

# The History Of Video Jack Marron 16/9/21

## Game Systems

### First Generation of consoles

#### Magnavox Odyssey

The first ever video game console was the Magnavox Odyssey in 1972. Its controller was basically a white box with a button and a wheel. Its button layout was very similar, and it was originally retailed at \$99 {\$600 in today's standards}. It ran on cartridges which were quite sizable. Rating 5.5/10



#### Telstar Console

The second main video game console was made by Coleco called the Telstar Console. It really didn't have any main differences from the Odyssey, but it was differed by the controller and colour of the console. It basically was made to play one game only and that game was Pong. Pong was a massive success around this period and Coleco wanted to bring that experience to households and not arcades. The whole system is basically a controller which had two sticks, one for each player. Rating 4/10



## Second generation of consoles

### The Atari 2600

There were hundreds of consoles in the first generation, but I will only name the main one. The Atari 2600. This was the main console back in the day and it shows good purpose. The Atari 2600 was a monumental piece of gaming. This is really when consoles started to get popular, and Atari knew this so they had to make something that would appeal to non-arcade players, so they simplified their controller and gave it one button and a control stick. There are many jokes about the controller, but it made total sense. Most games on the system did not require lots of buttons to be played so that's why they made it that nearly every game controlled the same. It is not known when the console launched because it basically just showed up in stores when it was made but most likely Japan got the console first because it was made in the country. Rating 7/10



## Third generation of consoles

### NES

Now one of the most successful companies in the video game market who are still making consoles to this day. NINTENDO. You have probably heard of this name before somewhere before. This is Nintendo's first attempt in the video game market and did they start it off with a banger of a system. The Nintendo Entertainment System. Made in 1983 this hunk of plastic is an amazing 8-bit system and still holds up to this day. Some of the biggest names of gaming were made on this system. Cough cough Super Mario cough cough. It defined the world of gaming with its simplistic games that were there to play. How could I forget the controllers! Its controllers didn't appeal to the public at first with the introduction of a new way of playing games. On this controller was two main buttons {A and B}, a start button, a select button and the D-pad. The D-pad was a new piece of tech created to make games playable without the

normal arcade sticks and it worked. Every controller to this day has a D-pad and it is now easily understood. 6.5/10



## Fourth Generation of consoles

### SNES

The bigger brother of NES. The SNES. Or the super nintendo for short. This era was referred to the 16-bit era. This basically meant that it had double the amount of pixels displayed on the screen than its processor the NES which was only 8-bits. Now this was definitely when every game had a 101% better upgrade than their last. Super Mario World, The many legend of zeldas released and even new spin offs to boot like Super Mario Kart and F-zero. People praised this system for its amazing graphics at the time and how clean they were from the sloppy Sega Genesis graphics which we will get onto in just a bit. All the old aspects of the NES controller were brought back along with two new buttons( Y and Z ). The SNES game cartidges were also a lot smaller than the NES. This system was released in 1991 and this date is quite shocking to the younger audiences of todays standards. This system was an overall hit. Rating 8/10



## Sega Genesis

The Sega Genesis was a great system for the time and it sold very well. The Sega Genesis is definitely the more hardcore console of the time. It was basically the playstation of the time and it delivered. Surprisingly the amount of buttons was very lacluster and it shocked most people that a more powerful system than the NES had the same amount of buttons on the controller. It did however have three main face buttons ( A, B and now adding C) but only had a start button. There was no sign of a select button however but they also had the D-Pad aswell. It debued in 1988 and was a smash hit with all Sega's original games. 6.5/10



## Fifth generation of consoles.

### Playstation

Sony is one of the gaming rivals in this market against Nintendo and Microsoft. So obviously they smashed their first console. The Playstation. The Playstation was one of the first consoles that used DVDs. This was a massive change from the usual cartridge and it worked. DVDs ran video games better back then so it was the ultimate move to better graphical video games. Also because the Playstation used DVDs to run their video games it was also classified as a cheap movie player which helped them in the long run. The reason Sony made the Playstation was to compete against Nintendo after a failed DVD add on to the SNES which we will be talking about in a second. The plan was to make a DVD add on to the SNES to play third party games on the system. This obviously failed and Nintendo partnered with Philips on their console on the note that they would include Nintendo IPs to the selection of games on the console. Anyway back to the Playstation it started something which would be on nearly every

console after the Playstations release. Dual analog joysticks on their controller. It was a big leap they had to make to make 3D games more emersive. They needed a way to control the way you look in games. One employee thought that they could add another joystick. His colleagues laughed at the idea but the head of Sony ran with it and thus dual analog was born. The Playstation was made in the year 1994. Rating 7.5/10



## **N64**

The next member of the Nintendo family was going to have to be big to top the SNES. Although it didn't it still one of the most loved systems to Nintendo fans. The Nintendo 64. Its name represented the amount of pixels on the screen and it went along with the new 3D trend. Most people remember this system for three main things. The first every fully 3D game, the oddly shaped controller and the creation of an iconic series. Ok first we'll talk about the first 3D game ever. Super Mario 64. Although other games had 3D elements were in other games, this was the first game that was a fully fledged 3D platformer. This game changed the way games will be played for forever. It was astonishing at the time of its release. Now the most awkward thing about this system, the controller. It was make in a way that if you wanted to play games with a joystick or a D-pad, so on the left you have a d-pad, on the right you have A, B and four C buttons and in the middle you have a joystick. On the back you have a Z button and that's it. And finally the game that changed E sports forever. Super Smash Bros. It is a fighting game were nintendo characters battle it out on stages to see who is no 1. The N64 released in 1996. Rating 7/10



## The Sega Saturn

The Sega Saturn did not sell well at all and is very rare today. A lot of the Sega Saturn games are quite rare to this day. The console did not perform well because of the poor graphics and that it was not powerful enough to run most arcade games that could have been ported to the system although it did very well in Brazil. Rating 4/10



## Sixth generation of consoles

### The Xbox

We'll start this one off with a newcomer in the video game market, Microsoft. They set out on making the most powerful system at the time and they succeeded with the Xbox. The Xbox was one of the first systems with a hard drive which means there were menus on the system for things like the time, game collection and settings. Before you just put the game in the console and it played. This game console had it all especially a big controller. The Xbox controller is massive and it seems as if they were making a system for adults more than children to comfort most adults big hands. There was a smaller controller released but most

look to the original for the real feel of the Xbox. Also every console in the fifth generation had a colour associated with them and the Xbox was green, The Playstation 2 was black and blue. The Nintendo Gamecube was purple and the Sega Dreamcast was white. This helped the public to specify the differences between the consoles.



## Playstation 2

The bestselling game console with 200 million plus sold. The Playstation 2. It not only ran Playstation 1 games but it also ran DVDs. This helped them in the longrun because DVD players were quite expensive and the Playstation 2 was actually cheaper than most DVD players on the market. The Playstation 2 is quite a big console and very sturdy. The Playstation 2 was an amazing console for the time. The controllers are nothing special. They are basically the same as the first Playstation. Overall the system has aged poorly but the last ever game on the console released in 2013 and the Playstation 2 was released in 2000. It was a sports game thought Madden 13 to be exact and the game before Madden 13 was a soccer game released in 2012. Rating 9/10.





## Nintendo Gamecube

One of Nintendo's worst selling consoles. The Nintendo Gamecube or GCN in abbreviations. Nintendo could not use NGC for their abbreviation because that had already been used by National Geographic Channel so they opted to GCN. Now on to the console. In early developing stages of the Gamecube it was named project dolphin. Try guess what shape the Gamecube is. Do you think you got it right well surprisingly it is shaped in to a cube. Funnily enough, on the back of the Gamecube there is a handle to carry it around. The handle is joked about to this day but it actually made sense. On consoles like the Playstation 2 they are flat and easy to get a grip of but on the Gamecube it would not have been the case so they added they handle. Also this was Nintendo's riskiest system with their IP's. Mario gets sent to prison, MarioKart had two drivers in one car, The Legend Of Zelda was cartoony and vibrant , Kirby had a racing game, F-Zero existed and Animal Crossing and Chibi-Robo were born. It was madness. The Gamecube also houses one of the most wanted HD remakes of all time and it even has a meme ' Its not Melee' Super Smash Bros. Melee. Aparently it is the best Smash of all time but I disagree. And how could I forget the controller. If you looked at it , you would be very confused. It is shaped in a way that it is easy to understand. Rating 8.5/10



## The Sega Dreamcast

The Sega Dreamcast was the last system created by Sega as their last breath of air in the video game console market before becoming a software producer. Most of Sega's IPs died on their console except three. Sonic, Shenmue and Valkyrie Chronicles. The Dreamcast had an amazing idea in their controller. For some games you could place a small screen in the controller, and it would show some extra information. It really surprises me that no other console after the Dreamcast experimented with this idea. It was an amazing piece of tech that surprisingly is still getting games to this day. Obviously, the games aren't licenced by Sega, but it still is very cool. Rating 6/10.





## **Seventh generation of consoles.**

### **The Wii**

The Wii is Nintendo's best-selling console selling over 100 million units. Nintendo learnt from their past when they competed with their competitors, they never came out on top so they stop trying to push the latest graphics and made a console that anyone could play and understand. The Wii was a stellar piece of technology using the new motion controls feature. Motion controls basically means when you move the controller your game character moves too. Everyone had a Wii, just check under the couch there is probably one lying around. The controller was also amazing. It had pointer functionality, obviously motion controls and a port at the back if you wanted to use any other controllers. Some of the most sold games of all time are on the Wii like Super Mario Bros Wii and Wii Fit. Rating 9/10.



### **PS3**

The third version of the PlayStation. It was the best console at the time. You could play most of your PS1+PS2 games and still could play DVDs. The only thing that stopped the PS3 becoming the best console was the price. It originally retailed for \$500. That is how much a Xbox One costed on day one. It is basically the same as the PS2, but it has a curved shape design, and nothing really changed with the controller. Rating 7/10



## **Xbox 360**

The Xbox 360 was the most powerful console at the time of its release. It was the best gaming console for a while for hardcore gamers around the first year on the market. It had far more exclusive games for players than the PS3 but the PS3 had for more exclusives at the end of the generation. This hurt Microsoft but they fixed many issues with the console. The controller was for more compacted and comfortable to hold and just far more visually appealing. It also had a lot of internal storage for the time, so developers did have to cut any corners when making games. Although this console is just a downgraded Xbox One, people still enjoy this console's vast library of games for the player to experience. Rating 8/10



## **Eighth generation of consoles**

### **The Wii U**

Probably the biggest flop of a system from Nintendo. The Wii U. This console sold about 13 million systems which is tiny. At the time most people thought the Wii U was an add on for the Wii, but it ended up being a whole separate console. This consoles big idea was to have a tablet controller, but it ended up being horrible. You would always have to have the game pad always connected to the device. Also, the game pad needed to be always near the

console. I remember getting this for Christmas and running to my mother to show her I had won a race in Mario Kart and totally disconnected the game pad and having to restart the system. This was fixed with later versions of the console, but it was frustrating. With all that out of the way, this console is astonishingly pretty to look at. The game pad is also very comfortable. This was also Nintendo's big leap to HD. They had already been beaten by Sony and Microsoft a generation before the Wii U but it was good to see. Rating 8.5 /10.



## PS4

The PS4 is one of the most powerful system for the time. It had great graphics, great games and great design overall. The biggest difference with the controller is the middle button it is a welcome addition and is very pretty. And the shape of the console is so clean looking but is a nightmare to keep clean. The PS4 design is layers of rectangles and has small gaps in the middle for things like discs, HDMI cables and USB ports. That is where all the dust builds up. I do have to say that it is ludicrous that this console sold over 100 million units because when a console had a gimmick it usually succeeded but the PS4 didn't. things like the Wii and the PS2 sold so well is because they were backwards compatible which means you could play older games form older systems on them but the PS4 had none of that which makes me want to rank this lower. It is still a good console, but I just don't see the point. Rating 7/10



## Xbox One

The Xbox One has a very confusing name because it is the third in the Xbox family not the first. Confusion out of the way, this is a very bad job of being new because the controllers are the same as the 360 controllers except it costs €65. I don't really like this console because it only appeals to the hardcore gamers or collectors because it doesn't look next generation. In fact, I like the 360 designs more than the One because it looks newer. The Xbox One does have better graphics and has a more futuristic controller it's just that I like more friendly video games not blood and gory and all that jazz. Another thing I must boast about is the games. One of the only reasons the PS4 outsold the Xbox One is because there are far more exciting games on the PS4 than the Xbox. Rating 8/10.



## Ninth generation of consoles

### The Nintendo Switch

The Nintendo Switch is the first console to be a fully functional handheld and a game console that plugs into your TV. One of the Big gimmicks of the Switch is the joy-cons. These small controllers can plug in and out of the switch console while handheld or docked (docked will mean plugged into the TV.) They have everything done right in this console. The Switch has been on the market for around four years, and it has about 100 million systems sold. Although the Switch has been on the market longer than its rivals, I think I know who will win this war. Rating 10/10



## PS5

The PlayStation 5 is the best gaming system in graphic quality to the date. You even need a 4K television to get the most out of the console. The console has such a futuristic look to the controller and system. The controller has a different shape from the rest of the PlayStation's. This took so long. For the grips it has the small PlayStation shapes for the design, and it looks so cool. It also has a clean white design that would make you think we were in 2050. The buttons look like they are made from glass. Now the system itself. It has a curvy design to it and makes it look so high tech. The system also has a joke around because the system looks like a SKY router and when parents buy the router instead of the system. Rating 10/10.



## Xbox series X

The Xbox series is the final game system of the ninth generation so far so let's get into it. It is basically a better Xbox One but with amazing graphics and better build quality. The controller is a let down because it once again is the Xbox One controller. Like the PS5, you do need a 4K Tv for the best Quality in the gaming experience, but it isn't a necessity. The system has also gets memed a lot because it looks like a fridge covered in mould because it glows at the top when the system is on. It glows green to fir the Xbox colours but that is basically it.



Thanks for reading this blog and I hope you enjoyed.

Jack Marron.