



As created on 11/1/03, author: R.v.Densen

## Introduction

Probeersel.com is a non-profit community for beginning as well as established comic artists who want to share their art with the world for free.

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.

Welcome.to/probeersel evolved into a separate site rather than a sub-section of Van Densen's personal page, 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](http://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](http://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. Van Densen decided 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.

In 2002, artists Joep van Abeelen ('Retirement') and Gregory Cathalina ('God.inc') joined the site. This was also the year the first edition of the Probeersel.com t-shirts could be won for free. In 2003, Satan ('Macadamia') and Sionnain Comeaux ('The Whole Truth') joined as well. The site has been slowly but surely gaining a fanbase and increasing visitor traffic, and is here to stay.

## Traffic Report

The third half year of 'existence' shows an increase in terms of total traffic:

May:	daily average of visits: 51	total: 1538
June:	daily average of visits: 59	total: 1770
July:	daily average of visits: 104	total: 3254
August:	daily average of visits: 103	total: 3194
September:	daily average of visits: 166	total: 5003
October:	daily average of visits: 191	total: 5951

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: 168	total Kbytes that month: 258249
June:	daily average of pages: 320	total Kbytes that month: 346377
July:	daily average of pages: 371	total Kbytes that month: 431848
August:	daily average of pages: 349	total Kbytes that month: 451247
September:	daily average of pages: 559	total Kbytes that month: 745476
October:	daily average of pages: 659	total Kbytes that month: 1063457



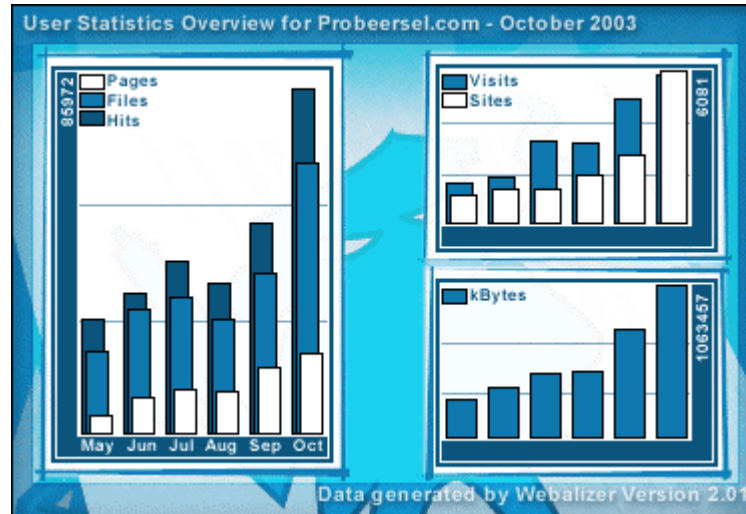
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## Countries

As in the first year, there was a lot of variety in the countries of this site's audience. An overview:

# Months	Hits	Files	KBytes	Country			
1x	15	0,00%	15	0,01%	70	0,00%	Antigua and Barbuda
1x	6	0,00%	6	0,00%	34	0,00%	Argentina
6x	3792	1,34%	1894	0,85%	29516	0,90%	Australia
6x	5832	2,06%	2058	0,92%	25779	0,78%	Austria
6x	5807	2,05%	5418	2,42%	73051	2,22%	Belgium
4x	167	0,05%	159	0,07%	2524	0,08%	Brazil
6x	4141	1,46%	3300	1,48%	44853	1,36%	Canada
1x	22	0,01%	22	0,01%	58	0,00%	Cyprus
2x	28	0,01%	28	0,01%	240	0,01%	Czech Republic
5x	1378	0,49%	1329	0,59%	16855	0,51%	Denmark
2x	896	0,32%	630	0,28%	10945	0,33%	Estonia
6x	6166	2,17%	5063	2,27%	72985	2,22%	Finland
6x	839	0,30%	763	0,34%	9308	0,28%	France
6x	634	0,22%	427	0,19%	5285	0,16%	Germany
4x	109	0,04%	98	0,04%	2543	0,08%	Greece
3x	70	0,02%	70	0,03%	1866	0,06%	Hungary
2x	78	0,03%	78	0,03%	567	0,02%	Indonesia
5x	148	0,05%	135	0,06%	1977	0,06%	Israel
4x	74	0,03%	65	0,03%	1103	0,03%	Italy
3x	107	0,04%	86	0,04%	1380	0,04%	Japan
1x	57	0,02%	57	0,03%	424	0,01%	Lithuania
3x	110	0,04%	109	0,05%	988	0,03%	Mexico
6x	97454	34,37%	70298	31,46%	834320	25,38%	Netherlands
6x	48495	17,10%	41528	18,58%	611478	18,60%	Network
4x	548	0,19%	509	0,23%	5154	0,16%	New Zealand (Aotearoa)
6x	506	0,18%	487	0,22%	11177	0,34%	Non-Profit Organization
2x	74	0,03%	73	0,03%	1113	0,03%	Norway
1x	32	0,01%	32	0,01%	3369	0,10%	Old style Arpanet (arpa)
6x	493	0,17%	444	0,20%	4282	0,13%	Poland
5x	1755	0,62%	1442	0,65%	23230	0,71%	Portugal
1x	19	0,01%	19	0,01%	48	0,00%	Romania
1x	19	0,01%	19	0,01%	62	0,00%	Saudi Arabia
4x	360	1,27%	359	0,16%	7862	0,24%	Singapore
1x	42	0,01%	42	0,02%	342	0,01%	Slovenia
3x	149	0,05%	133	0,06%	1229	0,04%	South Africa
2x	186	0,07%	160	0,07%	1887	0,06%	Spain
5x	340	0,12%	321	0,14%	3963	0,12%	Sweden
3x	103	0,04%	103	0,05%	2076	0,06%	Switzerland
1x	16	0,00%	16	0,01%	44	0,00%	Thailand
1x	195	0,07%	129	0,06%	2409	0,07%	Turkey
6x	2028	0,72%	1550	0,69%	19182	0,58%	United Kingdom
5x	438	0,15%	375	0,17%	5461	0,17%	United States
6x	26352	9,29%	22044	9,86%	346340	10,53%	Unresolved/Unknown
6x	64401	22,71%	35618	15,94%	946008	28,77%	US Commercial
6x	6178	2,18%	5266	2,36%	92869	2,82%	US Educational
6x	282	0,10%	277	0,12%	9554	0,29%	US Government
4x	2131	0,75%	2100	0,94%	46314	1,41%	US Military
1x	24	0,01%	23	0,01%	79	0,00%	Venezuela
1x	52	0,02%	40	0,02%	240	0,01%	Zimbabwe

## Graphical Chart Traffic



## Current content

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

- **The Artificial Real**  
A series of several other short stories, currently containing 'Chalk' and 'Rock', both 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.
- **Macadamia**  
A weekly trip to academic insanity, by Satan.
- **One Year In Satan's Purrgatory**  
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 Grim DotCom**  
A weekly comic starring the adventures of the Grim Reaper who finds that what he loves doing most needs an update, by René van Densen.
- **The Whole Truth**  
A weekly comic featuring Koyasu and Isis, freakish creatures from some dimension not our own, in which everything said is spoken in a semi-confusing and paradoxical way, by Sionnain Comeaux.
- **Worst Case Scenario (Dutch)**  
A daily Dutch thought on the most bizarre situations for promotional sausage, by Joep van Abeelen & René van Densen.

The site also contains above mentioned artists' biographical information and some loose comics, artwork, cartoons, t-shirt designs, wallpapers and other downloads.



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## Special Events of the past half year

- René van Densen started his new comic 'The Grim DotCom', June 1<sup>st</sup> this year.
- René van Densen did another guest comic on [www.rwwr.com](http://www.rwwr.com) which featured characters from One Year In Satan's Purrgatory, June 19<sup>th</sup> this year.
- Sionnain Comeaux ('The Whole Truth') joined Probeersel.com.
- Satan ('Macadamia') joined Probeersel.com.
- Protagonist.nl, the hosting company that maintains the server where Probeersel.com is hosted, has protested in the beginning of August about server load from the Probeersel Content Management System and requested that these scripts would not be used anymore - although we assume this server load trouble was caused by incorrectly tested development versions. We asked for more information and a compromise solution but received no reply up to date. The scripts are still in place and we're investigating a new set-up using PHPnuke.
- René van Densen published a four page guest comic on the walls of the Cul de Sac bar in Tilburg, Holland.
- Probeersel.com is no longer run just by René van Densen, we now have an actual staff:

**Owner / founder / main sponsor:** René van Densen

**Auditions contacts:** René van Densen – Sionnain Comeaux

**News / links / feedback / communications contacts:** René van Densen – Sionnain Comeaux

**Technical contacts:** René van Densen – Gregory Cathalina – Tom Geelen

- The T-shirts for a second T-shirt contest, starting once the current one is over, have been printed and were designed by Joep van Abeelen ('Retirement').
- Cats Satan and Damien (stars of "One Year In Satan's Purrgatory") both had their share of visits to the vet. Currently they're doing well.
- Gregory Cathalina ('God.inc') went into the hospital for a long time. Up to date it's still not completely certain what the problem is, but the doctors are getting very close to an answer. René van Densen took over God.inc for a while to keep up the daily production.
- Gregory Cathalina celebrated God.inc's first anniversary. Congratulations, Greg !
- Joep van Abeelen and René van Densen started a new daily comic called 'Worst Case Scenario' which will run exactly one year.
- Reason Why We Rule ([www.rwwr.com](http://www.rwwr.com))'s Personal Desktop Midget 'Ivan' literally ran out of the comic strip and roamed the Internet. He also paid Probeersel.com a visit, luckily leaving most of the site intact.
- Probeersel.com has received free advertising space in the first three issues of Inside The Lines, a new magazine for aspiring comic book creators of all ages. It's very much worth checking out, from what I've seen of it so far.
- René van Densen has done a guest comic 'Twee Kratjes Ambitie' for IT-bulletin 'de Brug'.

## 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...

- "1938 london first sports telecast"
- "2003 email addresses of fashion designers in spain"
- "aminated monkey images"
- "animal researcher born:1923"
- "artificial rock"
- "bandwith exceeded error page example"
- "a joke from the year 1933"
- "alligator attacks june 19 2003"
- "may/june 2003 email addresses of fisher men in denmark"
- "the story about colour"
- "toy invented carnegie mellon 1940"
- "real rene"

Probeersel.com's side-project Non Biblia Sacra is currently on hiatus. However, the work done will not go to waste, as there are definite plans to revive this ambitious project.

Sionnain Comeaux has begun an ambitious side-project If I Fell. Once it's finished, it will (probably) be hosted on Probeersel.com. Until then, she has a project site with information about its progress up at <http://ififell.port5.com/>



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### **T-shirt Competition**

In August 2002, Probeersel.com had 100 T-shirts printed to be given away through the site. Right now, there are 12 left, and the competition continues. The idea is that you send an email to [tshirt2002@probeersel.com](mailto: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/content.shtml?news19072002> to read more about it, and also see a short selection of some of the entries so far.

Once this competition ends, the next one's lined up. It will feature a new limited edition shirt, designed by Joep van Abeelen. Keep an eye out for it, because 12 remaining T-shirts may not last very long.

### **Expectations and Plans**

- Probeersel.com's Content Management System is still being developed. It will make it much easier for all the site's 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. In the light of complaints from Protagonist.nl, Probeersel.com's hosting company, we are also investigating whether PHPnuke may be a better suited solution.

-There are new comics underway; Sionnain Comeaux is working on 'If I Fell', and together with René van Densen is preparing a new comic 'Penguism'. René van Densen is making plans for a new chapter of 'The Artificial Real', and is still considering, at some point in the future, doing a 'The Making Of Probeersel' as a sort of sixth book in the Probeersel Graphic Novel Quintology.

-Once the CMS will be implemented, there will be slight changes in the site's design and navigation. We will try to keep them to a minimum, but expect them. We do hope that all changes will be considered improvements.

-The Non Biblia Sacra project, currently still on hiatus, might 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.

-The new Probeersel.com T-shirt competition will launch once the first one is over. There are 12 original T-shirts left of the first competition, after that there will be a whole new competition, with a different challenge, and awesome new T-shirts designed by Joep van Abeelen. Don't miss it (See 'T-shirt Competition').

-And finally, we expect, as usual, that there will be new comic artists joining, new comics coming up, new interesting things for our visitors and our artists, etc., etc.

### **Conclusion**

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

René van Densen, Tilburg, Holland, 1st of November 2003.