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Opening extract from

# Beat the Game

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# BEAT THE GAME

You're a computer game whiz and you've just received a strange email. It's inviting you to test your skills on a new computer game called Knight's Peril! You're about to start the game when a warning pops up.

## Knight's Peril

### COLLECT 26 CUBIES

**BEWARE!**

Once you start the game, you cannot leave until you complete it. Your mission is to collect 26 cubies throughout the game. The cubies will make a Rubik's Cube—your key to the exit, where you must defeat the Black Knight.
Make your choice and press CONTINUE or CANCEL.

CONTINUE CANCEL

CLICK ON CONTINUE TO START YOUR ADVENTURE ON PAGE 16



LEVEL 2 x 19

Correct! A duplicate of you appears, before being taken to the RAM.

Back in the game, you find the doors are all locked. You look for a key and notice two chests labeled with letters. There's a plaque on the wall.

THE KEY IS INSIDE THE CHEST LABELED WITH THE NAME OF THE FASTEST AND MOST DURABLE DRIVE.

SSD HDD

Which chest do you choose?

SSD
GO TO PAGE 33

HDD
FLIP TO PAGE 13

Wrong! You need to start the triangle by moving forward.

HAVE ANOTHER TRY ON PAGE 18

Oh dear! A modulo doesn't collect viruses.

TURN BACK TO PAGE 40 AND TRY AGAIN

Wise choice! ASCII, or the American Standard Code for Information Interchange, is one of the oldest codes used to represent characters on the screen.

You release the door and enter level one. The first cubie is above you. You touch it to collect it. How easy! There are lots of platforms above you, connected by ladders and ropes.

LEVEL 1

x 1

A smiley face pops up and speaks to you!

**Reach the top to complete the level. Climb the ladders and ropes, but avoid the trapdoors. Beware! dragons will try to scorch you! Smiley faces like me will provide tips and hints.**

You start to climb the first ladder, but the rungs suddenly disappear and you fall off. Rubbing your arm, you look up and words appear.

**STEP ONTO THE RUNG MARKED BY THE NAME OF A PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE.**

BINARY

FORTRAN

X15

Which rung do you step on first?

HEAD TO PAGE 28

FLIP TO PAGE 37

GO TO PAGE 20

Correct! One terabyte equals 1,000 gigabytes (GB).

LEVEL 1 ×6

Very good. Question two: What does USB stand for?

**UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS**
GO TO PAGE 31

**UNIVERSAL STORAGE BANK**
FLIP TO PAGE 23

8

No! If you divide 8 by 2, there is no extra 1 left over.

TURN BACK TO PAGE 23 AND TRY AGAIN

Good! A loop repeats the instructions until the action is no longer required.

SPHERE tells you that the only way to stop the loop is to reprogram the code controlling the virus.

```
X = 1
WHILE X = 1 START LOOP
  DESTROY ALL DATA 1s
  DESTROY ALL DATA 0s
  RETURN TO START LOOP
ATTACK NEXT RAM
```

You approach the monster and study the code.

Which part of the code do you reprogram?

**CHANGE THE VARIABLE X TO 2**
TURN TO PAGE 39

**REMOVE "DESTROY ALL DATA 1s"**
GO TO PAGE 23



Correct! Antivirus programs examine parts of a program or file for virus patterns. Once a virus has been found, it can be repaired or quarantined.

You open the file to activate it and a login window appears.

**USERNAME: Administrator**
**PASSWORD: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _**
*PASSWORD HINT: WHO CO-FOUNDED MICROSOFT?*

ANTIVIRUS

What do you enter?

**BILL GATES**
GO TO PAGE 43

**STEVE JOBS**
TURN TO PAGE 30

No, an algorithm is far more important than a tune!

TRY AGAIN ON PAGE 36

Wrong! A byte is made up of eight bits, so it isn't the smallest piece of data.

TURN TO PAGE 16 AND RE-ENTER THE PASSWORD

No, it's not called static current.

TRY AGAIN ON PAGE 31

Well spotted! Brainiac is a made-up name for a computer.

LEVEL 3

x20

You open the door to level three. Behind it is a bridge leading to another platform. You can see 5 cubies on the other side!

As you start walking across the bridge, a plank breaks—then another and another. You're stranded in the middle. The Master Programmer's voice fills the air.

*The bridge represents the computer's power system. One false step and your computer will lose power—and it'll be game over for you!*

The gameplay screen dims, showing the power levels have gone down. Oh dear! A screen drops down in front of you.

**TO EARN NEW PLANKS AND BOOST THE COMPUTER'S POWER, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CORRECTLY. EACH INCORRECT ANSWER EQUALS A LOSS IN POWER.**

**WHAT IS THE UPS?**

Think quickly. What do you say?

**UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY**
TURN TO PAGE 31

**UNIVERSAL POWER SYSTEM**
GO TO PAGE 26