Paintrix: Color Up Your Life!

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Train stations, shopping malls and airports: all public places where we spend a lot of time, waiting for the train, for our friends and for the gate to open. While waiting, we get bored and we would like to entertain ourselves in order to kill time. The first thing that comes to our minds is playing a game or socializing using our smartphone. People around you are doing the exact same thing. Wouldn't it be great if you could play a game with those people, a game which requires collaboration and interaction with your surroundings?

This is exactly where Paintrix comes into play: gather people, form two teams and let them collaborate and compete at the same time. Teams have to solve the same puzzle against the clock. Be faster than your opposing team to win! How does this work?

Gameplay

The objective of the game is to recreate a colored picture that previously has been shortly visible on a screen. See Figure 1 for example pictures.
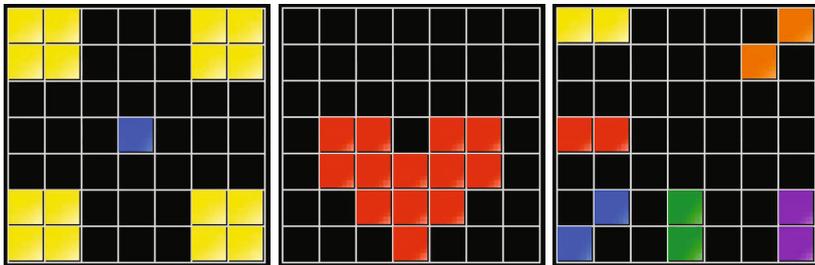

Fig. 1. Example Paintrix levels

Memorizing the grid is of great importance, as the picture will disappear once the game starts. Armed with their smartphones as paintbrushes[1] they start painting. The tiles on the field represent the pixels. In order to paint a tile, the player must first get one color from one of the three available 'color buckets' that can be found in the corners of the grid: red, blue or yellow. There is also

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[1] The app required for this game is called 'Paintrix Live', which can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Android Play Store.

a special erase bucket available in order to erase a painted tile if a mistake has been made. After that, they walk (or run) to the tile to be colored and paint it. A generic arrangement of a field is shown in Figure 2.
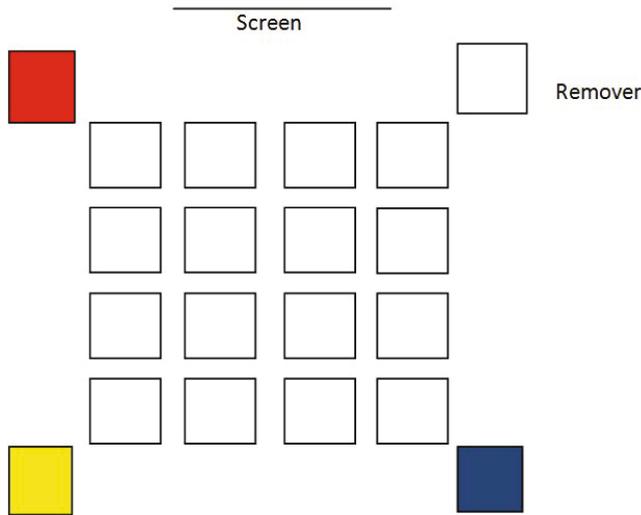

Fig. 2. Arrangement of a 4x4 Paintrix field

Currently, the game is played with two teams competing against each other. The team that recreates the picture first wins. This means players should first agree on who does what in order to work efficiently together. Players can leave and join a team at any moment: making Paintrix ideal for places like train stations and airports. The picture grid is very scalable and several configurations are possible to adjust the difficulty of the game. For example, a larger grid could be used for places that have more space. Sometimes secondary colors are needed. Just like real paint, secondary colors can be created by combining two primary colors. See Figure 3 at the end of this document for gameplay photo's.

At the end of every game each team recieves an amount of Paintrix Points: these points are calculated and displayed on the screen after a game. The Paintrix Points are stored in the app where the player can get an overview of their played games and the earned Paintrix Points. Players can also create their own levels with the build-in level editor in the app: after approval, their created boards have a chance to appear when a game starts!

What Makes Paintrix Standing Out?

Nowadays, multiplayer games are very popular. Paintrix is a multiplayer game that lets you play with both familiar and unfamiliar people in a competitive set-

ting. This way, collaboration is more fun because you need to beat the opponents together.

In contrast to regular apps, Paintrix is not a game where you are glued to the screen of your smartphone and seperated from your environment and bystanders. Instead, you are using the smartphone as a tool to paint the tiles on the field.

When two teams are playing against each other, both teams will try their best to win, but only one of them can be the winner. The better the collaboration, the faster the team will solve the puzzle. Because most players are very determined to win, there is a good chance that each individual will play the game very actively: it is a game where players will be tested both mentally (they have to memorize the board and quickly devise a strategy to recreate it as fast as possible) and physically (they need to run around to color the tiles).

Finally, by using the level editor in the app, you can design and submit your own pictures. Use your imagination to create some cool boards and you might be able to play your self-created level!

It's no surprise to be able to paint something *on* your smartphone... But did you ever paint *using* your smartphone as a *brush*? Try it with Paintrix!
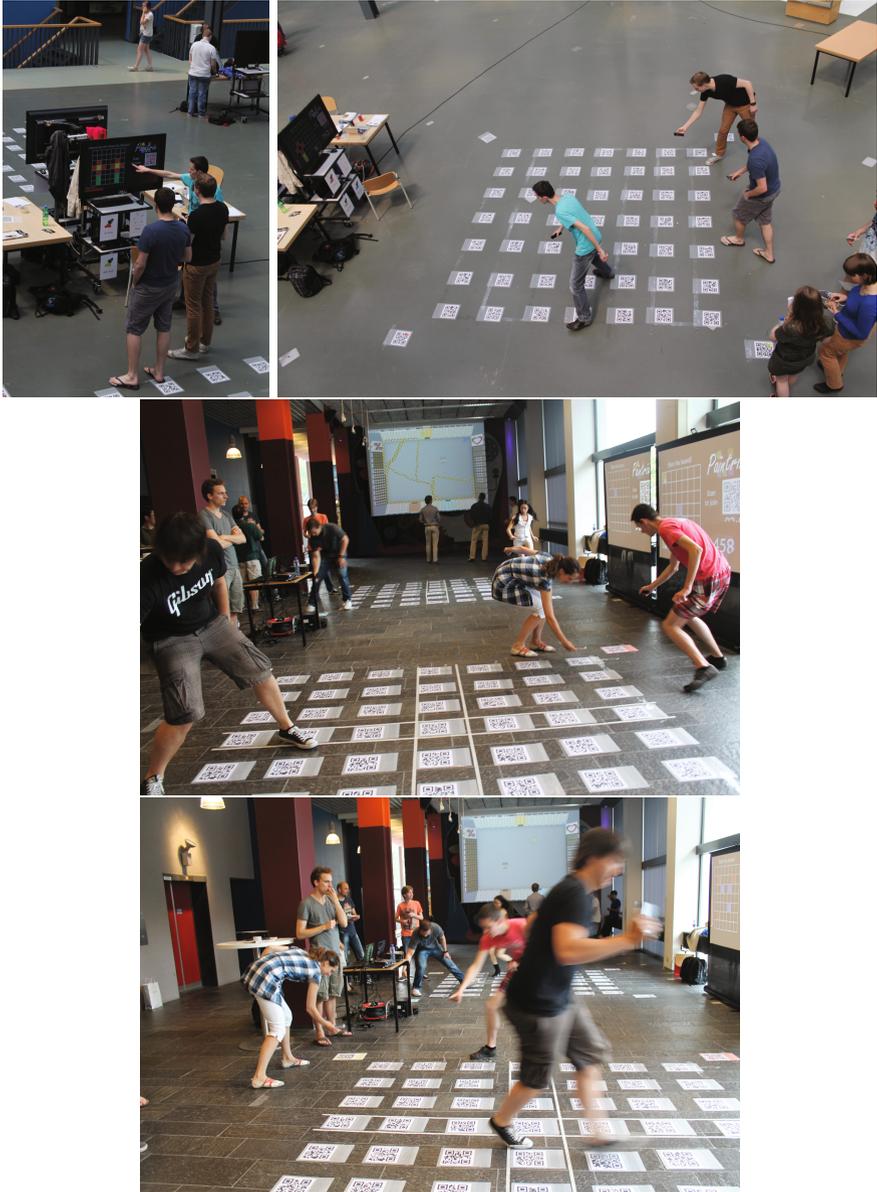
Fig. 3. Gameplay photo's. Watch the video here.