Invent a new you

GAME OF THE WEEK
MIITOPIA NS ★★★✩✩

A video game that lets you create lookie-likey avatars may sound like something from Charlie Brooker’s Black Mirror but there’s nothing disturbing about the 3DS port of this turn-based RPG.

The story: the Dark Lord has been nicking people’s faces in order to power monsters, and it’s down to you and your gang to undo his dastardly deeds. You’ll set off to explore numerous colourful lands and defeat creatures with a basic combat system. Want to get ahead? Spend time forming friendships with the characters you meet because the closer you get, the easier your quest will become.

While the gameplay is challenging enough and the story satisfactory, it’s the Miic creator that’s the king with the zany crown here. Your character can be anyone from your grandma to Mona Lisa, SpongeBob SquarePants, a zany crow here. Your character can be anyone from your grandma to Mona Lisa, SpongeBob SquarePants, a

and they’ve worked flawlessly but Apple is updating everything so I’m scared I won’t be able to use my reliable trash cans any more.

Have you ever had a tech fail?
I’ve had a bunch. In 2004, when I was playing in Ukraine, the power went in the middle of a rave anthem and suddenly it was pitch black – no light, no sound, nothing. We left the stage and stood outside for 20 minutes. The audience didn’t care. It turned out a photographer had tripped over a power cable. They plugged it back in and the power for an 8,000 capacity venue all came roaring back.

I remember my tour manager being amazed the entire venue was running off one lead. Then, about ten years ago, I was doing a livestream autograph signing with Google and the technology froze. I was actually in the Google building in Santa Monica and no one knew how to fix it. There was also a TED Talk I did and at the start of my talk, it all froze. The T in TED stands for technology so that was vaguely ironic.

Reprise is out via DG/Decca today.

Hot things: An internal combustion engine, Sunbeam heated pad and Yamaha RX-V390 tuner.

One day, I sat in her seat and it was so nice. It gave me this strange love for electric blankets. I was like, ‘Now I understand. This isn’t an old person thing. This is a smart person thing’. Now I have almost the exact same heating pad as my grandmother, only hers was pink and mine is blue.

What tech would you uninvent?
The internal combustion engine because electric engines are faster and more reliable and don’t cause as much environmental harm.

What tech do you use when you listen to music at home?
I have a Yamaha RX-V390 tuner. It’s quite old and it cost less than $1,000. It’s nice but it’s not super fancy because when I’ve mixed music in my studio I need to listen to it on the same systems everyone else has. If I listen to it on a phenomenal stereo system, it’ll sound great, but that doesn’t mean it’ll sound good when someone’s listening to it with earbuds on the Tube.

What tech do you rely on?
An Apple Mac Pro and I have two of them because I have two recording studios. I bought them around 2018 and they’ve worked flawlessly but Apple is updating everything so I’m scared I won’t be able to use my reliable trash cans any more.

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