DISCODER

by

exonemo (Kensuke Sembo, Yae Akaiwa)

biography: exonemo

In 1996 Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa formed "exonemo" when they detonated on impact with the WWW, feeling the infinitely great possibilities in new senses of distance and dynamics. They have continued to publish their art on the web, still after that new feeling, ever since.

1996 Experimental web site "exonemo" (www.exonemo.com) opened by Kensuke Sembo and Yae Akaiwa.
1997 KAO: Electronic Art Talent Kanazawa (eAT Kanazawa '97) "Special Prize"
1997 KAO: Java Conference, Java Granprix '97 "Grand Prize"
1998 BM394: Parco URBANART#7, Accepted
1999 DISCODER started from May 10 on "CyGnet (Cyber Gallery Network)" produced by Shiseido.
2000 Installtion version of DISCODER was exhibited at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

<Kensuke Sembo>
1972 Born in Tokyo Japan. Kensuke worked mainly on the planning, production, including Java, Perl and HTML programing in DISCODER.
<Yae Akaiwa>
1973 Born in Fukuoka Japan. Yae worked mainly on the planning, production, including Java Script and HTML programing, as well as the interface design in DISCODER.

synopsis: DISCODER

Accessing websites all over the world has become commonplace. And yet, most who browse the web only engage what is presented in thepages that they visit, not the mechanism of their realisation -- the realm of the HTML code.

A "DISCODER" is a device "which destroys HTML informatic CODE and its CODEs of behavior, a contradiction provider for the web. "In this project the user "messes" with the web's HTML internet metastructure. The tags in HTML slip, and the integrity of HTML source code is compromised, as if eaten by bugs. The user is liberated from not only the assuring mathematical illusions of the HTML interface (in the dismantling of the code) itself, but also from the subtle suggestions of normative behavior presented to the individual by the computer.

The DISCODER has two modes, a <Private Mode> and an <Open Mode>. In the former, the user inputs the URL of the page the he or she wishes to destroy (all pages on the WWW are DISCODEable) and proceeds to wreak havoc to their little heart's content. In the latter, the user can decimate a page socially, with friends. With either, the keyboard, this mundane part of our text-based lives, becomes an instrument of destruction, while typing on the keys produces sounds like a typewriter. HTML code suddenly becomes a breeding ground for inserting bugs (ASCII text, which eats HTML source code like a bug, creating an great many changes in the structure of web pages) who change the face of the virtual terrain.

The user is not limited to random attacks on websites, they can shoot at targets too. Because the bug's influence on the site can be monitored numerically in real time, the user can devise strategies for their assaults. The numbers, alphabet, symbols, backspace (delete) and other keys each carry a new function in DISCODER, and their categories and point of introduction into the HTML bear relation with previously planted bugs so that the bug's "growth" (into capital letters) and then into HTML tags in their own right, reconstructing the broken pages.

There are anynumber of unpredicatable effects produced by the DISCODER, especially when, in the <Open Mode>, an unspecified number of users participate, and bugs engage the sedimentary layers produced by bugs that have gone before them, the DISCODER produces some of its most surprising conclusions.

DISCODER, through the invasion of unreasonable elements (= bugs), and a process of destruction, becomes a mechanism for new writing. exonemo's sites aren't set on HTML. DISCODER's cross-hairs are fixed on the vectors of mundane standardisation, and increased codification in our lives.

technical details: DISCODER

DISCODER is a system operated by Java, JavaScript, CGI and web browser. DISCODER runs on web browser that supports Java and JavaScript (such as Netscape Navigator 4.x (except4.6) and Internet Explorer 4.x or above) DISCODER cooperates with web server side program (CGI/Perl).

DISCODER *http://www.exonemo.com/discoder/e/*