

Reviews for Steins;Gate Series

Well, it's not technically a web fiction series, but a visual novel series that debuted on October 25, 2009 on the Xbox 360. But I still got a lot of inspiration from within this work about how to build out a multisequential piece, and the storytelling throughout the series is fantastic. So I chose to do a review of it.

This series primarily tells the story of a protagonist who, after accidentally creating a time machine capable of sending text messages to the past with his friends, attempts to help them resolve their past regrets. In the process, however, he discovers that these actions place him on a world line where his friend's death is inevitable. The only way to avoid this fate is to undo the wishes that were fulfilled on this timeline.

I won't spoil the ending here, but overall, what is most commendable about this work is its unique interpretation of time travel: every time travel journey actually takes you to a different world. Based on the rate of change relative to the baseline world, different worlds converge into major world lines at intervals of 1%. According to the game's worldview, the α world line eventually leads to World War III, while the β world line ends with the time machine being controlled by CERN, turning the world into a dystopia. These drastic changes stem from the protagonist's minor act of helping a friend fulfill a regret due to the accidental creation of the time machine. This butterfly effect is also a theme discussed in the work.

The game employs a choice mechanism through answering phone calls and sending text messages, as the protagonist travels through time by sending text messages (and even his consciousness in the later stages of the game) to the past. Depending on the choices made, there are six different endings and storylines, including the true ending.

Approximately six years after its initial release, the prequel Steins;gate 0 was launched, filling in some of the backstory. Experiencing both games provides a very comprehensive experience.

I'm putting up links to the game's official website and its Steam game page here:

<https://steinsgate.jp/> (official website)

<https://store.steampowered.com/app/412830/STEINSGATE/> (steam game page)

Rating: 5/5



(The phone that used to call, receive calls, and send/receive messages(making choices))