

## Game observation: Line Rider

<https://www.linerider.com/>

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*Line Rider* is a classic flash game. In my opinion it falls into the category of 'idle games'. The goal of the game is fairly simple – use the tools available to create a path for a small person on sledges to ride. The tools to create the path are very Microsoft Paint-like and the rules of the environment emulate physical rules of gravity – what goes up must go down and so on. Beyond this there are no rules or other objectives to fulfill. Draw a simple path or a very complex and sophisticated one, draw a smooth path or a complete rollercoaster – whatever you feel like, just have fun with it. Or don't! You don't need any special soft/hardware, skills or knowledge to access and enjoy the game, just go and do whatever feels alright.

There's no way to 'win' *Line Rider*, yet it's extremely entertaining to play – there's only few rules to what you can or cannot do so you're the one creating the rules for yourself using the best and most complex tool ever – your own imagination. What if you write your own name in cursive? Would the sledding person be able to ride through it or would they fall off their sledges right after the first letter?

Ultimately, the player is competing not only with the game and its environment but also themselves. What could be more thought-provoking than a blank space and a small person on a vehicle ready to test your creations? The player chooses their pace and their style of play – you can compete with yourself, you can make the small person on sledges get wrecked in the funniest kind of ways, you can write your grandma's name, let her observe a small sledge-rider ride through it and cheer together hoping they make it till the very end without being parted from their sledge. The progress can be saved or not – depending on player's choice. The player can come back and enjoy what they created before, perfect their previous ideas or always start fresh and new.

The *Line Rider* was one of the formative games of my childhood and revisiting it is always a great joy for me precisely because of all the great memories shared with my grandparent it made possible to happen. An 8-year-old can play the game just as well as a 65-year-old can which is something I always appreciate very much in a game.