

COMP210 - Research Journal

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1 Putting Man above Motion

Virtual reality (VR) isn't a new idea, with some even claiming it's been around since the 1950s. [1] There have been many attempts at getting VR into the public however each time the technology to support VR hasn't been able to keep up. While developments happen in VR technology it's popularity has grown within the gaming community however recent VR devices can cause users to feel ill for a number of reasons. [2] The term used is called cyber sickness though it's also been called simulator sickness [3] previously.

There have been many studies around how to deal with cyber sickness and even with knowledge of what effects it there is still the question of what interface users find to be the best to help dealing with the disparity between a head mounted display (HMD) some of these studies even go so far as to show rankings between various methods and how it affected users. [4, 5] Of course changing how you interact with an avatar isn't just one of the variables you can alter. It's also possible to alter the user experience by experimenting with unique non-standard avatars [6], which as users begin to embody could help to immerse them into the behaviours which could help to reduce their cyber sickness for certain actions.

2 Realities Heuristics vs Virtual Realities Heuristics

For some the heuristic model proposed by the Nielsen [7] is the model to use, however it's been called into question by many over the years as to how fitting the model is for a variety of industries. [8, 9, 10, 11] The question of Human Computer Interaction (HCI) techniques being out-dated, is something that has to be addressed properly. Although the Nielsen model covers many of the requirements for users it was made many years ago, and although the core principles remain the same the ways in which technology interacts with people certainly couldn't have been predicted but is there enough work in the field of HCI? Glass et al. [12] looked at papers within the fields of computer science, information systems and software engineering with only a collective 5.7% of the over 1000 papers published across all three fields were to do with HCI. With people still publishing papers on the topic of HCI and how to enhance a users experience it's possible that this field hasn't been as fully explored and with video games and virtual reality being both relatively new and rapidly advancing fields establishing a strong foothold could make a huge difference in shaping future research and development within both industries.

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