

Mistakes happen, right?

By Will Guyatt

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Perhaps it's time we all became a little bit more understanding and forgiving. After all - not everyone can have the same encyclopaedic knowledge of games as many of us super fans do.

Earlier this week you would think some kind of monstrous crime had occurred, as a single misplaced game cart in a seven-second set up shot on BBC1 threatened to derail an otherwise bang-on breakfast TV feature about the rise of retro gaming.



Lots of us love taking to social media to point out cock ups or just dunk on those making an error, but an erroneous 1980s 8-bit NES cartridge wedged into the slot of a SNES from the 1990s almost caused gamers to riot.

Among the tweets, accusations of the BBC disrespecting gamers and not taking the culture seriously mingled with suggestions that UKIE's CEO Nick Poole should have leapt cat-like off the cosy sofa to remove the cartridge himself midway through his three minutes of fame.

In the grand scheme of things, the Internet spent WAY more time discussing and considering the error than anybody involved in perpetuating it ever will.

Live TV is chaotic and fast moving - whoever set the display up probably got less than 30 seconds, ensuring they didn't trip over guests being moved in and out of the set, while the presenters were loudly relayed instructions about changes to the running order.

Even if Nick had spotted it after he had got comfy on the sofa, there was absolutely nothing he could do. But reality never stops the internet from having an opinion.

It's a shame that posters got so upset about the minor error rather than giving a bit of love and recognition to a great feature with brilliant appearances from both Nick from UKIE and the retro YouTuber TheGibs24 who did a fab job setting the scene and telling the story to a large mainstream audience.

Even if you believe TV is on its arse in 2025 - BBC Breakfast is still viewed by over 10m Brits a week - a huge chunk of which still wouldn't know their Sonic from their Sonic Blast Man.

I think I must be mellowing with age. Back in 2012, I spotted a clearly upside-down XBOX 360 under the TV of Eastenders (then) crack-smoking Phil Mitchell, and it sent me in a blind rage.

But, just like Phil Mitchell, we can change



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