

As created on 5/1/04, 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 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. 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. In 2004, Béné van Gansbeke, Troy Titane and Patrick G. Smith joined the site, bringing the current total number of artists at 8. In August 2003 a staff was formed, one member of which wasn't mentioned in this list: Tom Geelen, technical staff. The site has been slowly but surely gaining a fanbase and increasing visitor traffic, and is here to stay.

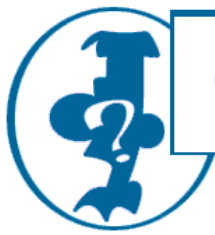
Traffic Report

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

November:	daily average of visits: 199	total: 5977
December:	daily average of visits: 233	total: 7246
January:	daily average of visits: 198	total: 6147
February:	daily average of visits: 226	total: 6566
March:	daily average of visits: 259	total: 8050
April:	daily average of visits: 217	total: 6534

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:

November:	daily average of pages: 728	total Kbytes that month: 1060147
December:	daily average of pages: 832	total Kbytes that month: 1201634
January:	daily average of pages: 523	total Kbytes that month: 865925
February:	daily average of pages: 639	total Kbytes that month: 1010896
March:	daily average of pages: 810	total Kbytes that month: 1260112
April:	daily average of pages: 669	total Kbytes that month: 1230117



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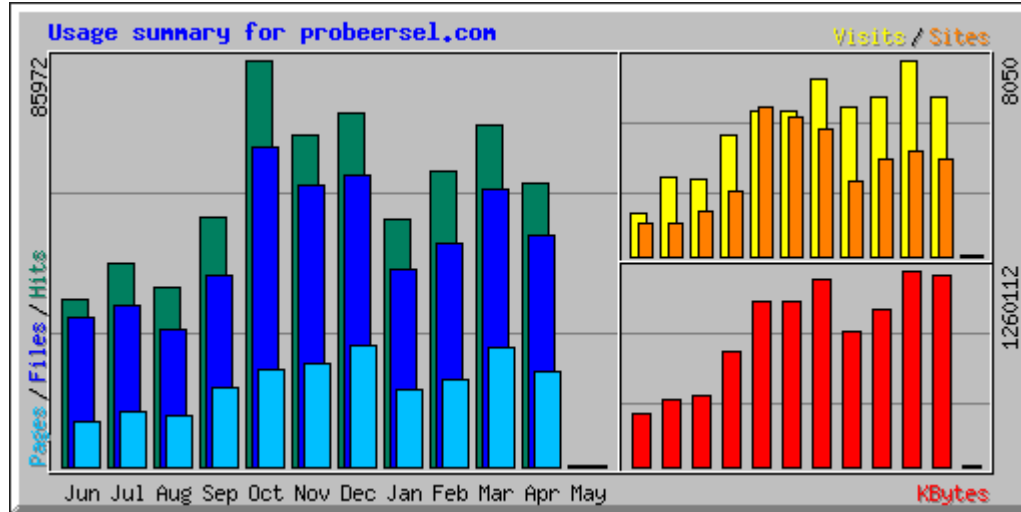
Countries

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
6	3421	3307	66886	Australia
6	2919	1541	27424	Austria
6	15298	12946	230036	Belgium
1	40	40	537	Belize
5	307	299	5162	Brazil
6	4418	3652	68208	Canada
1	74	61	801	Chile
1	66	34	296	Colombia
1	48	46	250	Czech Republic
4	402	391	7568	Denmark
1	132	132	3888	Dominican Republic
1	55	55	527	Egypt
4	453	225	2333	Estonia
6	2519	2483	43618	Finland
6	1476	1250	23540	France
6	2453	2268	50272	Germany
1	46	46	520	Hungary
2	447	304	8485	Iceland
1	51	51	690	Indonesia
1	195	189	4448	Ireland
3	786	714	18490	Israel
5	396	350	4204	Italy
2	78	63	3498	Japan
1	49	49	1373	Lithuania
1	71	54	634	Luxembourg
1	29	29	817	Malta
4	419	366	8347	Mexico
6	138064	98183	1554675	Netherlands
6	67245	51167	1243676	Network
4	338	333	7134	New Zealand (Aotearoa)
5	289	283	8260	Non-Profit Organization
4	419	411	9150	Norway
1	50	50	235	Old style Arpanet (arpa)
1	55	55	1661	Pakistan
1	89	89	809	Philippines
4	405	391	6124	Poland
5	539	943	15965	Portugal
1	134	127	3689	Romania
1	54	53	1136	Russian Federation
1	98	98	3568	Saudi Arabia
5	1884	1498	22531	Singapore
1	67	67	894	Spain
5	1231	1133	23168	Sweden
3	274	266	3004	Switzerland
3	185	153	1648	Turkey
6	7743	3135	89892	United Kingdom
5	700	669	10776	United States
6	37625	33006	749135	Unresolved/Unknown
6	90282	86103	2098844	US Commercial
6	5635	4874	115385	US Educational
6	488	465	22658	US Government
5	471	440	8978	US Military



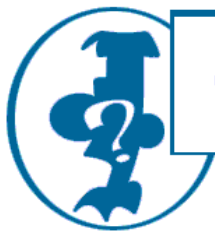
Graphical Chart Traffic



Current content

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

- **Autobiopsy**
A 24-Hour Comic, by René van Densen.
- **Even A Red-Haired Dude Could Be Lucky...**
A four page short story (with some nudity), by Bené van Gansbeke.
- **Experiment**
A one-page drawing style experiment, by Bené van Gansbeke.
- **God .inc**
A daily comic strip starring the Lord himself, by Gregory Cathalina (ended March 3, 2004).
- **Hermetic Reflections**
A philosophical two-page thought, by Bené van Gansbeke.
- **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 (on temporary hiatus).
- **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.
- **Penguism**
A weekly comic featuring a penguin in a pink tutu who used to be a human policeman and now goes to train the penguins to conquer the world, by Sionnain Comeaux & René van Densen (on temporary hiatus).
- **Prejudges**
A 12-Hour Comic, by Gregory Cathalina.
- **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 (on temporary hiatus).
- **Right In Front Of Me**
A valliant but failed 24 Hour Comic attempt which will be turned into a full story but is currently on temporary hiatus, by Sionnain Comeaux.



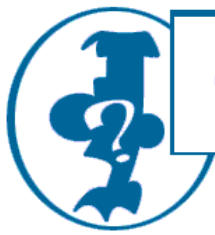
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- **The Artificial Real**
A series of several other short stories, currently containing 'Chalk' and 'Rock', both by René van Densen.
- **The Grim DotCom**
A weekly comic starring the adventures of the Grim Reaper who finds that what he loves doing 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 (on temporary hiatus).
- **Vice Versa**
A short story, 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.

Special Events of the past half year

- Probeersel.com was bullied off a few voting lists due to (untrue) claims of cheating, so all 'vote' links were removed.
- Artist Satan was in and out of touch, current whereabouts and status unknown. He promises he will return to continue the Macadamia comic strip.
- On SlashDot, in an interesting discussion about book piracy versus sharing free content online, Probeersel.com was mentioned as an example where the latter works well.
- The 'About' page for The Grim DotCom was redesigned.
- A damn big bug in the date format in our databases was discovered in the first week of 2004, and permanently fixed.
- Joep van Abeelen and René van Densen are currently over half of the one-year run of Worst Case Scenario.
- A poll is available on the temporary forum for The Grim DotCom where you can vote for your favourite character, and a thread is available for comments on the storyline-style. All comments will be taken into account and that way you may be able to influence this comic !
- A second T-shirt contest started once the current one was over on March 24th. Get your free Probeersel.com T-shirt today !
- A special 24 Hour Comic Day was organised on Probeersel.com. René van Densen, Gregory Cathalina, Sionnain Comeaux and melonpool.com's own Steve Troop all participated. It was a very interesting experience to all.
- Gregory Cathalina decided to stop the daily God.inc episodes after the 500th episode. A formidable achievement – well done, Greg, and we're eagerly anticipating your next project.
- Béné van Gansbeke joined the site.
- Troy Titane joined the site.
- Patrick G. Smith joined the site.
- Probeersel books 1 and 2 have been fully converted to a much smaller, userfriendlier and easier-to-read format. The other three books will follow as soon as possible.
- René van Densen did another guest comic on Reason Why We Rule (www.rwwr.com).
- Penguism crossed over with Worst Case Scenario on February 15th. Also, several comics had Christmas specials, New Years' specials, Valentine's Day specials, and Easter specials.
- probeersel.zzn.com mail service has been restored fully. Get your free email account today !
- A special Probeersel artists blog has been created on probeersel.blogspot.com where you can read behind-the-scenes stories, announcements and anecdotes !
- Sionnain Comeaux has met a huge bulk of personal problems lately which caused her, amongst many other things, to tone down her Probeersel.com activities for a while (but she will return again !)
- A short article about Probeersel.com was written on ComixPedia.com.
- René van Densen posted some comics in several of the weekly editions of Stripster.nl.



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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...

- "black bg"
- "afred nobel for kids"
- "arttrapped"
- "euro disney/nowadays"
- "black wallpaper 800x600"
- "comic strip pictures of 1931"
- "graham ingels original"
- "surf comics"
- "the terrible thunderlizzards"
- "vervreemding"
- "hi"
- "free online graphic rpg review"
- "rene 88"
- "satan mail"
- "van dutch shirts"
- "*.pic file reader"
- "facts about robins that live in a jungle"

T-shirt Competition

In August 2002, Probeersel.com had 100 T-shirts printed to be given away through the site. Recently, this competition ended, but we launched a new one already again, so you've got all new chances at winning a limited-edition, Probeersel.com T-shirt, and these new shirts are designed by Joep van Abeelen ! The idea is that you send an email to tshirt2003@probeersel.com in which you state your name, email-address and, and this is what can win you such a shirt, your ideas for the story of Joep's graphic novel concept, Retirement, where a God comes to earth and trains a homeless addict to be her replacement so she can retire. The most original and/or best ideas will be rewarded with these awesome T-shirts !

Check out <http://www.probeersel.com/content.shtml?news24042004> to read more about it.

Expectations and Plans

-The plans of converting the site to PHPNuke are cancelled. Instead, we're now waiting for the open-sourcing of Joey Manley's new site engine which he is developing for ModernTales and ComicsNation. As soon as that code is free to use, we will work hard to implement that instead of the current bug-filled and non-scalable site engine.

-There are new comics underway; Sionnain Comeaux is still working on 'If I Fell' and on the complete version of 'Right In Front Of Me', and together with René van Densen will resume the episodes of '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. He is also hoping to get his hands free to work on the first story in the Non Biblia Sacra project. Béné van Gansbeke is planning to experiment with his style more in the near future, and Patrick's graphic novel will soon be available to read on the site. Troy Titane was considering doing a third comic, this time in English. Gregory Cathalnina is working on two new comics but is keeping all information vague and nobody quite knows what to expect yet.

-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.