



HOW

MINECRAFT

BECAME THE BIGGEST VIDEO GAME IN THE WORLD

A Minecraft Movie – the latest live-action adaptation of a video game and Hollywood's first proper stab at bringing it to life – opens in Singapore cinemas on April 3. The film was stuck in “development hell” for almost a decade, with numerous actors, directors, writers and film executives cycling through, including Steve Carell and Shawn Levy. Join The Straits Times’ correspondent **YAMINI CHINNUSWAMY** and executive artist **LEE YU HUI** on a walkthrough of the game’s pixellated and cubic terrain to find out why it got so popular

GAMEPLAY

■ Minecraft is a sandbox game

There is no specific end point

■ Players can choose from nine official block-like characters, such as Steve and Alex

■ The player decides the in-game itinerary, with activities such as crafting tools, brewing potions and exploring the environment

■ Players can play in Minecraft’s own proprietary “world”

■ Or in worlds created by other players
■ They can even create their own worlds

■ Every Minecraft world has three dimensions:

■ Overworld (the main playing area)
■ The Nether (a lava-filled underworld)
■ The End (a void-like space)

■ In most of Minecraft’s game modes, such as Survival mode, players must try to avoid hostile elements such as Creepers

Creepers, as their name suggests, creep up on players and explode, causing damage to their surroundings

■ Other hostile elements include piglins, zombies, skeletons and spiders

■ Minecraft’s biggest hostile element is the Ender Dragon, found in the End dimension

CREEPER

ZOMBIE

SKELETON

ENDER DRAGON

GAME OVER

STEVE

ALEX

Steve and Alex were the first and second characters introduced in-game, respectively – and they are also Minecraft’s most famous faces

COMMUNITY

■ Minecraft has had a dedicated fan community from the very beginning, which has become integral to the game experience

■ Over the years, players have created and shared a multitude of their own worlds (or servers), skins and modifications

■ The fan community includes tens of thousands of YouTube vloggers

■ The most popular among them, such as CaptainSparklez and EthosLab, have made careers out of being Minecraft fans, with millions following their every move

CAPTAIN SPARKLEZ
ETHOSLAB

MUSIC & AESTHETIC

■ Minecraft’s now-iconic art style has become its calling card

■ It is defined by simplicity, with block-like textures and pixelated artwork reminiscent of 1980s and 1990s video games, such as the original Super Mario Bros (1985) and Pac-Man (1980)

■ But video games are a multisensory experience, and from its early days, players have mined and crafted while immersed in melancholic ambient music

MILESTONES

2009 ALPHA BUILD RELEASED

2011

2014

2016

2020

2021

2023



■ Minecraft is created by Swedish game developer Markus “Notch” Persson, who cut his teeth at King

■ King is the Swedish mobile game company behind Candy Crush Saga, Bubble Witch Saga and more



Persson releases a public alpha build of Minecraft online in May 2009

■ Early adopters can pay a small fee in exchange for testing the game, and are promised free access to the full game upon its release

■ Minecraft quickly develops a following

■ 4,500 people turn up at the MineCon 2011 event in Las Vegas, United States

■ Minecraft 1.0.0, the first full version of the game, is released at this event



■ Tech giant Microsoft acquires Minecraft’s parent company, Mojang, for US\$2.5 billion

■ Minecraft: Education Edition is launched after teachers and educators around the world start using Minecraft in their classrooms to gamify lessons

■ Minecraft records 126 million monthly players

■ Total sales to date top 200 million



■ Minecraft content collectively amasses one trillion views on YouTube

■ Minecraft becomes the first game to sell

300 million copies

■ It is also the world’s best-selling video game, according to the Guinness World Records



A MINECRAFT MOVIE

■ Four misfits, including Garrett “The Garbage Man” Garrison (Jason Momoa), are accidentally transported into a block-like world full of cubic scenery and creatures

■ Expert crafter Steve (Jack Black, right) takes them on a quest around the Overworld to get them back home

■ But first, they must stop nefarious piglin forces from the Nether from destroying the Overworld

■ Though inspired by a video game, the film uses practical effects to replicate the colour-drenched, right-angled terrain of Minecraft

>40 real sets

>2,000 sq m artificial grass

26 extra-large trees

16 large square tree trunks

300 square flowers with stalks

30 square shrubs