When you hear the term “reality game,” do you think of a computer game like SimCity or a TV program like The Apprentice? But do these mirror real life? Can we make reality into a game and a game into reality? Yes, we can, and The Real Game Series offer just that - learning that is fun, creative, has relevance to the real world, and develops life skills!

The Real Game Series is a cooperative, experiential and safe platform from which students can:

- Discover personal skills and talents.
- Reinforce positive self-concept.
- Relate school experience to occupational choices and work roles.
- Explore the relationship between work and broader life roles.
- Be introduced to the concept of lifelong learning.

The Real Game Series programs result from an international partnership led in the U.S. by America’s Career Resource Network Association (ACRNA). For questions about getting The Real Game Series programs, contact Brenda Turner at Brenda.PTurner@state.or.us.

For questions about using The Real Game Series with Oregon CIS, contact Romella Lee at 541.346.2350 or rlee@orcis.uoregon.edu.

The resources provided on the Oregon CIS website at http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu/Real_Game_Resources.html assist teachers who are implementing one of The Real Game programs in the classroom to use CIS as an information resource, link the game to Oregon standards, and broaden the sessions in the game to address other career development needs.

The Real Game Series programs include:
- The Real Game (7th - 8th grade)
- The Be Real Game (9th - 10th grade)
- The Get Real Game (11th - 12th grade)

The POCI project provides links from units of the kits to CIS components and learning activities. We customized the games by creating Oregon-specific student folders for each kit and developing indexes between Real Game occupations and CIS. We also prepared special worksheets and handouts to support the Oregon modifications. Finally, we created crosswalks between Oregon’s Career Related Learning Standards and Career and Life Role Common Curriculum Goals and the games’ units.

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As we enter the new school year, CIS would like to welcome aboard our newest sites: Cascade Jr High, Clear Creek MS, Dexter McCarty MS, Falls City Elementary, French Prairie MS, Gordon Russell MS, Inavale School, LaGrande MS, Marcola Elementary, Mt Angel MS, Mt. Vernon MS, Pinehurst Elementary, Ron Russell MS, Seneca School, Toledo MS, Westside Village Magnet School, and Work Systems, Inc.

Portland Public School District is the most recent school district to go “Full Use” by delivering CIS to all of their middle schools and high schools. Welcome Cleveland HS, Franklin HS, Grant HS, Jefferson Campus, Joseph Meek Professional Technical, Lincoln HS, Madison HS, Marshall Campus, Metro Learning Center, Roosevelt Campus, Wilson HS, Beaumont MS, Binnsmead MS, DaVinci Arts, Fernwood MS, George MS, Gray MS, Gregory Heights MS, Hosford MS, Kellogg MS, Lane MS, Mt. Tabor MS, Ockley Green MS, Portsmouth MS, Sellwood MS, Sunnyside Environmental, Tubman MS, West Sylvan MS, and Winterhaven School.

New search options in CIS allow for alternate title search and full-text search. These can be especially useful for identifying connections between interests and occupations.

Take, for example, the word “fish.” If you type the word “fish” into the general search, seven occupations appear. These include Recreation Guides, Commercial Fishers, and Cannery and Frozen Food Workers.

The Display Alternate Title search displays related titles of the original seven “fish” occupations. A few examples of alternate titles are: Fishing Guides (for Recreation Guides), Crabbers (for Commercial Fishers), and Seafood Processors (for Cannery and Frozen Food Worker).
If you were unable to attend this year’s fall workshops, there are additional workshops planned for this winter and spring at the U of O Knight Library in Eugene. The next workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from noon to 4 p.m. Online pre-registration is required to ensure computer access. To register go to: http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu/workshops/OtherWorkshop

Educator Workshops
January 31, 2006 Noon – 4:00 p.m.
June 22, 2006, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Focus: Participants will receive hands-on experience with CIS and learn how CIS components are organized. You will also review and evaluate how the CIS portfolio, including curriculum and templates for individual student plans and profiles, can help you meet the state’s CAM and diploma requirements.

Agency and Business Workshop
March 9, 2006, 8:00 a.m.– Noon

Focus: Participants will receive hands-on experience with CIS and learn how CIS components are organized. You will also review and use CIS Exploration Tools, focusing on Occupation Sort and SKILLS Assessment.
Welcome New CIS Board Members

At its October meeting, the CIS Board elected four new members and re-elected two current board members. Each individual will bring to the board his or her own perspective, knowledge-base, and experience to help guide and set policy for CIS.

Those members who were re-elected for their 2nd 3-year term are Beth Landy, currently a Career Counselor at Lane Community College, and Linnell Rantapaa, who serves as a Literacy Specialist for Workforce Development at the Oregon Department of Corrections. This year, Beth will serve as the new Chair and Linnell is the new Vice Chair.

The newest board members elected for three-year terms are: Andrew Young, Counselor at Canby High School; Jackie Sandquist, Manager, Workforce Investment Act Programs, Portland Community College; Jeanne Yerkovich, Pathways Coordinator, Portland Public Schools; and Jennifer Satalino, Coordinator, Northwest Education Loan Association.

The CIS Board serves as a representative body of the CIS consortium, providing guidance, setting policy and advising the CIS director and staff. Each year nominations are sought for candidates to fill up to 20 seats on the CIS Board.

Customizing the Education Plan

As more schools use My Plan in CIS for Internet, teachers and counselors are developing unique approaches. If your school is using My Plan worksheets, you may want to consider incorporating your distinctive ideas, language, or curriculum.

You can request Microsoft Word versions of any of the worksheets from your User Services representative. Although your changes will not appear on the CIS website, you can copy and distribute your school’s worksheets in place of the generic ones in My Plan.