Unity & VR Best Practices

A long-winded discussion-lecture where I talk a lot and maybe someone learns something but probably not.

~By Victor Mouschovias~
Who am I?

- 24601
- GameBuilders Chair
- Future Psyonix Dev!
Why are we here?

- Unity encourages *really friggin’ awful* solutions to problems.
- People are super good at making super bad VR.
- Nobody reads the Oculus Best Practices Guide :’(
Friggin’ Awful Solutions

Steve is a Minecraft character. He is making a 3D puzzle game in Unity. His game has one scene with a single puzzle. When players solve the puzzle, Steve wants to play some special effects baked into the environment (stars twinkle, confetti cannons erupt, etc.).

Steve has a PuzzleScript that handles all puzzle logic, including checking for the victory condition.

Steve is a computer science student, but he’s already paid an art student to make all of his effects. How can Steve accomplish his goal?
Friggin’ Awful Solutions

Steve is still a Minecraft character. Now he wants to add 10 more scenes, each with the same puzzle and *PuzzleScript*. Each scene requires its own, unique victory effects.

How can Steve trigger each of these effects from one universal script?!?
Our Hero: Event-Based Programming

- A programming paradigm where functions are called by *event managers* in response to events.
- Very common in mobile & web development
- Unity has some “rigid” events
  - OnCollisionEnter
  - Start
  - Update
We need a more Flexible Structure!

What we want:

PuzzleScript \(\rightarrow\) Triggers Event \(\rightarrow\) Wizard \(\rightarrow\) Executes Function \(\rightarrow\) EnvironmentScript

What we have:

```
delegate int SomeDelegate(int x);
```
Delegates

- “Points” to a certain type of function.
- Can be assigned like any variable.
- Can “remotely” call a function.

```csharp
delegate void MyDelegate ();

void iWantToBeCalled() {
    // Awesome stuff.
}

MyDelegate deleg = new MyDelegate(iWantToBeCalled);
deleg();
```
The Callback Machine

- We can do better than storing a single function to callback...
The Callback Machine

Register Listener

- Args:
  - EventName (String)
  - Callback (Delegate)
- Place delegate in the dictionary under “EventName”

Trigger Event

- Arg:
  - EventName (String)
- Iterate through “EventName” entry and call each delegate.
  - How could we add argument support?
That’s not all, Folks!

We’ve just solved a surprising amount of problems…

● Non-Blocking control flow
● Too many Singletons
● Need for Global Data
● Messy code
Other Dangers

● “Fluid” Component Structures
  ○ Strict class hierarchies have their benefits.

● Loading resources as needed, dynamic resolutions
  ○ Resources.Load, GameObject.Find, etc.

● Using basic Unity for *everything*
  ○ Right tool for the right job.

● Networking
Let’s Talk “Bad” VR
Let’s Talk “bad” VR

● High Production Value != Good Design
  ○ Testing is expensive!
  ○ Testers usually don’t identify issues directly.

● We need to make better designs...
Minimizing Latency

- FPS can’t drop *no matter what*.
- Games with sandbox elements might have some issues...
Accelerations

- Vection, vestibular system, blah blah blah.
- Easy to forget about:
  - Rotations
  - Teleportation effects
  - Preparing users for motion
    - More on this soon
Accelerations, Field of View

- The less they see, the less they feel!
- **Very, very, very** useful to provide constant frame of reference.
- Users may have to move their head more, so watch out.
Accelerations, Movement

- Movement in-line with the viewing direction is optimal.
- Preparing the body for movement goes a long way...
Third-Person Cameras

- Subject to the same accelerations issues as first-person.
  - Camera swings!
- We lose some Field of View control.
- We can decouple camera and avatar movement!
  - Flight sims can benefit from this!
User Interface

- Part of the 3D world.
  - NOT RIGIDLY ATTACHED TO USER’S HEAD! >:(
- Sits 2-3 meters in front of eyes.
- Doesn’t require eye-swivels.
  - Put UI in middle ⅓ of viewing area.
  - Or allow head movements to examine UI features.
Other Stuff

- Sound cues
- Content
  - Don’t rely on stereoscopic vision
- Altitude
  - “Visual flow” of pixels
Questions? How are your projects going?