CompSci 4
Alice – Chap 2 – Sec 1
Jan 20, 2009

Announcements

- Checkoffs from Chap 1
- Read Chap 2, Sec 2 for next time
- Reading Quiz due

Prof. Susan Rodger

Top 10 List – Surviving CompSci 4

10. Ask Questions
9. Read the Book
8. Visit your professor in her office
7. Learn how to spell Rodger
6. Keep working until it is correct

Top 10 List (cont)

5. Read the Compsci 4 bulletin board
4. Attend class – Be on time!
3. Start Alice assignments early
2. Seek help when stuck (1 hour rule)
1. Keep number for Randy’s Pizza handy
Animation Programs: Scenarios and Storyboards

• 2-step process for creating animations
  – Step 1: Design (today)
  – Step 2: Implementation (next time)

Step 1: Design

• Decide on problem to be solved
  – Often problem is given to you, by instructor or boss
  – Other times, you make it up!
  – We will do both
• Design a solution
  – Use a storyboard design

Example Problem (scenario)

• The scenario is:
  A robot has landed on the moon and is out looking around. Suddenly an alien peeks out. The robot turns his head to look and walks over and the alien hides. The robot turns to look at the camera and says, “Houston, we have a problem!”
• The problem is:
  How can we create this animation?

Designing a Solution

• First decide on objects for the scene
• Then, create a storyboard
  – A list of actions
• A storyboard can take two forms
  – Sketches
  – Textual “to do” list
Objects in the scene

- Objects: robot, alien, lunar lander, rocks
- Opening scene: a moon scene
- A quick sketch:

  - Don’t have to be an artist!

Storyboard Template

- Scene number
- Scene sketch (picture)
- Description
- Sound
- Text

A Storyboard

Initial scene

Alien appears

Robot turns and moves forward

List of objects: Space ship, robot, rock, alien

Storyboard in Text form

- Animation artists (Disney or Pixar) sketch their storyboards
- You may not have such expertise, so can also use a textual form

  Alien pops up and makes noise.
  Robot turns head and moves toward alien.
  Alien drops back behind rock.
  Robot faces camera, turns red and says “Houston we have a problem!”

  Like a “to do” list
How does Pixar make movies?

1. A Story Idea is Pitched
   A Pixar employee pitches his or her idea to other members of the development team in a way that’s reminiscent of a story. The next challenge is to get the audience to believe in the idea and see the possibilities in it.

From Pixar website

Storyboard example
Princess and Knight story

- The princess and Knight live in a world where they are in a constant battle.
- The princess attacks the prince, who jumps up and does a flip.
- The prince lands back down.
- The princess and Knight live in a world where they are in a constant battle.

From Pixar website

Storyboard –princess/knight (cont)

- Also list all objects in story in a list format

From Pixar website
Example 2 – Storyboard, artist

• You don’t have to be artist, stick people ok

Camera Control

• Remembering a Camera Position
  – May move the camera, then want to move it back
  – May want to remember a good camera position
• Use a Dummy Camera Marker
  – ALWAYS save original camera position
  – See handout

Today’s class and assignment

• Finish work from last class
  – Get checked off
• Write two storyboards and camera control exercise
  – Use storyboard sheets
  – Get checked off
  – MUST FINISH AS HOMEWORK if don’t complete in class
• For next time
  – Read Chapter 2, section 2, and tips and tech 2
  – Reading quiz before next class