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JUDUL: 3D VISUALIZATION FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER

SESI PENGAJIAN: 2005

Saya MEJUWINER RIMUS
(HURUF BESAR)

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Alamat tetap : 51, DRIVE 18, REJANG PARK,
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Tarikh : 23/11/2005

NORAZLIN BT. MOHAMMED
Nama Penyelia
Tarikh : 23/11/2005

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3D VISUALIZATION FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER

MEJUWINER RIMUS

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Bachelor of
Information and Communication Technology (Interactive Media)

FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
2005

DECLARATION

I hereby declared that this project report entitled

3D VISUALIZATION FOR TSUNAMI DISASTER

is written by me and is my own effort and that no part has been plagiarized

without citations.

STUDENT:  Date: 28/11/2005
(MEJUWINER RIMUS)

SUPERVISOR:  Date: 23/11/05
(NORAZLIN BT. MOHAMAD)

NORAZLIN BT. MOHAMMED
Pensyarah
Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi
Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia
Karung Berkunci 1200
Ayer Keroh, 75450 Melaka

DEDICATION

To my beloved father Robertson Rimus

To my beloved mother, Josephine Pon Martin

To my beloved brother Donny and Raymond, Stanis, paul and Simon

Finally to my sister Catherine, Morton and Eva

Your strength and loves are incredible inspiration to me.....

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ABSTRACT

This project is about the visualization for tsunami disaster. It will be developed with the combination of 2D and 3D techniques. However, 75% of its content will be 3D visualization to visualize how tsunami occurs beneath the sea. Another 20% will consist of 2D animation to visualize the level of earthquake at different level measured in Richter scale. Finally the other 5% left will conclude a photo gallery and a few amateur footages during tsunami disaster. Most of the content is developed using 3D modeling techniques and tools especially 3D MAX studio and some plug-ins to support some visual effects. The water particle system will be the focus to consider during the development. This part will be rendered in 3D movie format. The 2D paths will be developed using Flash Professional Edition, especially to design the interfaces, creating buttons and the animation. The photo gallery will consist of the photos taken during the disaster. The development of this application will contribute to the educational purposed and to make the public know how tsunami happened by using the 3D and 2D techniques approach. The focus will be on 3D element because of the advantages of this techniques comparing to 2D techniques. It provides a few interactions with the user, whereas the user has to select an appropriate button to view their selection. The content is based on the data of the latest tsunami phenomenon that occurs last year in Sumatra. The application will be probably easier to use and will be away from the traffic problem that usually occurs on network and the problem related to resolution the size of the 3D files. It will come out with an interactive interface designed in Flash environment and have the element for a user- friendly designed.

ABSTRAK

Projek yang dibangunkan ini adalah sebuah CD yang mengandungi visual pembentukan tsunami dalam 3Dimensi. Sedikit elemen 2Dimensi turut dimasukkan untuk membantu menjelaskan tentang pembentukan tsunami. Ia juga memberikan sedikit maklumat tentang skema pembentukan, sejarah bencana alam ini dan tanda-tanda awal pembentukan tsunami serta langkah-langkah keselamatan yang perlu diambil untuk keselamatan. Selain itu, visual ini turut mengandungi sedikit koleksi gambar-gambar yang diambil semasa tsunami seperti perbezaan bentuk muka bumi sebelum pembentukan tsunami dan bentuk muka bumi selepas pembentukan tsunami serta merangkumi gambar gambar semasa tsunami pada lewat 6^{hb} Disember tahun lepas. Visual ini akan dapat memberikan gambaran dan meningkatkan pemahaman orang ramai tentang pembentukan tsunami dan punca-punca pembentukan yang mungkin sukar untuk digambarkan secara “live”, kerana ianya berlaku di dasar lautan dan lapisan dalam bumi. Dalam penghasilan visual ini, elemen yang dikaji ialah kajian berkenaan pembentukan ombak dalam dimensi 3D. Selain itu, visual ini mengandungi butang-butang interaksi asas seperti untuk memulakan visual, memberhentikan visual, mengaktifkan bunyi serta interaksi butang untuk pergi ke antaramuka yang lain. Secara keseluruhannya, projek ini dapat dibahagikan kepada tiga bahagian utama iaitu, info berkenaan tsunami, visual pembentukan tsunami dan galeri gambar. Bahagian utama adalah visual tsunami yang memaparkan visual pembentukan tsunami yang perpunca daripada ledakan gunung berapi dasar laut dan gelinciran kerak bumi dasar laut akibat gempa bumi. Platform akhir yang digunakan untuk menggabungkan elemen-elemen multimedia dalam projek ini ialah Flash Professional 2004. Penghasilan visual dibangunkan menggunakan 3D Studio Max dan Adobe Premiere.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	SUBJECT	PAGE
CHAPTER II	LITERATUR EREVIEW AND PROJEC METHODOLOGY	
2.1	Introduction	10
2.2	Facts and Findings	11
2.2.1	The Water Simulation	11
2.2.2	The Types of Water Visual Effects	14
2.2.3	The Elements of Water Visual Effects	18
2.2.4	Component to Generate Realistic Water	20
2.2.5	Current softwares and plug-ins to Model Water	21
2.2.6	Ways to Speed Rendering in the view port	26
2.2.7	Previous Tsunami Visualization Model	28
2.2.8	The Power of Visualization Techniques	33
2.3	Project Methodology	34
2.4	Project Requirement	39
2.4.1	Software Requirement	39
2.4.2	Hardware Requirement	40
2.4.3	Other Requirement	41
2.5	Project Schedule and Milestone	42
2.6	Conclusion	44

CHAPTER III	ANALYSIS	
3.1	Introduction	45
3.2	Problem Analysis	46
3.3	Need Assessment	48
3.4	Requirement Analysis	51
	3.4.1 Functional Requirement	51
3.5	Resources	52
	3.5.1 Software Requirement	52
	3.5.2 Hardware Requirement	54
3.6	Delivery Platform	57
3.7	Conclusion	58
CHAPTER IV	DESIGN	
4.1	Introduction	59
4.2	Raw Data	60
4.3	Project Flow	65
4.4	Preliminary Design	67
	4.4.1 Storyboard Design	67
4.5	User Interface Design	82
	4.5.1 Navigation Design	82
	4.5.2 Input Design	85
	4.5.3 Output Design	86
4.6	Conclusion	88
CHAPTER V	IMPLEMENTATION	
5.1	Introduction	89
5.2	Production and Implementation	90
	5.2.1 Production of Texts	90
	5.2.2 Production of Graphics	93
	5.2.2.1 2-Dimensional Graphics	93
	5.2.2.2 3-Dimensional Graphics	93

5.2.3	Production of Audio	96
5.2.4	Production of Video	99
5.2.5	Production of Animation	100
5.2.5.1	Scripting Techniques	100
5.2.5.2	Key Framing Techniques	100
5.2.6	Process of Integrations	101
5.3	Implementation Status	104
5.4	Conclusion	107
CHAPTER VI	TESTING	
6.1	Introduction	108
6.2	Integration and System Testing	109
6.2.1	Alpha Testing	110
6.2.2	Beta Testing	111
6.3	Result of Testing	121
6.4	Conclusion	122
CHAPTER VII	CONCLUSION	
7.1	Observation on Weakness and Strength	123
7.2	Proposition For Improvements	124
7.3	Contributions	124
7.4	Conclusion	125
REFERENCES		126
BIBLIOGRAFI		128
APPENDICES		129

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
1.0	Types of Visual Effects	14
2.0	The Elements of Water Visual Effect	18
3.0	Components to Generate Realistic Water	20
4.0	Current Software Used To Model Water/Oceans	21
5.0	The Features of Splash and Seascape Plug-In	24
6.0	Ways to Help Rendering Speed in the View Ports	26
7.0	Information about the Previous Tsunami Models	28
8.0	A Comparison between Surface Graphic And Volume Graphic	32
9.0	A Brief Software Specification	39
10.0	PSM 1 Milestones	42
11.0	PSM 11 Milestones	48
12.0	Tools and Methods to Assess Information	52
13.0	Softwares To Develop The 3D Tsunami Visualization	53
14.0	Software Requirements for Documentation for the Project	54
15.0	Hardware Requirements	60
16.0	Raw Of Data Used To Develop Tsunami Visualization	62
17.0	Earthquake Magnitude Scale	63
18.0	Earthquake Magnitude Classes	64

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
19.0	The Specification for the Output Design	73
20.0	Static Text Application Attributes	92
21.0	The Specification of the Process Involves Before Integrated	101
22.0	Implementation Status	104
23.0	System Testing Schedule	111
24.0	User Acceptance Test Form	115
25.0	The Result of Testing	121

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
1.0	The Project Methodology	35
2.0	The Basic Requirements for 3d Studio Max7.0	40
3.0	The Source of Tsunami Information	49
4.0	Preferable Techniques to Visualize Tsunami	50
5.0	The Flow of the Visualization for Tsunami Disaster	66
6.0	The Navigation Design for Tsunami Visualization Project	69
7.0	The Input Design	71
8.0	The Example of Animated Text Buttons	91
9.0	The Dynamic Txt with Scroll Component	91
10.0	The 3d Wave and Tectonic Plates	94
11.0	The Scene for the Coast	94
12.0	Water Depth, the Colliding Of the Plates	95
13.0	The Process of Editing and Combining Audio Files in Sound Application	96
14.0	The General Info for the Audio Editing In Sound Forge	97
15.0	The Format of the Audio Files Applied In Sound Forge 6.0	98
16.0	The Environment for Movie Editing In Premiere 6.0 Adobe Platform	99
17.0	2D Animation Output Using Scripting Language	100
18.0	Key Framing in 2d Software	100
19.0	Key Framing Techniques in 3d Max	100
20.0	The Flow on Integration Process	103
21.0	User Acceptance Testing	109

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT	TITLE	PAGE
1.0	Example of Tsunami Explanation	129
2.0	Example of 3d Modeling on CD-ROM	131
3.0	Example of Seascape and Splash Application	132
4.0	Example of Suitable References Books	134
5.0	Gantt Chart for PSM11	135

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MPEG	Motion Pictures Experts Group
JPEG	Joint Photographic Experts Group
DNT	Digital Nature tools
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
3D	3 Dimensional
2D	2 Dimensional
CD-ROM	Compact Disc
CDR	Compact Disk (Rewritable)
CD	Compact Disc
MP3	Mpeg Layer 3
AVI	Audio/video interleave
GIF	Graphics Interchange Format
WAV	waveform audio
VRML	The Virtual Reality Modeling Language

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Tsunami 3d Visualization will contribute to the educational approach on tsunami issues. It will show the concept on the tsunami to ease people understand what is tsunami and how it erupted. It probably can be used as a reference by the public or by the earthquake or tsunami department or certain organization which has the similar approach to this issue. Currently, people are able to find out a lot of 2D tsunami visualization and animation on web. Most issues discussed are on the impact of tsunami and amateur videos from the satellite view. The new approach proposed for this visualization is to enhance from the 2D to 3D perspectives. This project also consists of a few 2D animations and interaction with users. The main part is the 3D visualizations and the research elements cover the visual effects for water modelling and its characteristic. Specifically, the research will be on the tsunami element that tackle the tsunami wave for the oceans and other element like the movement of the tectonic plates.

It requires more researches on dynamic effects because it must be planned carefully to add realism to most of the scenes by simulating real physical reactions such as the impact of the distortion of tectonic plates.

1.2 Problem Statements

Currently, most of the tsunami visualization is developed in 2D software. It has its own limitation due to its limited angle of view users can view. However, many of the topic related to tsunami is developed in 2-Dimensional view, because it is easier to develop. The visualization becomes less attractive and interesting. The 3D techniques are very complicated but the products are far more attractive and interesting than 2D graphics. So, to come out with better graphics and visualization 3D modeling is a good idea.

Majority of the existing water/ocean model were not developed or created with 3D MAX or Maya softwares. Most of the models is developed using numerical coding in computer graphics, AQUA 3D, 3D Master, TUFLOW and AQUASEA. The various types of softwares being created to develop or model 3D water-based applications shows that it is not easy to model 3D water. It consists of quite a number of complex tasks. For this project, the ocean (water element will be modeled in 3D MAX). It required additional plug-in to support this development. The examples of 3D MAX Plug-ins are SeaScape, a plug-in that allows the creation of wave, ocean and wake effects. Atomizer expands the capabilities of MAX's particle systems, Particle Studio - Particle generation system for 3D Studio Max.

From the content aspects, less visualization developed focusing to what happened beneath the sea. Mostly shows the impacts of the waves and how it destroys the living creatures, buildings houses and the coast areas. A lot of digital graphics and

videos transferred on websites on this phenomenon. So, this project will come out with the visualization that consists of how tsunami occurs that people can't see in most of the videos on tsunami. Besides, it provides a little interaction with users, to shows the tsunami impact in different tsunami levels. The interaction buttons will be created and designed in 2 Dimensional software based in Flash.

The existing projects or systems that being published on web got their own problems. The 3D Tsunami model is very heavy and the access time to load it takes a longer time. So, to avoid this problem, it will be better to deliver the final project in a CD-ROM for a stand alone application.

1.3 Objectives

As usual, there must be the goal of doing each project. The objectives for this project are listed below:

1.3.1 To visualize the tsunami phenomenon to general on how it exactly occurs underneath the sea with 3D application

It is a good way to visualize the things that people can't see directly. For this case, people will firmly can't see how tsunami occurs deep beneath the see floor. People will hardly understand how it occurs as they can't see it. So one of the technique that is probably capable to give a better understanding for this issue is by visualized the phenomena in 3-Dimensional View. This will shows each tsunami element in clearer and more interesting graphics perspectives. In a real world, nobody can't take the video

for tsunami by going to the sea floor and record how it happened or else they will definitely dead. People need to know how tsunami occurs and have a better understanding on this phenomenon because it will come anytime and will never tell when it occurs.

1.3.2 To show the differences of tsunami waves and impact in different Richter scale measurements

Richter scale is a unit to measure any earthquakes phenomenon. When the number increased (Richter scales), it means the earthquakes also stronger and got more disastrous powers. In this project, the users need to select the Richter scale class, being provided in the system. Once they select the Richter scales class, the system will display the impact (in geographical terms) in selected categories. They can view the different impacts on different Richter scale amount.

1.4 Scopes

The deliverable for this project is a stand-alone CD-ROM. There is no specific user being specified for this application. It can be used by anyone. The platform for this project will be windows based. The main part (3D visualization movie) will run within less than 5 minutes. There is no specific user being listed to use this project as it is a general knowledge on what public and general should knows. The processes involve to develop this project are researches, analyzing, storyboarding, modeling, animating, adding visual effects and rendering. There is a limitation in software used to develop this

project. The project will fully develop using 3D MAX 7.0 studio application. All of 3D objects and elements will be modeled in 3D MAX. Some simple interaction with users will be created in Flash and Swish Max environment to place certain rendered movie being created in 3D MAX. Basically this project can be divided into three main parts which are:

1.4.1 Tsunami Info

Tsunami info contains the information relates to tsunami phenomenon such as tsunami history, tsunami description and sign and tsunami early warnings. This part is fully developed using 2D elements in 2D softwares. Each part provides simple explanations for each topic discussed.

1.4.2 Tsunami Visualization

This is the main part of the project and is divided into two smaller categories. First category will explain on the volcanic eruption that causes tsunami waves. The second part will explain on underwater earthquake that generates tsunami waves within different earthquake levels based in Richter scale measurement.

1.4.2.1 Volcano Eruption

This part will describe on the volcanic eruption that causes giant tsunami waves. The 3D visualization is developed in Max and will be placed on 2D environment using Flash. Simple animation movie will run within 10 seconds to visualize the phenomenon.

1.4.2.2 Underwater Earthquake

This part contains four different animated movie clips. Main movie will visualize the tsunami forming in general. The other three movie clips consist of different underwater earthquake levels that generate tsunami waves. They are specified for three levels according to minor, moderate and major earthquake levels.

1.4.3 Photo Gallery

1.4.3.1 Before and After Tsunami Disaster

This part contains the comparison between two images that show the images of the scenes before and after the tsunami.

1.4.3.2. Tsunami Impact

Tsunami impact contains a few pictures taken during the disaster that happened on December 26th 2004. The user can view any pictures provided by clicking the next and previous buttons. Each picture provides a simple description about the pictures.

1.4.3.3. Others

There are a few element that being categories under this part. It includes credit, the loading and the montage.

1.5. Project Significances

This visualization will probably help the public to visualize and get a proper understanding on tsunami issues in the term of geographical views. The visualization in 3 Dimensional view is a good approach as provides some realistic effects to it and more interesting. Anybody can take an advantage by viewing this visualization on tsunami disaster.

The project can be used as an education approach to visualize the concept of tsunami and getting understood on how it occurs and its impact. When people understand about tsunami, they will know never getting simply phobia once the issue is being raised because they know how it occurs and the impact of that phenomenon.

Once people understand the concept of tsunami and its impacts, this will help them to develop a self alert to this disaster. They will never want to life at the locations on which have the high potential to be collapsed by tsunami waves as they understand the capability of tsunami waves to destroy. As they know much on tsunami characters, this will help them to remind themselves of how important to get rid of this phenomenon by living at safer locations, as once says, "prevention is better than cure". This project can be applied as a simple tool to give some understanding to users about tsunami and to

realize how people themselves can prevent themselves from dying in the tsunami giant waves.

1.6. Expected Output

The expected output for this project will consist of 70% of 3D rendered movies and the 30% will be 2D rendered files, graphics, designed interface and the interaction buttons. The final project will be rendered in Flash MX 2004 (professional Edition). The final rendered file will be saved in .swf extension in Flash platform. All the 3D movies files will be imported into flash environment. Users can view the visualization in Flash designed interface. The interface will consist of a few numbers of buttons which in the users can view any of the visualization provides in different levels on Tsunami Richter Scale measurements. For each animation movie it will be displayed less than 30 seconds.

1.7. Conclusion

The Tsunami Visualization will be rendered in a 3D movie format. The main purpose for this project is to visualize how tsunami happened in term of volcanic and underwater earthquake factors. The focus will goes on the flow of the earthquakes that happened underneath the sea and how the earthquakes will cause the forming of the giant waves. The very basic concept to create the tsunami elements is by building the elements from the primitive shapes provided in 3D MAX application. When the elements fully modeled, the environment will be mapped into the movie. Finally, the suitable dynamic effects will be applied to animate the elements and to add realism to the scene. To develop this project it requires a higher RAM capacity and higher hard disk storage. The current problem issued due to this phenomenon is people doesn't get clear or understand how the earthquake occurs the disastrously tsunami waves and how tsunami happened starts from the colliding of the tectonic plates, the forming of the waves and the capability of the tsunami waves to destroy the world above the sea/the coasts. The next chapter will discuss on the literature review which will describe more on the specific element in tsunami waves. The next chapter will describe more details requirement and the environment of this project that will be specific on the 3D water or ocean modeling and animating techniques.