

VRML

VIRTUAL REALITY MODELING LANGUAGE



Shortly after the Geneva BOF session, the www-vrml mailing list was created to discuss the development of a specification for the first version of VRML. The response to the list invitation was overwhelming: within a week, there were over a thousand members. After an initial settling-in period, list moderator Mark Pesce of Labyrinth Group announced his intention to have a draft version of the specification ready by the WWW Fall 1994 conference, a mere five months away. There was general agreement on the list that, while this schedule was aggressive, it was achievable provided that the requirements for the first version were not too ambitious and that VRML could be adapted from an existing solution. The list quickly agreed upon a set of requirements for the first version, and began a search for technologies which could be adapted to fit the needs of VRML.

The search for existing technologies turned up a several worthwhile candidates. After much deliberation the list came to a consensus: the Open Inventor ASCII File Format from Silicon Graphics, Inc. The Inventor File Format supports complete descriptions of 3D scenes with polygonally rendered objects, lighting, materials, ambient properties and realism effects. A subset of the Inventor File Format, with extensions to support networking, forms the basis of VRML. Gavin Bell of Silicon Graphics has adapted the Inventor File Format for VRML, with design input from the mailing list. SGI has publicly stated that the file format is available for use in the open market, and have contributed a file format parser into the public domain to bootstrap VRML viewer development.

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A Graphical Representation of Inverse VRML Uptake



Change the number in red below to adjust for download rate and/or bandwidth.

1 The number 1 represents an engineer with an "average" cube *

CF	Min	fsw	Air	EANx 32%	EANx 36%
80.0	149.12	0			
61.4	114.43	10			
49.8	92.846	20			
41.9	78.102	30	180		
36.2	67.402	40	120		
31.8	59.275	50	80.0	147.0	192.0
28.4	52.9	60	57.0	92.0	123.0
25.6	47.774	70	40.0	65.0	79.0
23.4	43.543	80	30.0	49.0	59.0
21.5	40.001	90	24.0	37.0	45.0
19.9	37	100	19.0	30.0	35.0
18.5	34.409	110	16.0	25.0	29.0
17.3	32.154	120	13.0	20.0	n/a
16.2	30.178	130	10.0	17.0	n/a
15.1	28.202	140	8.0	n/a	n/a