

# THE SOCIAL (LEARNING?) NETWORK

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#### 4 THINGS ABOUT FACEBOOK

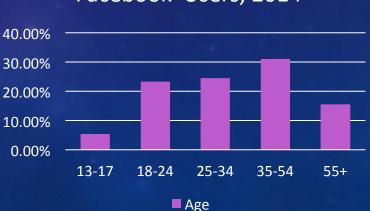
(10 YEARS IN)

THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO INFORMAL EDUCATION

# 1) IT'S AN ENORMOUS COMMUNITY

- Over 1.2 billion Facebook users... about 20% of the global population.
- 87% of American adults are online, and 71% of them are on Facebook. (Pew Research)
- Demographic shifting older, but still pretty representative:

Facebook Users, 2014

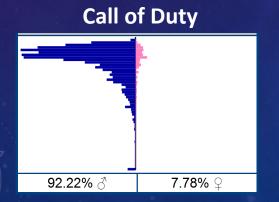


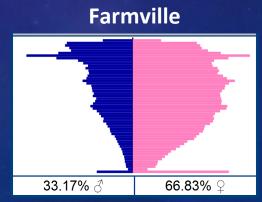
Population of Facebook

Pop. of U.S.

# (2) IT'S AN ENORMOUS GAME PLATFORM

- 250 million monthly active players
- Farmville peaked at ~80 million monthly active players; Candy Crush currently at 100 million.
- 200 games with over 1 million monthly active players
- And the demographics are interesting here too.

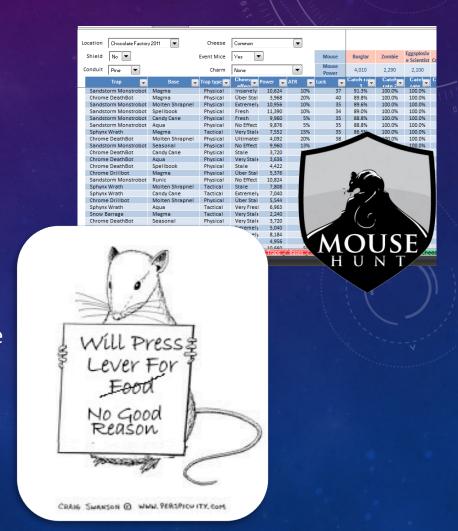






### 3 SOME OF THE GAMES ARE... DIFFERENT.

- Long term games that you can't finish quickly.
- Play for a few minutes, then come back later. Instead of an "appointment play", they're designed to fill the little breaks in your day.
- Can still lead to pretty serious strategic thinking.
- There's actually some push back on this type of game design.



#### (4) THERE'S POTENTIALLY A LOT OF DATA

- By their nature these kinds of games collect a lot of data (player state has to be stored on your server)
- Facebook adds the demographic information
  - Users agree to provide data on loading the app
  - How much data you get depends on what the developers ask for, but can include age, gender, "likes", education and more (assuming they've filled it out)



#### AS FOR US...

- Creating a "Build a solar system" game, aka "Farmville for stars and planets" (sporadic play; simple, light, and friendly).
- Lots of astronomy and "origins" science, all in the context of building your own solar system.
- Feats and minigames let us target specific content.
- Instrumented to track player interactions including session time, accomplishments, external links and combine that with Facebook data.





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