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Game Design and Development for iPhone OS Part One

Graeme Devine iPhone Game Technologies

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iPhone OS

Incredible platform for game development







Technologies















Games Are Pretty Popular

50,000

Game and Entertainment Titles on App Store



Game Design

• Why are we here talking to you today?

Game Design

• Our platform is unique and in this session we will explore how to take advantage of that uniqueness

Agenda Part one

- Making games for the platform
- The golden number is 30 fps
- User interface
- Managing the asset pipeline
- Controls



Agenda Part two

- A walk down our graphic pipeline
- Check in with the art department
- One dozen things we learnt





Two months of work Three programmers One artist iPod Touch iPad iPhone

















Demo Quest

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Making Games for the Platform

Not just one platform anymore



Making Games for the Platform





- RPG
- Real time 3D world
- Rich environment
- Touching the world



- UI overlay
- Initial touch design



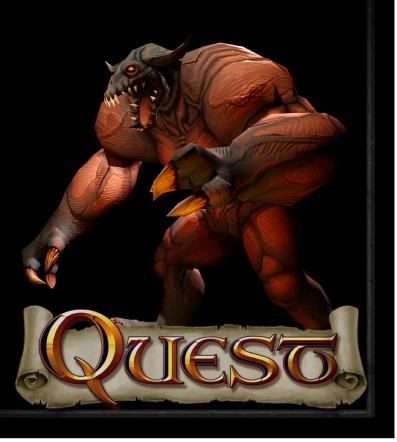
- iPad!
- Data driven content



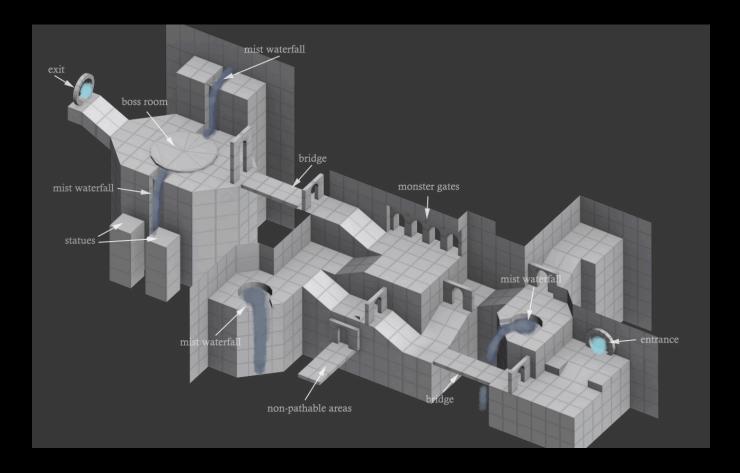
- AVFoundation and OpenAL
- Sounds makes the world real

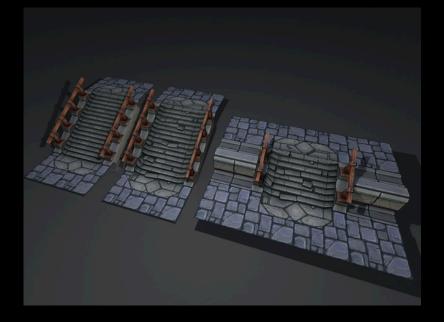


- Game Center
 - Leaderboards
 - Achievements
 - Networking











Quest Team Approach

• Scoping our prototype



Quest Team Approach

- Game design document
- Approach design as work, assign priority
- Feature creep



A Quick Note About 30 FPS

Use Apple Technologies



UIKit



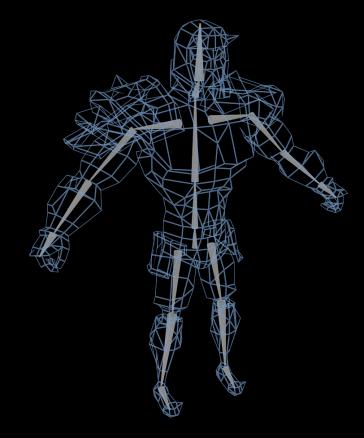


Core Animation



OpenGL ES 2.0





HTTP

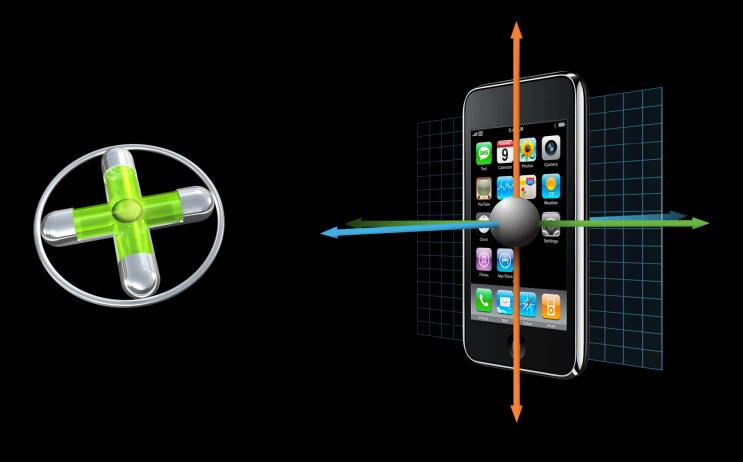






[[[AVAudioPlayer alloc] initWithContentsOfURL:url error:&err] play];

Accelerometer



Game Center





User Interface

Helen Ma iPhone Game Technologies

User Interface and Games

- Apple is passionate about UI
- Games are about creating experiences
- UIKit can help you create great UI
- Works beautifully with other Apple technologies



Your Finger Is Not a Mouse Button

Leave the desktop where it belongs

- Desktop metaphor does not translate well to mobile devices
- New metaphors are now possible with multitouch and core motion
- Still early days



"Through a Looking Glass"

- Great for games
- Direct interaction with objects in your game
- It's FUN!



Extending the Metaphor Contextual controls

- Visible only when needed
- Easily discoverable
- Intuitive to use



Maintaining the Illusion

- Direct manipulation is key
- 30 fps
- Avoid abstractions



Demo

Jeff Ruediger iPhone Game Technologies



I Can't Believe It's UIKit

- Countless hours of engineering and QA
- Far easier than rolling your own
- Huge amount of functionality "for free"
- Takes full advantage of CoreAnimation
- Bottom line—less code for you to write and debug!

Character Info Sheet Spin Animation Simple use of CoreAnimation

[UIView beginAnimations:@"Spin" context:NULL]; [UIView setAnimationDuration:duration];

CGAffineTransform rotate = CGAffineTransformMakeRotation(-1.3); CGAffineTransform scale = CGAffineTransformMakeScale(0.01, 0.01); self.view.transform = CGAffineTransformConcat(scale, rotate);

[UIView commitAnimations];

Anatomy of the Minimap

Not your average UIScrollView



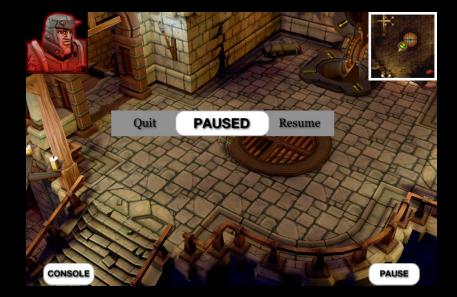
Anatomy of the Minimap Not your average UIScrollView



Programmer's UI

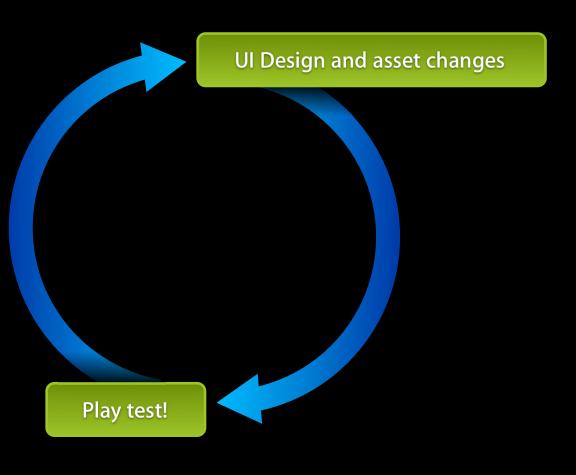
Window dressing does not make a good UI

- "First thing that comes to mind"
- Tends to be needlessly complicated
- Think about UI from the beginning
- Make UI an integral part of development



Rapid Iteration

- Data driven UI
- Wi-fi asset loading



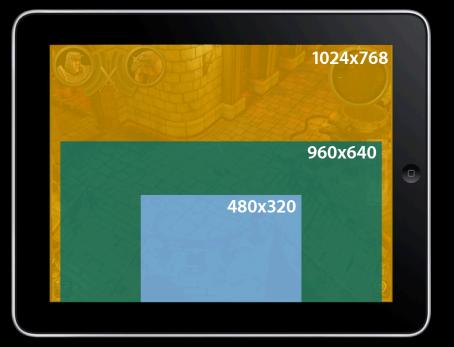
Data Driven UI

- Code reuse
- Easy experimentation with layouts and resolutions
- Non-programmers can tweak UI



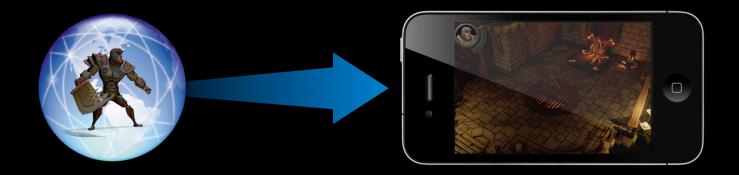
Size Does Matter

- Targeting multiple devices
- Simple scaling is not ideal
- Taking full advantage => happy users



Wi-fi Loading

- No work for you to change assets
- Easy to set up
- Artists and designers will love you for this!



Don't Forget

- UIKit is great for your games, use it!
- Rapid iteration is essential for great user experience
- Don't forget to turn OFF wi-fi loading and console before you ship!

Making Quest

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The Game Designers Nitty Gritty Game design on iPhone













- Watch people
- Play it yourself
- Do this all the time





- One second is a long time
- Load the assets you need interactively with the player
- Optimize load times
- Playing again and again and again



While You Were Running

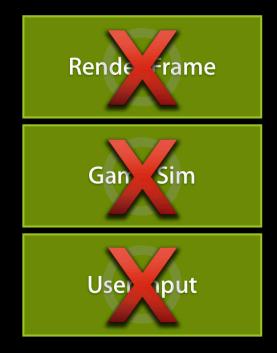
Anything can happen at any time

- Backgrounded
- Phone call
- Home button pressed
- SMS message

• The way games work

Render Frame Game Sim User Input

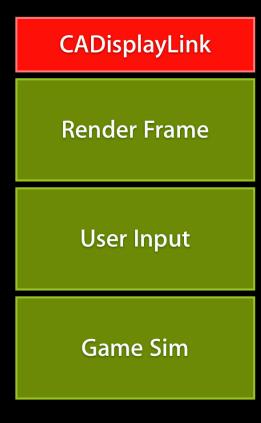
• But do it the RIGHT way



• The way games work

Render Frame Game Sim User Input

CADisplayLink



After the Break

- OpenGL ES 2.0 rendering
- Artist's perspective
- The dozen things you must do

