



As created on 11/1/02, author: R.v.Densen

Introduction

Probeersel.com considers itself a non-profit organisation for comic artists who want to share their art with the world for free. It is a medium for beginning artists as well as established, whether struggling or not, comic artists. Probeersel.com has been activated on May 16, 2002 by René van Densen, hosted by Protagonist.nl. The free comics site, until then only featuring the comics by Van Densen himself, had been on the internet for a while before then. This is disclosed in the section 'History'. This document shows some of the statistics and interesting events of the past half year, and is intended only for the Probeersel.com audience to read. No rights can be derived off the publication of this document; it is merely for general information to those who are interested.

History

Probeersel.com started out as a 'comics' section on R.v.Densen's personal homepage in 1999, then hosted on Xoom.com, which later became NBCI.com after a merger with NBC. Xoom hosted a wide range of personal homepages and offered 500MB of storage space, which even, say, a 5-part philosophical graphic novel won't exceed. To improve the odds of the site, or more specifically the then still under development graphic novel quintology 'Probeersel', being found and read, the comics section got a second URL which was provided by V3.com, better known as 'the go.to people'. From that moment on, the comics could be read from <http://welcome.to/probeersel> and they are still accessible from there, today.

Starting to consider that welcome.to/probeersel was evolving into a separate site rather than a sub-section of his personal page, Van Densen first attempted to achieve this merely by adding a 'splash' screen. This gave the people who entered the site from welcome.to/probeersel the impression that it was a stand-alone site without compromising that it was *also* still a sub-section of the original site. When NBCI decided to stop hosting personal homepages and all of the site became homeless in August 2001, Van Densen decided to try his luck with www.topcities.com and created a webpage for the comics alone.

In February 2002, the site got a large design and content structure make-over. Since the Probeersel graphic novel quintology, still considered the center of the site, had by then been finished and published online, the time was ripe to structure the site better. The goal was to make sure the Probeersel books would be read, and also to try and found a (small) community of new and struggling comic artists with promising material to publish their material for free. To further aid the promotion and accessibility of the site, the URL www.probeersel.com was activated with Protagonist on April 24, originally only as a 'virtual' URL until Topcities objected to the amount of data traffic it generated and tossed it offline for a day. This made Van Densen decide to start paying for the hosting of the site, thereby ensuring that the content would remain available as long as he would be able to pay the bill. **Probeersel.com** was born.

Traffic Report

The first half year of 'existence' have proven valuable in terms of total traffic. From the very start, the amount of unique visits increased as well as the daily average, but in August and October these increases even skyrocketed.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| May: | daily average of visits: 7 | total: 114 |
| June: | daily average of visits: 9 | total: 274 |
| July: | daily average of visits: 11 | total: 363 |
| August: | daily average of visits: 20 | total: 650 |
| September: | daily average of visits: 24 | total: 727 |
| October: | daily average of visits: 34 | total: 1069 |

The bandwidth allowance at Protagonist is a good 3 Gb – Probeersel.com doesn't even nearly use that yet, but still the traffic went rather well in that department too:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| May: | daily average of pages: 23 | total Kbytes that month: 20312 |
| June: | daily average of pages: 27 | total Kbytes that month: 61508 |
| July: | daily average of pages: 32 | total Kbytes that month: 58044 |
| August: | daily average of pages: 81 | total Kbytes that month: 120050 |
| September: | daily average of pages: 68 | total Kbytes that month: 80455 |
| October: | daily average of pages: 140 | total Kbytes that month: 281606 |



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Countries

Quite surprisingly, the site's visitors were not just from countries with Dutch or English as their native tongue – there was a lot of variety in countries of origin of the various hits the site got. An overview is given below.

| TOTALS | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| # Months | Hits | | Files | | KBytes | | Country |
| 2x | 69 | 0,1% | 60 | 0,12% | 725 | 0,12% | Argentina |
| 4x | 100 | 0,14% | 96 | 0,19% | 786 | 0,12% | Australia |
| 3x | 110 | 0,15% | 94 | 0,18% | 1223 | 0,19% | Austria |
| 6x | 655 | 0,91% | 626 | 1,23% | 6758 | 1,07% | Belgium |
| 1x | 30 | 0,04% | 28 | 0,05% | 478 | 0,07% | Belize |
| 2x | 8 | 0,01% | 7 | 0,01% | 33 | 0,01% | Brazil |
| 1x | 22 | 0,03% | 21 | 0,04% | 82 | 0,01% | Brunei Darussalam |
| 5x | 964 | 1,33% | 690 | 1,35% | 9079 | 1,44% | Canada |
| 2x | 3 | 0,00% | 1 | 0,00% | 18 | 0,00% | Czech Republic |
| 1x | 81 | 0,11% | 81 | 0,16% | 453 | 0,07% | Denmark |
| 4x | 30 | 0,04% | 28 | 0,05% | 140 | 0,02% | France |
| 2x | 134 | 0,19% | 94 | 0,18% | 1957 | 0,31% | Germany |
| 1x | 6 | 0,01% | 6 | 0,01% | 33 | 0,01% | Greece |
| 1x | 6 | 0,01% | 6 | 0,01% | 33 | 0,01% | Hungary |
| 1x | 6 | 0,01% | 6 | 0,01% | 133 | 0,02% | Iceland |
| 2x | 63 | 0,09% | 58 | 0,11% | 304 | 0,05% | Italy |
| 2x | 129 | 0,18% | 125 | 0,25% | 978 | 0,16% | Japan |
| 2x | 27 | 0,04% | 27 | 0,05% | 145 | 0,02% | Mexico |
| 6x | 39481 | 54,64% | 22557 | 44,26% | 305638 | 48,49% | Netherlands |
| 6x | 5943 | 8,22% | 5071 | 9,95% | 56656 | 8,99% | Network |
| 2x | 64 | 0,09% | 63 | 0,12% | 288 | 0,05% | New Zealand (Aotearoa) |
| 4x | 80 | 0,11% | 74 | 0,15% | 666 | 0,11% | Non-Profit Organization |
| 2x | 25 | 0,03% | 23 | 0,05% | 180 | 0,03% | Old style Arpanet (arpa) |
| 1x | 4 | 0,01% | 4 | 0,01% | 16 | 0,00% | Pakistan |
| 1x | 26 | 0,04% | 26 | 0,05% | 98 | 0,02% | Poland |
| 1x | 41 | 0,06% | 41 | 0,08% | 892 | 1,41% | Portugal |
| 1x | 1 | 0,00% | 1 | 0,00% | 3 | 0,00% | Seychelles |
| 2x | 31 | 0,04% | 31 | 0,06% | 231 | 0,04% | Singapore |
| 1x | 11 | 0,02% | 11 | 0,02% | 68 | 0,01% | South Africa |
| 3x | 21 | 0,03% | 19 | 0,04% | 220 | 0,03% | Spain |
| 1x | 18 | 0,02% | 17 | 0,03% | 88 | 0,01% | Sweden |
| 2x | 40 | 0,06% | 40 | 0,08% | 325 | 0,05% | Switzerland |
| 4x | 273 | 0,38% | 259 | 0,51% | 3552 | 0,56% | United Kingdom |
| 3x | 588 | 0,81% | 511 | 1,00% | 10441 | 1,66% | United States |
| 6x | 12280 | 16,99% | 10125 | 19,86% | 76905 | 12,20% | Unresolved/Unknown |
| 6x | 6937 | 9,60% | 6428 | 12,61% | 71732 | 11,38% | US Commercial |
| 6x | 3837 | 5,31% | 3488 | 6,84% | 77999 | 12,37% | US Educational |
| 1x | 16 | 0,02% | 16 | 0,03% | 129 | 0,02% | US Government |
| 2x | 100 | 0,14% | 100 | 0,20% | 855 | 0,14% | US Military |



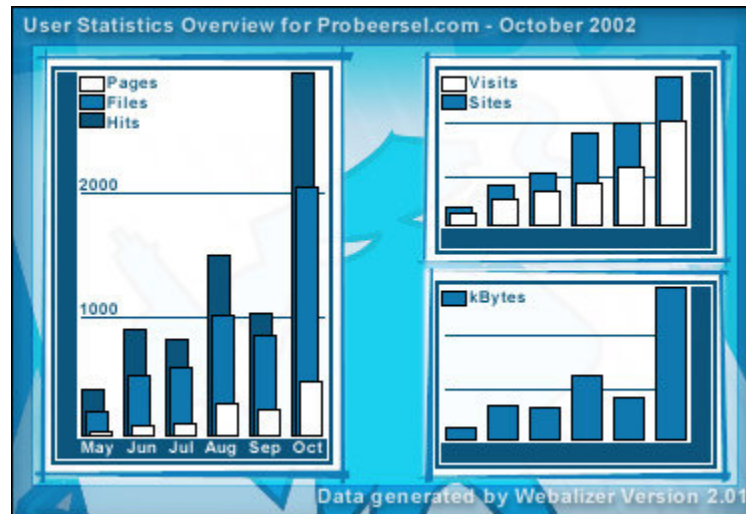
WWW.PROBEERSEL.COM

FREE ONLINE GRAPHIC NOVELS, COMICS AND ARTWORK

Half-year status report, May-October 2002

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Graphical Chart Traffic



Current content

Currently Probeersel.com hosts the following comics (In alphabetical order):

- **Chalk**
A short story that soon will be part of a series of several other short stories called 'The Artificial Real', by René van Densen.
 - **God .inc**
A daily comic strip starring the Lord himself, by Gregory Cathalina.
 - **Maak Het Verhaal Af En Kleur De Plaatjes / Finish The Story And Colour The Pictures**
A comic strip with a new look at how abstract a comic could be, by René van Densen.
 - **One Year In Satan's Purrrgatory**
A weekly comic strip (52 episodes total) about two guys and their psychotic cat, by René van Densen.
 - **Opgedragen Aan Een Zieke Maatschappij / Dedicated To A Sick Society**
Full-page comics with a gritty but idealistic approach, by René van Densen.
 - **Probeersel Graphic Novel Quintology**
Graphic novel in five parts about a young man who tries to get his memory back and the symbolic adventures he has along the way, by René van Densen.
 - **Retirement**
A graphic novel about an addict and a god, by Joep S. van Abeelen – unfinished as of yet.
- The site also contains above mentioned artists' biographical information and some loose artwork, wallpapers and other downloads.

Special Events of the past half year

- The site began its, hopefully long, residence on the Internet.
- The Probeersel Graphic Novel Quintology got a review on TheSmallPress.com
- The webmaster has had feedback from a few well-known artists, which is always a lot of fun. He would like to thank them all for that.
- The 2002 t-shirt competition was launched.
- Joep S. van Abeelen joined the ranks with the Graphic Novel 'Retirement'.
- Gregory Cathalina joined the ranks with the daily comic strip 'God .inc'.



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Trivia

You wouldn't believe what the statistics sometimes tell us... Here's a few search strings that people found the site on, that really cracked us up. There were a lot more, but we thought these were the funniest...

- "Dennis the Menace adult naked cartoon"
- "Albatross sandwich"
- "2.5 million new york city kids 1952 identify after nuclear attack"
- "2002 e-mail addresses of henrotin"
- "abner jenkins aka beetle"

Probeersel.com also has a side-project going called Non Biblia Sacra. This will be a very ambitious online Graphic Novel project with several writers, artists, webdesigners, and whoever else will be necessary to bring this project to a successful end. Don't expect it to be done anytime soon, but *do* expect to hear more about it.

T-shirt Competition

In August 2002, Probeersel.com had 100 t-shirts printed to be given away through the site. Right now, there are 82 left, and the competition continues. The idea is that you send an email to tshirt2002@probeersel.com in which you state your name, email-address and, and this is what can win you such a shirt, the most original way you can think of to promote Probeersel.com if you didn't have to worry about budgets or feasibility.

Check out <http://www.probeersel.com/news/19072002.shtml> to read more about it, and also see a short selection of some of the entries so far.

Expectations and Plans

- Probeersel.com is developing a Content Management System which will make it much easier for all artists to maintain their own comics section on the site. It will also feature a better setup of the Announcement/news section and perhaps it will even allow for a forum or such. Unknown yet when the CMS will be finished.
- There are more artists expected to join the site.
- There are new comics underway; Joep van Abeelen is considering pausing his work on the graphic novel 'Retirement' to perhaps do a monthly comic, but he's not sure yet. René van Densen will be doing a daily feature starting January 2003, called 'The Daily Epitaph', and he's considering, at some point in the future, to do a 'The Making Of Probeersel' as a sort of sixth book in the Probeersel Graphic Novel Quintology.
- When the CMS will be implemented, there will be a slight change in the Probeersel.com design and navigation. We will try to keep this to a minimum, but expect changes there. We do hope that whatever does change, will be considered an improvement.
- There might be a new contest next summer (maybe with something else than t-shirts, even). We're not sure yet.
- Also, the most popular comics on Probeersel.com will likely get their own subdomains to allow their fans to go there easier (such as satan.probeersel.com, for instance).
- The Non Biblia Sacra project, currently on a short hiatus, will be hosted on Probeersel.com as well, and more information about its progress will *finally* be revealed to the audience. Hopefully, this will draw in more people to work on it with us.

Conclusion

Probeersel.com RULES !! Please keep visiting, we promise it'll be worth it.