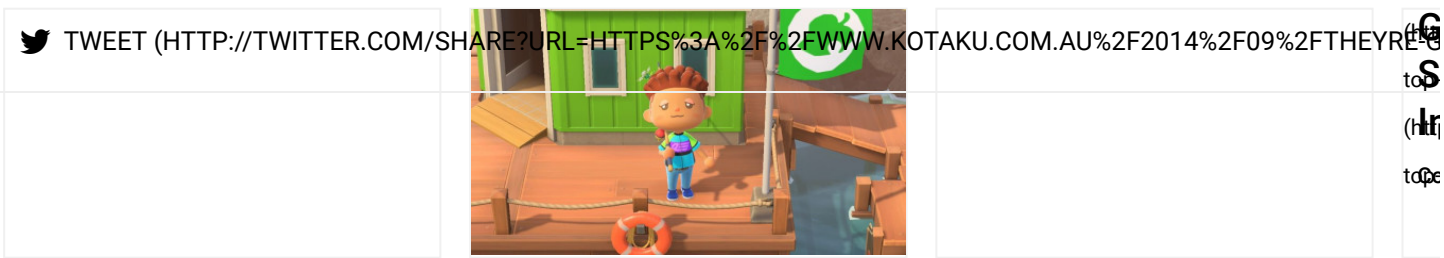


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They're Going To Play Oregon Trail In Real Life This Weekend

Jonathan Frochtzwaig (<https://www.kotaku.com.au/author/jonathan-frochtzwaig>)
Sep 17, 2014, 7:00pm · Filed to: [event](https://www.kotaku.com.au/tags/event) ▼ (<https://www.kotaku.com.au/tags/event>)



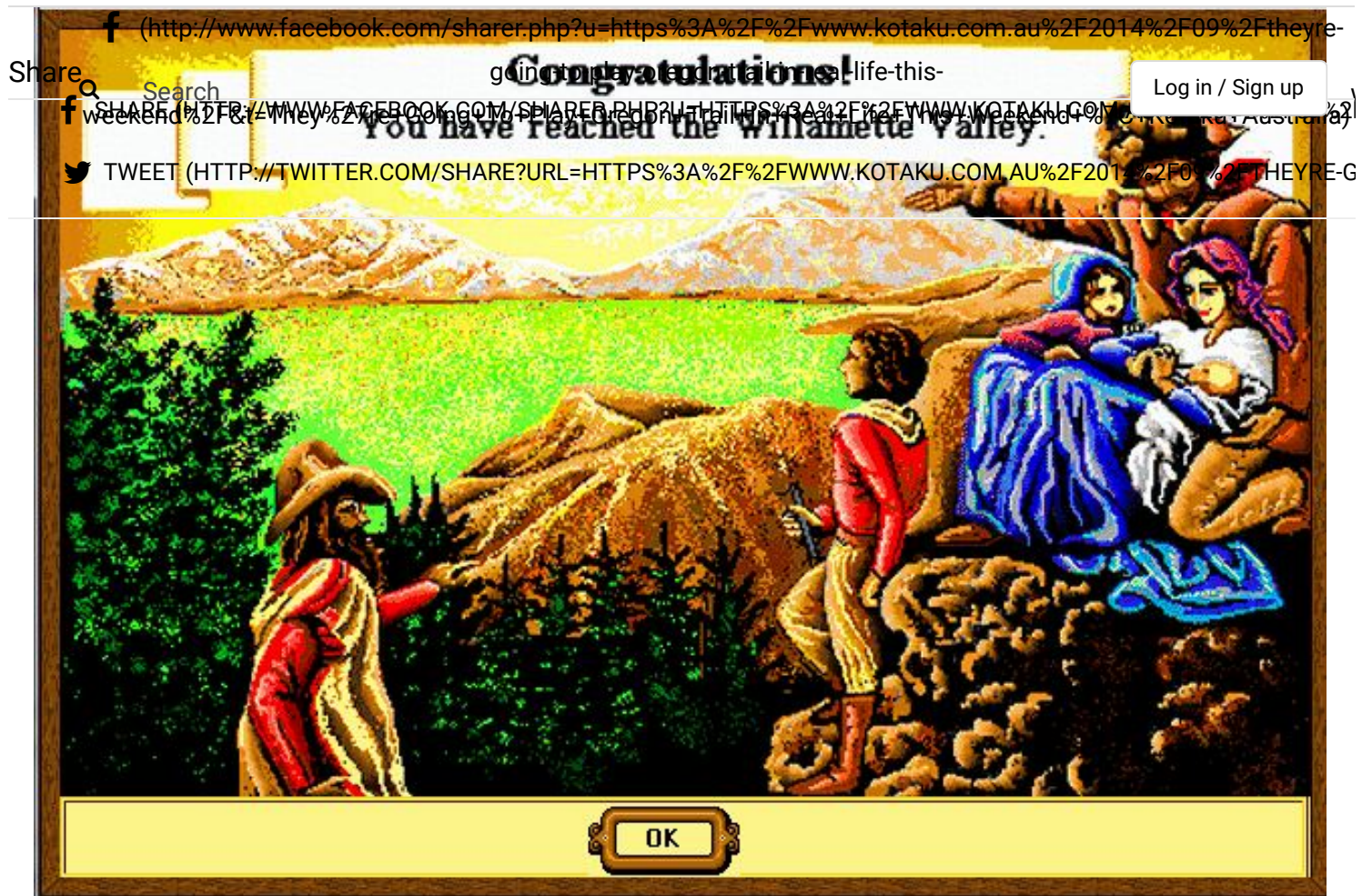
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A competition in Salem, Oregon, takes place this Saturday with folks on stage for *The Oregon Trail* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Oregon_Trail_\(video_game\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Oregon_Trail_(video_game))) — i.e. € had access to a PC in the '80s and '90s — the chance to relive the classic game in an its-
 pixelated, dystopian landscape. [SHARE: https://www.kotaku.com.au/2014/09/theyre-going-to-play-oregon-trail-in-real-life-this-weekend/](https://www.kotaku.com.au/2014/09/theyre-going-to-play-oregon-trail-in-real-life-this-weekend/)

Oregon Trail Live (<http://oregontraillive.com>) goes down September 20 at Salem's Willamette Heritage Center. Salem is about 45 minutes south of Portland and right smack in the middle of the Willamette Valley, *Oregon Trail*'s oasis-esque destination (<http://badassery.wineawesomeness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/End.jpg>).

The event, now in its third year, is about what you'd expect from the environs of the city that brought you the dream of the '90s (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZt-pOc3moc>) and this dude (<http://s3-ec.buzzfed.com/static/enhanced/webdr03/2013/2/21/18/enhanced-buzz-30824-1361489319-0.jpg>). Participating "pioneers" — who are encouraged to dress the part and come up with a motivation for their emigration — compete in 10 scored challenges based loosely on the iconic game.

In past years, says Willamette Heritage Center education coordinator Kathleen Schulte, challenges have included carrying game meat (that is, carting a 200-pound guy wearing a cow costume up a hill in a Radio Flyer), burying your dead (the "ill-fated team member" is a



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paper doll, and an original dirge is required), and taking part in a three-legged dysentery race, which, Schulte says demurely, "you can just imagine." (I can't.)

The competition culminates in a homesteaders' exam based on historical Oregon Trail trivia. As in the *Oregon Trail* computer game that was developed in 1971 by a trio of student teachers (<http://www.citypages.com/2011-01-19/news/oregon-trail-how-three-minnesotans-forged-its-path/>), a spoonful of entertainment makes the education go down. "Everybody is bribe-able for the information," Schulte joked to me. In the event's first year, she served as a highly-corruptible sheriff. "I got two pennies from the future and a raspberry granola bar for helping a team pass."

Stay tuned later this month for our report from this year's event.

Jonathan Frochtzawajg is a freelance journalist who has reached the Willamette Valley. It's rain here. jfrochtzawajg.com (<http://jfrochtzawajg.com/>)

Pictures: the Oregon Trail Live site (<http://www.oregontraillive.com/>)



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Sep 14, 2014, 10:30pm

It's not interesting until one of them gets dysentery.

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Sep 18, 2014, 8:40am

I played this all the time on the school's computer (that's right, singular) when I was a young'n. I think I only ever made it to Willamette, like, twice.

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Along with the massive implications for health and safety, the COVID-19 novel coronavirus has come down on the global manufacturing and supply chain like a comet. We've already seen some of the implications with hardware and even physical releases, with resellers swooping up copies of Ring Fit Adventure, delays to Switch deliveries and supply shocks to DRAM and NAND memory, making consoles like the PS5 more expensive to produce. For you, the consumer, the message is pretty straightforward. Unless you were absolutely waiting on a next-generation part, like the next series of AMD or Nvidia GPUs, anyone considering buying a PC should seriously think about doing so sooner, rather than later.

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