In general thinking about our web/internet/interactive technologies, what does it take for these media to have soul? I find myself identifying things by noticing a lack of a soul. For the internet; sites that have copious amounts of advertisements I often feel are lacking of a soul. I feel like a website should be really personal and even hit an emotional nerve, something like the “Days with my father” site. I feel that more public sites either don’t feel like they have much of a soul, or that its soul is corrupted.

Is it different than the soul granted to other media that we admire? The easy answer is no. I get the same feeling from soulless television, soulless video games, and soulless books; that I do from soulless websites. There are forms of other media that are completely self serving and any emotion or authenticity feels forced or fake. It feels the same regardless of the form of media. Other forms of media that do have a strong soul are just as emotional and touching as websites; this is how Days with my Father can make a successful book. The soul is strong and it can be easily transferred into other media.
Or is soul an unmet potential? In terms of the web, I feel that soul is the intention of the website. Many sites have unmet potential, but I feel that very few of them actually have soul merely because their intension is to “sell out.” Something like “Facebook” which has unmet potential I personally don’t feel really has a soul. “Facebook” is entirely for self serving purposes, which makes it soulless.

Or... is it even necessary? I wouldn’t say it’s necessary for a form of media to have soul, but it helps. As stated before, I don’t feel that “Facebook” has a soul, but it’s still a famous, popular site. Many movies I feel don’t have souls, but are still received positively. I would actually argue that the general population actually prefers things without souls. Something with a soul makes you feel, and most people are reaching for media to escape their own feelings, the last thing they want is to feel more.

Side notes: I loved the “Days with my Father site,” It’s been a long time since I’ve seen a site that I feel truly has a soul. On the other hand, I didn’t really understand the point of the BLDGBLOG site. I found the information from the site interesting, but it wasn’t clear as to what or why that subject. I will say that some of the diagrams and ideas gave me some ideas for some of my own level design work.