



The People's Guide to: [Computer games](#)

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You may have read the articles about the relatively new version of Monopoly, Weblo. Actually, there are few resemblances between Weblo and Monopoly, which is the best selling commercial board game in the world. Weblo doesn't have any get out of jail free cards or community chest and chance cards. I haven't seen a jail, yet either come to think of it. Rich Uncle Pennybags is no where to be found and oh, there are not even any dice. So what is this new version of Monopoly? When I first heard of it, I thought it was the cub scout group I hated when I was a kid, Weeblos.

I doubt if any Weeblos even play Weblo -- unless their daddies have greatly increased their allowances. The biggest difference between the real Monopoly and the new virtual version is that Monopoly uses those small, colored bills, while Weblo only uses greenbacks, real dollar bills. The folks at Weblo don't call the game monopoly at all. They say Weblo is a virtual world based on the real world. Well, I guess Monopoly was somewhat based on the real world, although I don't think people get as many chances in real life as they do in that game.

The Weblonians (that's what we call ourselves) earn real money by using online replicas of real cities, states, famous properties and internet domain names. That's straight off their webpage and its true, you pay real money (\$2) to register properties, say the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. (Don't try the White House, some one owns it already and is trying to sell it for \$10,000!) You get a deed for the property and a webpage which you are to fill with relevant and colorful content. The more attractive your page, the better as more people will visit your property and give it high ratings, which makes your property more valuable. More visitors also means you get higher dividends from Weblo who makes money from advertising on your properties and shares the profit with you.

As you can imagine, if a property is owned by a pretty woman like Beyonce and there are pictures or better yet, videos, of her in a bikini on the webpage, the property gets many more hits and is much more profitable than lets say, the National Cathedral or even the Supreme Court. I am trying out the recently-in-the-news model anchorwoman, Lauren Jones, and she has gotten ten times as many visitors than my favorite actor, Daniel Day Lewis. Owning the White House might be cool and you may get lots of visitors (I don't think a sexy picture of the current first lady will help, sorry) but its actually better to be the Mayor of Washington. Mayors get a slice of all the monies earned by each piece of property in their city. They also receive a cash reward for every new Weblonian who

registers in their city. That's right, the virtual Mayor of Washington gets money for every real citizen of Washington who registers in the game. The governors of states make even more money as governors receive a portion of all the money earned by each of the cities in the state. Simply put, its better to own cities and states instead of properties. Of course, cities and states do cost more. Most cities cost \$25 (in real dollars) and smaller states with few citizens cost \$100. Washington, DC is on sale for \$99,999. You can place a minimum bid at the Weblo Auction House on New Mexico for \$8,000. As you can see, this is high stakes real estate.