Timeline Interface – Pt. 4

Interacting with a timeline based presentation
Timeline Based Presentations

• Timeline based presentations can:
  – Educate
  – Entertain
  – Inform
  – Simulate
  – Test
Interaction

• Interaction with a timeline based presentation primarily occurs via mouse-clicks and key presses
• Interaction can also occur via external peripherals and hardware
To Entertain

• Following is the logic of the interaction in a “jukebox” presentation.

• All interaction is via mouse clicks and each button sends you to a frame where a specific event is happening

• First, look at the interface:
Click to see larger image or play sound sample.
1. You have 6 recordings you can listen to
2. Each recording has 4 choices
   1. Return to home page
   2. See a larger image of the CD cover
   3. Play the selection
   4. Stop the music
3. The 4 events happen on individual frames
   1. The home page is frame 5
   2. The CD covers are on frames 81, 90, 100, 110, 120 & 130
   3. The music plays on frames 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70
   4. Stop returns the playhead to frame 15 which is where the main interface is located
The Illusion

• Throughout the frames, the interface exists
  – The background image extends along the timeline
  – The images extend along the timeline
  – The controls and their programming extend along the timeline

• The playhead moves to the different frames, yet the user observes no change in appearance.
The Partial Timeline
The Playhead

• If you could actually see the playhead while the program is operating:
  – With each mouseClick, you would see the playhead jump to various frames
  – Each frame or set of frames has a specific task programmed into it such as:
    • Displays larger image
    • Plays music
To Inform

You can navigate through my presentation by clicking any of the buttons on the left of the screen. I hope you find this presentation entertaining and informative. I look forward to creating flash presentations and panoramic images to assist your company in its advertising needs.

Joe Black
Clicking here jumps to frame 31

You can navigate through my presentation by clicking any of the buttons on the left of the screen. I hope you find this presentation entertaining and informative. I look forward to creating flash presentations and panoramic images to assist your company in its advertising needs.

Joe Black
Notice that frame 31 has its own unique navigation allowing you to go back to the beginning of the presentation, jump to the movie section or to exit the program.

Joe Black
- Graduate of M.I.T. in Graphic Design
- 20 years experience in graphic design and multimedia
- 10 years experience creating Flash applications
- Will supply list of clients upon request
Movie in Movie

• Here is an example of taking individual Flash movies which themselves comprise as many as a few hundred frames and embed them within another movie where they only take up one frame

• This can only be made possible because we can stop the timeline...keep the playhead paused on one particular frame

• The movie is allowed to play in that frame
How we get there

You can navigate through my presentation by clicking any of the buttons on the left of the screen. I hope you find this presentation entertaining and informative. I look forward to creating flash presentations and panoramic images to assist your company in its advertising needs.

Joe Black
Choose Your Movie

Please choose any Flash\textsuperscript{(tm)} movie to view by clicking on any of the 6 Flash\textsuperscript{(tm)} buttons.
An Interactive Movie
Interact
Other Functions

• Interactive presentations allow for typical functions:
  – Opening your mail client and pre-address the email to a specific recipient.
  – Opening your browser to a URL

• We see this in web based programs, and remember that Flash and Director movies are created for delivery via the Web.
A Button with a URL Link

Contact Joe Black

Phone.......................... 216-555-1212
Cellphone...................... 216-123-4567
E-Mail............................ JB1@earthlink.net

www.jblack.com
I clicked on it

It was a fictitious link, so it couldn’t find the page but you can see that it was looking for www.jblackcom. Following is the code that caused the event:
Uses for URL links

• In interactive presentation software, URL links can help amplify or support material presented by causing additional information to be made available within the presentation itself while never leaving the presentation.
• This helps to reinforce what is being taught, direct and engage the user.
• It also allows the user to have some control over the order or path his learning takes.
• These links do not need to be external, and could be information contained on the CD or DVD which the presentation resides.
Next Week

• We will take a look at timeline interface presentations used to create software simulations.