button which is linked to the first item in the Comic Series. If current comic is the first Comic in the Series, the button is displayed grayed out (inactive.)

NOTE TO DEVELOPERS: When coding the template, allow for custom buttons graphics for each comic series. If a comic series does not have custom navigation buttons, that series should use the default button design.

6 **Navigation – Previous.** Links to Comic published immediately prior to current Comic. If current Comic is the first Comic in the Series, the button is displayed grayed out (inactive.)

7 **Navigation – Next.** Links to Next Comic in Series. If the current Comic is the latest, button is grayed out (inactive.)

8 **Navigation – Latest.** Links to most recent Comic in Series. If the current comic is the Latest, button is grayed out (inactive.)

9 **Episode Title.** Title of displayed Episode. The header needs to include the Episode name and be placed within an H1 (<h1> </h1>) tag.

10 **Episode Part.** If the Comic is part of a multi-part episode, display the part number.

11 **Byline and Publication Date.** If the Comic has a byline, display the byline as a link to "http://feedback.gamespy.com followed by a pipe symbol and the pub date. If no byline, just display pub date.

12 **Web Comic Panels.** Images for the Web Comic. Images will be posted uploaded through NIB.

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Notes

1 **Med Rect Ad.** 300px width by 250px heighth.

2 **Link to Fargo's Blog.** NOT NECESSARY FOOR INITIAL RELEASE. Should be inserted when Blogs become available on GameSpy.

3 **In the Forums.** Highest-rated quote from the previous day (as with user submission quotes on IGN hub pages.) Display box is fixed size (to be determined by visual designer.)

4 **In the Forums – Forum icon.** Display the icon which appears on the GameSpy Forums. (Requires visual design.)

5 **In the Forums – Quote.** Variable-height container which displays an editorially-slotted Forum quote and icon image from Forums. Anchor links determined by editorial. Container may hold other data at editorial's discretion.

6 **In the Forums – Links.** Each quote will be accompanied by two links. 1) Display number of replies to forum post linked to originating thread for quote on GameSpy Forums. 2) Display text reading "Reply to This" linked to GameSpy Forums post reply form for the displayed post.

7 **Hot Forum Topics.** Variable-height container which displays the 5 most replied-to postings for the previous 24 hours. In case of a tie (or no postings have replies), default to display by latest publication date.

8 **Hot Forum Topics – Thread Topic.** Display the entire thread topic string for the Hot Topic, allowing string to break automatically (and increasing height of container, if necessary.)

9 **Hot Forum Topics – Posting time stamp and posting user.** Display time stamp of post using identical logic as employed "Last Post" column of "My Favorite Boards" section on http://forums.gamespy.com. Display posting user's name (without user styles) linked to user's Profile page (http://forums.gamespy.com/UserPages/Profile.aspx?user=[user name]).

10 **Right column flexibility.** Design for right column editorial flexibility. Editorial may want to insert graphics in this column from time to time to promote Previews, etc.

Overview

Description: Comic page (3).

Entry Points: Episode guide page, via "Previous", "Next", "First" and "Last" navigation buttons, direct link.

Notes

1 **Email a Friend and Bookmark.** Include standard user notification and bookmarking feature as found on GameSpy.com.

2 **Comments.** Display standard article comments container utilizing same functions and parameters as IGN article comments. Comments are identical to posts on GameSpy Forums thread for Comic. Comments are specific to comic displayed on page.

3 **Comments – Moderator link.** For Moderators and above, display moderation link.

4 **Comments – View All link.** Display standard article View All link, linked to View All page.

5 **Navigation.** Replicate navigation bar from top of page.

6 **Image of character's face.** Display an image of character's face as provided by GameSpy editorial. Face will be linked to sound file which may open a new browser window to play (based on viewer's MIME settings.) The functionality replicates current functionality on GameSpy Comics.

7 **About.** Link takes viewer to About page for Comic Series.

8 **Episode Guide link.** Links to Episode Guide page.

9 **Latest [comic] box.** Links to latest comics – identical to current comics page.

10 **More WoW Coverage.** Variable-height container which displays editorially-slotted include, similar to "GameSpy News" section found on http://forums.gamespy.com. If no content is slotted, do not display container.

NOOOO! 'E'S ME WEE LIL' *FRIEND* 'E IS!

1 ✉ Email a Friend   ⊕ BOOKMARK

2 **Latest Comments**   **3** Moderate Thread

➕ **Add Comment**

This is a good game, but it is NOT a 10/10. My big problem is I am doing all these missions and making money, yet I have nothing to spend it on. I buy weapons and that is it. So what am I to do with the other $700,000. Anyways, I just wish you could by property, houses, personal... **[+] Full Comment**

Posted by: JasonL2424 on May 09, 2008 08:08 PDT

Moderate | Report Abuse

i ac   ive on 18th st i   ly problem is   have

ames reviewers .   a cold shower be   reviews. Sadly m .33 just died and I am only a few hours in so unless things suddenly change I can't fathom how this game got a 10. Graphically it's on the good side of ordinary, think more a 7 to 8 but it depends how highly you rate... **[+] Full Comment**

Posted by: superluminalX1 on May 09, 2008 02:54 PDT

Moderate | Report Abuse

4 View All (3277) Comments

5 |< Beginning   < Previous   Next >   Latest >|

6 Character face
7 About   **8** Episode Guide

9 **Latest [comic name]**

[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])

More WoW Coverage

WoW news item number 1.
WoW news item number 2.
WoW news item number 3.
WoW news item number 4.
WoW news item number 5.
WoW news item number 6.

10

Overview

Description: "View All Comments" page.

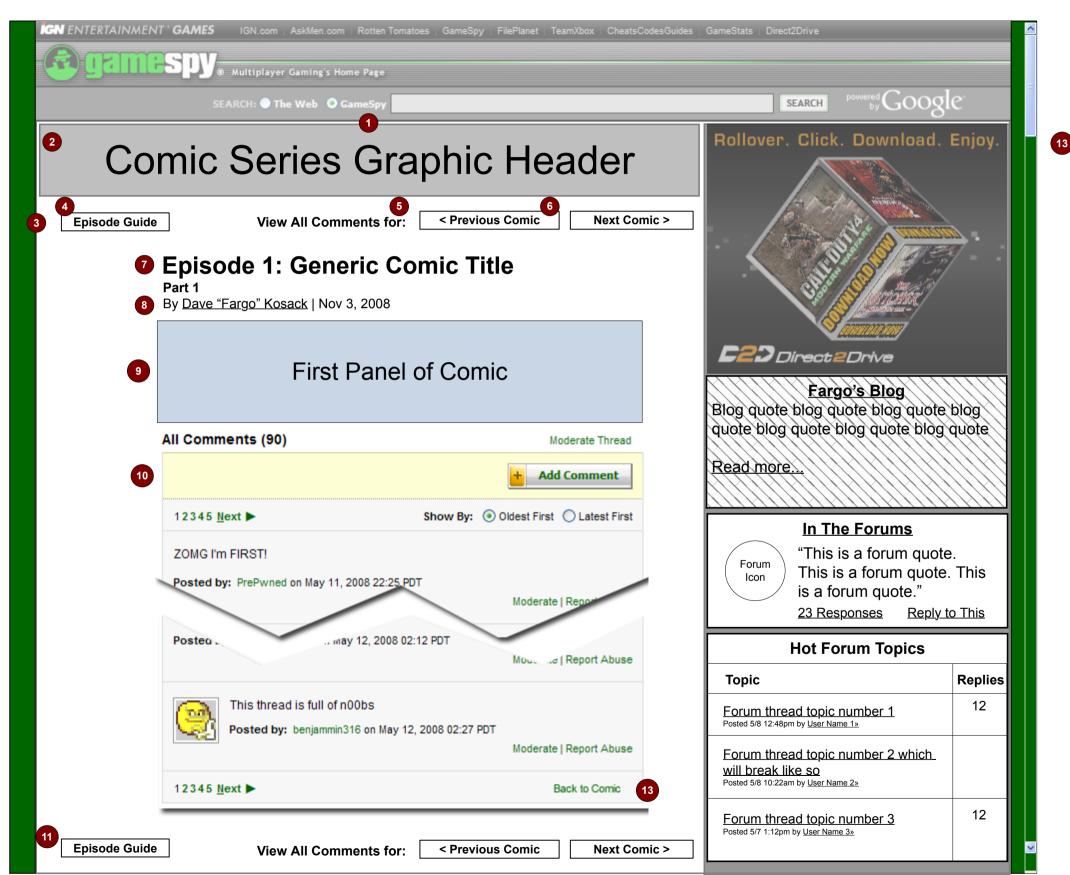**Entry Points:** "View All Comments" link in Comments section of Comic page, direct link.

Notes

1 **Web Comic page dimensions.** Web Comic is designed for standard 1024 screen width. Actual page is 978 pixels in width.

2 **Comic Series Graphic Header image.** Graphic image featuring Series name.

3 **Navigation.** Navigation buttons will allow users to navigate the "View All Comments" pages a comic at a time. The design should be visually distinct from the navigation of the actual comic pages to avoid confusion about where the destination of each link.

4 **Navigation – Episode Guide.** Links to Episode Guide page.

5 **Navigation – Previous Comic.** Links to "View All Comments" page for previous Comic.

6 **Navigation – Next Comic.** Links to "View All Comments" page for next Comic in Series. If the currently viewed is the latest, button is grayed out (inactive.)

7 **Episode Title and Part number (if applicable.)** Title and part number of Comic that the comments reference.

8 **Byline.** If the Comic has a byline, display the byline as a link to "http://feedback.gamespy.com. Display publication date of Comic separated from byline by pipe symbol. If no byline, just display pub date.

9 **Comic first panel.** IF POSSIBLE, display the first panel of the Comic. Analogous to the snippet on IGN article comments.

10 **All Comments.** Display all comments for Comic using functionality and UI as found on "View All Comments" for IGN Article pages including pagination and input form.

11 **Navigation.** Replicate navigation found at top of page at the end of the comments section.

12 **Navigation.** For Web Comics, return link should read "Back to Comic".

13 **Right Column.** Right column replicates right column found on Comic pages.

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(1)

(2) Comic Series Graphic Header

(4) [Episode Guide] **(3)** **(5)** View All Comments for: **(6)** [< Previous Comic] [Next Comic >]

(7) Episode 1: Generic Comic Title
Part 1
(8) By Dave "Fargo" Kosack | Nov 3, 2008

(9) First Panel of Comic

All Comments (90)   Moderate Thread

(10) [+ Add Comment]

1 2 3 4 5 Next ▶   Show By: ● Oldest First ○ Latest First

ZOMG I'm FIRST!
Posted by: PrePwned on May 11, 2008 22:25 PDT
                                    Moderate | Report

Posted ...   ... may 12, 2008 02:12 PDT
                                    Mod...e | Report Abuse

This thread is full of n00bs
Posted by: benjammin316 on May 12, 2008 02:27 PDT
                                    Moderate | Report Abuse

1 2 3 4 5 Next ▶   Back to Comic **(13)**

(11) [Episode Guide]   View All Comments for: [< Previous Comic] [Next Comic >]

(13)

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Fargo's Blog
Blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote

Read more...

In The Forums

Forum Icon

"This is a forum quote. This is a forum quote. This is a forum quote."

23 Responses   Reply to This

Hot Forum Topics

Topic	Replies
Forum thread topic number 1 Posted 5/8 12:48pm by User Name 1»	12
Forum thread topic number 2 which will break like so Posted 5/8 10:22am by User Name 2»	
Forum thread topic number 3 Posted 5/7 1:12pm by User Name 3»	12

GameSpy Web Comic v1.0(6)

Overview

Description: Episode Guide

Entry Points: Comic pages, View All Comments pages, About Page, direct link.
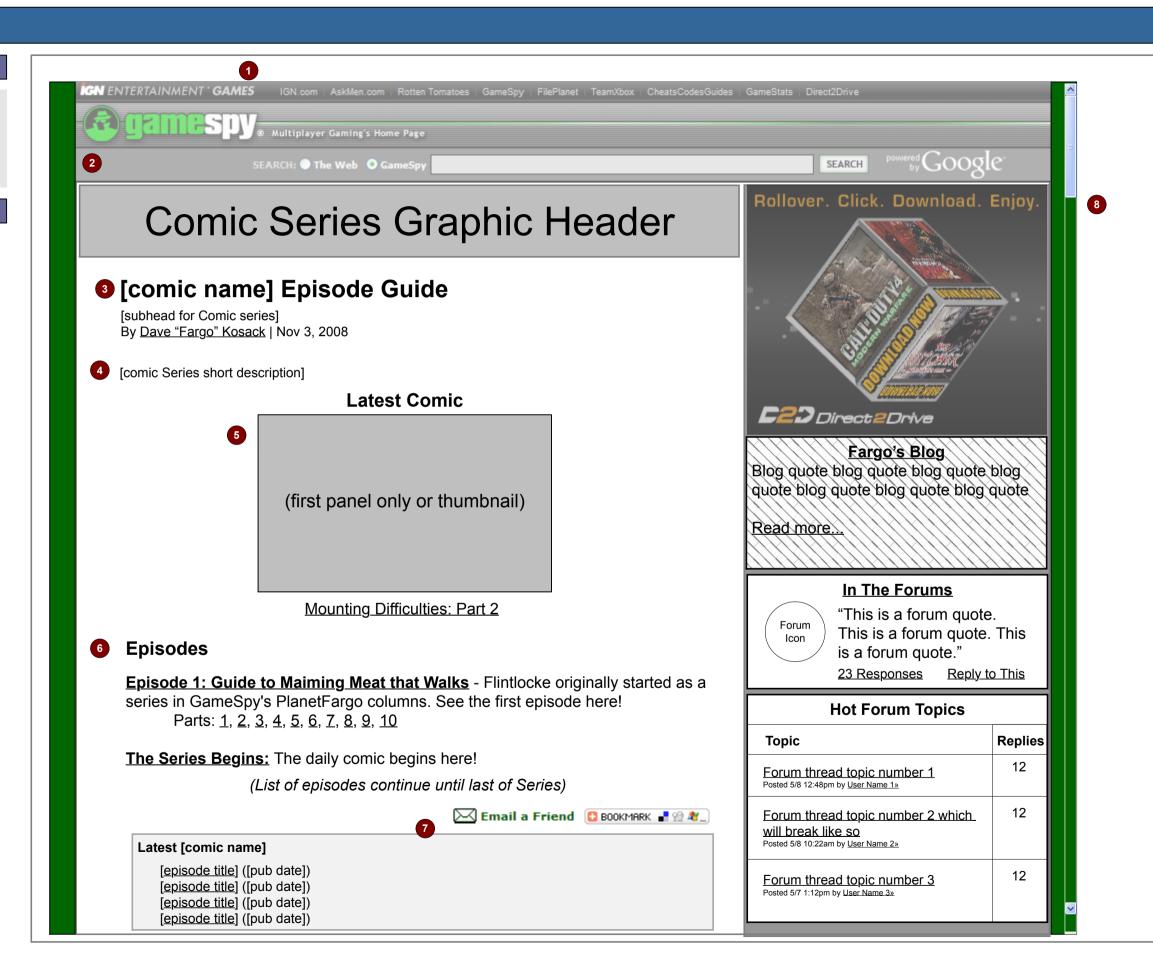
Notes

1 **Title tag.** Title tag for Episode Guide pages should follow this template: GameSpy Comics - <comic series name> .

Example:

GameSpy Comics - Flintlocke's Guide to Azeroth

2 **Meta Description Tag.** Duplicate the first 200 characters of the Comic short description found further down the page (4) into a Meta Description Tag for this page.

3 **Header, subheader, byline, pub date and Series description.** Same as with existing Comic. The header needs to include the Comic Series name and be placed within an H1 (<h1> </h1>) tag.

4 **Comic Series short description.** Short description of comic as on current version. First 200 characters used in meta tag (2).

5 **Latest Comic.** Ldisplay the first panel or a thumbnail to the latest comic linked to Comic page. Display name of Comic also linked to Comic page.

6 **Episodes.** List of Episodes in Series is similar to existing Guide with text area is wider to accommodate wider column width. For episodes divided into Parts, list individual Parts linked to appropriate page in manner shown.

7 **Bookmarks and Latest Comic links.** Same as on Comic Page (3) and as on existing Episode Guide.

8 **Right Column.** Right column replicates right column found on Comic pages.

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1 IGN ENTERTAINMENT GAMES IGN.com | AskMen.com | Rotten Tomatoes | GameSpy | FilePlanet | TeamXbox | CheatsCodesGuides | GameStats | Direct2Drive

gameSpy ® Multiplayer Gaming's Home Page

2 SEARCH: ○ The Web ● GameSpy [   ] SEARCH powered by Google

Comic Series Graphic Header

3 **[comic name] Episode Guide**

[subhead for Comic series]
By Dave "Fargo" Kosack | Nov 3, 2008

4 [comic Series short description]

Latest Comic

5 (first panel only or thumbnail)

Mounting Difficulties: Part 2

6 ## Episodes

Episode 1: Guide to Maiming Meat that Walks - Flintlocke originally started as a series in GameSpy's PlanetFargo columns. See the first episode here!
Parts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

The Series Begins: The daily comic begins here!

(List of episodes continue until last of Series)

7 ✉ Email a Friend BOOKMARK

Latest [comic name]

[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])
[episode title] ([pub date])

8 Rollover. Click. Download. Enjoy.
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Blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote blog quote
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Forum Icon "This is a forum quote. This is a forum quote. This is a forum quote."
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GameSpy Web Comic v1.0(6)

Overview

Description: About Page.

Entry Points: Comic pages, direct link.

Notes

1 **Web Comic page dimensions.** Web comic is designed for standard 1024 screen width. Actual page is 978 pixels in width.

2 **Comic Series Graphic Header image.** Graphic image featuring series name.

3 **About page headline, sub-headline, and publication date.** Information about the comic series slotted by editorial.

4 **About information.** Images and text slotted by editorial.

5 **Episode Guide.** Link to episode guide page.

6 **Right Column.** Right column replicates right column found on Comic pages.

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1

2 Comic Series Graphic Header

3 ## About page headline

About page sub-headline

By About page author | Nov 3, 2008

4 (Content slotted by GameSpy editorial.)

5 Episode Guide

6

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Fargo's Blog

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Description:

Entry Points:

Notes