Creating an Augmented Reality Training Simulation for the National Bureau of Standards Reactor using Unity and the Microsoft Hololens

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Introduction

- The NCNR hosts the National Bureau of Standards Reactor
- A 20 MW Nuclear Reactor used for research
- Operators must be vigorously trained
- Current training in classroom with occasional exercises





Project Goals

- Create an effective and interactive NSBR training simulator
 - Accurate to the reactor
 - Perform well technically
- Be able to test hypothetical scenarios such as emergency situations
- Be able to update the virtual console
- Portable and easy to access





Technology Used*

- Unity Game Engine with scripting in C#
 - Interface to create and interact with virtual objects on many platforms
- Microsoft HoloLens 2.0
 - AR/Holograms give interactive interface
 - All interactions done with voice, hand and eye gestures







Virtual Reactor Components

- System uses 84 switches, 10 recorders, and 8 screens/displays
- Modelled in various 3D softwares
- Annunciators shown on panel







Component Programming

- GameObjects handled by Unity
- Displays simulated by Chart/Graph Software for Unity
- Interaction of each button/switch updates a value in CSV database to manage states







Programming the Simulation

- Used Microsoft Mixed Reality
 Toolkit API
- CSV Files and C# Dictionaries are used to map switches/buttons to functions & display
- Mapping matrix controls interaction results
 - Each switch mapped to a perturbation



Educational Use

- Switch Instructions/Info
- Procedure Steps Listed/Timed
- Generates Report
 - Total Time
 - Total Mistakes
 - Switch/Annunciator Error
 Percentages





Operator Interaction

- Scenarios consist of:
 - Startup procedure
 - Fire on Console
 - SCRAM Procedure
 - Free Access
- Realtime reactor values are taken from a server to feed into simulation
- 1:1 Scale with Physical Movement





Personal Work

- Legacy Project Starting from 2017/18
- Contributing work on:
 - New Models
 - Better UI
 - Bug Fixes
 - Code Organization







Future Work

- Bug Fixing
- More user friendly interface
- Higher Efficiency
- Ports to other platforms (VR or PC)





Acknowledgements

- Dr. Dagistan Sahin
- Alec Felix & Hamna Asif
- Omar Cavazos
- Kirill Stakhovsky
- CHRNS
- Internship Directors Julie Borchers & Joe Dura



Thank you. Questions?

