Human Resource Machine

Tomorrow Corporation (2015)

A game about programming. Each stage asks you to write an assembly language program that directs an office worker (you) to manipulate blocks of data.





What works:

- Gentle progression.
- Each level is a simple programming challenge.
- Drag and drop code editor.
- Adjusting playback speed.
- Concreteness: data, program, character taking action, animation.
- Player represented as a character in the program, world, and story.
- Immersive world, story, characters, and music.
- Dialog.
- Optional optimization challenges (# instructions, steps)

I wish:

- Output was meaningful information, not random data
- Output could be personally meaningful.
- I could puppet the worker directly to specify action—we could close to this when indicating registers, as we point to the world.
- I could drag program counter.
- More robust time travel debugging. You can only rewind after the program fails. Pause needed.
- World reacts, previews with data and activity, program as I build it.
- Assembly is a liability and an asset.