HALDEN VIRTUAL REALITY CENTRE

Applying advanced visualisation technologies and human factors to solve real-world challenges



Virtual Reality for Radiation Visualisation and Knowledge Management

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Radiation Visualisation

- 3D model of the premises with navigation
- Seeing invisible but measurable or computable phenomena such as
 - Contamination
 - Radiation or dose-rate
 - Temperature
 - Risk
- Displayed as colour coding or vector fields inside the 3D model







Knowledge Management (KM)

- The management of knowledge within organizations
- Seeks to make the best use of the knowledge that is available to an organization, creating new knowledge in the process
- Good KM tools should help to
 - Retain knowledge across staff generations
 - Share knowledge obtained by the staff through the years with external suppliers



Life Cycle KM



 During all phases in a facility's life cycle one will benefit from the expertise developed in performing or planning other phases



Virtual Reality (VR)

- Powerful tool for design, planning, and training
- 1000 words << 1 picture << VR model
- VR used as a KM tool can create new knowledge
 - Procedure optimization
 - Radiation awareness
 - Learn by doing
- The same tool can be used in all phases throughout the life cycle of the facility



Planning Reference List

Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute (JNC): The VRdose Software Planning and administration of the Fugen Nuclear Power Station decommissioning with focus on work simulation, radiation visualisation and dose calculation	Japan	1999- 2004
Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. (TEPCO) and TEPCO Systems Corporation (TEPSYS) Technology for automatic radiation measurement and display using position tracking. KM, dose reduction and work planning.	Japan	2005-
SOcietà Gestione Impianti Nucleari (SOGIN) and Ente per le Nouve Tecnologie, L'Energia e l'Ambiente (ENEA): VirtualDecom Planning and administration for decommissioning of plutonium contaminated glove boxes.	Italy	2002- 2003
European Space Agency (ESA): DESIRE RadVis, Cosmic radiation visualisation with KTH & ESA	Europe	2003- 2004
NASA, Potential Alliance Radiation visualisation and dose optimisation	USA	2004-

VRdose – "To See the Invisible"

- Fugen Nuclear Power Station, Japan
 - Decommissioning started 2003
 - Finished 2023
 - VR project started 1999
- VR based tool for planning and administration of decommissioning
 - Work simulation
 - Dose-rate visualisation
 - Occupational dose calculation
- Training prior to dismantling
 - Inaccessible areas
- Public acceptance purposes







Decommissioning: What happens after the productive life?



Work Scenarios for Planning and Analysis

- Recording work scenarios inside the Virtual Environment (VE)
- Displaying and evaluating human movement in relation to the conditions of the VE









Keep Radiation Exposure at a Minimum

- Raising the radiation awareness in operators, work planners and decision makers
- Gaining more information on expected doses directly connected to work tasks
- Recorded work scenarios may be played back, edited and evaluated
- The dose-rate, the accumulated doses and other consequences for the operators may be analysed





Keeping the Costs Down

- VRdose work scenarios may be assigned to real life workers in a database, making it easier to plan ahead for dose costly operations
- A sound dose budget makes it easier to obtain a sound work budget





Inventory Database

- Store inventory information in the nuclear practice
 - History
 - Contamination
 - Known risk connected to the object
 - Schedule for removal or dismantling
 - Photographs
 - Other relevant information



VR Improves Communication...

- ..by being able to depict a situation to people with varying backgrounds in an unambiguous manor
 - Reaching public and authorities
 - Clarification between staff members
 - Talking to the future generations: Preserving and building knowledge of the premises as time passes









SOGIN: Virtual Decom

- Decommissioning of plutonium gloveboxes
- Displacement, dismantling and packaging
- Procedure testing and development
- Communication
 - Staff
 - Licensing authorities
- Draft procedures drastically changed already after first recorded scenario





TEPCO

- Cooperation research project between IFE and TEPSYS for TEPCO
- The control room staff will be using VR software linked to devices for radiation measurement and position tracking to help operators minimize their doses





Purpose of the proposed system

- Offer a new and improved method for radiation data gathering
- Increase the radiation awareness of the personnel
- Reduce the radiation doses of the plant workers
- Improve communication by keeping the same frame of reference
- By achieving the above, costs can also be significantly reduced



Operational Environment





Data Collection Instrument (DCI)



Radio Frequency Identification Tags (RFID)

- Small RFID chips will be placed at various locations in the environment
- An RFID reader placed at the end of a pole identifies each chip when near enough
- When a chip is identified, an action may be triggered
- In this case the action will be to perform a radiation measurement





RFID as aid to localize measurements



- Measured data is stored in the DCI
- Stored data can be transferered to the Visualisation System
- If the PDA has a wireless network connection, this can be done during measurements



Wearable detectors

- The workers can also wear radiation detectors
- This can be regular dosimeters or dosimeter combined with position tracking
- If position tracking is chosen, this may also be used to track the operators position in the work area from the control room









Sonitor 3D Positional System

- Used to position objects in rooms
- Based on ultrasound (~40kHz)
- No interference with any electronic equipment
- Detectors placed in the room calculate position of small tags that emit ultrasound
- Detectors are grouped together with one acting as a master
- Tags can be worn by operators, giving their position in real time
- Tags can be attached to dosimeters to register positions with the measured values
- All masters are connected to a computer network
- A standard pc talks to the masters through the computer network





PDA radiation visualisation

- The operators using the Data Capture Instrument inside the work area may see the real-time radiation situation projected on a map in a hand held PDA
- With each new measurement point the radiation map will be updated to higher accuracy
- It will be possible to have a list of all desired measurement positions stored in the tool
- The measurement points may be indicated on the PDA map
- If one or more points from the measurements list has not been measured, the operator will get a warning when finishing the procedure



Remote Radiation Monitoring



continuously updating the workers on their situation



Possible future extension

- Letting the workers wear special glasses to see the radiation fields...
- ..while the control room staff can monitor the workers' positions inside a VR model..
- ...and see what each worker sees.









ESA

- Cosmic radiation permeates space
 - Sources located primarily outside our solar system
 - Sun also source of significant amounts of ionised radiation
 - extreme levels during solar flares
 - astronauts and equipment outside the protection of earth's atmosphere are at risk of exposure to severe radiation environments
- Space agencies would like an overview of radiation environments
 - based on predictions or measurements from on-board radiation sensors
 - To enable staff to rapidly assess a situation for design, training, or operations purposes



RadVis: Cosmic Radiation Visualisation







NASA cooperation being established



- NASA must protect
 astronauts
 - Vision of sending crew into deep space
- US Environmental
 Protection Agency
 - Risk of dying of cancer must be less that 15%
- Radiation levels at ISS
 - 1 milisivert a day one year on Earth
 - Effective shielding is heavy



Some Quantifiable Economical Gains

- VRdose
 - JNC expects to save 2% on costs each year during 20 years for the decommissioning of the Fugen Nuclear Power Station by using virtual reality tools in planning and communication
- TEPSYS
 - Estimates that 100.000.000 Yen (1 M\$) will be saved for each mS avoided by better outage planning and raised radiation awareness



Information vs. useful information



Platforms change faster and faster



Sustainability

- Sustainable Virtual Reality needs to be
 - Not depending on any vendor or developer staying in the market
 - Platform independent
 - Based on open source and open standards
- Strong requirements of sustainability must be put on any system chosen for documenting the state of a nuclear practice to the next generation



Why VR then?

A picture says more than a thousand words. A full 3D model is able to say a lot more..



...and in a language our children will easily understand.

Thank you for your attention!

