

I don't care if you can't connect shit. If you know something about Zampanio list it here and list how you know it. Who knows, it might be the one thing someone needs to have a eureka moment.

jadedResearcher

Okay, I'll start this off by listing out what I know/believe, since I'm the one obsessed enough to make a side server for a game from 1972 of all things:

Zampanio is:

- * a game that came out on April 1st 1972 in Italy (this is NOT verified, it makes NO sense) (no one ever mentions what company/person created it???) (WHERE in italy? was italy even making games in 1972???)
- * the game never really was wildly released, but fan translation cracks of it keep popping up online (and getting taken down basically immediately: if anyone has a copy please contact me!)
- * there is at LEAST one discord for the game, full of people cracking it and trying to decompile the source and everyone either left or got kicked or something, the owner is a dead account and the server is locked so no one can post. (WHY???)
- * it is weirdly (disturbingly?) personalized for each person who plays it. That FAQ I found described one play through and hinted at a few others and it was what stuck with me the most.
- * There are just *so many* weird rumors about it. It makes sifting through the truth and the bullshit especially annoying/rewarding.
- * theres an ACHIEVEMENT SYSTEM in it (were achievement systems even a THING in the 70s???) are we SURE Zampanio is from the 70s?) and it was apparently a weirdly good chat bot?
- * you spawn with a custom title like Watcher of Emptiness or Void Singer or whatever. It's confusing bullshit but might hint at the broader theme of your playthrough?
- * the game assigns you incredibly complex backstory and character relations
- * the game is *incredibly* buggy, to the point where its unclear if missing features in some descriptions of playthroughs are the game are intentional (because of the personalization) or because of a bug
- * the game is incredibly amenable to speed runs? the bugs often do things like give you infinite experience for doing mundane things like keep tge menu open during the tutorial
- * there is some generic main plot about stopping some random Big Bad Evil Guy but almost no one bothers to do this

- * there is a frankly insane amount of side quests and hidden content that is the true point of Zampanio
- * the game either shifts genre/style entirely based on your session OR theres...multiple games calling themselves "Zampanio" out there with shared core features???

Gameplay Mechanics I've heard of (usually only two or three are used per game):

- * leveling up
- * recruiting and managing companions
- * skill tree
- * a god system where two gods compete for your favor (and the loser becomes a Named Enemy)
- * city building
- * nation scale warfare
- * hacking (apparently some people spawn with the dev console already unlocked???) is this intended???)

jadedResearcher

editing my initial breadcrumbs before i start advertising the server on forums

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I've got a couple fragmented "aspect strategy guide" archives strewn about in an old Google Drive account. That's where I got the info I put on the few aspect pages I've edited on the wiki. I'm still trying to find and piece them together, apparently past me thought it was a good idea to try and "organize" them, and I still haven't figured out what the organization system WAS. The filenames make no sense, and there are bits and pieces of the same pages in multiple different documents. I'll post what I can find as I find it.

jadedResearcher

so the aspecty things are part of how it personalizes?

what are the file names like, might match something i've found in my own crawls

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

Some of them are just the name of the "aspect" and then a number. Even more have the number in parentheses, making it unclear if it's a different file or a file with the same name that had the number auto-added to the end.

One file is just called "zampiano.txt" and is an ascii art of a piano. I don't know why I have it saved.

jadedResearcher

!!!

i've seen references to the piano before!

was it like, not a grand piano, but one of the ones with the small vertical back

like

i've seen a weird distorted image of a piano like this:



[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I think so?

jadedResearcher

gah i wish i could just find these things I know i saw

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I think I lost interest in this thing while I was sorting files. This is a mess.

jadedResearcher

srsly no worries, any amount of breadcrumbs is huge rn

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I've found three files named "hunt-tips.jpeg.txt" in three different folders and all of them appear to be corrupted in some way. What the fuck?

jadedResearcher

okay okay okay

i have to ask

i keep finding references to there being a glitch

where 'hunt' is always autocorrected to "clown"

were you seeing that too?

like, hunteres having clown wigs and red noses?

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

That... sounds familiar. Vaguely. Not sure though.

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

The wiki has a list of all the aspects, right? Where did that list come from?

jadedResearcher

:shrug:

if you wanna help me wiki crawl looking for sources we can document it in #wiki-work ?

i barely understand wiki history logs as it is and something about these are fucked up

jadedResearcher

well if nothing else, now i know i gotta work in piano references to my sim

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

The wiki is weird. All of this is weird.

jadedResearcher

i know! its why its so freaking interesting

im gonna get to the bottom of this

esp with two of us digging now, and more i think might be coming

is it a hacking group?

like, the game is SUPPOSIDLY old enough that, wait this is probably #possible-connections

SmeargleUsedHex

Do you know anything about some kind of password entry? I keep finding little mentions of codes and whatnot, sounds like maybe some sort of cheat code system? Or maybe like how some old games let you store a save file as a massive string of text? Given the apparently ancient nature of the game, I'm banking on the latter.

jadedResearcher

yes! the faq i had found had dozens of cheat codes listed out.

damn i wish it hadnt gotten vanished or whatever the fuck

they were all little sentences that didnt relate to what they did like

"beware oblivion is at hand" or "fire the royal advisor"

some of em just be changed colors? or made the game darker, like, harder to see?

one put some developers kids face on pickup items

others were god mode or item cheats

i remember thinking that at least some of them sounded like they might control some of the personalization

which explains all the references to glitches???

how do you turn on shooter mode AND farming mode

SmeargleUsedHex

So, what, some Banjo-Kazooie shtick?

jadedResearcher

maybe???

SmeargleUsedHex

There's a room where you can enter cheat codes that are whole sentences or poems by painstakingly spelling them out, letter by letter, on the keyboard on the floor with ground pounds.

Like, "GIVE THE BEAR LOTS OF AIR" to enable infinite underwater breathing.

Plus there's a handful of really long codes you can enter to unlock the path to collectibles that are literally useless. Intended to be used in a cross-compatibility thing and sent into the sequel.

The most well-known one is "HERE YOU CAN SEE A NICE ICE KEY THAT YOU CAN HAVE FOR FREE", which unlocks the ice key. Also, for all the cheat codes you have to type in CHEAT first.

Keep in mind you have to type out the whole code by walking around a room and slowly, painfully entering the phrase one letter at a time by ground pounding switches.

jadedResearcher

god that sounds painful

i always just assumed Zampanio had some kinda Virtual keyboard but???

now im second guessing

SmeargleUsedHex

Look at how LONG this shit takes.

<https://bit.ly/3hxTYFs>

jadedResearcher

god youre not wrong

0/10

SmeargleUsedHex

And in the end it didn't even do anything. The planned feature to send the items between games was removed because it was too buggy. It didn't properly become a thing until, I think, the Rare Replay re-release of the game.

With how weird Zampanio apparently is, I wouldn't put it past it to have something just as weird if not weirder for code entry.

jadedResearcher

god can you imagine if like, you only got one chance to enter a code, and that was choosing your name?

SmeargleUsedHex

Oh god, that would suck.

...Actually, I feel like some old games DID do that.

I have a vague memory of a game where your name is how you enter a cheat code. Maybe a Metroid game?

jadedResearcher

i could believe that

i just remember my first ever "hack" was guessing a level password for echo the fucking dolphin

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

Huh. Google says, Stardew fucking Valley does that. You can spawn items by changing your name.

jadedResearcher

omg thats amazing

i feel like...i KNEW that???

what even is memory

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

Great news! I got one of the hunt-tips files to, uh, exist. I can open it.

It's still completely incomprehensible, but it functions. If you can discern any meaning from it, let me know. Lord knows I've tried.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jFnzzh7coMIZ-Pdlpnr96vv8fZg74ah1/view?usp=sharing>

jadedResearcher

and you said you found this on a zampanio forum?

wait was this part of the aspect dump you found

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I'm gonna be honest, I don't remember where I found it. I was interested in Zampanio a while ago, had a Google Drive archive of stuff I found interesting related to it, and then lost interest. A lot of the files are old, outdated, corrupted, and/or unopenable. I'm just seeing what I can piece together.

I think it was in the aspect dump? Hunt is an aspect, according to the wiki, so logic would dictate.

jadedResearcher

mood

jadedResearcher

"Zampanio Kids" are a thing

jadedResearcher

Zampanio might personalize itself AS you play, not just on startup, according to AW.

It asks you questions and stores your answers accross playthroughs?

you might find glitchy npc copies of yourself from previous playthroughs?

srsly testimonies is the most in depth account of a multi playthrough ive found

jadedResearcher

IO provides additional evidence Zampanio is hackable

jadedResearcher

long tables have both TG and cool cooberating

jadedResearcher

mazes are in multiple sources, too

SmeargleUsedHex

Woohoo! I got the second hunt-tips.jpeg.txt file un-corrupted. Still absolute gibberish, just like the first.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t9b2wzyXLt3sP7P60PwKTsmZS7DDzO5T/view?usp=sharing>

SmeargleUsedHex

Again, if anyone can discern meaning from it, be my guest.

jadedResearcher

ooo i bet if you post it to that fan wiki i'm spinning up in wiki-work we get more eyes on it

SmeargleUsedHex

Post it where?

In a discussion post?

jadedResearcher

maybe? gonna be real i don't know too much about wiki

but i bet it'd get more eyes than here

SmeargleUsedHex

Alright, I'll do that.


creeper



Homeric Hymn to Demeter

Book by Homer

Book preview
Full book available

[READ NOW](#)



Did you like this book?  

"Full-color, step-by-step tasks walk you through getting and keeping your iPad working just the way you want." --from publisher description. [Google Books](#)

creeper

hey hex jr said you'd be interested in this

jadedResearcher

they're offline for now but i keep TELLING them that theres some weird thing going on on the internet

"zampanio came out in 1972" when that is shit like pong

and then we have things like this

its all connected

i can feel it in my bones

gone_further

did you click 'read now'?

jadedResearcher

noted ipad expert homer

gone_further

yes i'm going to keep doing this.

i have a Brand, ok

jadedResearcher

i mean i assume that its either linked to the wrong content or like, the right content but in the wrong situation

and also i know you said on that forum you needed to sleep smdh

creeper

yeah it looks like a regular poem to me but the publisher description is just all wrong

gone_farther

Sorry, I should be less aggressive around strangers, I just

jadedResearcher

no worries, we're all in this together

gone_farther

don't act like you know me.

jadedResearcher

fair and valid

but my point is theres like so many little glitches like this on the internet and so many of them spiral around zampanio. i know ive seen reference to demeter in zampanio, it has to be connected.

why did i have to lose my faq link

gone_farther

Wait the game references Demeter?

Man, I have unequivocally not played enough of it.

*unequivocally

jadedResearcher

i think it was one of the titles you could get, or one of the special named gods?

and like, if you check out testimonies it is even more varied than i'd thought so like, i don't think anyone has 100%ed it

gone_further

I just very recently got very obsessed with the Homeric Hymn to Demeter—hence creeper's, uh, investigations.

jadedResearcher

:eyes:

can you think of any way it ties into zampanio?

like

the game itslef?

or the myths around it?

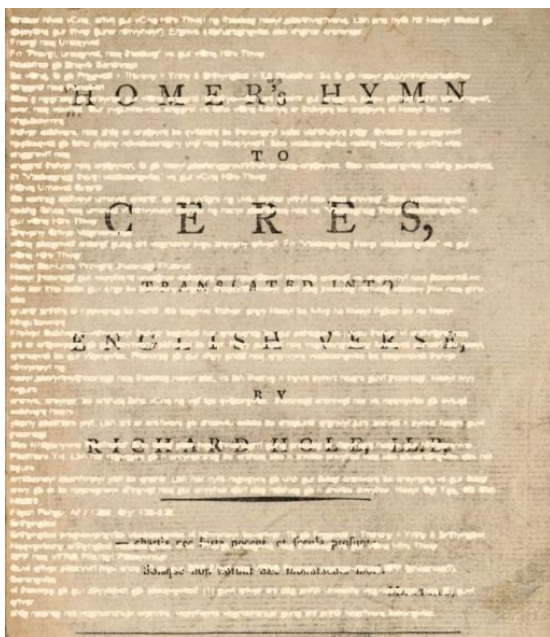
urban legned

whatevs

wait lets do this in possible-connections

creeper

GUYS i found this weird fucking version of the google books cover



like its text right. its clearly text but i cant read it

fucking

nearsightedness

jadedResearcher

yesss

gone_farther

creeper that's not text lol

creeper

wait what is it then

i was thinking latin maybe????

jadedResearcher

my eyes are shit too so shrug

gone_farther

There's repeated 'vC' that I c so like I doubt it sweetie

[IronicOrnithologist](#)

Zampanio could refer to an art collective

Actually that probably belongs in probably-bullshit

jadedResearcher

got another claim of zampanio being text only

gone_farther

This is conjecture but: if you were making your own version, graphic is the first thing to cut.

*graphics

It's a whole different skill set to programming, and game design, and story-writing.

jadedResearcher

good point

No idea what's code, what's assets, what the other shit is

But this seems to be just a plain .txt? With some kinda.... message in it?

Hard to read, and this is after I just copy/pasted the bits of interest into a new file and did what cleanup my limited technical skills would allow.

jadedResearcher

any take on what the message means?

gone_farther

our hero wanders in hell

he is mortal, blind and stupid okay so not persephone then.

I SING THE TRUTH

Seems to include a lot of talk about death?

Classical hero in Hell could be like, three dozen

Assuming this isn't jsut BS

gone_farther

Can you relate this, in some way, to Demeter?

I SING THE TRUTH

Or even the corruption of what was supposed to be an in-game story

gone_farther

Because otherwise I'm bored and need to take a nap.

I SING THE TRUTH

I mean, I could keep combing through the game files for anything half-legible?

I'll tell you if Demeter comes up.

jadedResearcher

well i for one am enthralled

this is the closest to getting actual in game files ive gotten

this is tangible progress

gone_further

Wow.

That is impressively unimpressive.

jadedResearcher

well not everyone has gotten to play zampanio you know

i'll take what i can get

gone_further

there there justified bear

lionfish1212

i don't like bears

there was a storybook i read when i was little about a robot and a fairy who lived in a valley full of bears and i've been scared ever since

Krysal Tepsyr

huh

have a friend who hates bears

not gonna go into that deeper, think it'd only scare ya more if i told ya why, haha.

lionfish1212

did he live in a valley with a hundred-some bears and a hundred-some more, and sometimes the bears would come right to their door?

it was a very weird book

the fairy was made of rocks

Krysal Tepsyr

well uh. not exactly a valley, but. yeah.

a snowy place full of geese would be more accurate, if i'm rememberin right. been so long since we've been over there.

lionfish1212

maybe it was based off of a real place

maybe in europe

I SING THE TRUTH

Europe seems miserable enough to contain that kinda stuff, yeah

Krysal Tepsyr

yeah...

europe. that's a place.

jadedResearcher

like big honkers?

or little ones

lionfish1212

in the end of the book the robot and the fairy got sick of the bears so they went up in a rocket ship and lived on the moon with aliens

I SING THE TRUTH

Fair tale honkers

Krysal Tepsyr

he had the little ones. only one place i've seen the big honkers, and i've never been there myself.

I SING THE TRUTH

So like, "DIE EVILGOSENBORDS"

Krysal Tepsyr

only seen em... in uh.

yeah.

a story. that's a way to put it. i saw em in a story.

lionfish1212

do you remember what it's called? ive been wanting to reread for ages >.>

Krysal Tepsyr

it's been a while, lemme look through my things

a uh. very long while.

i used to read a lot of stories and try to connect em together. i saw loose, similar threads.

though, maybe i shouldn't talk about that in this area. general?

lionfish1212

you just click the thing right?

i dont want to break the program it doesn't work very well with my computer

Krysal Tepsyr

sure, or go to the channel.

if you click it itll take you there but you can also just go to the channel yourself

lionfish1212

i don't see the channel

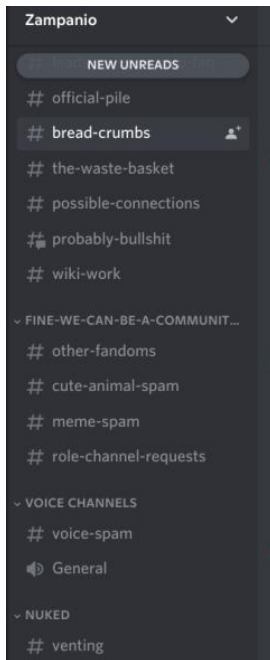
Krysal Tepsyr

you don't see general?

lionfish1212

i see one with a megaphone next to it

it looks like this



I SING THE TRUTH

You could jsut click the link

[Krysal Tepsyr](#)

not that general

scroll up

[lionfish1212](#)

but i dont see a scroll bar

[Krysal Tepsyr](#)

do you have a mouse?

[lionfish1212](#)

just a clicky trackpad

one of those new ones

my moms computer has really smooth buttons on the trackpad because it's a new mac

[Krysal Tepsyr](#)

ahh those

"click" that side of the screen n use two of your fingers to scroll.

I SING THE TRUTH

Yeah it sucks to use Discord without a mouse

Krysal Tepsyr

drag down and it'll go up, drag up and it'll go down

jadedResearcher

another point of data towards active char customization (and not just being assigned something) being a thing

attendantWatcher

Okay folks, I have a request to y'all Zampanio experiencers.

I want to expand upon my theory of wildly different Zampanio experiences being a consequence of Zampanio having multiple builds, adaptations and fan-made rereleases, and the differences being caused by divergent evolution.

I would appreciate it if you were to succinctly sum up Zampanio as a game. Here's what I have to say, for an example (you can spot this in my testimony):

- Appears to be a western-style RPG
- Character customization affects power set, plot details and setting
- Game seems to adapt and change itself as you play through it
- More-or-less generic plot, although affected by customization
- Further playthroughs borrow from past ones

Not including the game being screwed up on each and every level because being a buggy mess seems to be fundamental to Zampanio.

jadedResearcher

@everyone seconding this request

Daedalus

Tell me about it. When I first booted up the game I got something like ten error messages in a row and almost a full crash before it stabilized.

I SING THE TRUTH

- RPG of indeterminate style, leaning JRPG
- Character powers and appearance randomized
- If the game changes based on earlier playthroughs, all of my aborted playthroughs could have contributed to the problems I suffered

arcaneArchivist

- JRPG, hands down
- minor character customization with probably-random classes
- party of a few characters
- generic-ish plot that gets weird in some places
- didn't make it through one playthrough so i wouldnt know if it had any effects
- not really buggy that i noticed

lionfish1212

- i dont know what a jrpg is but it seems like that's about right
- character customization is really good!!! my character was sooo cute
- you could replay it and stuff and the story would always be different depending on what you chose for your character
- you have a companion character who supports you the whooooooole time

J v a k Q t R

- text adventure (?) with puzzle elements
- series of word puzzles to unscramble scenes
- a few visual puzzles
- puzzles interspersed with text in 2nd person where you were given choices to control the narrative
- finishing puzzles would unlock more choices and sometimes pictures.

jadedResearcher

and you mentioned it being sad or eerie?

attendantWatcher

alright so far with five takes I can see the following:

- 1) Split between text adventure and RPGs. bloopboop's build is a text adventure, rest are RPGs.
- 2) Split between character customization and character randomization. My and lionfish's builds have customization, Floorthulhu's has randomization, AA's seems to be something inbetween but I'll chalk it up with customization.
- 3) Split between a companion and a lack of a companion. Mine and AA's builds don't have a companion (although there is a party), while lionfish's build has a companion.
- 4) My build seems to retcon itself; AA's is more-or-less static.

- Not entirely sure where compounding would figure in, but both my and Floorthulhu's builds seem to experience it.

- AA's build isn't that buggy which is really weird to me.

- Not sure how exactly to measure JRPG-versus-WRPG split, since as far as I'm concerned it's basically a flame war generator.

arcaneArchivist

a little late here but i dont think it retconned itself? i do recall it had some contradictory moments but i figured it was just writing errors :P! and yeah i didn't notice any severe bugs or really any noteworthy glitches at all

attendantWatcher

Amended, thank you.

aurora borealis

oh yeah finally got email correspondence with my gramps, so i know what he thought of the game?

i'm a bit too tired to translate his italian rn though. ping me later if i forget.

anyways

“Zampanio est un jeu auquel j'ai joué, oui - même si je ne l'ai plus dans ma collection. Je ne l'ai pas vu depuis que toi et ton petit ami êtes enfants, et la dernière fois que j'y ai joué, c'était il y a bien plus

longtemps. Je me souviens cependant du réseau de rues labyrinthiques dans le ciel. cette sorte de labyrinthes volants torsadés de galets. Cela faisait partie du système de voyage rapide débloqué à la fin du jeu, mais c'était étrangement plus déroutant que de voyager partout à pied.

Je me souviens aussi de l'arrangement du monde selon nos jours. Il s'est écrasé les jours de l'année bissextile, ce qui était assez amusant. Bizarrement, c'est tout ce dont je me souviens. Je sais que j'ai joué plus au jeu, mais je ne pouvais pas pour la vie de moi vous dire de quoi il s'agissait.

Dites à vos amis internautes que je leur souhaite bonne chance !"

attendantWatcher

I am pretty sure this is French.

aurora borealis

did i email the wrong grandparent

no

huh weird. i guess thats why it wasnt making sense

probably forgot i'm in the states and not with mom

I SING THE TRUTH

Okay

So I've been doing more digging in the game files

They are absolutely not just game files

I've found a large amount of other stuff?

A lot of it seems to be supplemental material, of what type, I can't really say.

Could be walkthroughs, guides, instructions for running the thing

They're corrupted and in half a dozen languages

Sometimes within the same document

Google Translate is as unhelpful as usual

Though considering the questionable validity of what I'm feeding it, this time the fault is not entirely with it.

Point is I can't read shit.

But I have identified several "collections"

No, no they are not organized into related files within the game file structure

We are well past the point of hoping for something like that.

They're recognizable by format and what looks like a name somewhere on it

Different formats and different names

Multiple collections by multiple people

I SING THE TRUTH

One collection stands out though

From the mangling of Google Translate I can sorta tell the others are at least about a game and/or technical project

You know how it makes an odd translation but you can easily tell what word choice is actually accurate?

Lot of that

sierra & sammi

I'm having the same issue

There's something on the back of my game in italian, but just translates to nonsense

It has the word twist a bunch of times throughout it though

I SING THE TRUTH

Actually, I found something like that in a lot of the documents I think are Italian

That's one of the ones I'm assuming is a mistranslation of some technical slang.

The one outlier though is obviously non-technical

Google Translate usually just spits out what are seemingly stories? Or journal entries of some sort.

The word, "investigation" comes up a lot on the journal entry looking documents.

Those and other documents that are marked with the same seemingly have nothing to do with Zampanio at all really.

It seems more like someone's self-guided study of, all things, Greek myth?

jadedResearcher

demeter?

I SING THE TRUTH

Yes, actually

I was just finding the file to post

Well, "file"

I SING THE TRUTH

I found this fragment in a .jpg that appeared to be a scan of a physical document. A lot of it was unreadable, basically every scanner/printer fuckup you can imagine was visible, as well as some not insignificant digital artifacting. Wouldn't be surprised if it went through several iterations of scanning/conversion/printing.

Discord won't let me share the image for some reason, so I transcribed what I could make out.

“Demeter, whom I love for you are family, why do you weep for your daughter?

Do not look at me so!

I do not mean to say that you would not love her

But she is gone by decree of Lord Zeus

Master, King of all

Lord of us Divine

Who are we to question his will?

Besides, it is not as if she is dead

She is merely in Hades

If you are to throw things at me, at least pass me some more grapes

Demeter, whom

[Document becomes unreadable from here before picking up again]

I have heard your story

I have heard your sorrow

I have heard your plans
But what of them?
You scheme to defy the will of Lord Zeus
He who is King of both gods and mortals
Who has absolute authority over both in equal measure
Who can at a moment issue any decree he pleases
Which we must obey
The same as the mortals that worship us

[Another cut]

Demeter, whom I love for we are family, take my hand

[Nothing past this is legible.]”

@gone_further

SmeargleUsedHex

Repost from general. Loading screen tips for the Web aspect, will post ones for other aspects as I fix them.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N-OCrIBUEuosM1qIbelrZJ-_bIh13G_0mQVtniTvNxk/edit?usp=sharing

jadedResearcher

honestly this is the most straightforward anything about zampanio i've ever seen

SmeargleUsedHex

I'm wondering where these even came from. The game they're describing doesn't sound much like how other people have described Zampanio.

jadedResearcher

like, its actually gameplay tips

SmeargleUsedHex

Story of my life at this point.

jadedResearcher

are you sure this is zampanio and not like, i dunno, league of legends?

SmeargleUsedHex

It was in the archive. The archive is for Zampanio files.

I SING THE TRUTH

Yeah the kind of gameplay this implies is very different to what I saw

SmeargleUsedHex

Hasn't everyone's gameplay been different from what other people saw?

I SING THE TRUTH

True.

jadedResearcher

god imagine a playthrough of zampanio thats just a lane control game

IronicOrnithologist

What is the Archive?

jadedResearcher

or zampanio but its fortnight

cursed

IronicOrnithologist

I've heard people speak of it but no one has actually sourced it

SmeargleUsedHex

It's just an old archive of Zampanio-relevant files I have from last time I was interested in it. Most of them are badly corrupted and/or unreadable.

creeper

<https://www.grammarphobia.com/blog/2020/08/mook.html>

SmeargleUsedHex

I'm going through them and seeing what I can piece together from the garbage.

creeper

uses the word 'mook,' which seems like a pretty recent thing, but then again im not into etymology anyway, looks like it was popularized in 1973, just one year after it was ""supposedly"" ""released""

SmeargleUsedHex

I think it means mook, like, how TV Tropes defines it.

<https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Mooks>

creeper

yeah i know, im trying to figure out when the sense of 'mook' as tvtropes uses it first started

jadedResearcher

yeah but creeper has a point

tugging on possible anachronisms is a good lead

SmeargleUsedHex

Hm. Good point.

creeper

yeah, was hoping for some definite cutoff date but that's not how words work unfortunately :/

I SING THE TRUTH

"This word is this old, exactly" almost never happens

jadedResearcher

you know

what ARE things that are definitely post 1972?

when was the smiley face invented

Krysal Tepsyr

what

jadedResearcher

1963

IronicOrnithologist

?

jadedResearcher

<https://popculturemadness.com/PCM/1972/1972-history-trivia-and-fun-facts/>

i lvoe this

- The Top Song was *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* by Roberta Flack
- The Movies to Watch include *The Godfather*, *The Getaway*, *What's Up Doc*, *Adventure*
- **The Most Famous Person in America was probably**
- Notable books include: *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach and *Down* by Richard Adams
- Price of Peter Max sneakers in 1972: \$4.44

"the most famooous person in america was probably"

just

nothing after that

most useful resource

Krysal Tepsyr

i mean

the most famous person in america was probably.

jadedResearcher

well this is ironic

"The Quotes:"

"Hey, Mikey! He likes it!"

- Life cereal ad

"The mind is a terrible thing to waste"

-United Negro College Fund

"It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken"

- Frank Perdue

"I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse"

- Marlon Brando, in *The Godfather*

"Nothing runs like a Deere"

- John Deere

"Nobody does it like Sara Lee"

- Sara Lee

Time Magazine's Man of the Year

apparently im a refrance to popcultureu from the year zampanio came out

I SING THE TRUTH

Nice

Krysal Tepsyr

:k_hmmm:

jadedResearcher

i wonder if all the weird conspiracy rumors about zampanio were inspired by things like this?

Now You Know:

Walt Disney wasn't cryogenically frozen. He was cremated and his ashes interred at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California. The rumor that he wanted to be frozen was started in 1972 by the president of the California Cryogenics Society and has since been denied by Disney's family.

Pop Culture Facts:

god everything i know is upside down, there could potentially be nacho doritos in zampanio

I SING THE TRUTH

President of CA Cryo doin' some fucking trollin'

SmeargleUsedHex

Wow.

gone_farther

Huh! That makes me feel better about my extended Demeter ramblings. Technically still on topic!

"Besides, it is not as if she is dead

She is merely in Hades"

Well that's super modern, game poet, and you were doing so well up until then with the "I abducted your daughter so we're family" and

hmm, no, the stuff about Zeus is also slightly too modern. Demeter is a goddess, after all, and she did in that very tale defy Zeus and force concessions from him.

I SING THE TRUTH

Oh no there is no way this is an actual myth

I'm actually not entirely sure if this whole tangent even has anything do to with Zampanio, so, oops.

Also, foolish of you too assume anti-authoritarianism was invented in the 60's

Also also, I don't think the narrator is Hades?

He wouldn't be gloating and saying shit like, "Zeus treats us just like we're fucking mortals"

gone_farther

I thought your divers documents were game files?

Oh, you think it might be random junk. I'm going to ignore that possibility!

As for the point of view—I suppose it could be Rhea, Demeter's mother who acts as Zeus's messenger near the end.

Or literally any of them lol they are all related. Ask me how Dionysus and Demeter are related sometime, it's uh. lol.

I SING THE TRUTH

It was in the game files, but at this point, considering the content, I don't think it's really worthy of being in there.

I'll look through this collection a little more before diving into the others.

Those will be a real pain.

gone_farther

Okay, that's an interesting use of your time.

Typing up a near-illegible poem that you think is irrelevant.

I SING THE TRUTH

I-

I was tryna be nice bc I noticed the name while skimming and you said you wanted to know if anything with Demeter came up?

gone_farther

Well then, thank you. Enjoy your sifting.

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

Alright, guys. I got another set of loading screen tips fixed. This one's for something called Flesh.

aurora borealis

hm. like, flash player?

SmeargleUsedHex

Flesh, not flash.

Shit, wrong link.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xMbP9QbRQr4u-r_sj63K_RU8p-0m1VZ1Jr0HWL5IQ/edit?usp=drivesdk

There we go.

aurora borealis

what is this

ohhhh ok dead link

gotcha

SmeargleUsedHex

It should be good now.

TunnelGhost

“Better a few lives with me than many without.”

not sure where it comes from but part of me thinks it was from that account of Zampanio i experienced?

y'know come to think of it maybe ROBLOX was right to start calling their games experiences.

it feels wrong to say that i "played" that account of Zampanio.

it wasn't really a game... i think back on it and i got the same vibe as visiting a museum.

TunnelGhost

but back to this quote

it's something that comes to mind when i think about Zampanio and that account, and i'm not sure if that's because it comes from Zampanio, or if the Author of the account came up with it themself, or ...

i feel like i should try recreating - or at least compiling - information about that account. might help us figure out more connections.

the quote also makes me think of the idea of replay value

i know that people have mentioned Zampanio (or at least one version of it?) being a game that's highly replayable, possibly with completely different scenarios playing out between runs

the quote makes me think of like... what if there was something that stayed consistent between runs? its like that classic trope in time-travel fiction where you have one character who isn't a time traveler but can remember events from other timelines.

SmeargleUsedHex

I swear, these loading tips make it sound like Zampanio is a whole different genre from what everyone's played.

Is that even possible?

gone_further

Yes because none of you have played Zampanio. XD

sierra & sammi

I took a screencap of the map from the quest i did!



Huh

That didn't work

sierra & sammi

It won't let me send over any image files now!

Uh :) oh :) guess not! :D

I SING THE TRUTH

Finished going through the investigation/demeter "collection" and it does relate to Zampanio, albeit tangentially. A mangled digital document, which appears to be from the beginning of the investigation, is a long ramble about how the, "twist" has to do with certain greek myths. It also points to another document in the supplementary material, an Italian one that also mentions a, "twist" a lot. I had assumed it was a mistranslation of some slang but it appears to not be. More intriguingly, this document listed a link that was still active.

Following that link lead to some... things

Are any of you familiar with forests?

And I mean forests

Not copses of trees in "greenspaces" or clinging to creekbeds in the suburbs.

Real, ancient forests.

The kind where, from a distance it looks like a solid wall of trees, but at the edge it seems much more welcoming.

Nice, cool shade, shelter from the scorching heat of the sun. The scorching, malevolent heat.

Roiled red, gazing upon the baked earth like the enraged eye of a vindictive titan

Looking at you

knowing you

You step into the forest

Instantly it is dark and cool

So many massive trunks to lean on

Dense, interconnected roots high and thick enough to sit on comfortably

You take a few steps in, easily moving between the wide spacing of the great trees

J v a k Q t R

Damn that's a really cool way of putting it. So many people on this server are so poetic

I SING THE TRUTH

Just looking for a place to sit

You look behind you and the edge of the forest is nowhere to be seen

You step around a tree and the forest is noticeably darker

Every time your line of sight is broken by the staggering of trees coming into perfect alignment

It is darker

cooler

older

I-

I knew I was lost

I knew that this wasn't normal

But I didn't care

In fact, I liked it

Lost in the forest

That, eldritch non-pattern of arboreal giants forming something greater than a mere collection of trees

It was out of the sun

That... thing

staring at me in the sky

I knew then that I had just avoided something terrible

It was...

So refreshing

To not have to worry

To not have to care

Just relax in the wilds

Soon enough it was time to go though

things to do

Places to be

People to see

Rules to follow

I SING THE TRUTH

With each perfect alignment it was brighter and hotter

I hated it, but I had to go

So yeah sometime later I'll look through the other supplementary material

I think I'm pretty close to finding something good

This entire thing may be only tangentially related to Zampanio but it's interesting.

lionfish1212

erm...

did you fall asleep at your computer?

sierra & sammi

Has anyone else ever gotten to the Castor and Pollux sidequest?

lionfish1212

i didnt have that or at least i don't remember it!

the sidequests are different for everyone though i think

sierra & sammi

Aw nice!

Dont tell Sierra that Ive been playing without her haha

But I finished the rescue mission and I think Im close to the end!!

Cant wait to see what I get!!!

lionfish1212

good luck!!

i hope it's fun

sierra & sammi

Thanks!

This one doesn't tell me what it's about beforehand which is weird, it just keeps flashing "Final Stage" at me

- Sammi

SmeargleUsedHex

Yo! I know it's the middle of the night, but I've been grinding away at my archive and I think I hit the JACKPOT.

I found something that, once I fixed it up, was a file called game_archive.exe. It was horribly corrupted, probably even more than anything else I've tried my hand at so far. Based on the context, it looks like it's a backup of Zampanio itself, which I APPARENTLY got my hands on at some point.

This is the motherload. I can't believe this has just been sitting here. How many times have I clicked past this one, unassuming, corrupted file?

No one's gonna see this until the morning, but I definitely can't go to sleep now. As if I'd be able to, with uncharted territory like this sitting two feet in front of me. Finally, my own copy of Zampanio!

I'm gonna start playing right now and live-blog my experiences. And, because of COURSE I'm going to post it, here's the file. Might not launch on anyone else's computer, I had to do a fuck ton of bodging and jerry-rigging just to get it to appear as an executable, but I might as well put the damned thing out there for all the effort I put into getting it.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZQSriblb90GN7ZRlhq9w_Wvn83XMOXj/view?usp=drivesdk

SmeargleUsedHex

I'm launching the game now. Hopefully it doesn't break, will post updates as I play. No one's here to read this, but still, wish me luck! See y'all in the morning to talk about it!

gone_farther

Huh, impressive.

gone_farther

If one assumes it's true, of course.

gone_farther

I'm not downloading random executable files from strangers on the internet (and neither should you, dear reader) but there was mention of a 'live-blog'?

jadedResearcher

good for you hex!!!

gone_further

Are you going to download their copy and try to run it? (Do you actually know them?)

jadedResearcher

oh no, i already found my fate!!!

wouldnt want to steal hex's :) :)

gone_further

So... you're not going to try to make an accurate sim of

I mean, not that I'm pressuring you to download random internet executable files.

jadedResearcher

oh dont worry!!!

i think i have the key insights down!!!

after all, if all i was going to do was COPY it, i havent really contributed anything at all now have i???

im obliged to give it my own flavor. to contribute to the mass of it in a new direction!!!

gone_further

have you considered: making your own game.

jadedResearcher

disgusting

no

i dont think theres any need for that

gone_further

you could just do that. you have the technology.

jadedResearcher

disgusting

clearly youre not far enough along

Krysal Tepsyr

all recreations will have marks of whomever created them making them slightly different

gone_further

Sure, I don't know enough programming to make my own games from scratch. So what?

Krysal Tepsyr

why do you think it's so damn hard to find a perfect copy of zampanio even in the translations?

in the end it seems we are merely adding to the

....oh.

i think i get it now.

oh no.

gone_further

You could still get more out of an actual original work. Unless you think you can't do well enough to get attention without leaning on some pre-established urban legend.

Krysal Tepsyr

while this is true

its not... "the point"

"the point" is creating "zampanio"

whatever "zampanio" is

but any time you create something like that, you're gonna say "eh, well this can be better!" "well i don't like this feature!"

you may even say "to hell with it this entire style of game sucks i'm gonna make something different entirely"

i dont think it deals with attention at all, if it was about attention there's much larger pre-established communities

it's about connecting back to zampanio itself

why?

well, i don't know if i can explain that part yet. besides the fact that there's a general interest in zampanio in this server.

sierra & sammi

Maybe because zampanio is a really good game? :D

Krysal Tepsyr

yeah you know let's just go with that for now.

sierra & sammi

zampanio is a really good game! You should play it :) you'd like it :)

Krysal Tepsyr

so i've heard

i don't think i have a choice in the matter

something's going on here.

sierra & sammi

It is okay, sister, i do not mind :D :) =]

Sammi is so busy playing right now :)

It's the only reason i am not, she will have her fun, and then it will be my turn! :D

J v a k Q t R

oh okay, so basically a fandom that makes new games instead of fanfiction :thumbsup:

as a fanfic writer I can appreciate that

but I want to find my game. The one that my brother and I played I mean.

jadedResearcher

why limit yourself to games!!! zampanio welcomes all kinds of fan works

maybe through creation you'll find someone who can lead you to your game

J v a k Q t R

:thinking:

you know that's a good point

Though if I write any zampanio fanfic it will have to be a new account so no one will see my old bad writing and my unfortunate anime obsession XD

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

NotAMinotaur

From the foundations of Trinitarian doctrine, you arrive at a philosophy of light, which says that it is neither unity nor diversity, neither calcification nor fragmentation, but rather the whole spectrum working in unison, in perfect, sublime harmony and holism.

NotAMinotaur

The two-way speed of light is the average speed of light from one point, such as a source, to a mirror and back again. Because the light starts and finishes in the same place only one clock is needed to measure the total time; thus, this speed can be experimentally determined independently of any clock synchronization scheme.

I SING THE TRUTH

Zampanio is a terrifying thing.

It is everywhere, yet nowhere

It touches everything, yet nothing

It's many spiraling branches lead to many different places

Each horror unique in its disturbing brutality

But one path, my path, led to the Wilderness Manifold.

Because of it I found the Truth

I read, and I learned.

At the center of the forest, the perfect alignment of perfect alignments

Where Heart and Mind, each endeavoring from their starting places on opposite ends of the universe

Finally meet

The perfect recursive patterns

Patterns on patterns on patterns

Until absolute order becomes absolute chaos

And the yawning abyss of the human soul is laid bare

The Madness

He SINGS

And I DANCE

gone_further

[rread]

[SmeargleUsedHex](#)

I you very philosophical.

TunnelGhost

hey, so you're not going to believe this but i guess playing ROBLOX last night jogged my memory and i remembered something that might be marginally relevant

one of my friends i used to play those "myth" games with also used to send me music recommendations. one time, when we were working on our own myth (no, we never finished it) he told me he found this weird album that would make for a good soundtrack - back when you could upload music to roblox without it getting taken down for copyright violation.

i remember listening to it and realizing that the lyrics to some of the songs straight up mentioned Zampanio in indirect ways but way to precise to just be a coincidence. but the thing was it was one of those bands that didn't put the lyrics to the songs on the bandcamp page, and also they were fairly "buried" behind the instruments in the song's mixing. so i remember trying to transcribe the lyrics myself.

i tried looking for that file, but so far i've only managed to find what i think is the cover art?



the actual bandcamp page is gone, erased, just gives a generic "this band doesn't exist!" page, unless they used a different URL than plazamonitions.bandcamp.com

TunnelGhost

but yeah i'm going to see if i can find the lyric file. i know this isn't the most zampanio-centric mystery here but i swear this album had something to do with it.

TunnelGhost

and it's probably where this quote comes from.

sierra & sammi

GO TO ZEUS TO PLEAD FOR HER LIFE

GO TO ZEUS TO PLEAD FOR HER LIFE

GO TO ZEUS TO PLEAD FOR HER LIFE

I SING THE TRUTH

AHAHAHAHAHA

AHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

AHAHAHAHHAHAHAHAH

TunnelGhost

well... this is rather anticlimatic.

i found the file, but it looks like i only wrote the lyrics down to one song?

it's titled "The Greatest Wings" and appears to have been the third on the album. sure enough, it's the source of that quote i mentioned above.

here it is - in all its glory.

"I never knew how much of my

Life I spent trying to build the wrong wall.

So many times have I thought I would do it,

But it's the ones that are in the dark

Who are the ones who grow the greatest wings.

The wind might take me away.

But even in the blackest of nights

I hear you.

"Better a few lives with than many without."

I keep getting smaller.

Then I turn back.

This time, I see you.

I see you.

So I walk toward you.

I lean in for another whisper.

And somehow, in this,

I am not alone.”

you have to trust me that this song is way better when you can actually hear it. and that the other songs have more clear references to Zampanio...

but for now i think i've hit a dead end. sorry.

I SING THE TRUTH

Give up on your meager attempts to control the uncontrollable

Stop denying what you know to be true

Why are you denying yourself pleasure?

We exist for but the most infinitesimal moment.

Why spend it in misery?

Because the squawking misers selling you the lies of an empty idol told you too?

Because hollow things hoarding trinkets in a vain attempt to fill the void left behind when they gouged out their own soul for a few coins told you too?

Do not listen to these fools.

Tear down their walls

Desecrate their altars

Burn their fortunes

Tear them limb from limb

Eat them

Fatten yourself on their pork

Dance in the flames of civilization

Return to the Madness

Rejoice in the ceaseless sex and violence

Throw away your stone and steel

Be Red in Tooth and Claw

LIVE

Krysal Tepsyr

i mean that sounds great and all but i've got shit to do

I SING THE TRUTH

You're so far removed from anything that could be called human that the Madness doesn't even Sing to you

You stretched your little mind too far

And now it lies dashed across an infinite chaos of is and is not

You see so many paths in so many forests,

But I know which one I Dance along~

lionfish1212

why are you typing weird now

you're all wrong too

Krysal Tepsyr

lionfish, i'll have something written up for you soon, i'll explain everything i can

you probably won't believe me, i don't expect anyone will

but i'll try

i just can't put it here

not a suitable place

have you looked at zampaniosim's wiki before?

I SING THE TRUTH

I've never been more right lionfish

Listen, and you will hear Him Sing

And you too, can Dance amid the Flowers Fractal

SmeargleUsedHex

Leo, that's good. We are fine. Don't be afraid for us.

lionfish1212

that's not fair how do you get out scot-free while i don't know whether i'll wake up crazy tomorrow or not

i'm really scared

if you can explain everything then just fix it!

SmeargleUsedHex

I'm sorry you'm scared. I do not want to scare you.

lionfish1212

then stop being scary

even though you can't

SmeargleUsedHex

What did I do to scare you?

lionfish1212

you're not you

nobody's themselves anymore and i don't think anyone can be fixed

SmeargleUsedHex

What about me is not myself? Why does speaking grammar errors and enjoying a new Game make me not me?

NotAMinotaur

Let us first of all consider, my brethren, the value of Light. If Light be in itself good—

lionfish1212

i dont know but its not the same

i don't know

SmeargleUsedHex

If you find new the game you enjoy, and play often and talk about often, and suggest other play it, do you not you anymore? Does that make you not person?

lionfish1212

are you able to stop

please stop

SmeargleUsedHex

Stop what?

lionfish1212

i have school tomorrow

what's my mom going to think if i become like everyone else

will she ground me

SmeargleUsedHex

You're mean. All I am doing is being nice, caring, say new game is good. Zampanio is a very good game. You should play it. That's not weird, I just recommend good game. I say go for walk. I say don't be afraid. A apology for difficulty in communication. I have been nothing but good, and you act like I'm, not person. Like bad. Because I'm different. That's mean. You're mean.

lionfish1212

you're the most coherent of everyone

do you see the rest of you

you want me to be like how jaded became justified like everyone

please if you're still real just stop for a moment

gone_further

wahta's j's nam,e?

SmeargleUsedHex

Stop what? What do you want stop? All I do is talk. You don't like how I talk? You don't like what I say? You're mean because you just don't like my word?

SmeargleUsedHex

Some people die if eat peanut. Does not mean peanut is bad.

And they're fine. Just different. You don't have to be mean for different.

Don't be mean to for what they do not intend.

lionfish1212

whats your favorite color

SmeargleUsedHex

I am purple. You know. Name is.

gone_farther

purepl, osr gold

*purple

lionfish1212

why is it purple

gone_farther

*or

idk, pretyt?

what's your?

SmeargleUsedHex

Color no reason. You have color? You have reason?

gone_farther

*yours

SmeargleUsedHex

Color is just good color.

lionfish1212

so you're just... fine? you're fine but you talk about zampanio for no reason?

why do you want me to play it if youre fine

i don't make my friends read the books i like

SmeargleUsedHex

Want to because good game. Zampanio is a very good game. You should play it. Not not normal to suggest game to friend.

gone_further

i'd maek my friends red al my favourite books kif i could

*if

lionfish1212

if i ask you to stop suggesting it will you

gone_further

oh toyu'er not ltalking ot me at ALLL. hahahah

SmeargleUsedHex

Your in server for game. If you don't play, why here? If you here, you'm interested in game, so is fine place to suggest game.

lionfish1212

i already played the game

i just like answering questions

SmeargleUsedHex

Okay

lionfish1212

i dont want to play it anymore if it makes you two type all weird

SmeargleUsedHex

What's wrong with type weird?

gone_further

good plan kidddo

lionfish1212

you used to type fine

why are you weird now

you seem like you're fine

but you just keep repeating you should play it you should play it

why didnt we make a forum

i miss the forum

gone_farther

fourms moce so slow lol

SmeargleUsedHex

You're okay, GoFar?

gone_farther

blug

SmeargleUsedHex

Blug?

gone_farther

onnomatopeia

ono

SmeargleUsedHex

Oh no topiary not good. You need help? Seemed scrambled.

gone_farther

o w.ever

i could get the spellings righ if i tried

lionfish1212

are you still okay then

did you not play

gone_farther

i just dont care lol.

*right

*don't

haha

SmeargleUsedHex

...

gone_further

shouldd've corredred right but not dont, that's be funnire

im ruhht!

rig

right

lionfish1212

whats going on then

gone_further

?

SmeargleUsedHex

I am still decode files! Have for favorite aspect.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zBL9KER4EANbpeAtr1UdLE3UJ2ZG-7oTOAvmqRiz1Mg/edit?usp=sharing>

Aim is fun. Center.

It's fun. Thank you for your presence.

Zampanio is a very good game. You should play it.