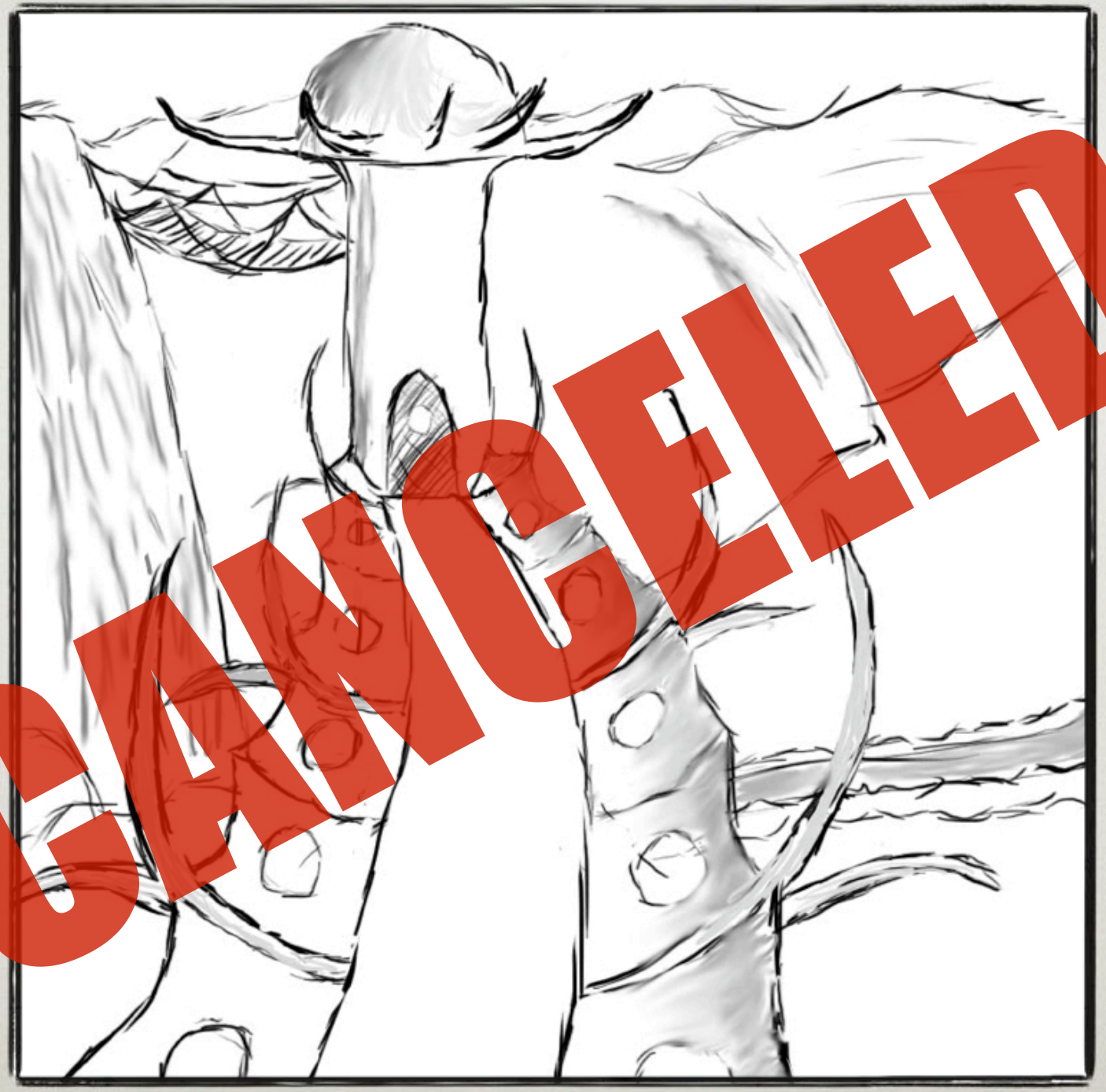
Verenia

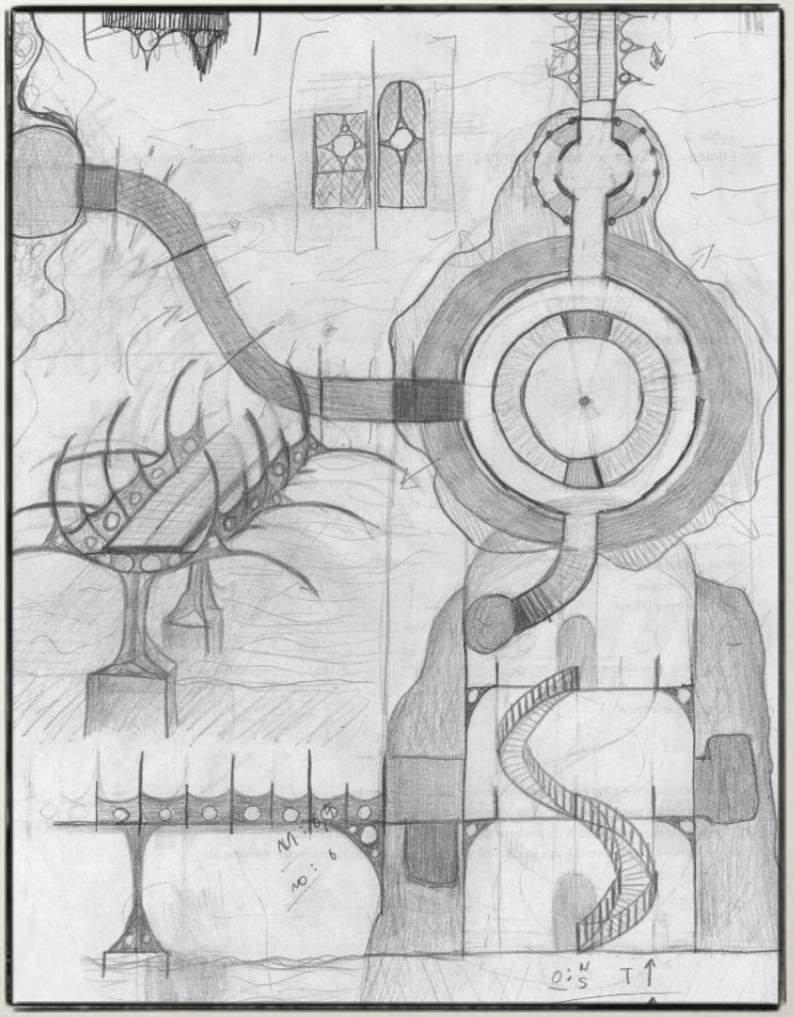

CANCELED

It failed!

- Not enough experience
- Too ambitious
- No decent project lead
- Much, much more…

This presentation...

- What went wrong
- Explain why
- Do's and don'ts
- Guidelines
- Personal experience



Verenia's Birth

- Drew some random sketches
- Decided to create an adventure game
- Assembled a team
- Gave everyone a job, and… ready!

FAILED!

Assembling a Team

- Start with a very small team
  - Recruit more people when needed
- Set up e-mail and a proper forum first!
- Have a multidisciplinary team
- Assign every developer a job
- Stay in control

Assembling a Team, pt. II

- Let your team work
  - Teammates only work when *you* work
  - *"Developer activity meter"*
- Have a sidekick
- Have a PR department
- Let everyone influence each other

Verenia's Team

- Too big!
- Everyone worked on everything
  - Some developers quit
  - Someone else was doing their job
- I had not enough control

Verenia's Team, pt. II

- Recruited everyone straight away
- Our modelers got bored and left,
  our texturers got bored and left,
  our musicians got bored and left, …
- In the end, nobody was left

Writing a Storyline

- Storyline is very important!
- First storyline, then ages
  - Design ages around the storyline
  - Basic age design is okay
- Write a storyline yourself
  - Let others enhance it

Verenia's Storyline

- Verenia did it the other way around
  - At first: lots of ages, but no storyline
  - Then: write dozens of storylines!
- Lots of plot holes
- Everyone wrote parts of the storyline
  - I didn't know the full story myself!

Software

- Stay compatible
  - Different people, different software, different file formats
- Stay legal
  - Everyone *needs* legal software!
  - Give credit where needed

More Guidelines

- Don't hype too soon
  - Show when there's something to show
- Keep your project secret
- Keep your files on a central server
- Show your progress
- Deadlines

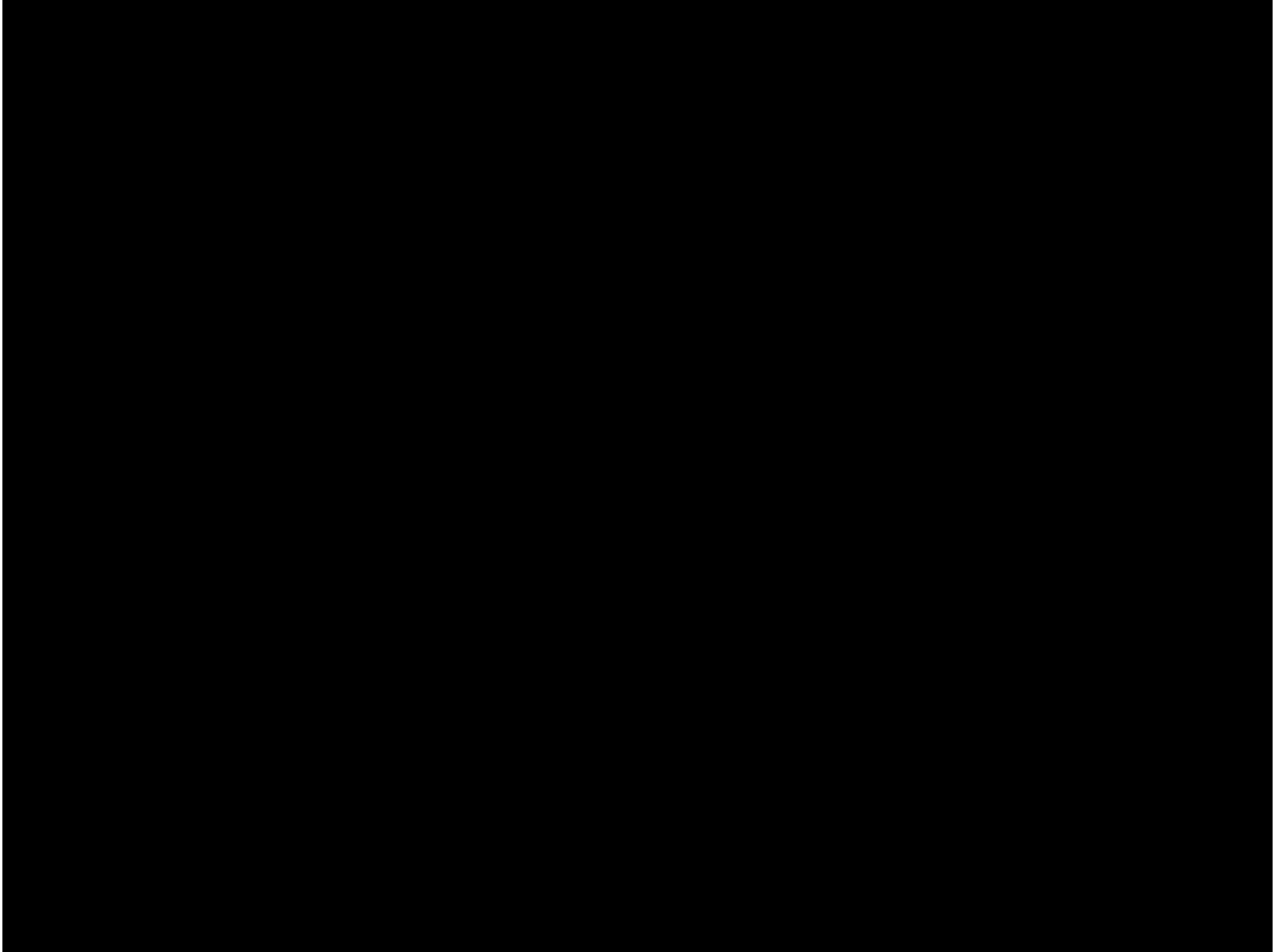
More Guidelines, pt. II

- Do a lot of research
  - Outdated ideas, begone!
- Stay compatible on the player's side
  - Everyone wants to play your game
  - Some of us have very old computers
- Have a good web site

Useful Sites

- Trac - edgewall.com/trac
- Verenia - verenia.amonre.org
- Ilathid - www.agesofilathid.com

Thank you!

This Presentation:
verenia.amonre.org

Good Luck!