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## Playing webcomic favourites

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Like I once said, I'm not the be-all and know-all of webcomics and alternative comics. I'm just a big fan that's lucky enough to share my knowledge of certain comics to two specific audiences: those who have an interest in many forms of entertainment and aspiring illustrators and animators. But being a fan of webcomics, does mean that I have a favourite one to read? Surely there's one specific comic on "the interwebs" that I truly admire among the 70-or-so ones that I know and have read.

Oddly enough, picking a webcomic as my favourite is a hard task. It's almost like asking someone what their favourite movie is; there's a good chance he or she can't narrow it down to one.

But just for you folks, I've narrowed it down to at least three webcomics; with the last one I'll mention being the best of the crop. For the majority of those who read a few webcomics, one of these three you'll definitely know. The other two, you might not know about (both being on hiatus indefinitely).

It may be odd how some of my most favourite ones are comics that haven't been updated in the past couple of years, but I guess that's what the beauty of these comics are — works with the most potential are works that people almost never forget.

Fred Gallagher and Rodney Caston are known to be two of the "original six," which is an inaccurate number for such, of webcomic artists during its emerging years as a phenomenon. As a small request from Caston, he asked Gallagher if he wanted to use a domain URL that Caston had sitting around with no real purpose.

Originally a four-panel comic of a non-linear plot between two geeks, with one being an anime fanatic, and the other as a hardcore gamer, it led to critical popularity among regular web surfers.

After seven years, Megatokyo ([www.megatokyo.com](http://www.megatokyo.com)), now written solely by Gallagher, has published over a thousand pages of comics online, a strong collection of side-stories.

Another of my favourites is one I've mentioned before done by Nina Matsumoto, an artist whom I know more as her pen-name, "space coyote." Saturnalia (<http://www.spacecoyote.com/comics/sat/>), one of her first big projects, was a webcomic that revolved around a sci-fi universe where the characters and setting were named based upon computer terminology. It starred Sysreq, a police officer in the city of Geocities, falling in between a world of android-freedom activists and the human-dominant world.

Although her comic is currently on hiatus — and isn't one of her own favourite projects — she currently has commission projects with Matt Groening's Bongo Comics (a comic company that she knows all too

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well) and is working on her first original comic Yokaiden, with a style based on old Japanese paintings and prints.

I guess my most favourite comic is Fallen ([www.fallencomic.com](http://www.fallencomic.com)) by Yuko Ota, another currently-on-hiatus comic. I've always been a huge fan of her comic and her art style, and the concept for her characters were cleverly played out.

Having an academic background in animation has helped her become a top-notch artist. From my understanding, Ota has a large library of characters in her mind, each designed intricately and distinct from each other, which is easily visible in her comic themed off of Norse gods and modern-day corruption.

You readers might see something a bit surprising about these comics: they're all heavily manga-influenced. As I've once mentioned, I'm not so big on Japanese anime and manga, but I enjoy webcomics of many forms, including some of those drawn like the manga-kas of the East.

These comics aren't my favourite because I'm a closet anime freak/fanboy (not that there's anything wrong with that), but because I see these comics as the highest of quality based on many of the things I enjoy in a lot of entertainment: a clever method of art and style, writing and characters that react well to each other in a justified fashion.

There's something I might need to tell you (or remind you). This top-three list may or may not change in the weeks to come. It usually does. Thought you might want to know.