

UnrealCourse.com Section 3 Slides - Building Escape

[<< To Section 2](#)

[To Section 4 >>](#)

These are the slides that accompany the [Complete Unreal Developer Course](#).

See me develop the slides as I write the course...

- Right click or Insert > Comment to comment, especially if you see a typo
- A PDF version will be attached inside the Unreal course.
- The slides will update immediately as I change things.

Enjoy your stay!

Ben Tristem



View and comment on latest version online at <http://bit.ly/UnrealSlides>

Section Introduction

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Welcome to our first Unreal editor section
- You'll learn simple level building
- We'll be using meshes and materials
- C++ events accessed from Blueprint
- Calling C++ code from Blueprint
- And much more.



v.4.10

Game Design Document (GDD)

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



Concept

- The core concept is simple: escape the room
- You awaken in a locked room, unable to escape
- Use environmental clues such as light and sound to determine what to do next
- Trigger pressure plates and solve puzzles to progress towards the exit.



Rules

- No lose condition, apart from the feeling you're going to die in this room if you don't get out!
- Anything that you can do, you are allowed to do
- You win by finally exiting the room.



Requirements

- Unreal's provided Starter Content pack
- C++ code and Blueprint to encode behaviour
- Various sound effects to enhance atmosphere
- Sketches for layout of room(s)
- Sketches for how puzzles work.



Sketch Your Room(s)

- Sketch out one large room, or a few smaller ones
- Annotate where the puzzles will be
- You can change your mind later
- Create a more detailed sketch of one puzzle
- Share your sketches in the discussions
- Evernote can be great for storing these things.



Possible Future Ideas (The NO List)

- This is ready to capture crazy ideas as they come!



v.4.10

Version Control 101

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



An Overview of Source Control

- The what and why of Version Control Systems
- Choosing your Version Control System (VCS)
- What files to include / exclude
- Commit = save a local snapshot
- Reset = roll-back to a previous state
- Branch, Push and Large File Support later.



Popular Version Control Systems

- Git
- Mercurial
- Perforce
- Subversion / TortoiseSVN
- Alienbrain (for art but of order \$10,000)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_version_control_software



About SourceTree

- Free software by Atlassian
- Visual front-end for Git or Mercurial
- Mac and PC but Mac version is a little ahead
- Good when learning as easy to visualise.



Install Your VCS

- Pick a VCS for yourself
- We'll be using Git with SourceTree as a front-end
- Install and register it
- Have a quicky play / experiment
- Carry on watching the videos.



Ignoring Unreal Derived Files

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web.community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Derived files can be easily rebuilt
- Other files (code, assets, level layout etc) can't
- Ignore most derived files for version control
- Which folders to ignore in version control
- Our starting .gitignore file for Unreal.



Derived Folders In Unreal

- Binaries
- Build
- DerivedDataCache
- Intermediate
- Saved

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Engine/Basics/DirectoryStructure>



Your First `.gitignore` for Unreal

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Understand Unreal creates VS projects for us
- How to re-generate VS project files
- Writing our first **.gitignore** file
- “Committing” our project for the first time.



Make Your First Commit

- Catch-up with what I did on this video
- Get your .gitignore file working*
- Add (stage) all your files and commit.
- Celebrate entering this bewildering new world!

** mine is attached to the first lecture of the section.*



A detailed Unreal Engine scene featuring a large, dark, multi-tiered space station or orbital platform. The station is illuminated with numerous bright lights, creating a high-contrast scene. In the background, a large, textured celestial body, possibly a planet or moon, is visible against a starry space background. The entire scene is rendered with a low-poly, faceted aesthetic, giving it a stylized, geometric appearance. The station has various structures, including a tall tower with a cross-like top and a large, dark, spherical object. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and the warm glows of the station's lights and the celestial body's surface.

Getting to Know Unreal's Editor

@UnrealCourse :: www.UnrealCourse.com



In This Video...

- Why changes to the starter scene aren't tracked
- Arranging a simple set of windows
- Moving around in the 3D Viewport
- Setting our start map, and committing.



Explore the 3D Viewport

- Use the little ? crib-sheet
- Explore until you're comfortable
- Add a few Props from the Starter Content.



A Pointers Primer

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- You're about to meet pointers for the first time
- The clue is when you see a * next to a type
- Pointers are simply memory addresses
- You have to “follow” the pointer to the object
- Benefit: saves you from moving things in memory
- Disadvantage: you can lose control of data.

Pointer Syntax

`FactorComponentTickFunction* ThisTickFunction`

`FactorComponentTickFunction * ThisTickFunction`

`FactorComponentTickFunction *ThisTickFunction`

- All three statements are equivalent, we use 1st
- In all cases ThisTickFunction is a pointer
- In all cases the type of the object pointed to is

`FactorComponentTickFunction`

The -> Accessor Operator

- Imagine we have `AActor* SomeActor;`
- The `AActor` class has a method `GetName()`
- `*SomeActor` “de-references” the pointer
- You could write `(*SomeActor).GetName();`
- But you can follow and access in one using `->`
- We access name with `SomeActor->GetName()`

Read More About Pointers

- <http://www.cplusplus.com/doc/tutorial/pointers>
- Share your understanding in the discussions
- Keep an eye out for a pointer in

`PositionReport.cpp` in the next video.



Unreal's Class System

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Introducing the idea of inheritance
- Unreal's scarily powerful class system
- Exploring using the Class Viewer*
- Inheritance for “is a” relationships
- Components for “has a” relationships.

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Engine/UI/ClassViewer/index.html>



Inheritance for “is a” Relationships

- e.g. **Character** “is a” **Pawn**, **Pawn** “is an” **Actor**
- c.f. **Dog** “is a” **Mammal**, **Mammal** “is an” **Animal**
- Unreal makes extensive use of inheritance
- Is a powerful tool if used properly
- Can be inflexible and hard to re-factor.



Components for “has a”

- The chair & the rock “has a” PositionReporter
- Objects become rich through many components
- Can be flexible if used properly.



Take a Look at the Generated Code

- Take a brief look at `UPositionReporter.cpp`
- Take a shorter look at `UPositionReporter.h`
- Share what you recognise in discussions
- Share what you don't recognise
- We'll explore the files in the next video.



Runtime Messages for Feedback

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Using **UE_LOG** to print to the Output Console
- Printing to the game screen

For more information read...

[https://wiki.unrealengine.com/Logs, Printing Messages To Yourself During Runtime#Related Tutorial](https://wiki.unrealengine.com/Logs,_Printing_Messages_To_Yourself_During_Runtime#Related_Tutorial)

Add Component to 2nd Object

- Add our new component to a 2nd game object
- If it works you'll get a 2nd log
- We'll see next how to read the object name.



Accessing Object Names

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Use `GetOwner()` to find the component's owner
- `*AActor` is a pointer to an actor, a new concept
- Use `->` to access methods through pointers
- Use `GetName()` to find the object's name
- Use `%s` as a format operator for strings
- Use `*` to “dereference” pointers.



v.4.10

Getting Transforms in C++

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Introducing **FVector**
- Mixing **.** and **->** to access methods
- Using multiple format operators
- Finishing our **PositionReport** component.



Find the Transform Location

- Explore the API using `.` and `->`
- See if you can get the object's location (X,Y,Z)
- Run and see if it prints on the Output Log
- Hint 1: It's harder in XCode, complete isn't fuzzy
- Hint 2: For the transform & location start with **Get**
- Hint 3: You will need to use **`.ToString()`**



v.4.10

Moving Objects With C++

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- A little more about the editor & temporary actors
- How to eject yourself from the possessed pawn
- Snapping objects to the floor (END key)
- Using the **FRotator** struct to represent rotation
- Use **SetActorRotation()** to rotate objects.

Access the Rotation

- Find the owning object as before
- Store it in a variable called **Owner**
- Get the type right (or use **auto**)
- Try and access the **Owner**'s rotation
- Hint: there are at least 2 ways.



Laying Out Geometry

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- A brief intro of BSP “vs” Static Meshes
- Use **Q**, **W**, **E** keys to translate, rotate, scale
- Make good use of grid snapping and quad view
- Hold **ALT + drag** translate to duplicate an object
- Hold **L** and double-click for temporary work Light
- This is fiddly, try letting go of L and trying again.

Build Your First Room(s)

- Lay-out your room(s)
- Re-build the lighting
- Share in the discussions.



v.4.10

Applying Materials

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- A material is comprised of texture(s) and shader(s)
- Textures are image files, shaders are GPU code
- Unreal ships with some impressive examples
- Unreal has powerful material editing tools
- Applying materials to our room interior.



Customise Your Materials

- Apply materials as you see fit
- Play with their properties to see the effect
- Share your creations in the discussions!



v.4.10

Macros Starting with **UPROPERTY**

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- A macro is a programmed cut-and-paste
- This happens before the code is compiled
- Can unlock powerful functionality
- We don't get code complete as standard
- Can also create really weird build errors
- Expose **ATriggerVolume*** to the Details window.

Write Your First **UPROPERTY**

- Open your **OpenDoor.h** file
- Declare **ATriggerVolume*** **PressurePlate**
- Use the **UPROPERTY** macro but...
- ... this time use the **EditAnywhere** parameter

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Programming/UnrealArchitecture/Reference/Properties/Specifiers/EditAnywhere/index.html>



v.4.10

Using Trigger Volumes

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- A trigger volume is a very versatile tool
- A 3D volume that detects things entering / leaving
- We're going to use one as a pressure plate
- How we're going to specify what can open doors
- Use `IsOverlappingActor()` on `ATriggerVolume`
- Polling vs using events.

v.4.10

Unreal's **PlayerController**

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- We've used `GetOwner()` to search “bottom-up”
- Now let's use `GetWorld()` to search “top-down”
- Game Mode specifies the Default Pawn Class
- The Default Pawn is your “body”, is transient
- The Player Controller is your “mind”, persist
- PlayerController class has `GetPawn()`

Finish Your First Pressure Plate(s)

- Adjust size & position of your trigger volume(s)
- Link to appropriate door(s)
- Ensure all doors are “movable”
- Briefly test the gameplay.



v.4.10

Using Collision Volumes

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Collisions volumes are also known as colliders
- These tell the physics engine what hits what
- A trigger volume just triggers code
- A collider actually has physics simulated
- Exploring how to add collision volumes
- Prevent players from passing through the door!



Ensure You Can't Escape

- Make sure there are no gaps in your colliders
- Test you can't escape over walls
- Customise your collision volumes.



v.4.10

Using `GetTimeSeconds()`

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Using `GetWorld()->GetTimeSeconds()`
- Making our game highly “play tunable”
- Re-factoring our code for simplicity
- Using a spotlight to provide “affordance”
- Play-testing to ensure the game is annoying!



Implement Door Close Delay

- Write some simple timing code
- Get the doors closing after a specified delay
- Play-test to ensure you can't escape.



v.4.10

Grabbing System Overview

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- A quick look at the end result
- You try and think how it may be done
- I'll outline how we'll be doing it.



Write Your Ideas

- Use the knowledge you have already
- Would you use a component or inheritance?
- Hint: either could work, just hear yourself reason
- How may you know what to grab?
- What game object would you be working with?
- Share your ideas for discussion.



Grabbing System Overview

- We want to be able to lift the chair next
- We'll add a **Grabber.cpp** component to the player
- The player is a temporary actor, appears on play
- The Game Mode sets which Default Pawn to use
- Create Default Pawn & Game Mode Blueprints
- Specify our modified Default Pawn.

About GameMode

Anything from what inventory items a player starts with or how many lives are available to time limits and the score needed to end the game belongs to GameMode.

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Gameplay/Framework/GameMode/index.html>

v.4.10

Modifying the Default Pawn Actor

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Why Blueprint is helpful in this case
- How to make a Blueprint from the Default Pawn
- Note this Blueprint class inherits, an “is a” relation
- A Blueprint is like a template
- You make an “instance” in the scene
- Explore “instantiating” from Blueprint & modifying.

Try Making A Rugby Ball Pawn!

- Modify the Default Pawn somehow...
- ...scaling on one axis for example
- Create an instance by dragging into the world
- See how modifying instance doesn't change BP
- Revert your change.



v.4.10

Inherit Game Mode Blueprint

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- “Hard coding” means assets written into code
- The **DefaultPawn_BP** is an asset
- We want to be able to track changes to its name
- It is convenient to use Blueprint for this purpose
- Extending our C++ Game Mode with Blueprint
- Selecting the new **DefaultPawn_BP**

Make a Game Mode Blueprint

- Find the C++ Game Mode in the Content Browser
- Create a Blueprint class derived (inheriting) from it
- Set this as the Default GameMode in...
- Settings > Project Settings > Maps & Modes
- Make sure the game still runs the same.



v.4.10

Getting Player Viewpoint

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Know where the player is looking
- Out-parameters can be confusing
- A way of marking-up out parameters
- Continuously logging player viewpoint.



Log the Viewpoint Every Tick

- Log the viewpoint position and direction every tick
- Hint: You may need to use `ToString()`
- Get used to working with different data types
- Give it at least 20 mins if you're struggling
- Carry on watching for my solution.



Using DrawDebugLine

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv

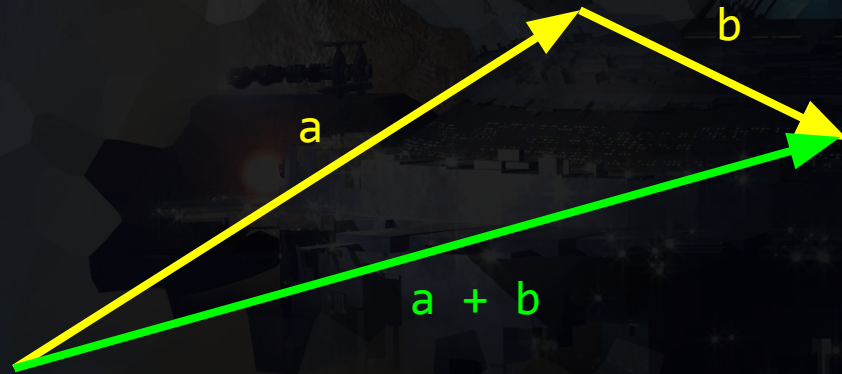


In This Video...

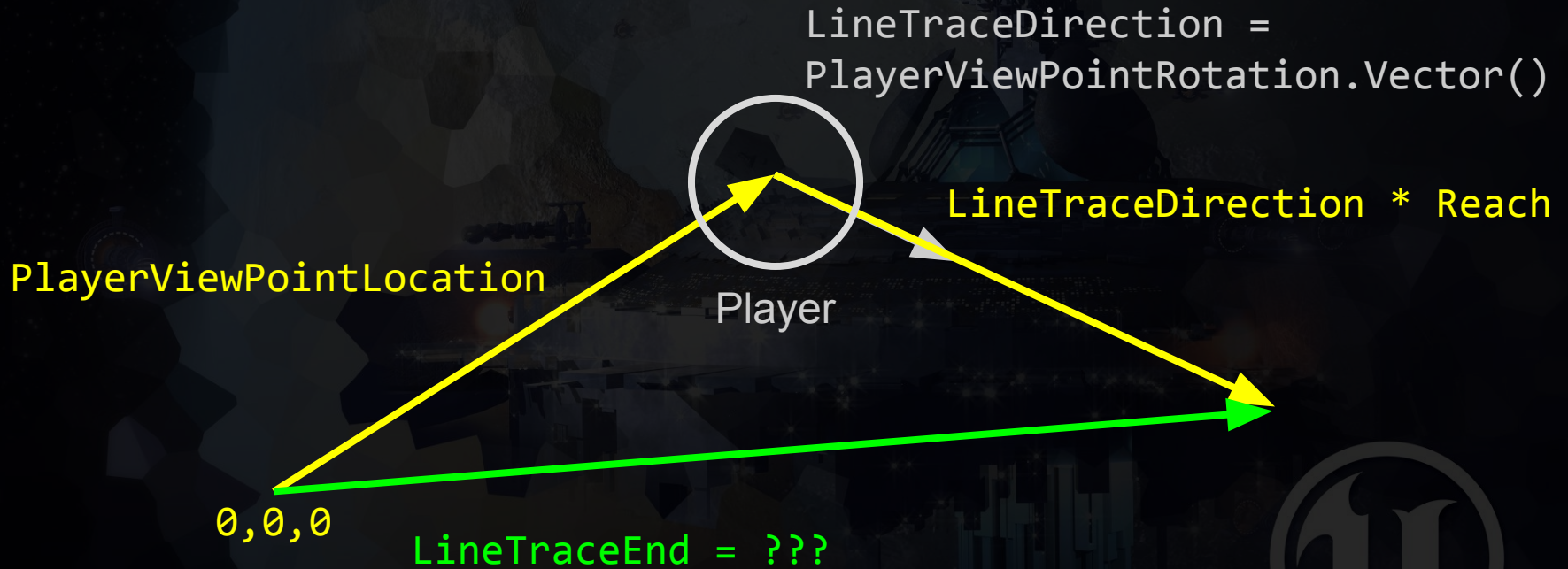
- How to add vectors
- Calculating our line trace end point
- Using debug functions for visualisation in Unreal
- Use `DrawDebugLine()` to visualise the vectors.



About Adding Vectors



Calculating **LineTraceEnd**



Calculate **LineTraceEnd**

- Create a private variable **float Reach = 100.f;**
- Calculate **LineTraceEnd**
- Test the debug trace, eject to visualise (F8)
- Share why it looks a square?



v.4.10

Line Tracing AKA Ray-Casting

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Line tracing (AKA ray casting) is a very useful tool
- Imagine we shine a virtual laser into the world
- We can use different view modes to visualise
- Simulating physics sets the object channel.



Using Different View Modes

- Access via the view menu in 3D viewport
- By default this will be labeled as “Lit”
- Player Collision shows simplified meshes
- Visibility Collision shows complex meshes
- Hold Ctrl + Alt for more information.



Read About Collision Filtering

- Read Unreal's blog post here...
- <https://www.unrealengine.com/blog/collision-filtering>
- The same rules apply to line tracing
- Share your understanding in the discussions.



v.4.10

LineTraceSingleByObjectType()

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



v.4.10.4

In This Video...

- Meet references for the first time
- **LineTraceSingle** may be deprecated
- Build params inc. **FCollisionQueryParams**

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/API/Runtime/Engine/Engine/UWorld/LineTraceSingleByObjectType>

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/API/Runtime/Engine/FCollisionQueryParams>

Introducing References

- References are special pointers, denoted by **&**
- They cannot be **nullptr** or any other null value
- Once assigned they cannot be re-assigned
- Think of them like an alias
- You use them like the object they reference.



Log the Actor Hit

- Get an **Actor*** from **Hit**
- Perform a **->GetName()** on this actor
- Log the name to the console
- Test it works.



REFERENCES & POINTERS

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- How references and pointers compare
- What the * symbol means in different contexts
- What the & symbol means in different context
- How it all hangs together.



Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	



Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	
Can be re-assign	Yes	No



Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	
Can be re-assign	Yes	No
Can be null	Yes (use <code>nullptr</code>)	No, must be initialised



Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	
Can be re-assign	Yes	No
Can be null	Yes (use <code>nullptr</code>)	No, must be initialised
Accessing contents	<code>*ActorPtr</code>	<code>ActorRef</code>



Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	
Can be re-assign	Yes	No
Can be null	Yes (use <code>nullptr</code>)	No, must be initialised
Accessing contents	<code>*ActorPtr</code>	<code>ActorRef</code>
Access address	<code>ActorPtr</code>	<code>&ActorRef</code>

Comparing Pointers to References

	Pointers	References
What is stored	Memory address	
Can be re-assign	Yes	No
Can be null	Yes (use <code>nullptr</code>)	No, must be initialised
Accessing contents	<code>*ActorPtr</code>	<code>ActorRef</code>
Access address	<code>ActorPtr</code>	<code>&ActorRef</code>
Assigning a value	<code>ActorPtr = &Actor</code>	<code>ActorRef = Actor</code>

The **&** and ***** Symbols in Context

Context	Prefix		Postfix	
Symbol	*	&	*	&



The **&** and ***** Symbols in Context

Context	Prefix		Postfix	
Symbol	*	&	*	&
Example	*ActorPtr	&Actor &ActorRef	UActor*	UActor&



The **&** and ***** Symbols in Context

Context	Prefix		Postfix	
Symbol	*	&	*	&
Example	*ActorPtr	&Actor &ActorRef	UActor*	UActor&
Meaning	Contents at ActorPtr	Address of Actor or ActorRef	Pointer to UActor	Reference to UActor

The **&** and ***** Symbols in Context

Context	Prefix		Postfix	
Symbol	*	&	*	&
Example	*ActorPtr	&Actor &ActorRef	UActor*	UActor&
Meaning	Contents at ActorPtr	Address of Actor or ActorRef	Pointer to UActor	Reference to UActor

To add insult to injury, any of these can have other meanings in other contexts, e.g. **&** for bitwise AND.

Resetting Your Unreal Project

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- What to do if your Unreal solution keeps crashing
- How to delete all temporary files
- The order in which to reset things.



Steps to Reset Your Project

1. **“Check-out” or “Reset”** - to a working commit
2. **Delete derived folders & files** - leave Config, Content & Source folders, and .uproject file
3. **Re-open Unreal** - from the launcher or .uproject*
4. **Generate your IDE project files**

** This re-creates generated.h files in Intermediate*



Try It Yourself

- Try resetting your solution, it's important you're confident how this works.
- If in doubt close everything first, then take a .zip of the whole folder as backup.
- Follow the steps on the previous slide
- Ask a question of other students if in trouble.



Using **FindComponentByClass()**

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- What `FindComponentByClass()` does
- How to use it to find attached components
- Introducing angle brackets `<>` for generics
- Use `nullptr` to initialise your pointers
- Log a useful error if the component isn't attached.

Write Error Message

- Log at Error verbosity if no component found
- Write an error that helps the reader fix the issue
- Find and include the name of the object
- ... in this case it's the Default Pawn
- Temporarily remove component to test.



Introducing Input Binding

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Settings > Project Settings > Engine > Input
- Action mappings are used for on / off actions
- Axis mappings are used for analog values
- You can give players a way or re-mapping
- Many keys can bind to one action
- How to call a function on a key press or release.

Find the Input Component

- Create an appropriate private member
- Check for the component as Physics Handle
- Log a similarly helpful error if it's not attached
- Don't bother trying to remove to test this time.



Accessors & Memory Layout

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- How the arrow, dot and :: accessors work
- Introducing virtual memory
- Introducing permanent storage, stack & heap
- Heap is also known as free store
- How accessor operators relate to memory
- Bind another input action.



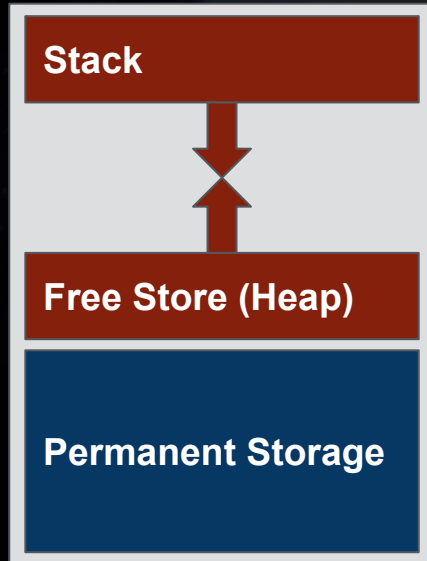
Accessors & Memory Layout

Virtual Memory



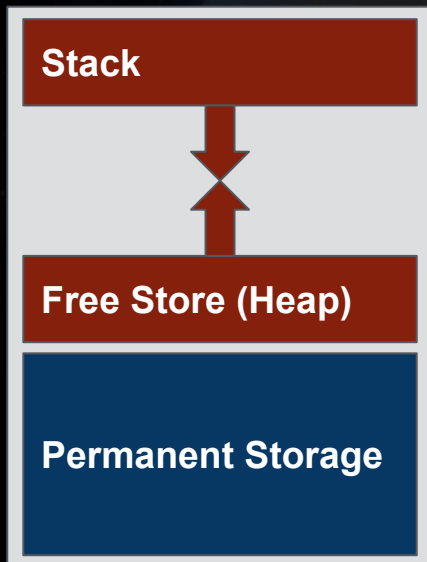
View and comment on latest version online at <http://bit.ly/UnrealSlides>

Accessors & Memory Layout



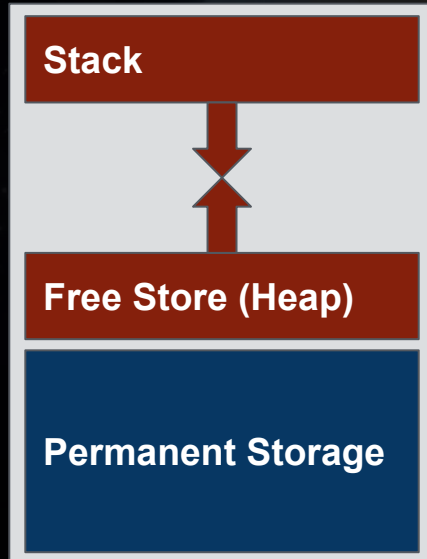
View and comment on latest version online at <http://bit.ly/UnrealSlides>

Accessors & Memory Layout



Left Term	Accessor	Examples
Class, Enum, Namespace	::	UGrabber::Grab EWordStatus::OK std::cout

Accessors & Memory Layout



Left Term	Accessor	Examples
Instance or Reference	.	<code>MyGrab.Grab()</code> <code>MyBullCowCount.Bulls</code> <code>MyGrabRef.Grab()</code>
Pointer	->	<code>MyGrabPtr->Grab()</code> <code>MyGrabPtr->Reach</code>
Class, Enum, Namespace	::	<code>UGrabber::Grab</code> <code>EWordStatus::OK</code> <code>std::cout</code>

Create a **Release()** Method

- Follow the example of the grab binding
- The enum for release is **IE_Released**
- Log that the key has been released
- Test then jump with joy.



Reducing Code in “Hot Loops”

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- A “hot loop” is code that get called often
- **TickComponent** is a good example, every frame
- Beware of code that you know will be called a lot
- Make it clear what happens every tick
- Refactor our code for speed...
- ...and make it ready for the physics handle.



Refactor your Code Too

- You can follow me through
- Or watch me first, then refactor at the end
- Or some hybrid, just get it so it's clear to you
- Remember to run often, and commit when done.



Using Physics Handles

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Unreal provides a Physics Handle that's ideal here
- The Physics Handle component docs are scant*
- Find an example of its use in the engine
- Get the physics handle working.

<http://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/API/Runtime/Engine/PhysicsEngine/UPhysicsHandleComponent>

Red, Green, Refactor

- **Red** - It's not working (test failing)
- **Green** - It's working (ugly is OK)
- **Refactor** - Make it pretty (must still work!)

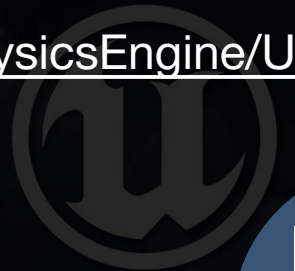
Then you repeat the sequence.



Find Example in the Engine

- Search engine code for **PhysicsHandle**
- Look for examples of it being used
- If that returns too much, try **GrabComponent**(
- See if you can find an example of its usage

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/API/Runtime/Engine/PhysicsEngine/UPhysicsHandleComponent/GrabComponent>



Refactoring Rules

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Using multiple getters for multiple return values
- Less lines of clear code is better (143 at start)
- Naming is really important, take the time
- Comment the “why”, don’t assume it’s obvious
- The “what” should be obvious...
- ... but it can be helpful to add clarification.



Red, Green, Refactor

- **Red** - It's not working (test failing)
- **Green** - It's working (ugly is OK)
- **Refactor** - Make it pretty (must still work!)

Then you repeat the sequence.



Refactor Your Code

- Refactor your code again
- Yes it's soon, but "clarity is worth fighting for"
- Commit once it's done and it runs well
- Make it so clear you'll remember in a year.



v.4.10

Introducing Unreal's **TArray**

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- A **TArray** is Unreal's go-to container class
- Use to contain many elements of same type
- We'll use to contain all actors on pressure plate
- Give our Default Pawn an eye-height and mass
- Making our pressure-plate based on total mass.

Read About TArray

- Skim-read the TArray documentation*
- Look out for the range-based for loop
- ... particularly the pattern for (x : y)

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Programming/UnrealArchitecture/TArrays>



Iterating over TArray with for

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Using **auto&** as an auto reference type
- Automatically iterating over a **TArray**
- Pattern: **for (const auto& Iterator : Array)**
- How to find an actor's mass
- Tweaking and testing our mass values.



Print the Name of Overlapping Actors

- Iterate over **OverlappingActors**
- For each actor found log their name
- Bonus: add their masses together and test
- Hint: class to find is **UPrimitiveComponent**



Debugging Game Issues

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Are you using source control? If not start now
- You can “binary search” commits quite fast
- For example 1024 commits takes max 10 tries!
- Think “what changed” and “possible side-effects”
- Remember you can eject with F8 during play.

Find and Eliminate “Drifting” Bug

- When did it come in?
- What feature did we recently enable?
- How does the pawn look when ejected?
- Hint 1: Enabling physics caused the issue
- Hint 2: Expand the “Constraints” section.



Managing Texture Tiling

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- You may want to re-size objects (e.g. panels)
- Doing so will stretch the texture
- You can re-scale a few ways
- One way is in the material blueprint
- UV mapping because we ran out of letters!
- Using the TexCoord node in the material editor.

Adjust Your Textures

- Experiment with new textures
- Adjust the tiling as shown
- Share the results in the course.



Pointer Protection Process

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Horrible crashes when we follow a `nullptr`
- We must always check pointers before use
- When declaring always initialise to `nullptr`
- Look for `*` in your `.h` files to help find pointers
- Also check before every use and handle `nullptr`
- Sometimes we may chose not to, e.g. Owner.

Protect All Your Pointers

- Check the pressure plate pointer before use
- Log a helpful error if it's null
- Test that it works
- Initialise any other uninitialised pointers
- Make sure all pointer usages are protected.



Exposing Events to Blueprint

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Sometimes Blueprint's the better choice
- For example defining our door swing as a curve
- We can create an event called **OnOpenRequest**
- Using **UPROPERTY (BlueprintAssignable)***

<https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/Programming/UnrealArchitecture/Reference/Properties/Specifiers/BlueprintAssignable>

Set a Rotation & Test it Works

- Set a door rotation in Blueprint
- Test the game still plays the same
- Celebrate the fact you're using C++ events in BP!



Using Blueprint Timeline

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv

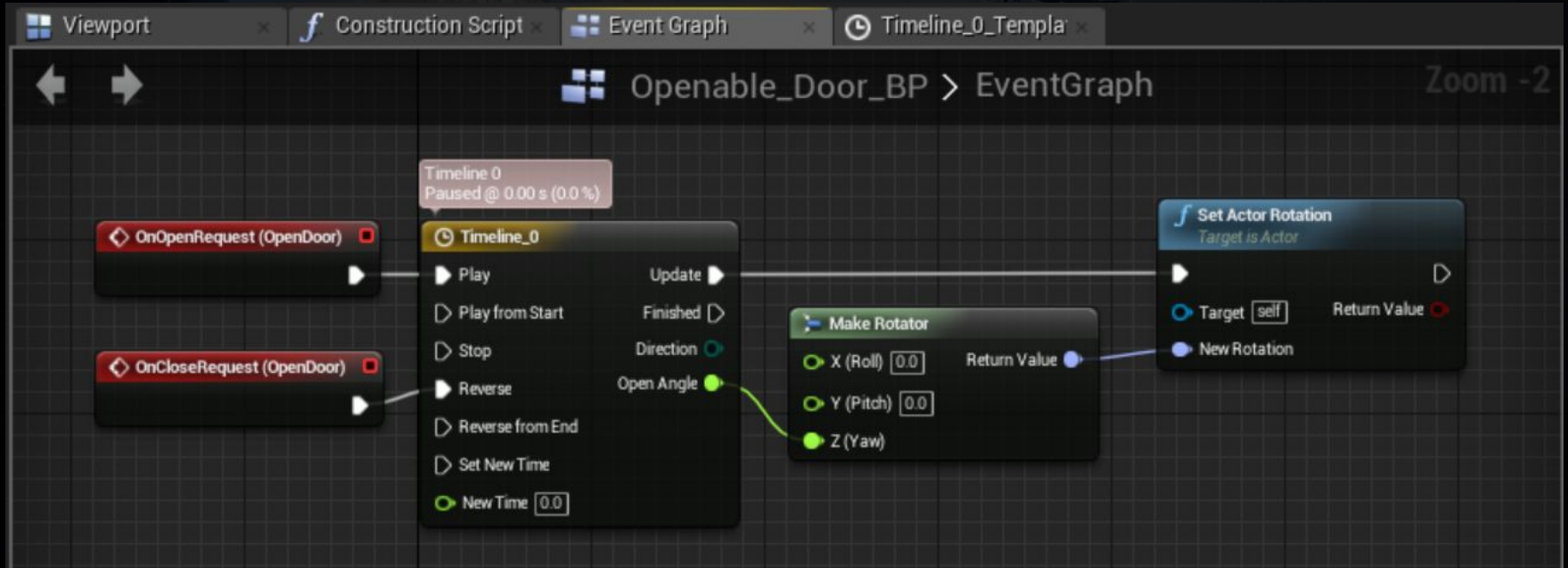


In This Video...

- The Timeline node in Blueprint has a curve editor
- This is ideal for defining our door movement
- How to use Timeline curves in Blueprint
- Setting rotation from a Timeline.



Final Blueprint Layout



Setup Your Door Movement

- See the final blueprint layout (I'll leave on screen)
- Set the curves to your taste
- Test you still can't leave the room
- You may need to adjust the room or curves.



Everything in its Place

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Using Blueprint has superseded some code
- It's important there's only 1 place per parameter
- Creating a 2nd event: **OnClose**



Create & Connect **OnClose**

- Rename the event class to **FDoorEvent**
- Rename **OnOpenRequest** to simply **OnOpen**
- Create a new **BlueprintAssignable** event
- Call this new event simply **OnClose**
- Wire **OnClose** into the “Reverse” pin in Blueprint
- Test the door now opens and closes.



Using Variables in Blueprint

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- Not all doors have the same absolute rotation
- We want to store the door's rotation at the start
- ... then use this value to make a relative rotation
- We can use Blueprint variables for this
- Making doors that face any direction work.



Try and Combine Rotations

- See if you can finish the Blueprint off
- Look for a way of combining rotators
- Connect it all, test, debug and repeat
- Good luck!



SFX & Audio Clips

Twitter @GameDevTV :: Web community.GameDev.tv



In This Video...

- We're going to trigger a simple sound in Blueprint
- Later in the course we'll use C++ too
- However we'll always reference our assets via BP
- How to trigger a 3D sound.



Get the Sound Working

- Get the sound FX playing on your own
- Consider making or finding other SFX
- Make a video and share in the course.





Section Wrap-Up

@UnrealCourse :: www.UnrealCourse.com



In This Video...

- Congratulations on another complete section
- You've learnt so much, look at the lecture titles
- Please carry-on a little on your own and share
- Attached are useful resources
- Start the next section as soon as you're finished.

How to Delete a C++ Class

- YES - it should be easier than this!
- Delete the source files, and remove from project
- Rebuild the Visual Studio project files
- Delete Unreal's Binaries* folder
- Re-open the Editor and let it rebuild caches.

* Search for: *“Unreal directory structure”*



Coming From Unity?

This Unreal document makes a helpful comparison between Unity and Unreal...

https://docs.unrealengine.com/latest/INT/GettingStarted/FromUnity/index.html?utm_source=launcher&utm_medium=ue&utm_campaign=uelearn

