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Automatic Text Generators for Designers

INTRODUCTION

Practically since the introduction of the moveable type printing press, designers have been looking for text to put into their papers and manuscripts to design and adjust the layout for maximum impact. Rather than be distracted by real text, or fake text that just repeats one or two words over and over again, designers use “dummy text” to fill the space that will later be occupied by the actual content. This content was originally a series of Latin words, but has evolved into English, and some very specific topics of interest. This paper will look at just a few of the options for automatically generating text to assist with layout and design.

CLASSIC GENERATORS

Lorem Ipsum

The first text used to fill an available space appeared to be a random scramble of Latin words until researchers discovered it was actually based on “The Extremes of Good and Evil” by Cicero, written in 45 BC. The next two paragraphs show what the text looks like when generated from <http://www.lipsum.com> (Lorem Ipsum - All the facts - Lipsum generator).

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Microsoft Word

Microsoft Word™ also has an automatic text generator built into the software. Although not documented or widely known about, it is possible to generate text using the text “=rand()” as a new paragraph and hitting [ENTER] immediately following the closing parenthesis. The default amount of text is five paragraphs, but any number can be typed into the parenthesis. Numbers less than five will show that many paragraphs of text, while numbers over five will repeat the first five paragraphs to achieve the requested number of paragraphs. The sample below shows the results of typing “=rand(3)” (without the quotation marks) as a new blank paragraph.

Video provides a powerful way to help you prove your point. When you click Online Video, you can paste in the embed code for the video you want to add. You can also type a keyword to search online for the video that best fits your document.

To make your document look professionally produced, Word provides header, footer, cover page, and text box designs that complement each other. For example, you can add a matching cover page, header, and sidebar. Click Insert and then choose the elements you want from the different galleries.

Themes and styles also help keep your document coordinated. When you click Design and choose a new Theme, the pictures, charts, and SmartArt graphics change to match your new theme. When you apply styles, your headings change to match the new theme.

MODERN VARIATIONS

With the easy accessibility of web programming and design, more and more artists are collaborating on random text generators to suit their particular interests or needs. The following text generators are a small sampling of what is available to someone looking for dummy text to fill their design with real looking content.

Bacon Ipsum

This text generator is designed for the inner-carnivore in all of us. The words are real, and available at <http://baconipsum.com> (Nelson). He calls it a “Meatier Lorem Ipsum Generator.” Below are three paragraphs created by his generator.

Bacon ipsum dolor amet picanha boudin sausage shoulder spare ribs porchetta flank brisket ball tip cow chicken tongue kielbasa kevin ribeye. Pig doner flank spare ribs leberkas, fatback kevin. Pork jowl flank, meatloaf venison tongue jerky porchetta tri-tip rump. Biltong

pork salami capicola, chicken prosciutto pork belly venison chuck ham flank. Picanha beef ribs ham hock, corned beef short loin prosciutto short ribs ribeye.

Turducken t-bone beef ribs strip steak. Corned beef boudin flank drumstick biltong sausage pastrami cupim pork loin. Andouille leberkas pork chop boudin, biltong kevin strip steak tri-tip short ribs alcatra sirloin ground round ribeye beef. Boudin landjaeger venison tail cow. Beef sirloin salami pork loin, ball tip short ribs filet mignon hamburger shoulder brisket ribeye venison pastrami. Tail jerky pastrami meatball bresaola strip steak corned beef, prosciutto pork ham brisket ham hock pig fatback swine.

Chicken t-bone turducken shankle bacon. Sausage flank porchetta pork jerky, beef pastrami sirloin spare ribs ham filet mignon biltong kevin bresaola. Meatball spare ribs t-bone turducken, pork belly ground round landjaeger hamburger rump fatback brisket venison shank beef leberkas. Venison cow corned beef, porchetta fatback alcatra bresaola prosciutto shankle swine jowl kevin. Brisket turducken biltong, cupim pork chop andouille sausage. Shank pork chop tail venison, pig kevin flank jowl meatloaf turducken porchetta picanha spare ribs. Hamburger cupim jerky strip steak beef sausage shankle pork chop corned beef meatball.

Tuna Ipsum

This text generator is similar to Bacon ipsum, but with the focus on seafood rather than pasture animals. The premise is pretty similar, just a different focus for the dummy text. This site can be found at <http://tunaipsum.com> (Tuna Ipsum | A Fishier Lorem Ipsum Generator) and three paragraphs of text are shown below.

Blind goby splitfin sucker stingray summer flounder Redfin perch candlefish; Redfish bonefish houndshark nibbler? New Zealand smelt sand dab Quillfish sawfish javelin, wallago southern smelt seahorse airbreathing catfish: barreleye soldierfish yellowfin pike! Ilisha bream

albacore Australian grayling. Featherback grunt loach catfish Mexican blind cavefish long-finned pike, fangtooth gombessa, footballfish, buri airsac catfish livebearer, snailfish bottlenose summer flounder. Giant sea bass redtooth triggerfish Owens pupfish yellowfin surgeonfish-- harelip sucker, yellowmargin triggerfish trench creek chub sandroller tripletail electric catfish murray cod threadfin bream, "ribbonbearer," Redhorse sucker. Tidewater goby: sailbearer weatherfish dwarf gourami Chinook salmon largemouth bass.

Sandperch; limia smelt-whiting; arowana pelican eel snakehead madtom hamlet tube-eye gizzard shad sand eel, panga torrent fish rough pomfret, yellow bass. Thornfish pickerel cichlid pikehead monkeyface prickleback lake trout brook trout hawkfish blue danio slimy sculpin. European flounder southern Dolly Varden sawfish, "needlefish yellow jack cisco dwarf gourami," knifejaw wrasse.

False cat shark anglerfish sheatfish shrimpfish ide river stingray blue danio Bombay duck dwarf gourami albacore South American darter. Dealfish, three spot gourami inconnu herring smelt man-of-war fish, "tripod fish spinyfin pollock flat loach." Vimba, "jack parrotfish; scythe butterfish bullhead shark, bocaccio sand diver!" Flyingfish gulf menhaden butterflyfish elephant fish Redfin perch cepalin. Armoured catfish kelpfish opaleye sablefish, "mudfish roach woody sculpin," murray cod mail-cheeked fish. Codlet john dory tiger barb Pacific lamprey torrent fish snook, hussar mudminnow blue eye. Ghoul vendace rockweed gunnel beaked sandfish basslet, snoek slimehead gulper eel climbing catfish velvet catfish quillback spiny dwarf catfish blackchin.

Veggie Ipsum

For the vegetarian designers, there is also a text generator that will use only vegetables. The site automatically provides eight paragraphs of text full of the names of vegetables, allowing

the use to select as much or as little text as they need. The site is at <http://veggieipsum.com/> (PeopleDesign) and displays text that matches the next three paragraphs.

Veggies es bonus vobis, proinde vos postulo essum magis kohlrabi welsh onion daikon amaranth tatsoi tomatillo melon azuki bean garlic.

Gumbo beet greens corn soko endive gumbo gourd. Parsley shallot courgette tatsoi pea sprouts fava bean collard greens dandelion okra wakame tomato. Dandelion cucumber earthnut pea peanut soko zucchini.

Turnip greens yarrow ricebean rutabaga endive cauliflower sea lettuce kohlrabi amaranth water spinach avocado daikon napa cabbage asparagus winter purslane kale. Celery potato scallion desert raisin horseradish spinach carrot soko. Lotus root water spinach fennel kombu maize bamboo shoot green bean swiss chard seakale pumpkin onion chickpea gram corn pea. Brussels sprout coriander water chestnut gourd swiss chard wakame kohlrabi beetroot carrot watercress. Corn amaranth salsify bunya nuts nori azuki bean chickweed potato bell pepper artichoke.

Hipster ipsum

The final text generator examined in the paper is not food related, rather they describe themselves as “Artisanal filler text for your site or project.” The web address is <http://hipsum.co/> (Hipster Ipsum: Artisanal filler text for your site or project.), note there is no “m” on the end of the address. If you put the extra “m” on the address you will be taken to a site that tries to convince you your computer is infected and you need to download their software to remove the infection (at least that is what happened in the summer of 2016). To see an example of the type of text, take a look at the following three paragraphs of text.

Austin swag ramps, knausgaard pour-over vice craft beer pork belly kitsch. Whatever leggings you probably haven't heard of them small batch actually. Everyday carry lumbersexual mustache pitchfork pug, selvage cronut offal iPhone paleo quinoa kombucha bespoke meggings. Blue bottle tousled gentrify beard fingerstache. Tumblr typewriter salvia cornhole sriracha, mumblecore banjo man braid church-key paleo. Seitan kinfolk 3 wolf moon swag gentrify master cleanse. Gentrify chambray iPhone disrupt fap venmo, blue bottle cornhole forage.

Shoreditch +1 truffaut, franzen kale chips selvage paleo 8-bit ramps. Crucifix iPhone tilde, single-origin coffee humblebrag messenger bag kickstarter bitters keytar aesthetic cronut twee bushwick shoreditch. Chartreuse flexitarian everyday carry post-ironic, vegan mlkshk kombucha schlitz whatever neutra tilde kale chips. PBR&B bespoke ethical +1 chillwave direct trade, wolf mixtape church-key single-origin coffee selvage whatever bitters. YOLO drinking vinegar skateboard franzen, thundercats chartreuse pitchfork ethical normcore flannel mustache locavore. Scenester chillwave squid YOLO, neutra hammock bushwick art party locavore put a bird on it artisan meh XOXO typewriter. Humblebrag street art PBR&B VHS.

Twee quinoa chia, banh mi XOXO photo booth art party hoodie everyday carry hashtag chillwave heirloom semiotics gluten-free blog. Pickled +1 wayfarers biodiesel, irony disrupt church-key direct trade fanny pack. Yr YOLO authentic, pour-over 8-bit sriracha vegan cardigan deep v tumblr hammock street art man braid neutra cliché. VHS williamsburg portland paleo. Skateboard sartorial meh, williamsburg drinking vinegar pickled kinfolk photo booth +1 pinterest. Health goth single-origin coffee irony, tousled you probably haven't heard of them listicle actually scenester fixie pork belly. Tacos sriracha pickled tattooed heirloom vice direct trade, bicycle rights 3 wolf moon meggings locavore chicharrones

CONCLUSION

Many alternatives exist for generating text in a quantity and on a topic desired by most designers. The dummy text will eventually be replaced by real content, but for the designer's amusement while they wait for finished copy, they can fill their publications with many different types of text.

Works Cited

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