**Animated Path Wayfinding Tool**

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**Overview**

To begin, a production person creates a basemap jpg, and then uses the drawing application to draw a line over the jpg to a desired suite location, then place an infobox next to the path. Line data is output to an xml file. The client directory program reads the xml, and recreates the animated line to the desired suite.

To elaborate, two programs are used, both originally standalone Flash applications.

First, map coordinates are created with the drawing tool, draw08.3.exe. It’s a point-and-click process that yields an xml file (paths.xml) containing the background map jpg file name, path attributes (eg, color, line segment width, etc.), and the segment coordinates by building and suite. This program is currently working well, and need not be replaced immediately as it is not used by the client.

The second program is also a stand-alone Flash application that is distributed in client directories. It is essentially a reader (MapApp.swf) that imports the paths.xml file, animates the line segments, places and arrowhead on the end, and infobox next to the path. The current goal is to recreate this functionality using asp for database access, and javascript for reading paths.xml and drawing the paths, with no Flash involvement.

**Path Reader Animation Program**

So far, a lot of the basic functionality is working. But this is first-cut code, and there is still a fair amount of work to do. I apologize for the sparse comments. I usually get things a bit further along, then make a “comment pass” over everything. Please feel free to call me anytime with questions. I’ll be happy to advise, if I can.

The index.asp file is for development in place of the TouchSource application file. It uses an iframe to send a query string to animatedmap.asp. The query contains either a Company or Individual variable, to indicate the database table to use, with an ID number.

Next animatedmap.asp accesses the database, uses the table name and ID number to get building and suite values. These are then written into an invisible div on the page where they will be read by the javascript code.

The javascript code, svganim.js, first gets the building and suite data from the page. It then reads-in the paths.xml doc and sets variables for all the path and infobox attributes. Next all path data is parsed and sent to the drawing function, doAnim(). The first problem with this sequence, is that the segments all get drawn at once, rather than sequentially. So this needs refactoring to complete drawing each segment, before moving to the next.

The Javascript code uses jQuery for some things, but uses Velocity for the animation. It seems to work well, claiming to be lighter and faster.

The duration of each draw animation needs to be calculated based on the length of the segment so that the entire path draws at the same speed.

There is no code yet for placing arrowheads on the end of each final segment. I put some sample ActionScript code in to show how the angle of each final segment is found, and the arrow is rotated to this angle.

Several attributes are currently hard-coded. These need to be replaced with the appropriate variables. I have commented many, if not all, of these.

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There is also no code yet for placing the info box. If the ActionScript code for any of this would be helpful, please let me know.