

Dynamic Combat System

Contact email: szewczykgrzesiek@gmail.com

Dynamic Combat System

Player

[InputBuffer](#)

[Guard Stance](#)

[Ignore Root Motion](#)

[Montage Actions used by player](#)

[Important Montages](#)

[Additional Montages](#)

AI

[Creating new AI](#)

[Animations used by AI](#)

[Important Montages](#)

[Additional Montages](#)

[Stun System](#)

[Block System](#)

[Patrol](#)

[Rotate Towards Target](#)

[Dissolve Effect](#)

[Parry](#)

Interfaces

[IsAttackable](#)

[CanBelImmortal](#)

[IsTargetable](#)

[IsSusceptibleToParry](#)

Components

[CollisionHandlerComponent](#)

[DynamicTargetingComponent](#)

[InputBufferComponent](#)

[MontageManagerComponent](#)

[StateMachineComponent](#)

[StatisticComponent](#)

Animation Notifies

[AN_IgnoreRootMotion-Player](#)

[ANS_IgnoreRootMotion-Player](#)

[AN_ResetCombat-Player](#)

[ANS_ParrySusceptible](#)

[ANS_HitBox](#)

[ANS_InputBuffer-Player](#)

[ANS_RotateTowardsTarget-AI](#)

[ANS_ToggleImmortality](#)

[ANS_ToggleWeaponAttachment-Player](#)

Enums

[EAICombatBehavior](#)

[EAIHealthState](#)

[EAIPatrolBehavior](#)

[EAIStatus](#)

[EAttackType](#)

[EInputBufferKey](#)

[EMontageAction](#)

[ERotationMode](#)

[EState](#)

Player

All combat stats which can be modifiable are stored in one struct.

Damage	20.0
Block	100.0
Defense	20.0
WeaponType	Sword
AttackSpeed	1.0
LightAttackStaminaCost	15.0
HeavyAttackStaminaCost	30.0
ThrustAttackStaminaCost	30.0
SpecialAttackStaminaCost	35.0
AirAttackStaminaCost	0.0
CriticalChance	0
CriticalDamageMultiplier	2.0
RollSpeed	1.0
RollStaminaCost	15.0
StaminaRemovedOnBlockMultiplier	1.25
LightAttackDamageMultiplier	1.0
HeavyAttackDamageMultiplier	1.25
SpecialAttackDamageMultiplier	1.25
ThrustAttackDamageMultiplier	1.25
AirAttackDamageMultiplier	1.0
ComboAttackDamageMultiplier	0.75
MagicAttackDamageMultiplier	1.0
RightHandEquipSocket	SwordHandSocket
RightHandSheathSocket	SwordSheathSocket
LeftHandEquipSocket	ShieldHandSocket
LeftHandSheathSocket	ShieldSheathSocket

InputBuffer

Player is using [InputBufferComponent](#).

This component allows to store key([EInputBufferKey](#)) in buffer and perform action based on that key when buffer is closed.

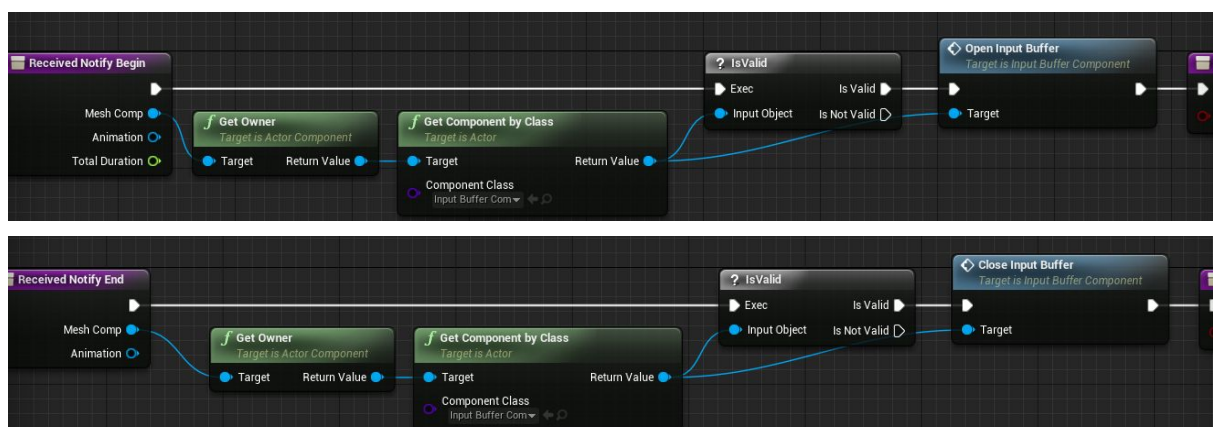
e.g. when input buffer is open, and character is attacking, you can press roll input, then roll key will be stored in buffer, and when buffer closes,

checks if there is any key inside, in this case there would be roll key and Roll function will be called.

It gives feeling of better control over the character.

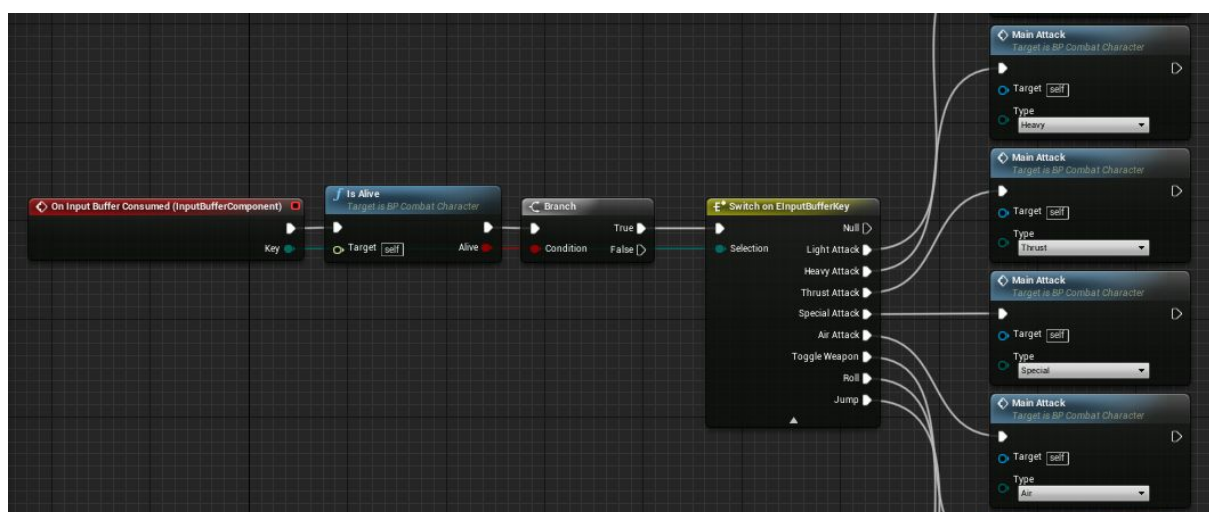
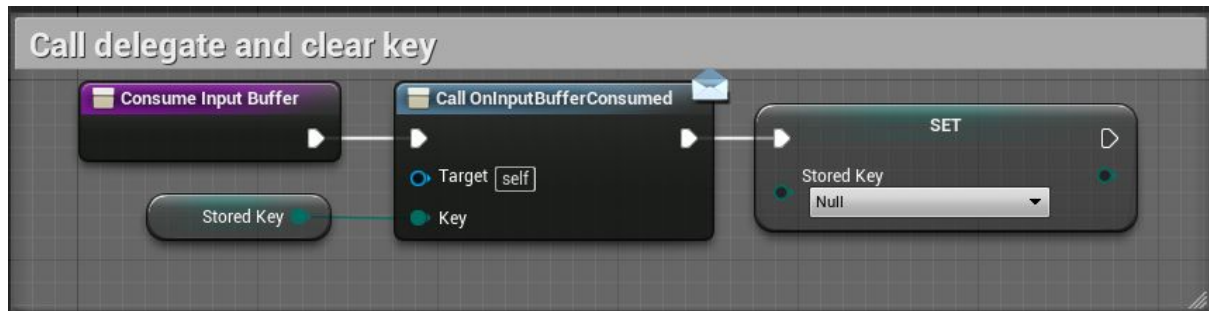
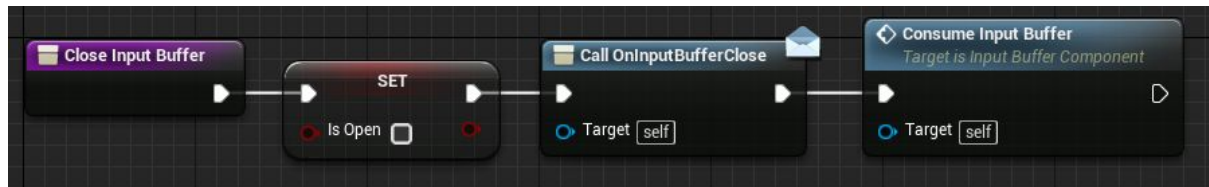
To open and close InputBuffer, use [ANS_InputBuffer-Player](#).

In this example InputBuffer is open from 50-70% of the montage.

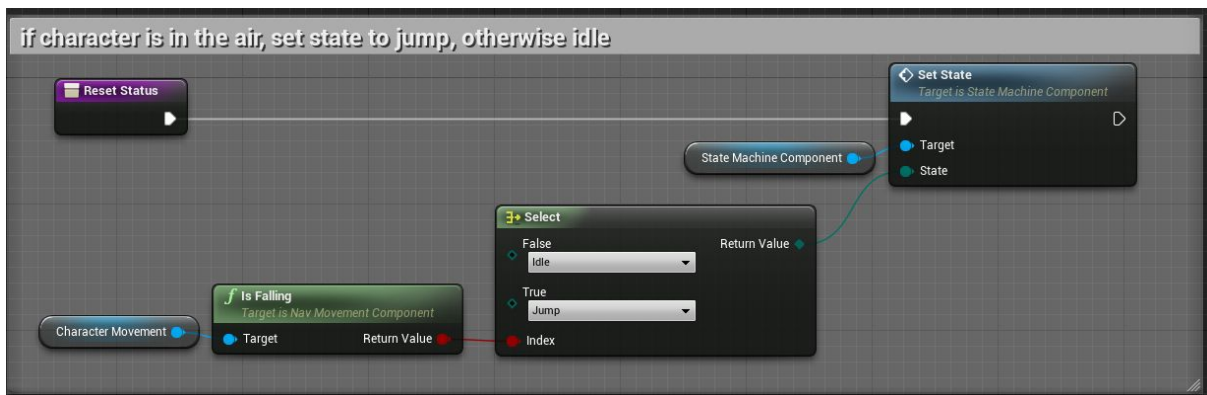
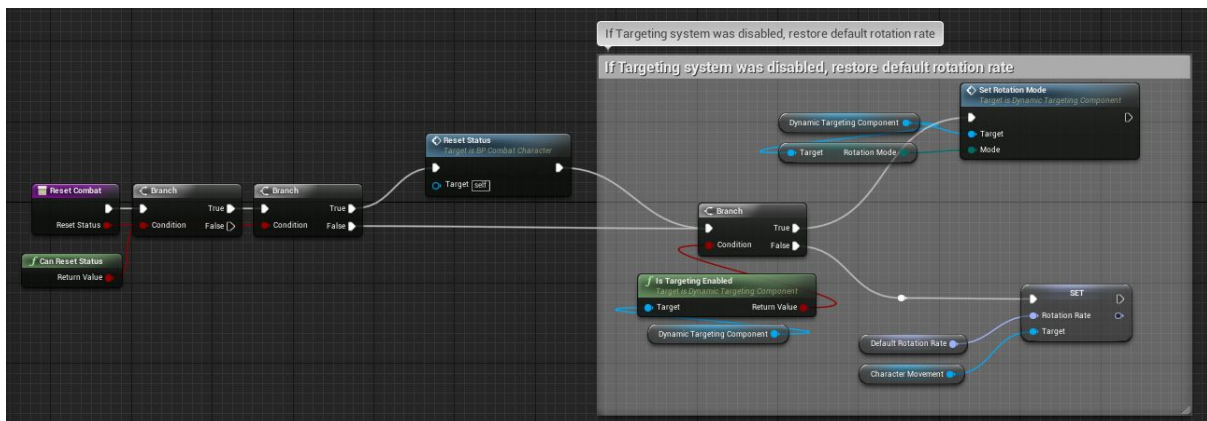
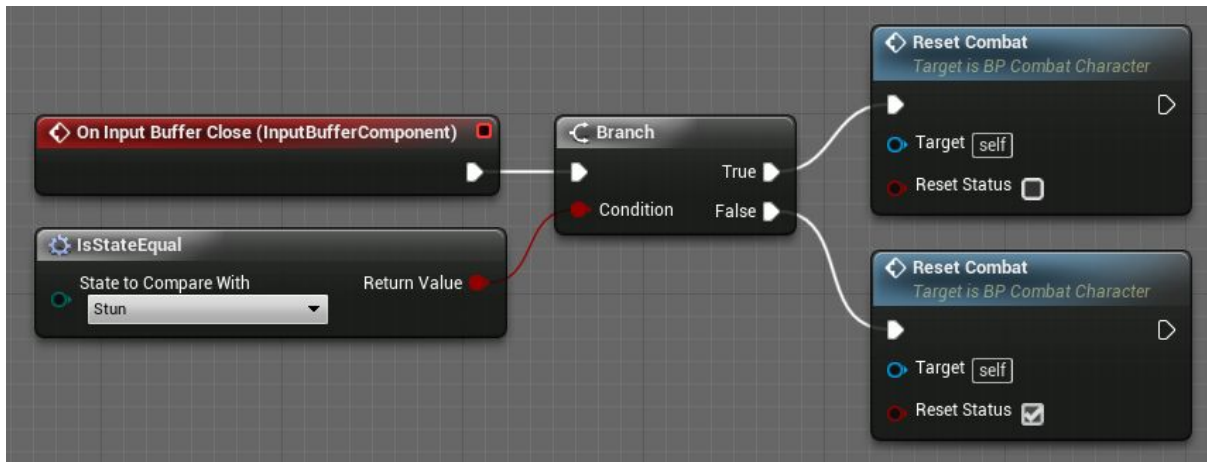


So actions like attack/roll/jump etc. are not calling their functions directly.

They update key stored in InputBuffer, and when it closes, key is consumed, calling the proper function.



Additionally when InputBuffer closes, ResetCombat function is called.



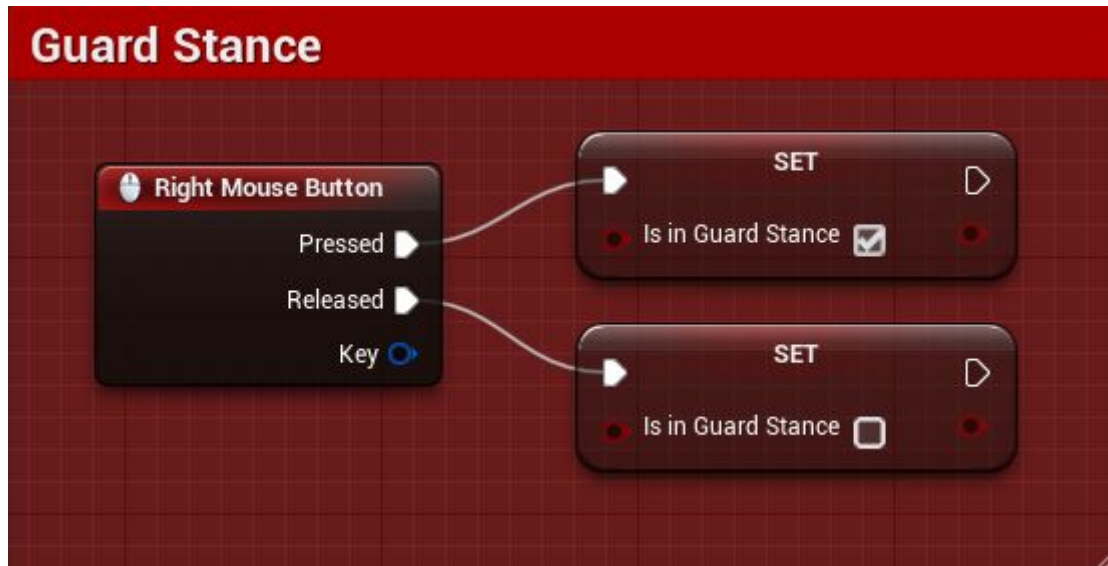
Notice that if character was in Stun state, status won't be resetted. This is problem with anim notify states, when it is interrupted Notify End Event will be called on next frame.

Let's say that character was attacking and Input buffer was open, but then got hit and state changed to stun, also playing stun animation. On the next frame InputBuffer end event would be called, calling function ResetCombat which would reset state back to Idle. It means that stun state would last only for 1 frame.

That's why on montages like Stun/Impact you shouldn't use ANS_InputBuffer-Player, but [AN_ResetCombat-Player](#) instead.

Guard Stance

Enabled and disabled by pressing input key.

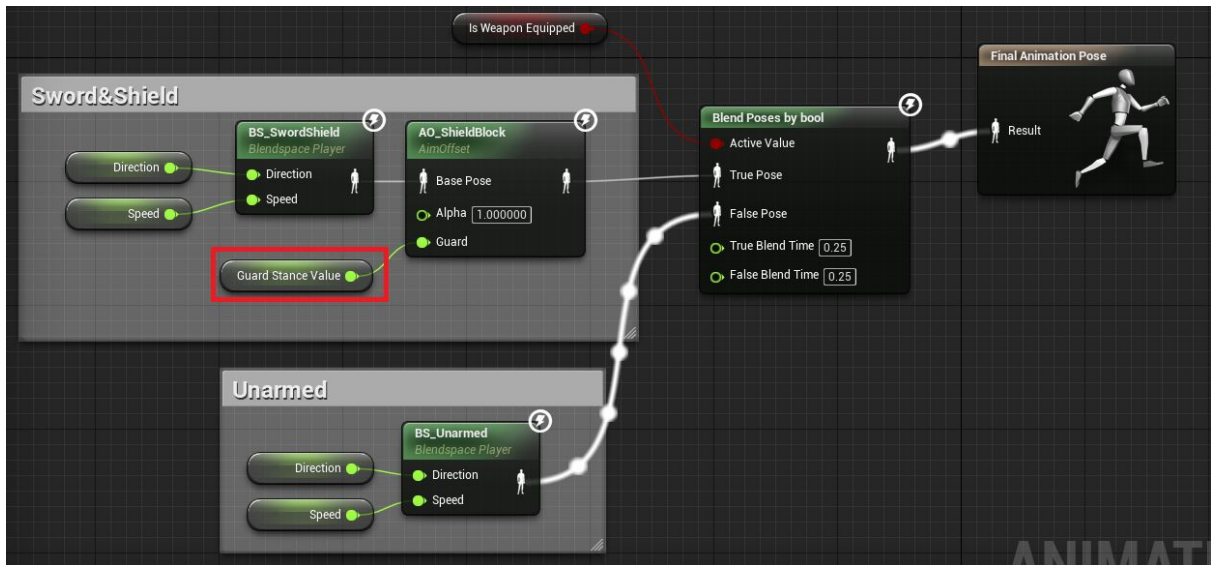


Based on that bool value, variable GuardStanceValue is smoothly changed between 0 and 1.

When character gets hit while GuardStanceValue equals 1, it means that hit was blocked.

If there is enough stamina, it will be removed instead of health and stun effect won't be applied.

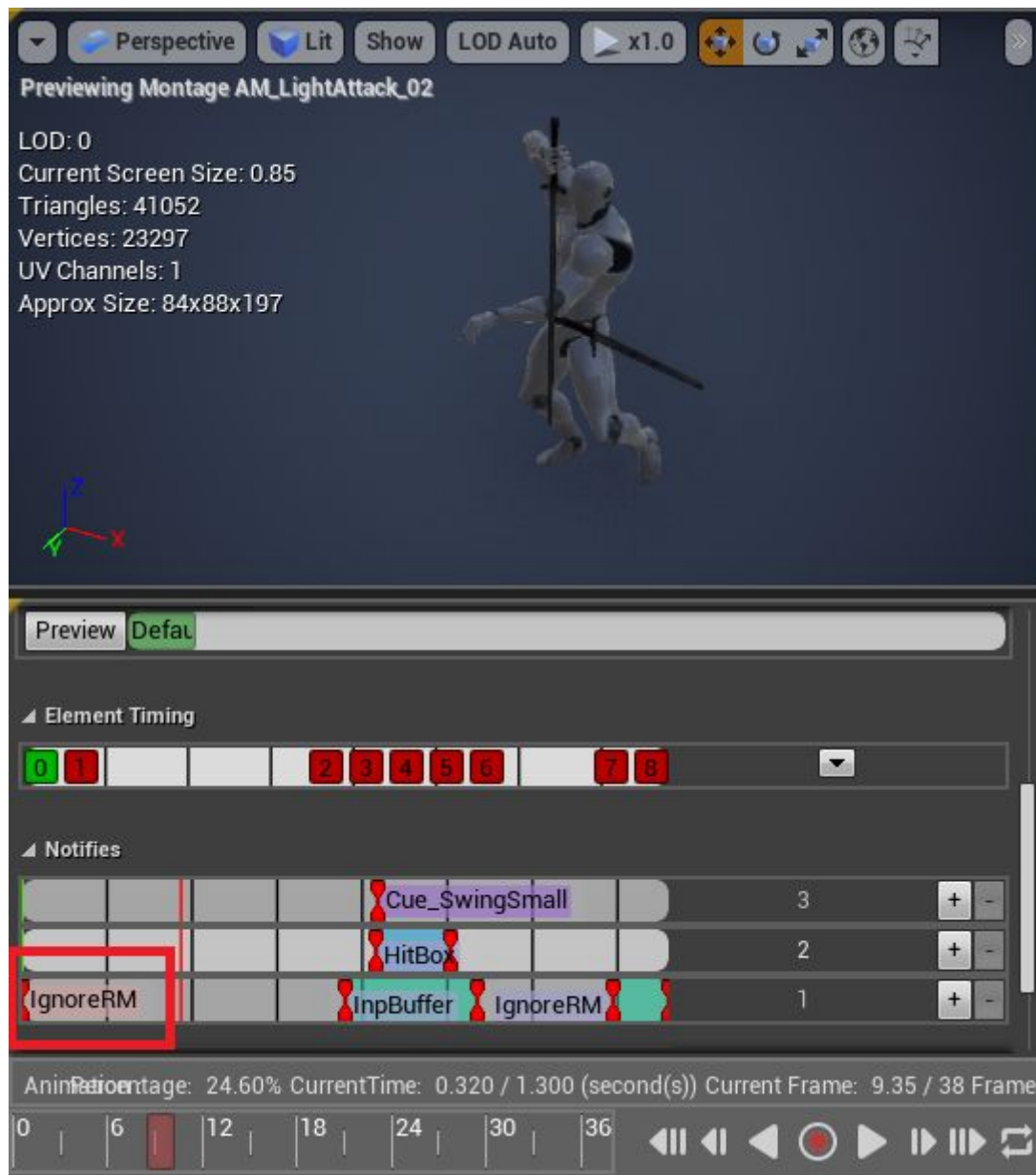
This value is also used in animation blueprint to rise/lower shield



Ignore Root Motion

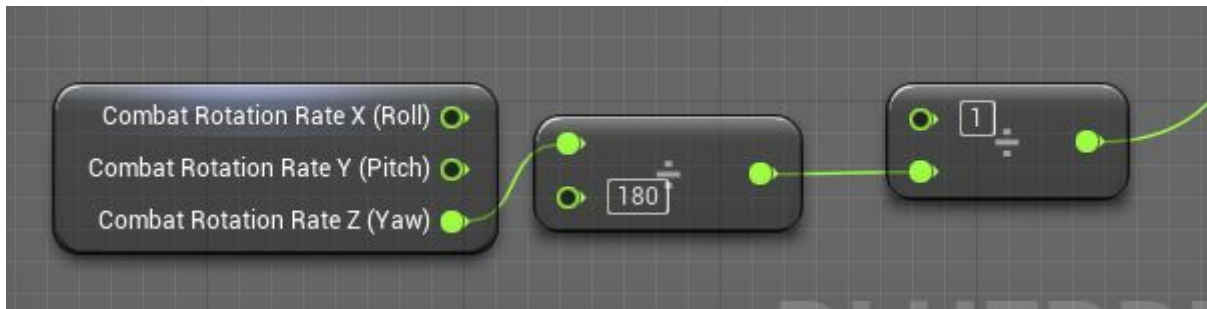
System which allows character to turn into desired direction at the beginning of the montage like attack/roll etc.

Firstly AN_IgnoreRootMotion-Player placed at the begging of the montage is calling IgnoreRootMotion function from BP_CombatCharacter.

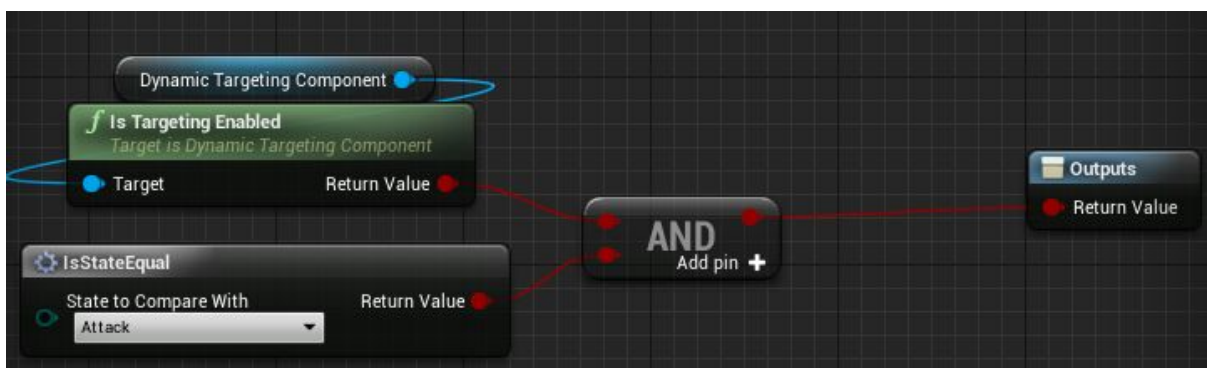
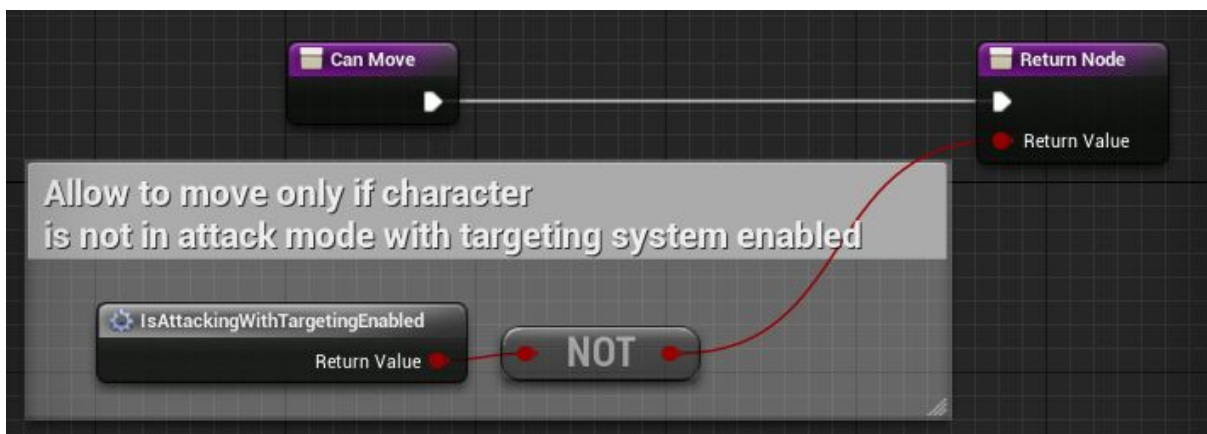
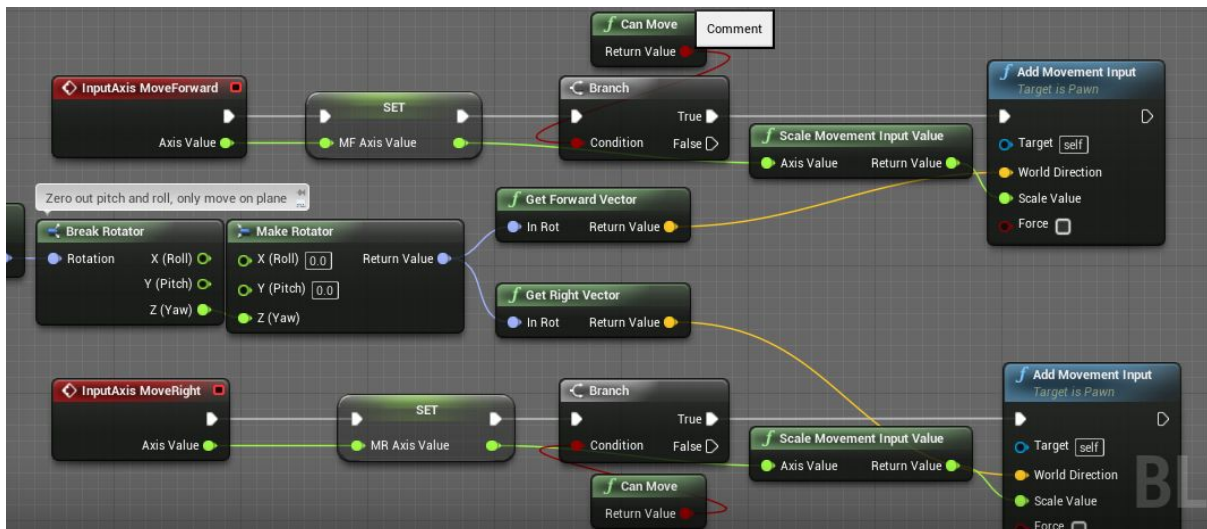


Function is calculating for how long root motion should be ignored based on variable CombatRotationRate (Rotator used as RotationRate in MovementComponent when character enters Roll/Attack state, by default it is 0,0,900)

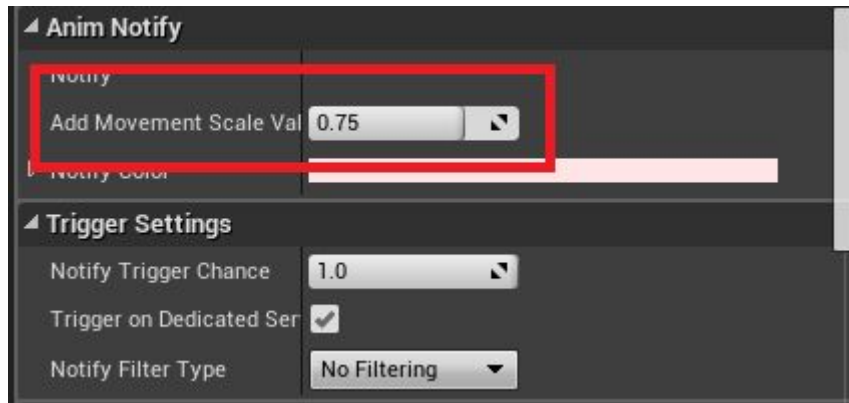
With 900 rotation rate yaw, because we only care about that, it takes 0.2sec to turn 180 degrees(max)
 $[1/(900/180)]$.



During that time, if targeting system is enabled and player is in attack state, character can't be moved using axis inputs, to prevent moving right/left/back.

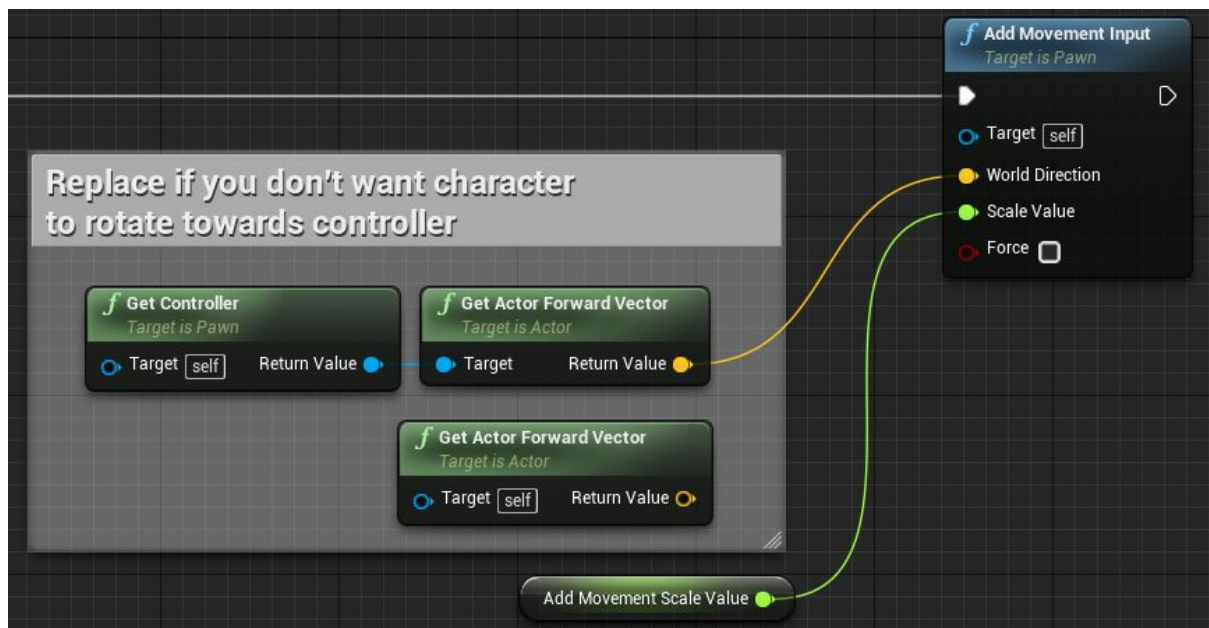


Instead character will be moved by ticking function using AddMovementScaleValue provided by AN_IgnoreRootMotion-Player.

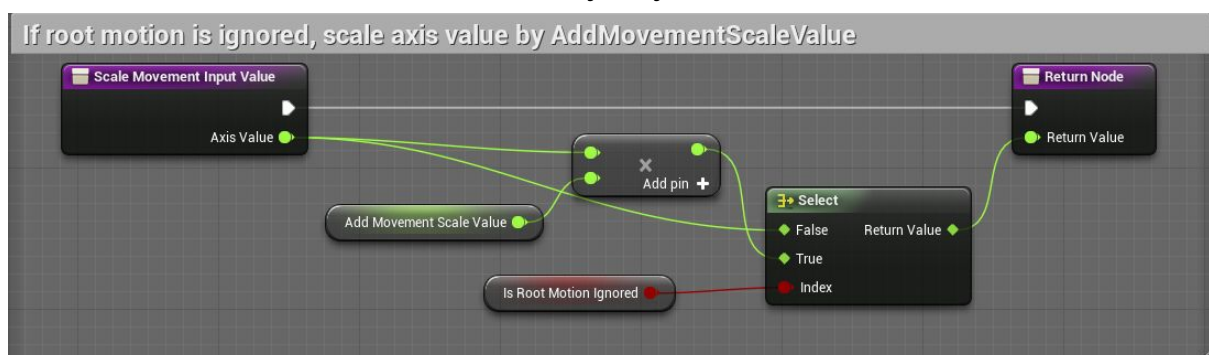


1 means move character(useful if you want character to move while root motion is ignored e.g in roll)

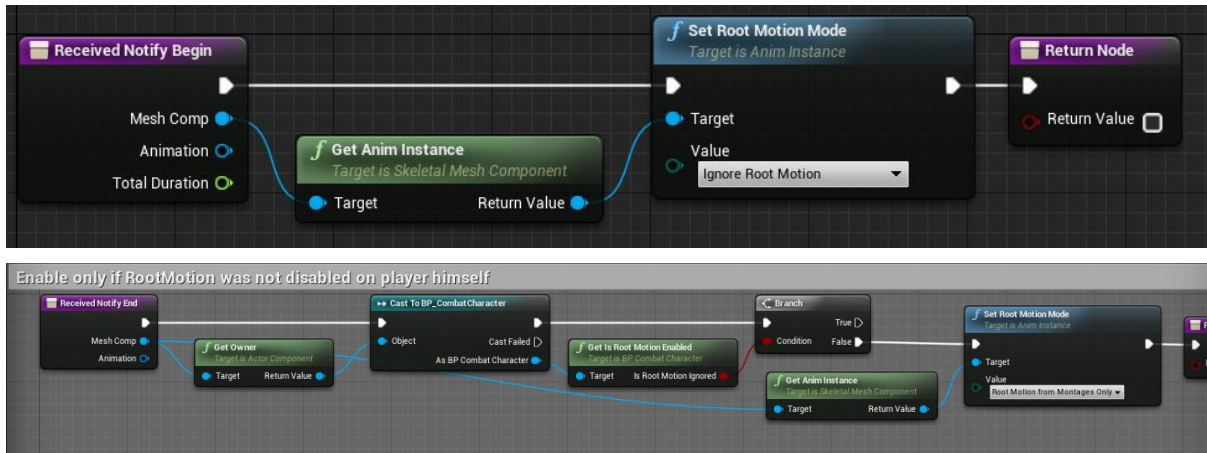
0 don't move at all (useful if you have InPlace attack animations)



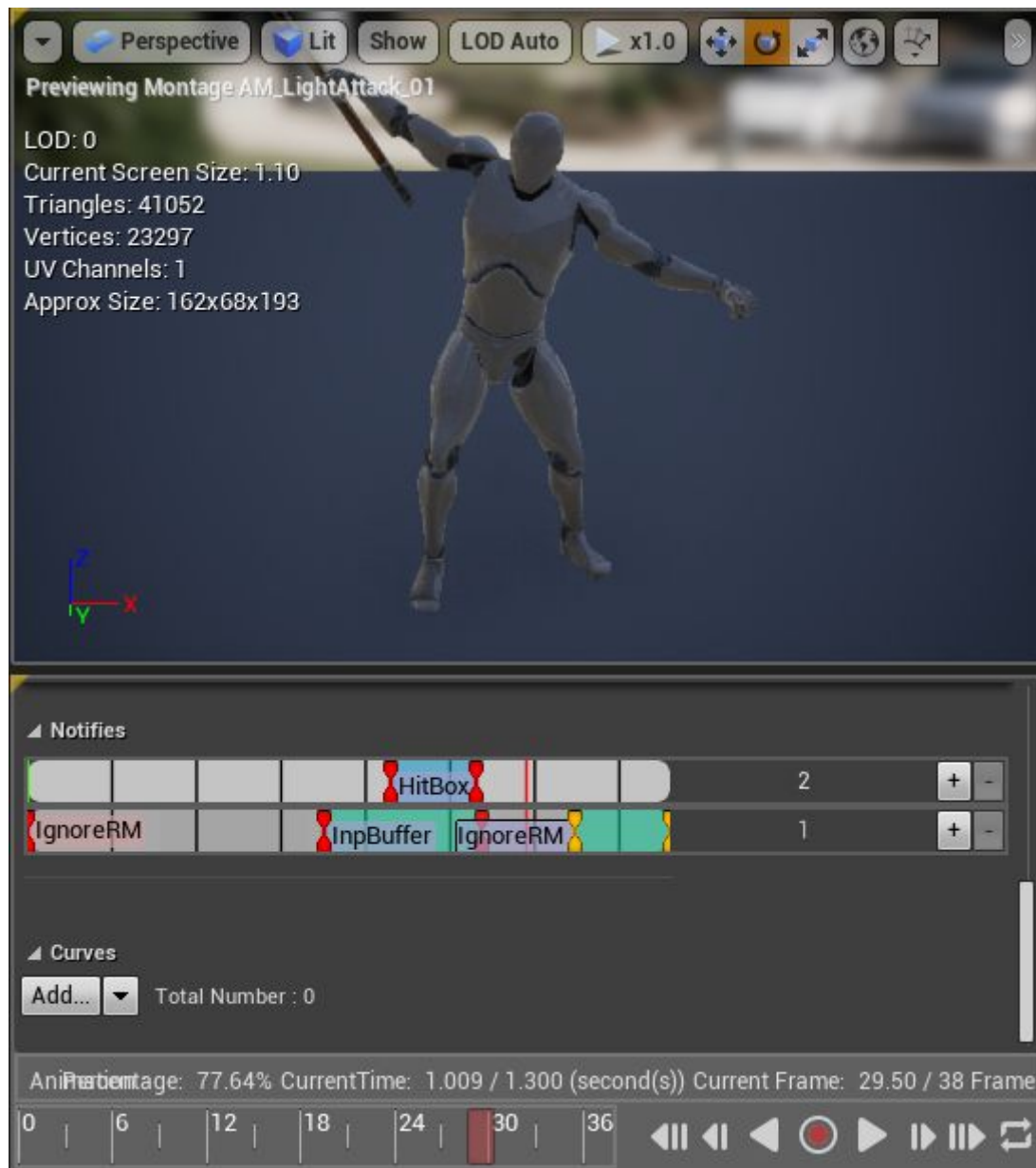
Otherwise if player is not in attack state, axis value will be scaled by AddMovementScaleValue, it means that if value on notify was 0, we won't be able to move character anyway.



There is also another notify(state) which in contrast to AN_IgnoreRootMotion-Player, is not calling player's blueprint function, but just ignores root motion on begin event, and enable it back on end event, if root motion was not already disabled by player himself.



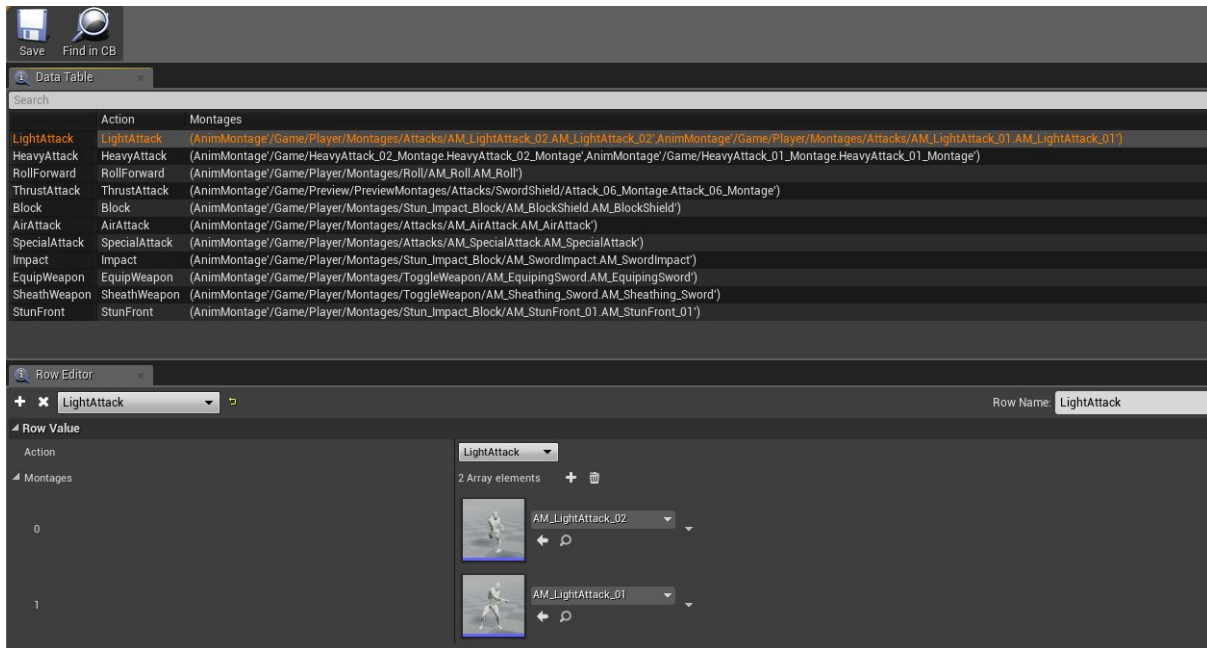
Using this notify is optional, it is most useful at the end (last 10-15%) of montages using root motion, like attack, roll to give player faster control over the character while montage is blending out.



Montage Actions used by player

All montages used by player are stored in DataTable
(DataTables/DT_CombatCharacter), using
[MontageManagerComponent](#).

I highly recommend to keep that convection if you are going to add new montages.



Take note that RowName must be the same as MotageAction value.

Important Montages

If any of those montages will not be valid, action will simply not be performed.

- Light Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Heavy Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Thrust Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Special Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Air Attack (Slot: UpperBody, no root motion)
- Impact (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Stun Front(Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
- Block (Slot: UpperBody, no root motion)
- Equip Weapon (Slot: UpperBody, no root motion)
- Sheath Weapon (Slot: UpperBody, no root motion)
- Roll Forward (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Additional Montages

For directional stun and roll montages there is already implemented logic inside player character, just set animations with proper enum value, Row Name and it will work.

Stun Back (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Stun Left (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Stun Right (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Forward Left (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Forward Right (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Left (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Right (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Back (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Back Left (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Roll Back Right (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

AI

Remember to enable EQS.

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Engine/AI/EnvironmentQuerySystem/QuickStart/2>

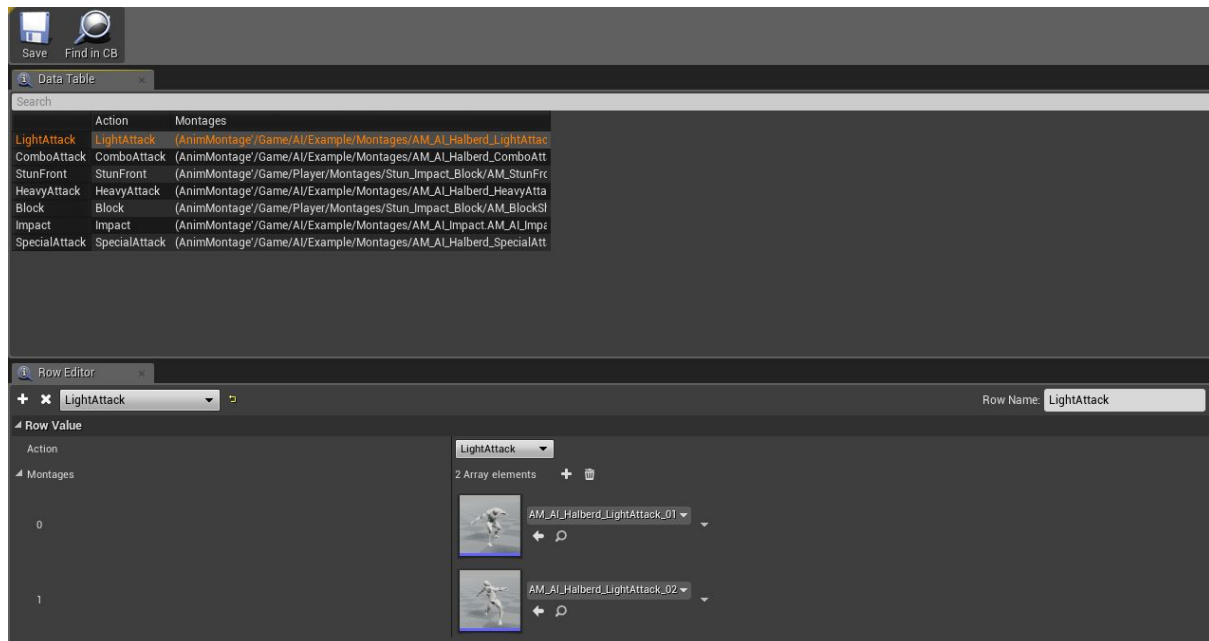
Creating new AI

1. Create new blueprint based on BP_BaseAI
2. Create new BehaviorTree with BB_Base as blackboard or use BT_ExampleAI
3. In AI defaults set BehaviorTree pointer to created one
4. By default AI will have BP_BaseAIController as AIController, it will set player as target value in blackboard on detection

5. Set AI mesh, anim instance, play around with default settings
6. Set Montages DataTable in MontagesManagerComponent to DT_ExampleAI or create your own with different animations
7. After those steps AI should be ready, and you can start building Behavior Tree using included tasks/services/decorators if you didn't use BT_ExampleAI

Animations used by AI

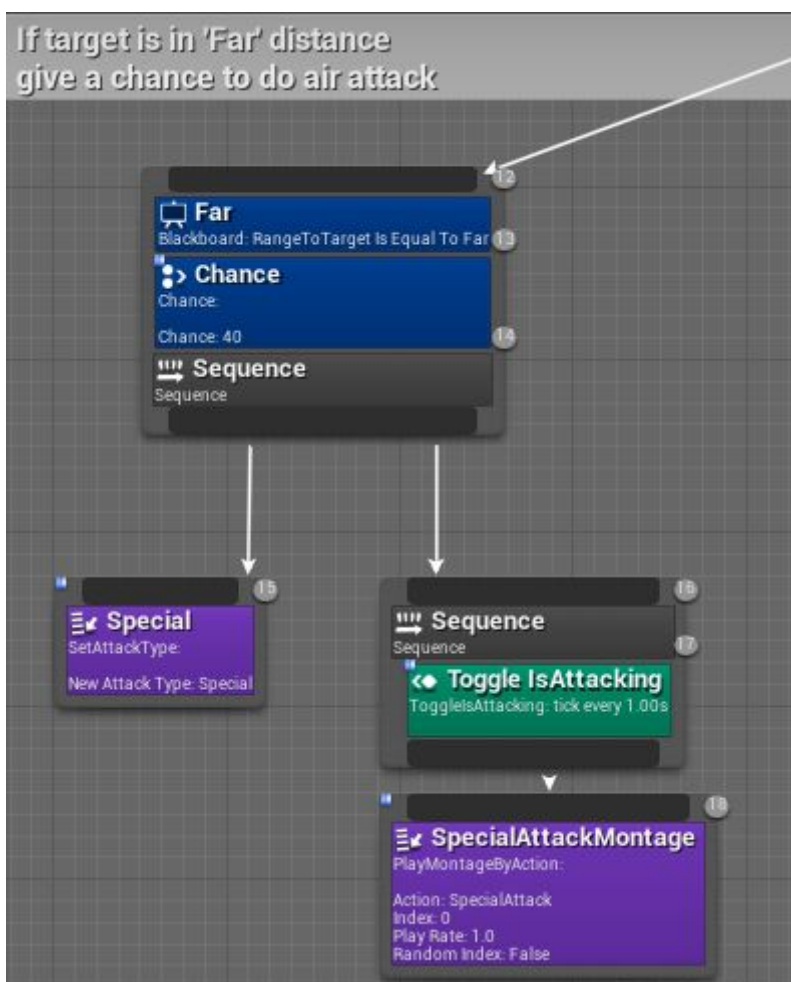
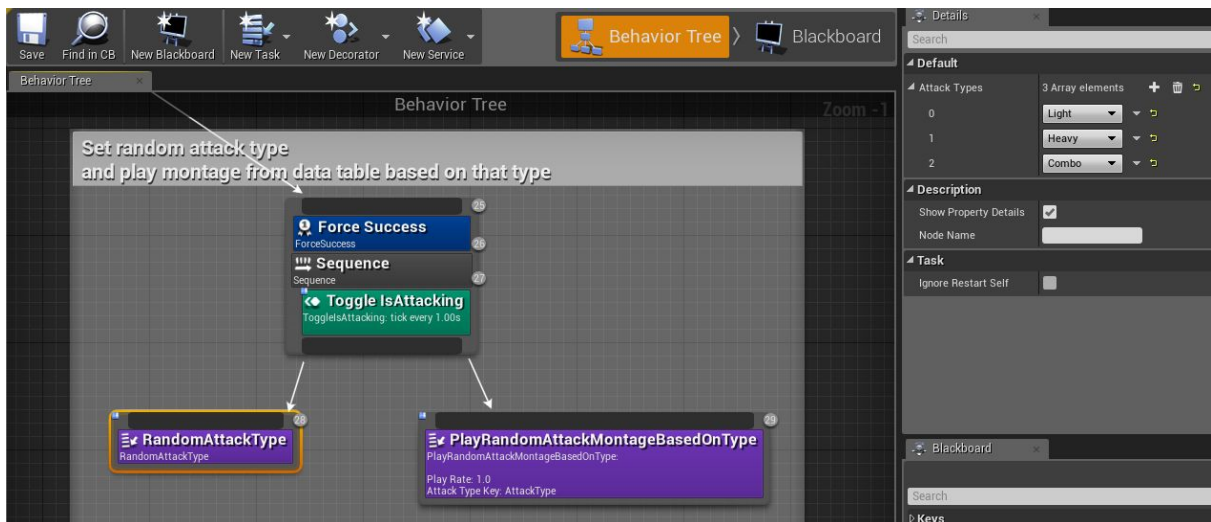
Same as player, all montages used by AI are stored in DataTable (DataTables/DT_ExampleAI), using [MontageManagerComponent](#). I highly recommend to keep that convection if you are going to add new montages.



Take note that RowName must have same name as Action value.

Important Montages

If you take a look at BT_ExampleAI, it uses light/heavy/combo/special attack types, so he will need to set those in DataTable as well.



Light Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
 Heavy Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
 Special Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
 Combo Attack (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)
 Impact (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Stun Front(Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Block (Slot: UpperBody, no root motion)

Additional Montages

For directional stun there is already implemented logic inside player character, just set animations with proper enum value and Row Name and it will work.

Stun Back (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

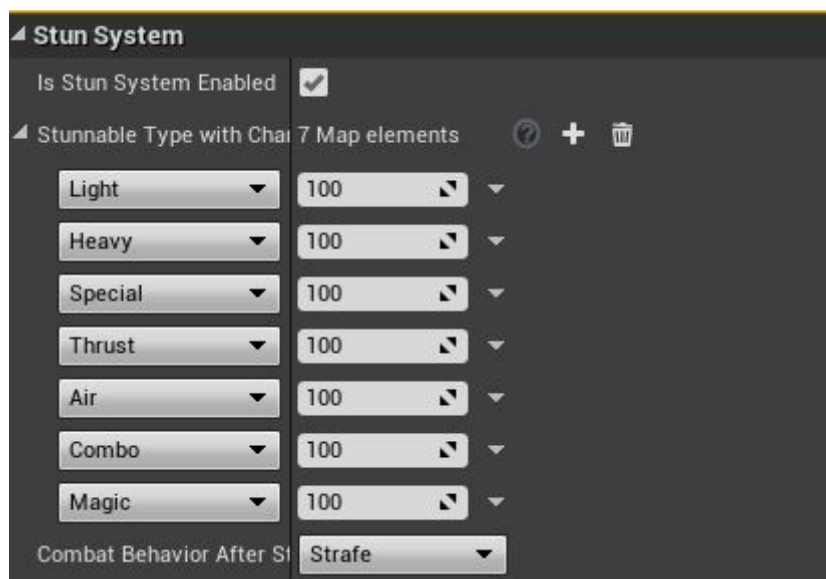
Stun Left (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

Stun Right (Slot: FullBody, with root motion)

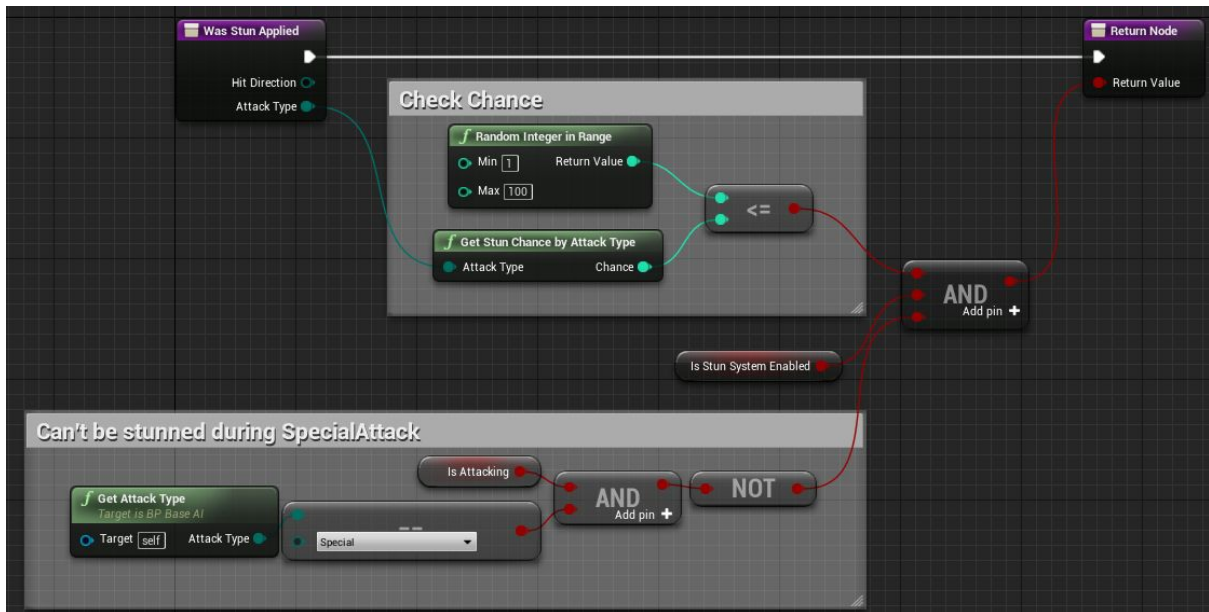
Stun System

In AI default settings stun system can be enabled/disabled.

If it's enabled, you can set chances for this character to get stunned and CombatBehavior after stun ends.

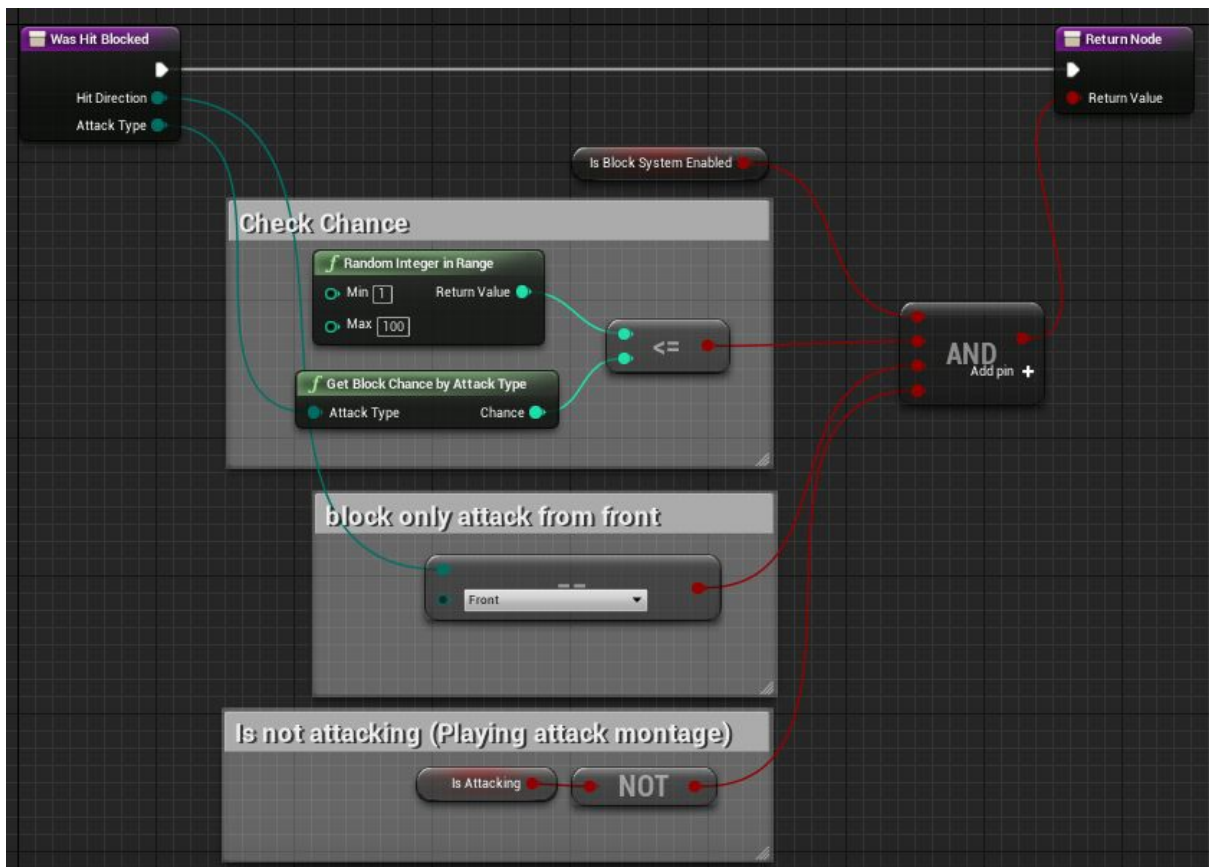


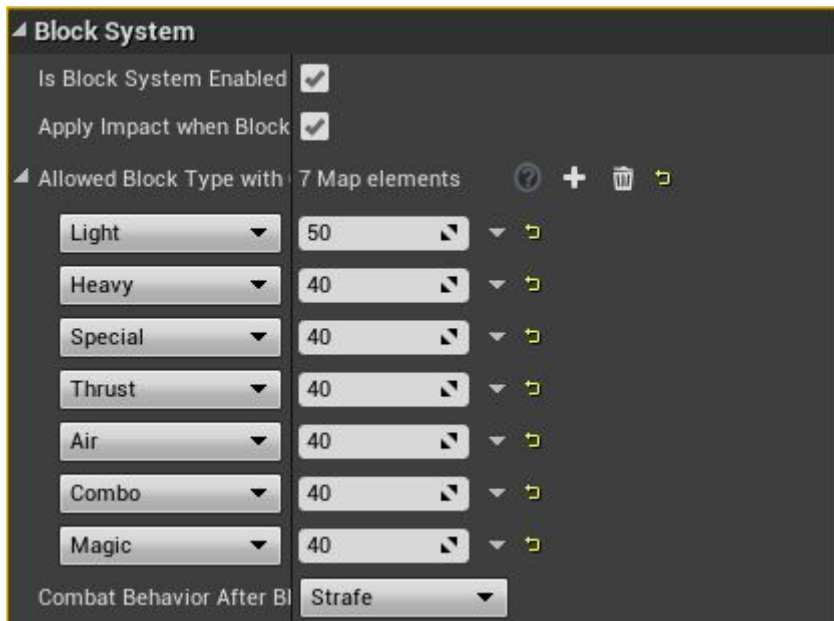
Additionally in function WasStunApplied you can add other conditions which must be fulfilled to apply stun effect (e.g. never stun character while special attack is performed).



Block System

Very similar to stun system but to change block conditions use WasHitBlocked function instead.





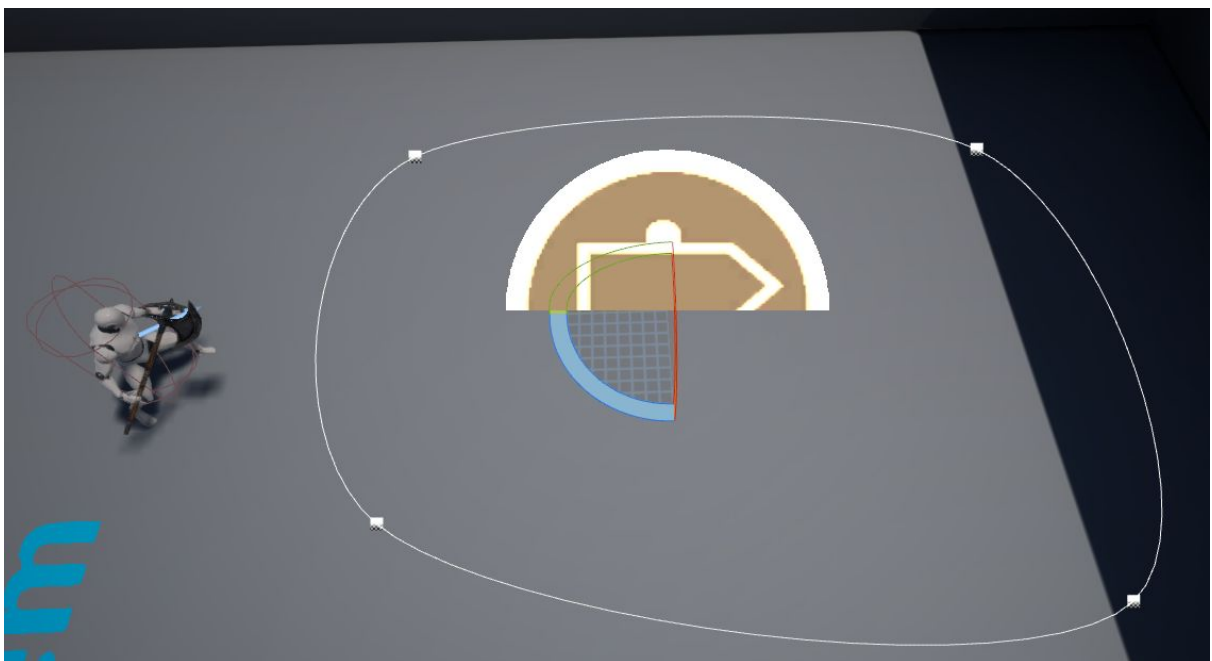
If ApplyImpactWhenBlock is enabled, Impact function from [IsAttackable](#) interface will be called on attacker.

It can be disabled in case there is Dodge/Evade block montage played instead of blocking with shield/sword etc.

Patrol

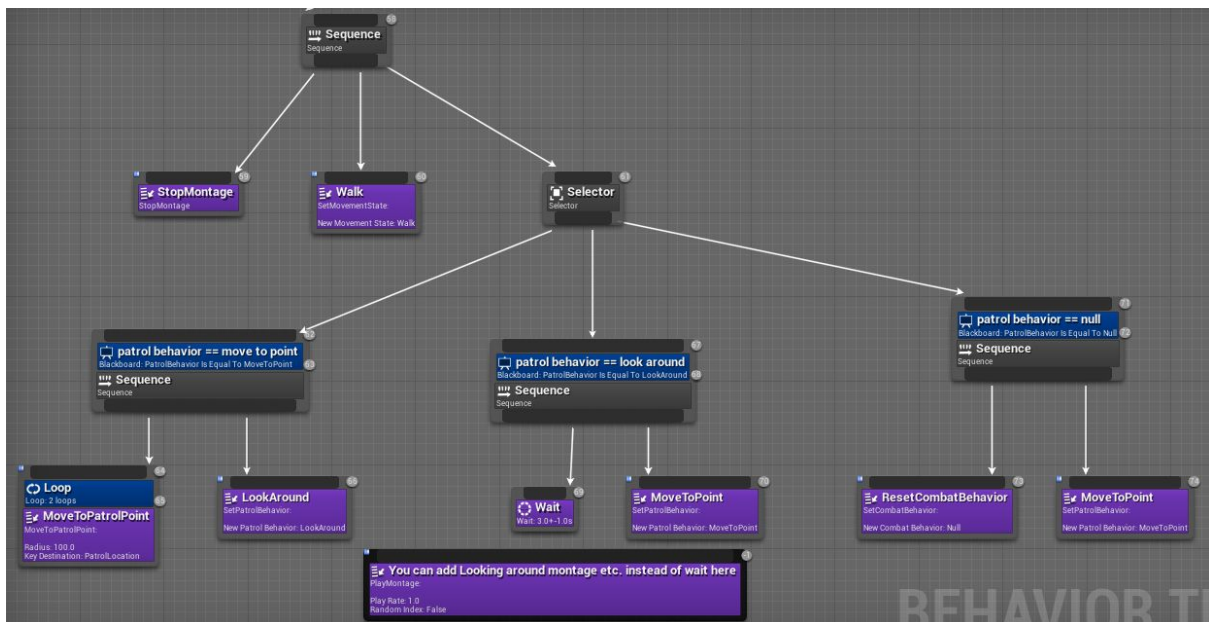
Allows AI to patrol using spline from BP_PatrolPath blueprint.

Drag and drop it into the level creating patrol spline, then set it with eye dropper in AI default settings.





In BT_ExampleAI by default if there is not any enemy around, character will be moving towards 2 patrol points, wait and repeat.



Rotate Towards Target

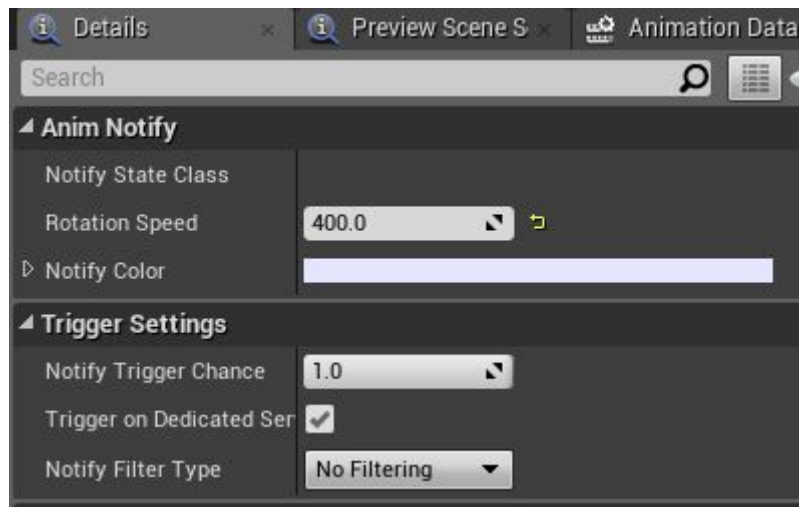
Allows to rotate AI smoothly towards target from blackboard.

Mostly used on attack animations.

To enable this system use ANS_RotateTowardsTarget-AI

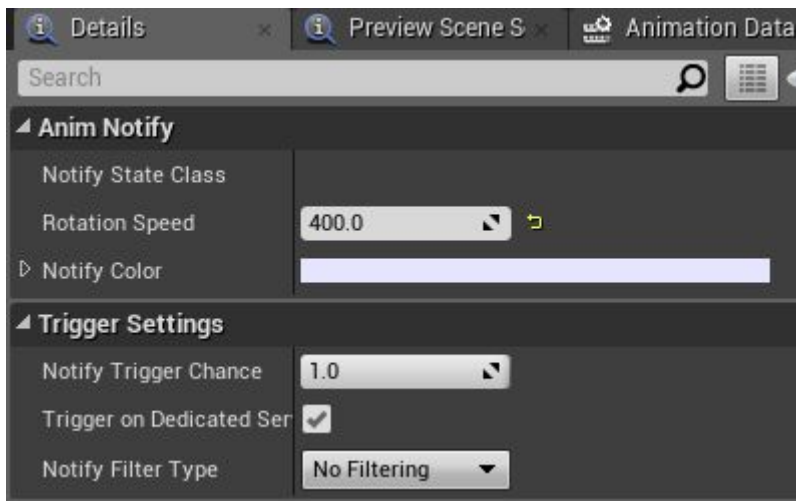


Rotation speed(how fast character will be rotating) can be specified in anim notify section.



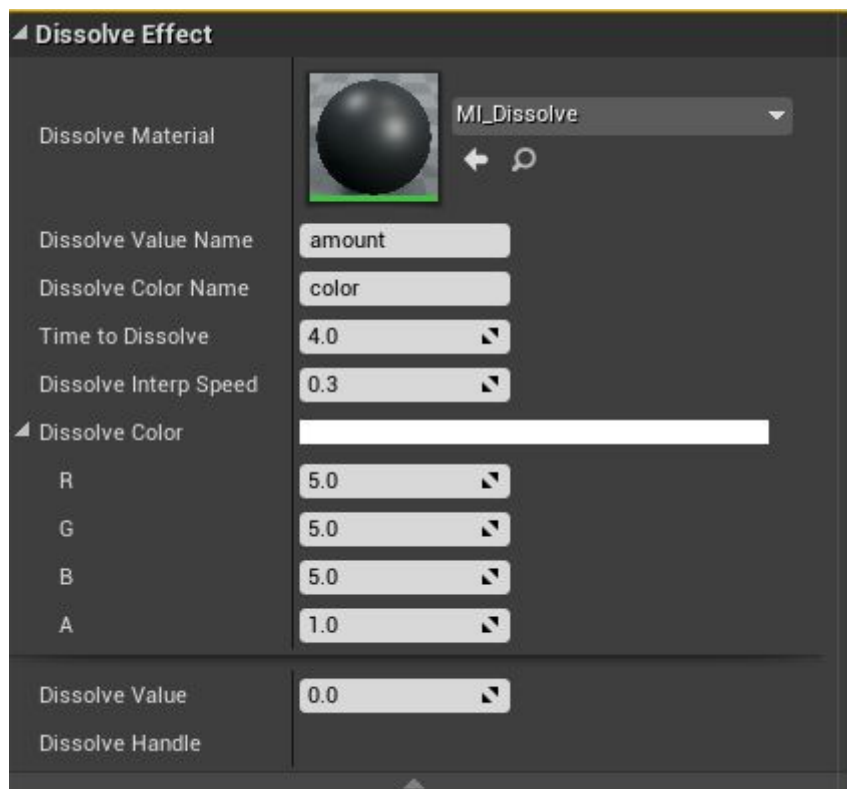
It is recommended to add this state in the moment when character is moving to avoid foot sliding effect.

In example above state is added when character has 1 feet up, with rotation speed of 400.



Dissolve Effect

Effect applied after character dies.



DissolveValueName - parameter name of dissolve effect value material

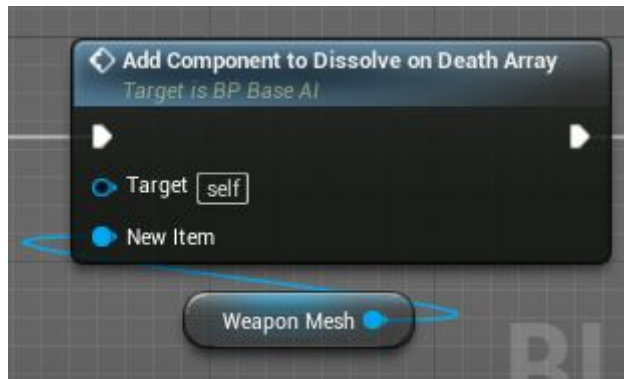
DissolveColorName - parameter name of dissolve color in material

TimeToDissolve - time after dissolve effect will start be applying

DissolveInterpSpeed - how fast dissolve material will be applied

Dissolve Color - dissolve material color

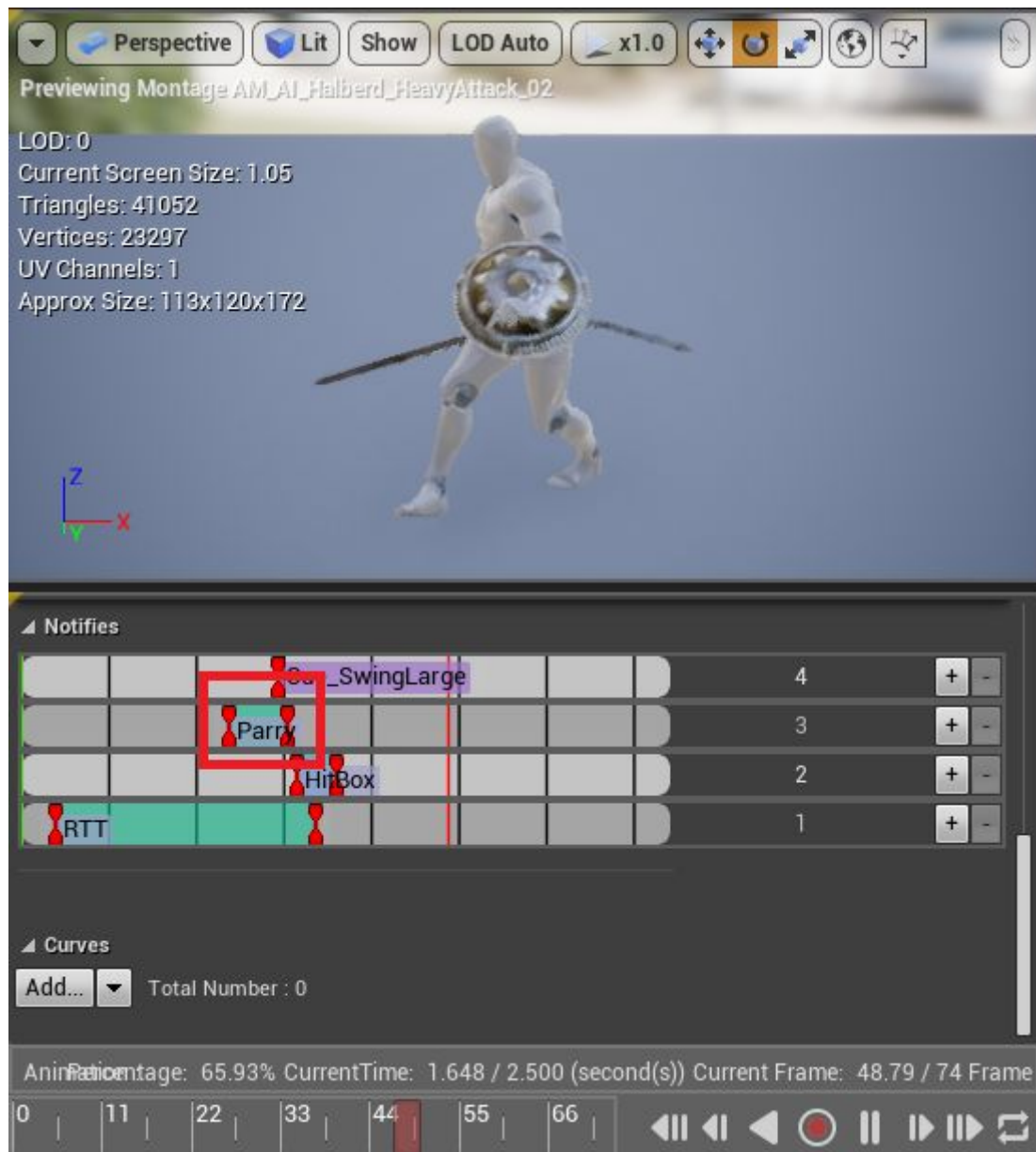
New Primitive Components(attachments like swords/shields) can be added with AddComponentToDissolveOnDeathArray



Parry

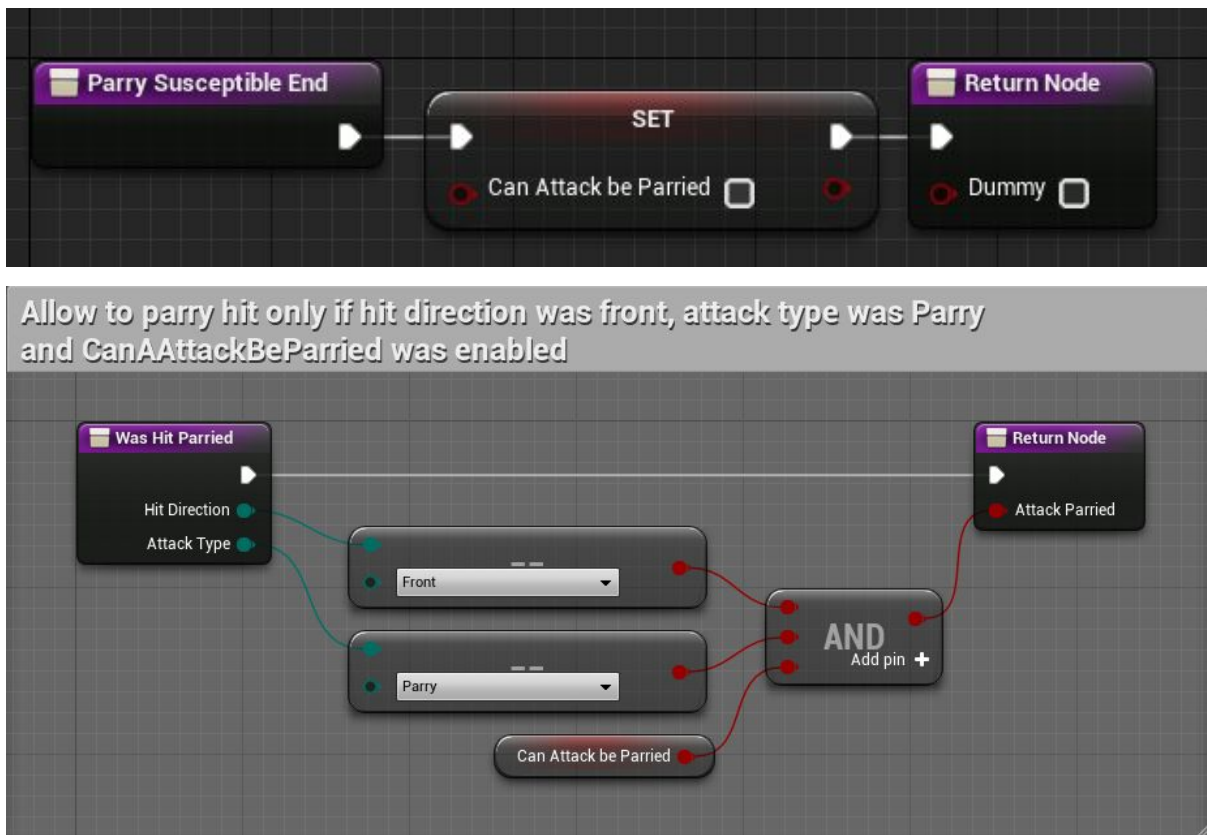
If AI is attacking and gets hit while is in notify state

[ANS_ParrySusceptible](#) (and attack type was Parry), then AI gets stun and plays ParryGetHit montage from DataTable.



[ANS_ParrySusceptible](#) is calling functions from interface [IsSusceptibleToParry](#) (Parry SusceptibleStart/End)





Interfaces

IsAttackable

Defines if owning class can be attacked.

Functions:

HandleHit - called when character receives damage..

Impact - called e.g. when attacked actor blocked hit.

IsAlive - should be implemented to return true if character is alive, false otherwise.

CanBeImmortal

EnableImmortality - makes character immortal

DisableImmortality - disable immortality on character

IsTargetable

Defines if character can be targeted by dynamic targeting component.

More info in [DynamicTargetingComponent](#).

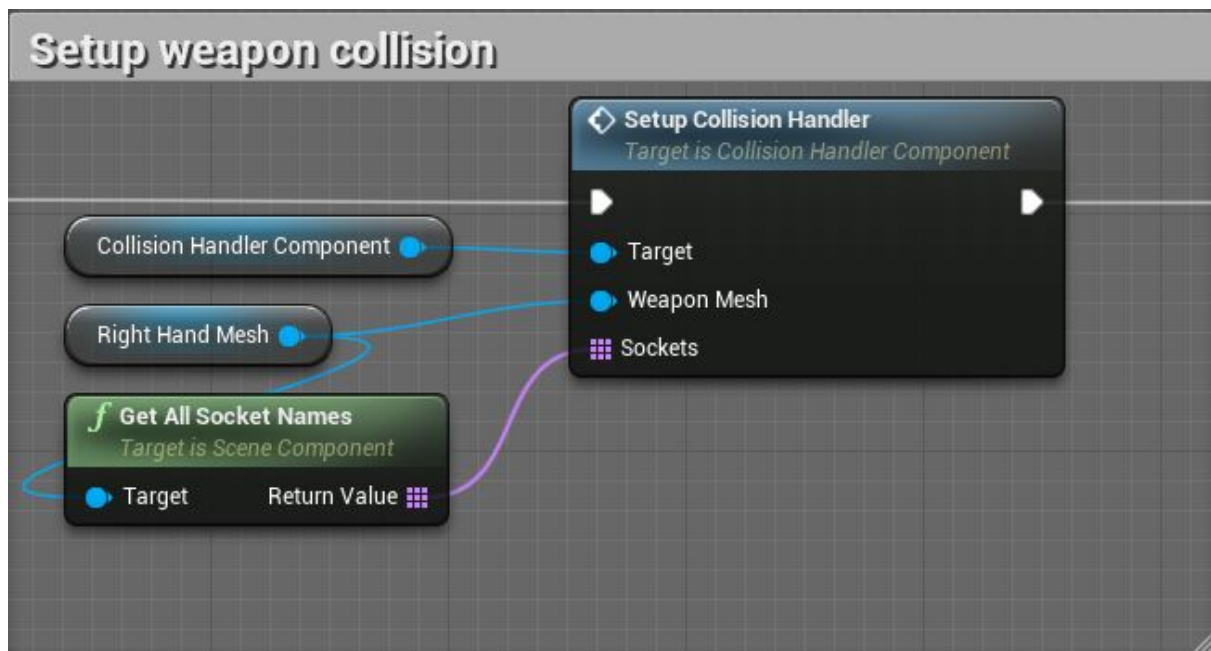
IsSusceptibleToParry

Described in [Parry](#)

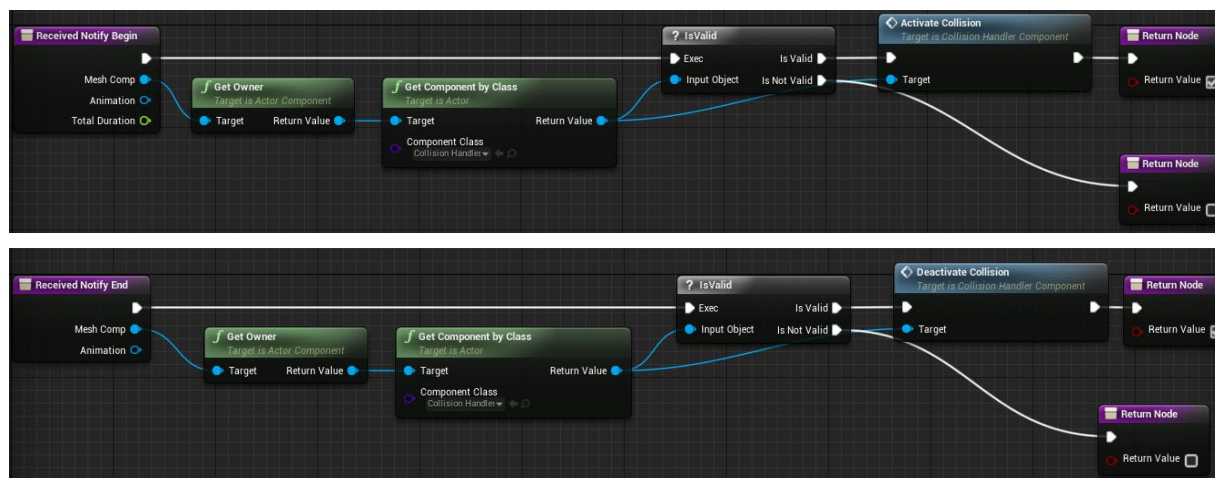
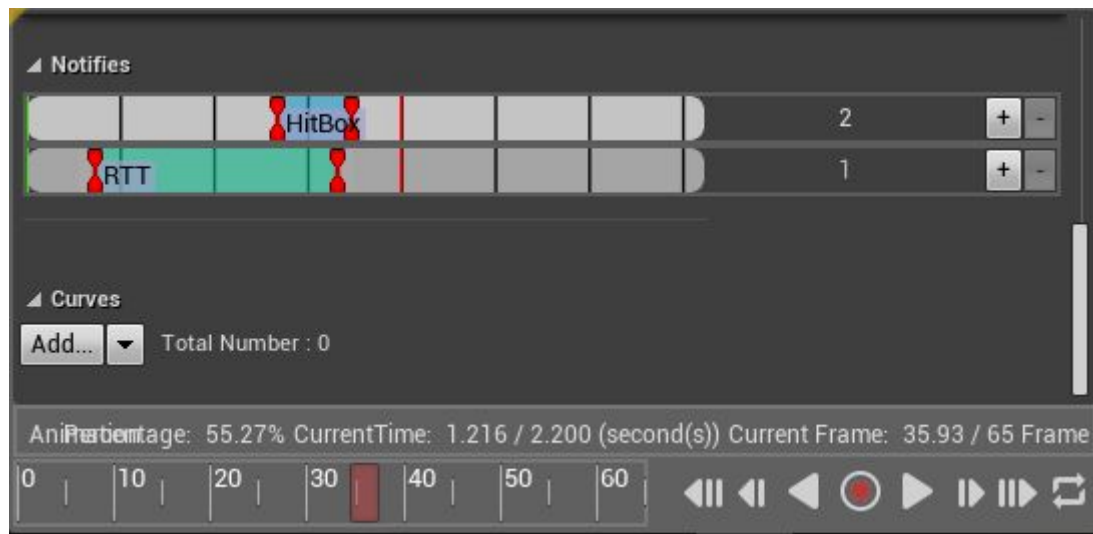
Components

CollisionHandlerComponent

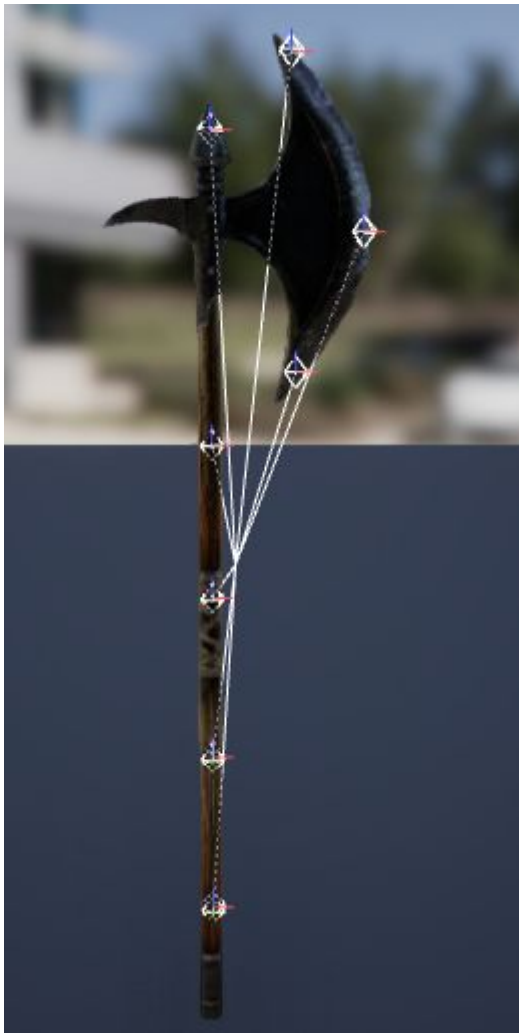
Component used in both Player and AI which allows to detect collision with other actors based on given sockets of skeletal mesh(weapon) e.g. to apply damage on them.



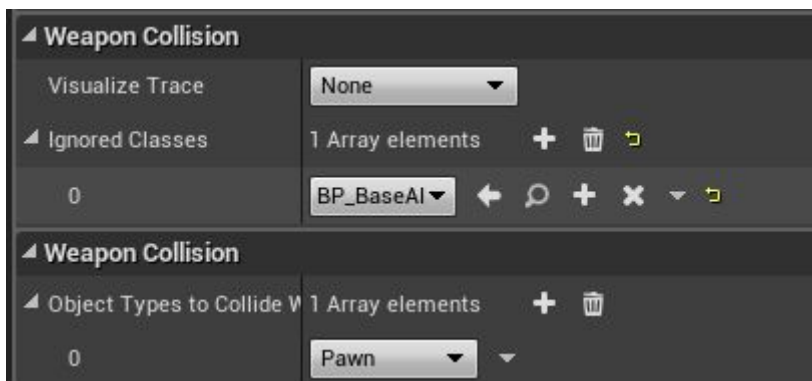
To enable/dissable detecting collision,use ANS_HitBox



Item used by this component should be skeletal mesh.
Example weapon with few sockets on it.



To avoid calling OnHit event when collision is detected on friendly actors(companion etc.),
their class can be added to IgnoredClasses array(all classes inheriting from this class will also be ignored)



DynamicTargetingComponent

<https://www.unrealengine.com/marketplace/dynamic-targeting>

Video explaining how this component works:

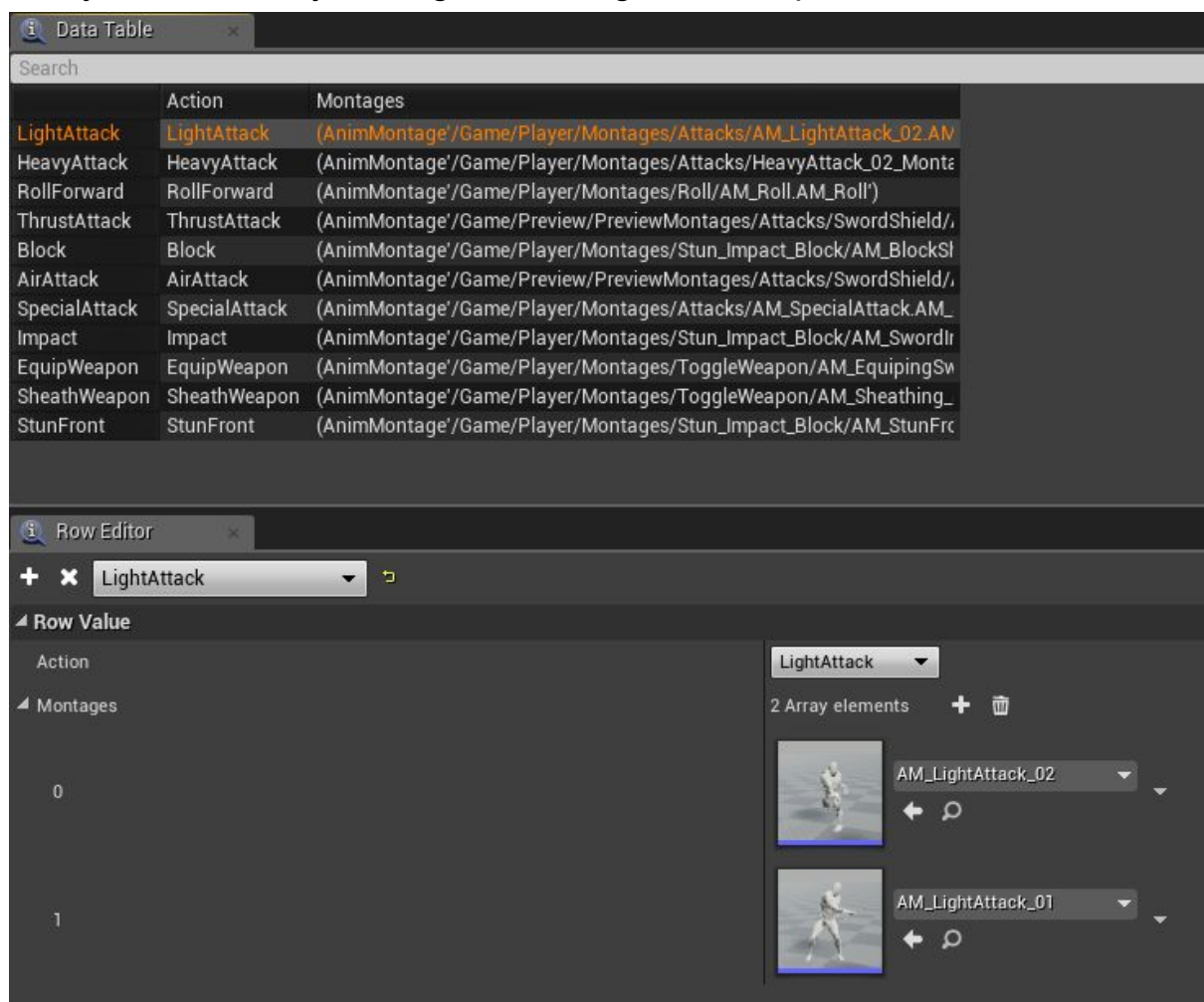
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp6SicLCjJQ>

InputBufferComponent

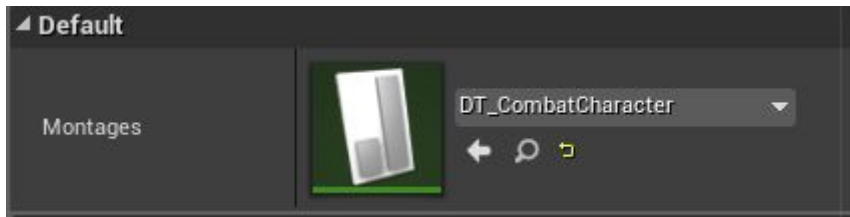
Described in [InputBuffer](#) section.

MontageManagerComponent

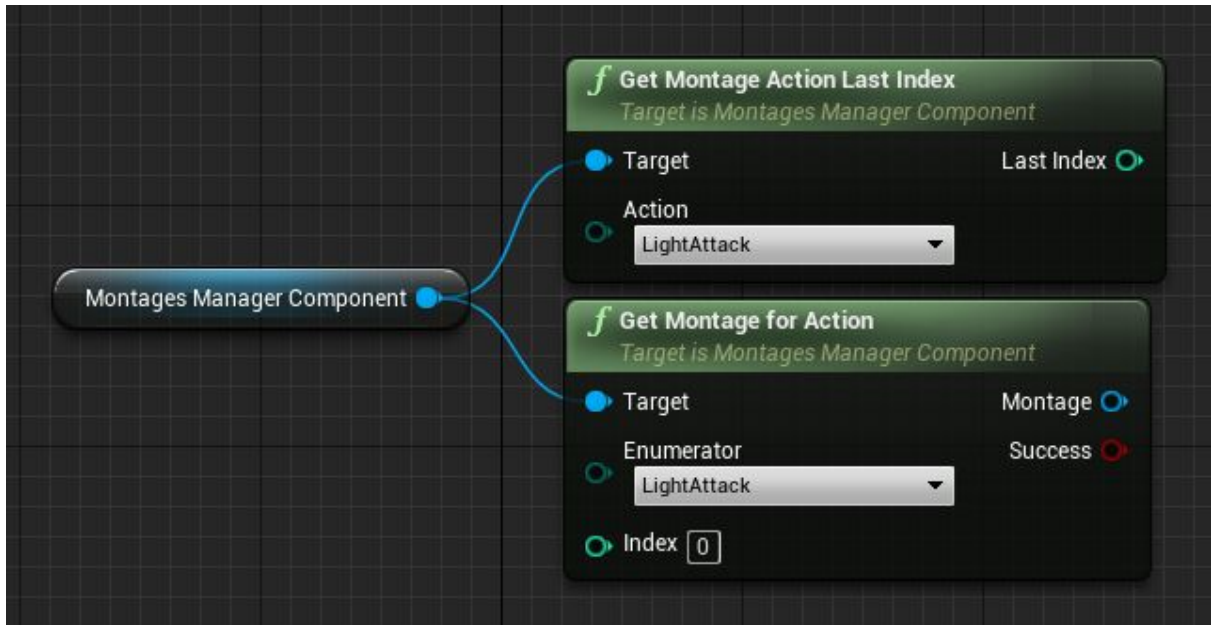
Component used both by AI and Player, it helps to keep code clean and easily modifiable by storing all montages in one place - DataTables



To use, set Data Table which will be used by owner.



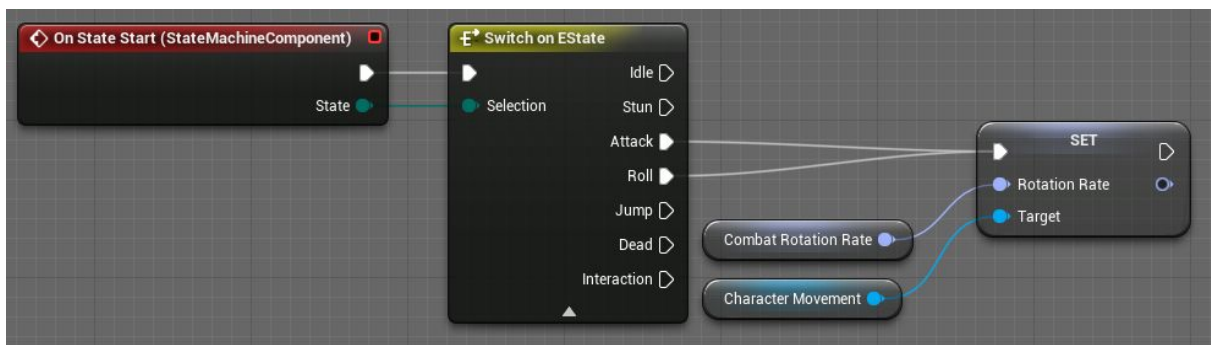
Getting Montage or last index of the array, using [EMontageAction](#) value

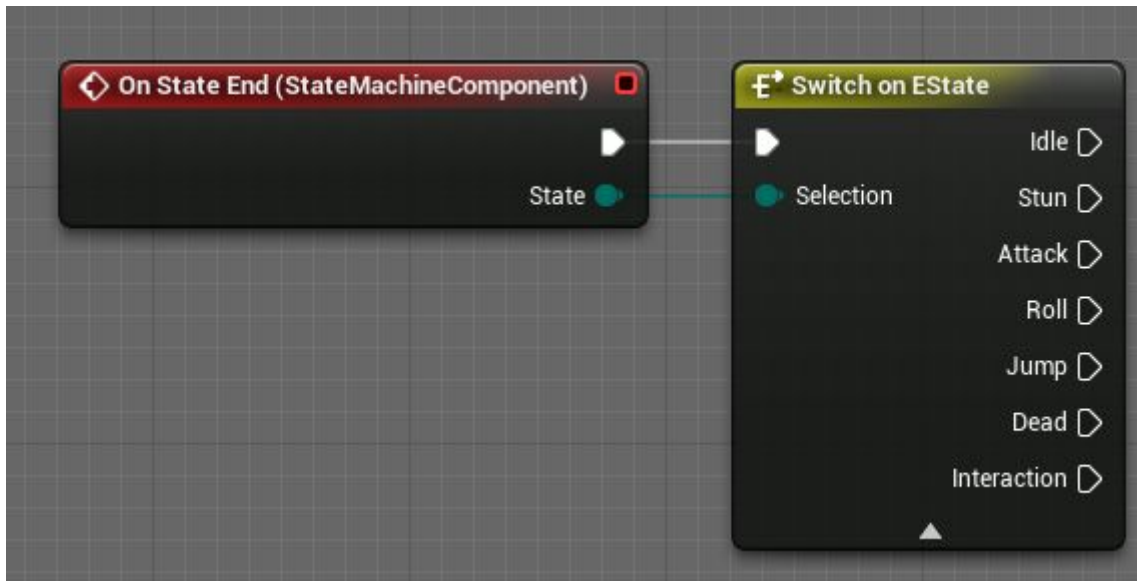


StateMachineComponent

Component used by player to define his current state.

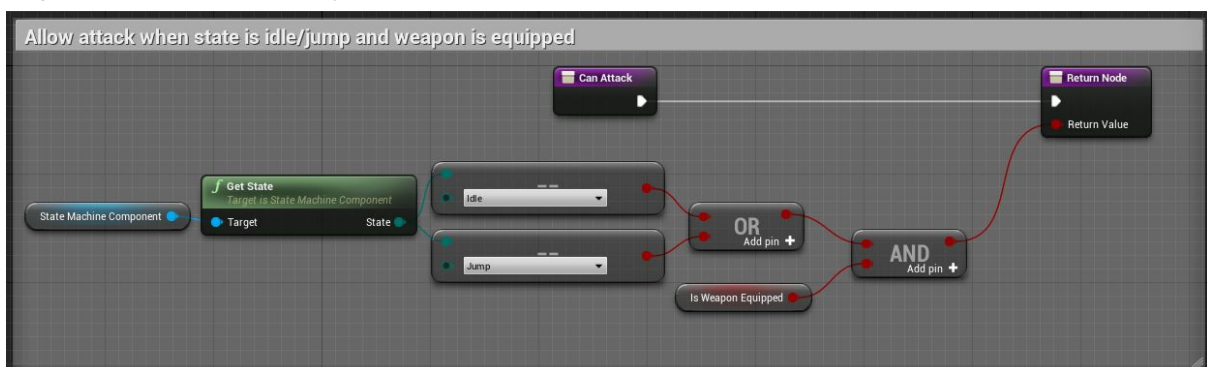
Allow to call additional functions when state ends/starts





Mostly used to define what player can/can't do in certain states.

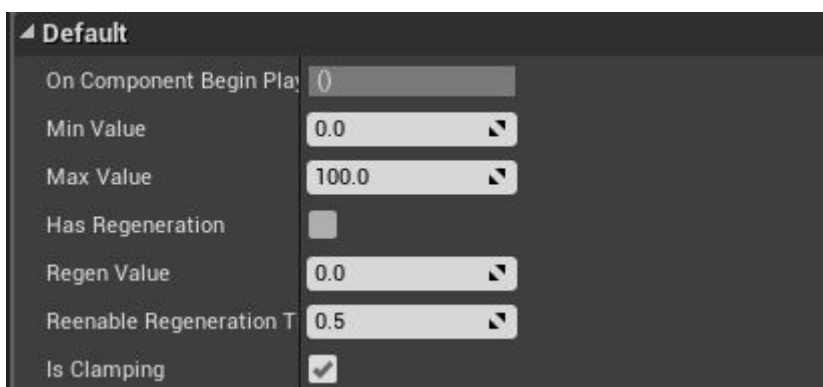
e.g. allow attack only in Idle/Air state if weapon is equipped



StatisticComponent

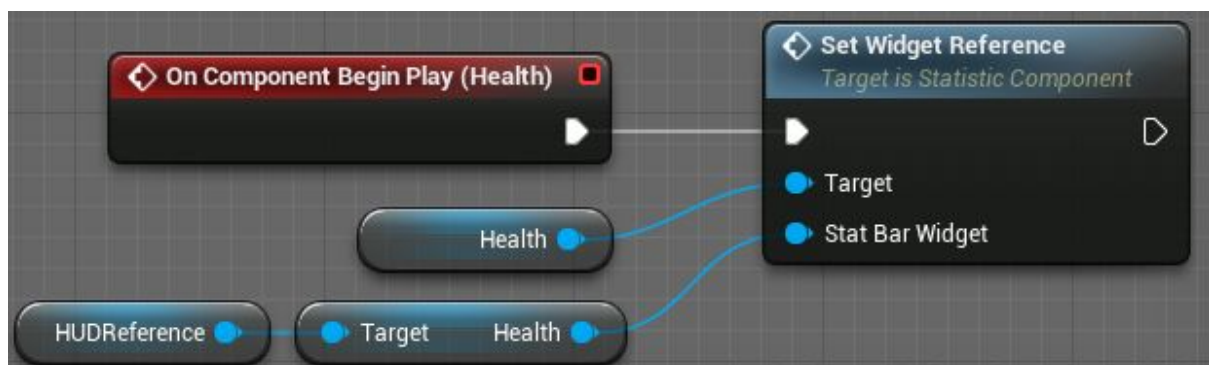
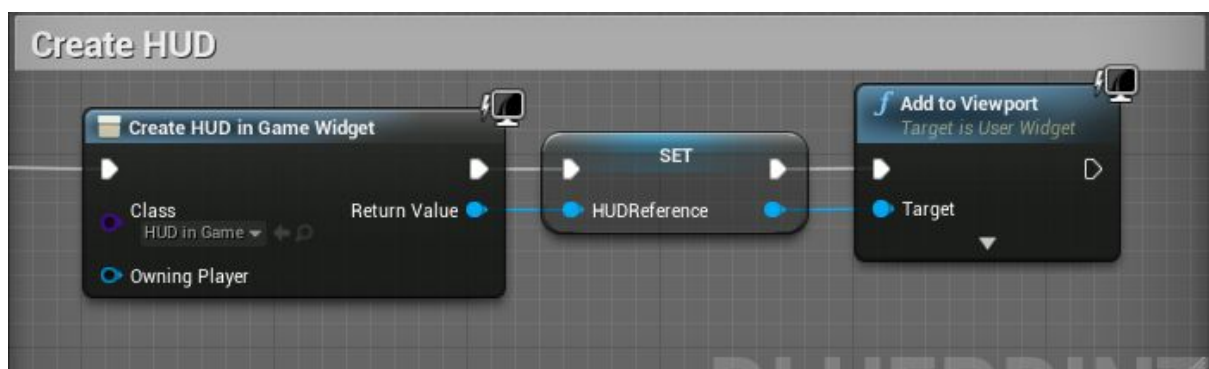
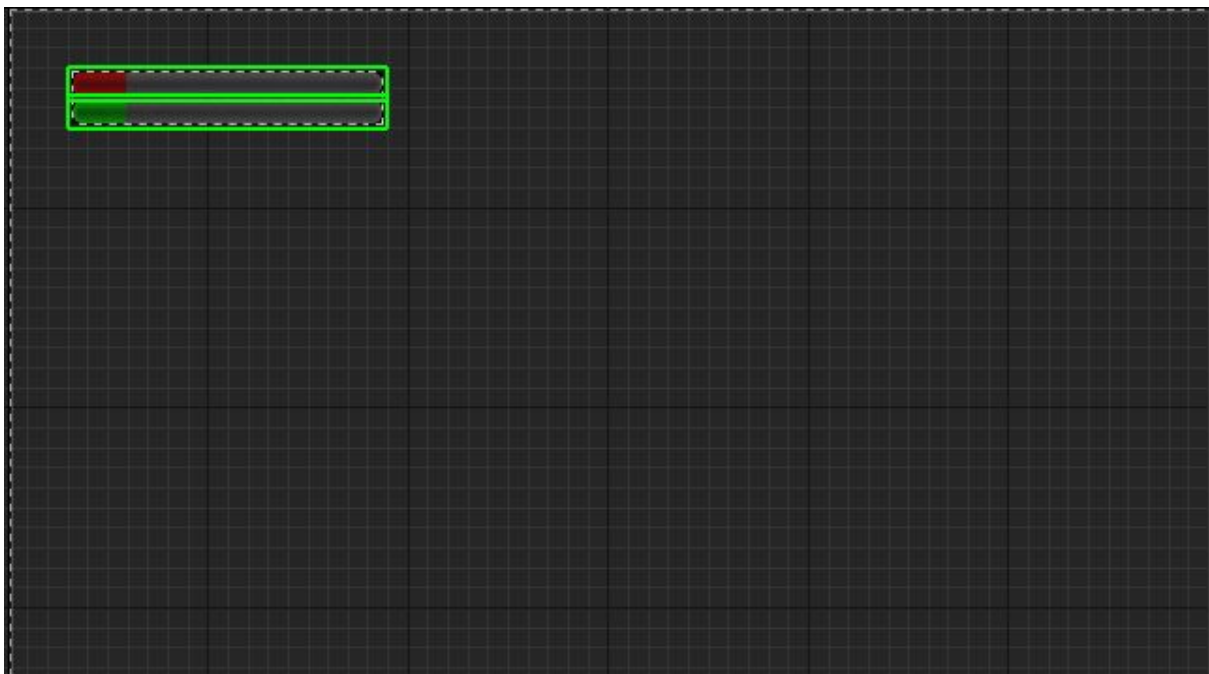
Component used both by player(stamina/health) and AI(health).

New stats like Mana/Exp can be also be added.

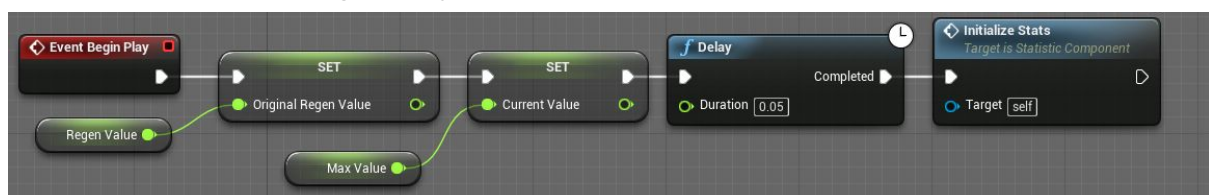


Component requires to set BaseStatBar pointer in order to visualize it.

To do that use function SetWidgetReference

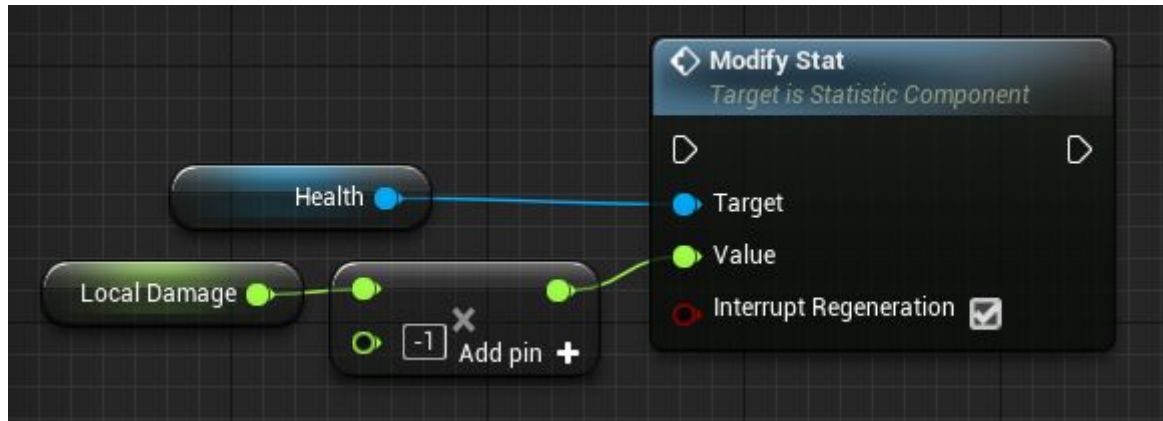


Event OnComponentBeginPlay is called with little delay, to avoid calling it before owner's BeginPlay.



You could also initialize it on your own with above function InitializeStats which is public.

Example of modifying stat.



Animation Notifies

AN_IgnoreRootMotion-Player

This system is described in Player's [IgnoreRootMotion](#) section.

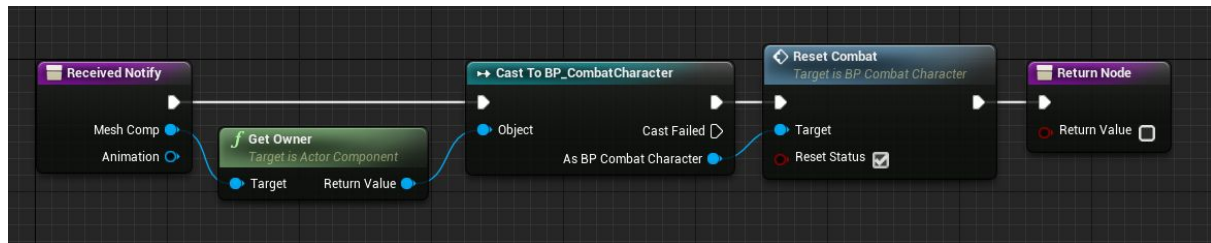
ANS_IgnoreRootMotion-Player

This system is described in Player's [IgnoreRootMotion](#) section.

AN_ResetCombat-Player

Notify calling ResetCombat function from player character.

This notify should be used on Impact/Stun player's montage, instead of [ANS_InputBuffer-Player](#).



More info in [InputBuffer](#).

ANS_ParrySusceptible

Described in [Parry](#)

ANS_HitBox

Described in [CollisionHandlerComponent](#).

ANS_InputBuffer-Player

Described in [InputBuffer](#) section.

ANS_RotateTowardsTarget-AI

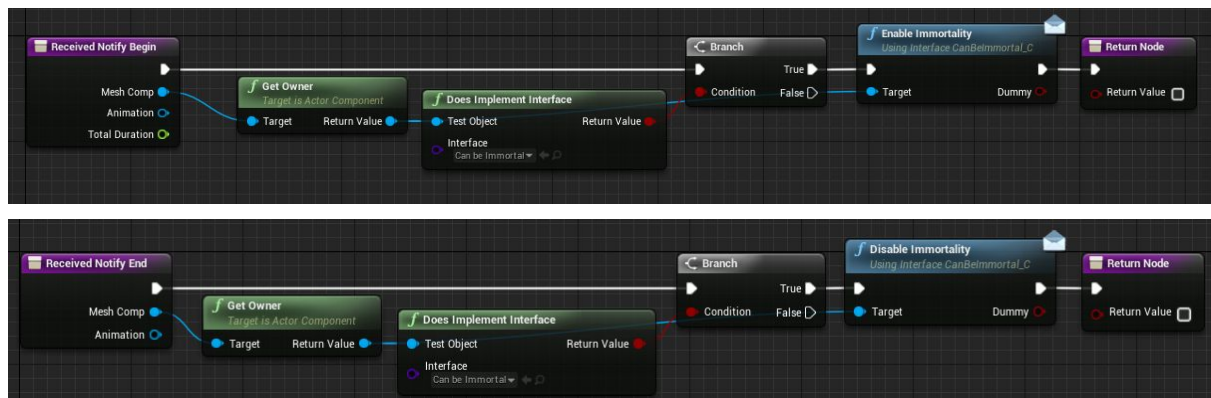
Described in [RotateTowardsTarget](#).

ANS_ToggleImmortality

State which calls [CanBeImmortal](#) interface functions.

On Begin - EnableImmortality

On End - DisableImmortality

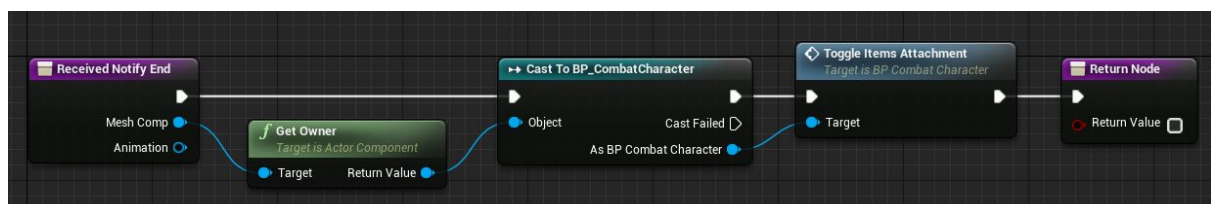


Used on roll/dash montages to make character immortal.

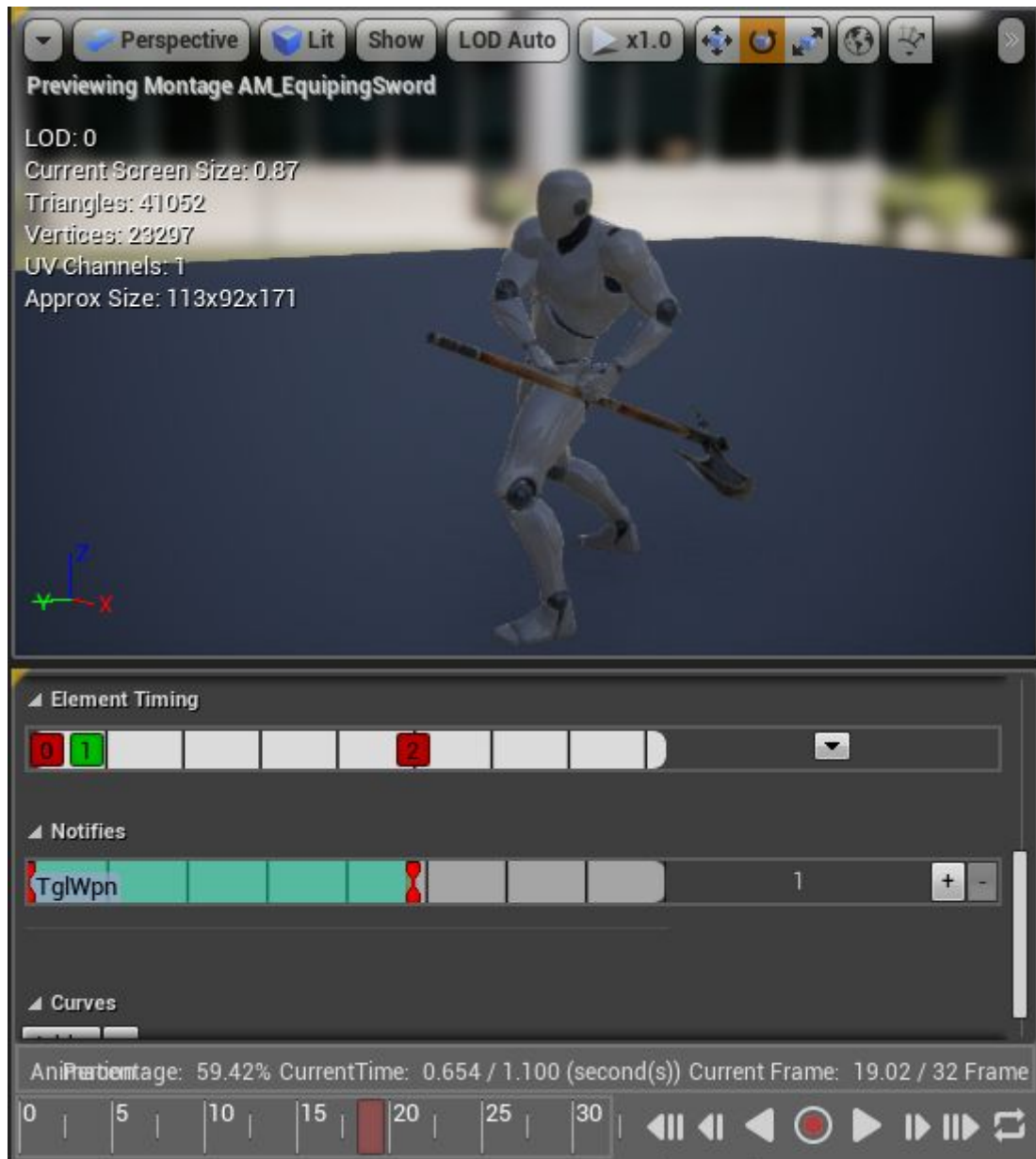


ANS_ToggleWeaponAttachment-Player

Called on equipping/sheathing montages used by player.



It is called from beginning of the montage to the moment when sockets should be changed, because even if montage will be interrupted, end event will be called and weapon will be attached to proper slot.



Enums

EAICombatBehavior

Behaviors of AI while it is in combat state, e.g. approach/strafe/attack etc.

Can be used in behavior tree.

EAIHealthState

Health state of AI, low/medium/high.

Can be used in behavior tree.

EAIPatrolBehavior

Behaviors of AI while it is in combat state, e.g. look around/wait/move to waypoint etc.

Can be used in behavior tree.

EAIStatus

Main status of AI e.g. combat/patrol/Investigate/flee etc.

Can be used in behavior tree.

EAttackType

Used to perform correct attack, modify damage based on type, define which types can stun opponent or be blocked etc.

EInputBufferKey

Used in [InputBufferComponent](#) to choose action based on stored key.

EMontageAction

Used by [MontageManagerComponent](#) to choose proper montage from DataTable based on given value.

More info in [MontageManagerComponent](#).

ERotationMode

Used by [DynamicTargetingComponent](#).

EState

Used by [StateMachineComponent](#) to define current state of the owner.

Mainly used in player blueprint.