Characterizing Virtual Population in Games

World of Warcraft

Use an add-on written in Lua

monitor I I 00 random players over 7 I days



median num of players per poll vs time of the day polled



CDF of all session length, and median session length of each player

sufficiently long session length good for P2P games



can use level to predict session length?



CDF of median downtimes and median session length of each player



Availability of players (time online/total time) in February 2007





monitor **3** locations

Stormwind City Stanglehorn Vale Burning Steppes



can use zone to predict session length?

density: num of players* in a zone

*: out of 1100 players tracked



Mean Location density of 117 locations



Difference in Density between Dec and Feb



dynamic load balancing not needed?



"My life is so great that I literally wanted a second one!" - Dwight Schrute, The Office











avatar mobility: who is where, when

why do we care?

research in systems support for NVE

G Google

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Dynamic Partitioning for a Distributed Virtual Environment - all 2 versions »

JCS Lui, MF Chan, KY Oldfield - Proc. of the 3rd High Performance Computing Asia Conference (..., 1998 - citeseer.ist.psu.edu Dynamic Partitioning for a Distributed Virtual Environment (1998) (Make Corrections) (7 citations) John CS Lui, MF Chan Oldfield KY So, TS Tam. ... Cited by 29 - Related Articles - Cached - Web Search

An efficient partitioning algorithm for distributed virtual environment systems - all 2 versions »

MF Chan, JCS Lui - IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems, 2002 - csa.com An efficient partitioning algorithm for distributed virtual environment systems. MF Chan, John CS Lui IEEE Transactions on Parallel ... Cited by 8 - Related Articles - Web Search

... Study of Modern Heuristics for Solving the Partitioning Problem in Distributed Virtual Environment ... - all 2 versions »

P Morillo, M Fernandez, JM Orduna - Proc. Int'l Conf. Computational Science and its Applications ..., 2003 - Springer ... widespread use of high performance graphic cards are making **Distributed Virtual Environment** (DVE) systems ... One of these key issues is the **partitioning** problem. ... Cited by 10 - Related Articles - Web Search - BL Direct

An ACS-based partitioning method for distributed virtual environment systems - all 10 versions »

P Morillo, M Fernandez, JM Orduna - Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium, 2003. ..., 2003 - ieeexplore.ieee.org Page 1. An ACS-Based Partitioning Method for Distributed Virtual Environment Systems P. Morillo, M. Fernandez Instituto de Robotica ... Cited by 8 - Related Articles - Web Search

... of evolutive algorithms for solving the partitioning problem in distributed virtual environment ... - all 2 versions »

P Morillo, JM Orduña, M Fernández - Parallel Computing, 2004 - Elsevier ... reserved. A comparison study of evolutive algorithms for solving the **partitioning** problem in **distributed virtual environment** systems. P ... Cited by 5 - Related Articles - Web Search

[PDF] A Fine-Grain Method for Solving the Partitioning Problem in Distributed Virtual Environment Systems - all 4 versions » P Morillo, JM Orduna, M Fernandez, J Duato - Proc. of 16th. Intl. Conf. on Parallel and Distributed ... - informatica.uv.es ... ABSTRACT Distributed Virtual Environment (DVE) systems have ex- perienced a spectacular growth last years. The partitioning problem has been proven as the most ... Cited by 4 - Related Articles - View as HTML - Web Search

[CITATION] An efficient partitioning algorithm for distributed virtual environment systems Parallel and ...

JCS Lui, MF Chan - IEEE Transactions on, 2002

Done

How to partition a world into regions and assign regions to servers considering

- communication cost
- hand-over rate
- balancing server load
 - •



How to predict avatar movement (end therefore what a user will see next)?

http://scholar.google.com/scholar?num=20&hl=en&lr=&q=allintitle%3A+peer-to 😭 🔻) *

G Google

Q

A Peer-to-Peer Message Exchange Scheme for Large-Scale Networked Virtual Environments - all 10 versions »

Y Kawahara, T Aoyama, H Morikawa - Telecommunication Systems, 2004 - Springer ... [7] Y. Kawahara, H. Morikawa and T. Aoyama, A peer-to-peer message exchange scheme for large scale networked virtual environments, in: Proc. ... Cited by 39 - Related Articles - Web Search - BL Direct

VON: a scalable peer-to-peer network for virtual environments - all 2 versions »

SY Hu, JF Chen, TH Chen - Network, IEEE, 2006 - ieeexplore.ieee.org VON: a scalable **peer-to-peer** network for **virtual environments** Shun-Yun Hu Jui-Fa Chen Tsu-Han Chen Inst. of Phys., Acad. Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan; ... Cited by 25 - Related Articles - Web Search - BL Direct

... Mechanisms for Closely Coupled Collaboration in Multithreaded Peer-to-Peer Virtual Environments - all 6 versions » JM Linebarger, GD Kessler - Presence: Teleoperators & Virtual Environments, 2004 - MIT Press ... Designed for peer-to-peer virtual environments in which several threads have access

to the shared scene graph, these algorithms are straightforward and ...

Cited by 12 - Related Articles - Web Search - BL Direct

Supporting scalable peer to peer virtual environments using frontier sets - all 6 versions »

A Steed, C Angus - Proceedings of IEEE Virtual Reality 2005, 2005 - doi.ieeecomputersociety.org Page 1. Supporting Scalable Peer to Peer Virtual Environments using Frontier Sets Anthony Steed 1 , Cameron Angus 2 Department of ... Cited by 9 - Related Articles - Web Search

Providing full awareness to distributed virtual environments based on peer-to-peer architectures

P Morillo, W Moncho, JM Orduna, J Duato - Lecture Notes on Computer Science, 2006 - Springer ... Environments Based on Peer-to-Peer Architectures * ... Supporting scalable peer to peer virtual environments using frontier sets. In IEEE Virtual Reality-2005. ... Cited by 6 - Related Articles - Web Search - BL Direct

[CITATION] VON: a scalable peer-to-peer network for virtual environments. Network

SY Hu, JF Chen, TH Chen - IEEE, 2006 Cited by 4 - Related Articles - Web Search

A Hybrid Solution to Support Multiuser 3D Virtual Simulation Environments in Peer-to-Peer Networks - all 4 versions »

A Boukerche, RB Araujo, M Laffranchi - Proceedings of Distributed Simulation and Real-Time ..., 2004 - doi.ieeecomputersociety.org

... the issues involved in the implementation of 3D MUVEs in hybrid peer-to-peer networks,

and ... of multi-user 3D games and multi-user virtual environments in general ...

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Aol-based scheme


How many connections?

How stable are the connections?

supernode-based scheme



How to pick supernodes?

How stable are the supernodes?

how to simulate avatar mobility?

random walk random waypoint clustered movement

or, small-scale implementation

no large-scale NVE available until recently

482,594 residents logged in between 2-9 June 2008





secondlife.com/whatis/economy-graphs.php

 collect mobility traces of avatars in Second Life

 what it means w.r.t. systems design for NVEs?

collecting traces

how do avatars move inside a distributed virtual environment?

how are avatars distributed within a region?

how long do they stay at a location?

do they move in groups?

etc.







Linden, can we get access to the server traces?



- Wrote our own client
- Parses packets using libsecondlife
- Insert bots into regions
- Log positions of avatars every 10s

difficulties

running out of memory

anti-bots policy

over crowded region

inter-region tracking

- Wrote our own client
- Parses packets using libsecondlife
- Insert bots into regions
- Log positions of avatars every 10s

who is where, when (doing what)











Mobility Patterns

Freebies: number of visits to a cell



Freebies: average pause time in a cell



Freebies: average speed in a cell



Isis: number of visits to a cell
caching/prefetching based on popularity of locations?



Isis: average pause time in a cell

pick supernodes from sticky location?



Isis: average speed in a cell

mobility model: random walk + pathway ?

churn rate



Number of Avatars versus Time



Number of Depatures versus Time







can**not** pick supernodes uniformly

clustering of avatars

meeting: encounter between two avatars (within each other Aol)



Number of Avatars Met





Average Meeting Size

high overhead in maintaining Aol neighbors

meeting stability:

avg meeting size over num of avatars met



other tidbits

little temporal variations

can use historical information to predict future

rotate 18% of the time

Second Life's prefetching is wasteful

25-35% revisits the same region in a day

region-based caching?