

Demoscene Display Installation

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Abstract

The Demoscene community intends to contribute to the 25th Generative Art Conference with an installation. The Demoscene is a digital culture active in many parts of the world. It is recognized as intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in Finland, Germany, and Poland. We would like to present creative works out of this community – Demos – which show of what might emerge when creativity, algorithms and (programming) skills come together. To achieve this, we would like to install a display which runs most praised works of this community.

Wait, what's the Demoscene?

It's about demonstrating talent and skills of coders and capabilities of computing machinery. *Demosceners* produce *Demos*, digital audio-visual works rendered real-time by computer programs. Sceners strive for entering their programmed productions in a competition – a *Compo* – at a *Demoparty*. Self-limitation fuels creativity: Contributed programs compete in categories, with e.g. file size limits (size coding), hardware restrictions or historic computers (Commodore C64, Amiga, Atari ST, etc.). Demos are released live at these events, where they are celebrated and voted on by all visitors. The Demoscene is an internationally active digital subculture, rooted in the home computer revolution in the 1980s but vibrant to this day. Sceners are strongly attached to *their* Demoscene, there is a tremendous amount of identity, history, emotion, and community. No wonder it is recognized by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage of mankind in Finland, Germany, and Poland (see <http://demoscene-the-art-of-coding.net>). More UNESCO applications are currently in preparation by Sceners.

Stop talking, show me Demos!

Demos are very hard to describe verbally, they are an audio-visual experience and are best enjoyed live at a Demoparty. But you can watch video recordings of some famous Demos at GA2022 at the Demoscene exhibition display in the hall. kudrix, a Demoscener will be around to answer questions you might have. Expect to be invited to a Demoparty! kudrix will also be giving a brief Demoscene intro as a presentation.

Remarks

The presenter is part of Art of Coding, abbreviated as AoC, an initiative to get the Demoscene recognized as first digital culture of UNESCO intangible world cultural heritages. He presented the article “Demoscene Dark Matter – The culture that makes people stay in the Scene” at the XXIV Generative Art Conference in Cagliari, Sardinia in 2021.

Resources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demoscene>

<http://demoscene-the-art-of-coding.net>

<https://wiki.aineetonkulttuuriperinto.fi/wiki/Demoscene>

<https://demoszoo.org>

<https://www.demoparty.net>

<https://www.echtzeitkultur.org>

<http://computerkunst.info>