

Singularity Software

Milestone 4

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By signing below, I approve the contents of the following document.

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1 Executive Summary

This document is the fourth in a series of milestone documents that will accompany the planning of the Siftables Emulator. The Emulator project is an application that will allow developers of Sifteo applications to test the features of the Cubes in a virtual programming environment. There is currently an emulator from Sifteo, Inc. that comes as part of the Software Development Kit (SDK) for the Cubes. However, Singularity intends to come up with a more natural interface than the one currently provided in that application.

This milestone defines the standards for code in the Siftables Emulator project as well as the manner in which change will be controlled. It also elaborates the test cases that sufficiently cover the system. Future milestones will present design and usability reports as the software stabilizes.

2 Introduction

Developers of applications for the Sifteo Cubes currently must test programs they create for the platform within the emulator provided by Sifteo. While this emulator covers all the functionality of the Sifteo Cubes, it presents a user interface that Singularity Software believes could be more naturally implemented. As such, Singularity Software will provide, in the form of the Siftables Emulator, a new software-based emulator for the Sifteo Cubes that will allow developers to more naturally interact with the platform.

Milestone 4 relies on previous milestones as it defines a change control plan, coding standards, and test cases. It follows Milestones 2 and 3, which laid the foundation and elaborated the requirements of the Siftables Emulator specification based on the high-level design created in Milestone 1. Milestone 5 will elaborate on the upcoming usability study comparing the proposed Siftables Emulator design to the Sifteo emulator's design before presenting original and feedback-based interface designs for the Siftables Emulator.

3 Project Background

The Siftables Emulator is being developed by Singularity Software as part of the Junior Project sequence of classes at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. When projects were solicited for the sequence, clients Tim Ekl and Eric Stokes (both Rose-Hulman alumni) submitted a request for an emulator for Sifteo Cubes, a new platform intended for “intelligent play.” After Singularity was chosen for the project, we met with Mr. Ekl to determine the three primary features of the Emulator: a Workspace where 1-6 Cubes could mimic the manipulations possible with physical Cubes, an Application Programming Interface (API) to program those virtual Cubes, and a set of example games designed to show off the first two features. Singularity's Emulator is intended to build on the foundation of Sifteo, Inc.'s existing emulator by creating a more fluid and natural user interface.

4 Coding Standards

The developers of Singularity Software will adhere to a standardized coding “style guide” based on the language chosen for development. In the case of Python, we will reference the official Style Guide for Python Code [6]. In the case of C#, where no Microsoft-standard coding standards exist, we will use the standards laid out at [7].

5 Change Control

Change requests may be submitted as issues on the project’s GitHub repository¹. At a minimum, requests for change should mention the screen(s) to be changed, the new workflow that is desired (preferably in context with how it differs from the current workflow), the rationale for the change, and the priority the submitter assigns to the change.

Changes submitted in the manner described will be considered by Singularity during our weekly project meeting. A majority vote (three of four team members) is required to accept a new feature into the system; however, a team member who feels very strongly may exercise a veto on the team’s decision. Each team member will receive one veto for every four submitted changes.

Changes to product documents (i.e. milestones) will be managed using the Git version control framework within which the documents are currently stored. In the case of major changes, the team will consider the use of “delta” documents if such documents will be easier to read than heavily modified original documents.

¹<https://github.com/alexmullans/Siftables-Emulator/issues/new>

6 Test Cases

6.1 Load program

Scenario #	Originating Flow	Alternate Flow	Next Alternate
1	Basic flow		
2	Basic flow	Alternate flow 1	
3	Basic flow	Alternate flow 2	
4	Basic flow	Alternate flow 3	
5	Basic flow	Alternate flow 4	
6	Basic flow	Alternate flow 4	Basic flow

Test Case ID	Scenario	Description	Expected Result
1	1	A program is successfully loaded in the emulator.	The Cubes run the selected program in the Workspace.
2	2	User selects incompatible file type.	“The selected file is not a .siftem emulator file and cannot be loaded.” error is displayed.
3	3	User selects corrupt or unloadable file.	“The selected file is corrupt and cannot be loaded.” error is displayed.
4	4	User cancels loading program.	The emulator returns to its state before the basic flow was entered.
5	5	User loads a program when a program is already running and chooses “Cancel”.	Emulator displays warning message and the emulator returns to its state before the basic flow was entered after “Cancel” is chosen.
6	6	User loads a program when a program is already running and chooses “Continue”.	Emulator displays warning message, and the Cubes run the selected program in the Workspace after “Continue” is chosen.

6.2 Reload program

Scenario #	Originating Flow	Alternate Flow
1	Basic flow	
2	Basic flow	Alternate flow 1

Test Case ID	Scenario	Description	Expected Result
1	1	The program is successfully reloaded in the emulator.	The Cubes run the selected program in the Workspace after the user presses “Continue” on the warning message.
2	2	The program is not reloaded in the emulator.	The Cubes run the program as originally specified; no change should be made to emulator’s state.

6.3 Zoom screen

6.4 Add/remove Cubes

6.5 Snap Cubes to grid

6.6 Manipulate Cube

A Features

Feature	Description	Status	Priority	Risk	Reason
Individual, virtual Sifteo Cube	A virtual representation of a single Sifteo cube	Approved	Critical	Low	Replicates physical Sifteo Cube
Buttons to manipulate each virtual Cube	Buttons on the virtual Cube will allow the user to flip and tilt it	Approved	Critical	Medium	Replaces physical actions where said actions would be impractical with a mouse
Workspace where multiple cubes can be emulated	Multiple cubes will be displayed on a workspace that replicates the free-form nature of physical Sifteo Cubes	Approved	Critical	Low	Replicates multiple Sifteo Cubes in a natural, free-form environment
Interactions between Cubes	The Cubes present on the workspace will communicate when they are neighbored	Approved	Critical	Low	Cubes can simulate the interactions possible with physical Cubes
Load programs into the Cubes	The user will load his own and example programs into the emulators Cubes	Approved	Critical	Medium	The ability to program programs for the emulator is dependent on a common interface
Snap Cubes to invisible grid	The Cubes will snap into an invisible grid when a button is clicked	Proposed	Useful	Medium	Increases productivity by allowing a quick reset if the Cubes are in disarray
Zoom Workspace	The Workspace will zoom to the level of an individual Cube or the whole space	Proposed	Useful	Low	Inspecting individual Cubes allows for precise checks of program Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs)

B Use Cases and Other Requirements

ID	Name	Description	Features
U1	Load program	The User selects the program file to be loaded and run by the emulator.	F5
U2	Reload program	The User reloads the program currently running in the emulator.	F5
U3	Zoom screen	The User zooms the Workspace to the desired level.	F7
U4	Add/remove Cubes	The User adjusts the number of Cubes present in the emulator.	F3, F4
U5	Snap Cubes to grid	The User pulls the Cubes into a grid orientation.	F6
U6	Manipulate Cube	The User manipulates a Cube by clicking the buttons or the Cube itself.	F1, F2, F3
OR1	API	An API is included to define a set of rules and specifications via which Cube programs can be created.	F2
OR2	Example games	Example games are included to demonstrate how the Cubes interact with each other.	F3

Glossary

Graphical User Interface is a visual way of allowing the user to interace with a computer program. 7

Sifteo Cubes are small machines capable of loading programs and interacting with one another as well as responding to predefined movements. 3

Software Development Kit is a collection of tools designed to help build software for a particular platform. It may include an and an emulator of the target platform among other things.. 3

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