

Immersive Quiz for Spanish Learners

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Immersive Quiz for Spanish Learners

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We recommend acceptance of this manuscript in partial fulfillment of this candidate's requirements for the degree of Master of Software Engineering in Computer Science. The candidate has completed the oral examination requirement of the capstone project for the degree.

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Abstract

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This manuscript describes the development of a quiz creation tool combined with a virtual reality component to provide an immersive quiz taking experience for Spanish learners. The quizzes also have an orienteering course aspect as well, where each quiz is comprised of multiple timed locations where all questions must be completed correctly before continuing onto the next location.

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Glossary

ASP.NET Core

a cross-platform, high-performance, open-source framework for building modern, cloud-enabled, Internet-connected apps.

ASP.NET Core MVC

A lightweight, open source, highly testable presentation framework optimized for use with ASP.NET Core.

Unity

A cross-platform game engine developed by Unity Technologies with the goal to provide developers with the tools to make game development simple

Unity XR

A cross-platform plugin used for virtual, mixed, and augmented reality. XR Interaction Toolkit provides easy built-in functionality to select, grab, throw, rotate objects within a VR scene

C#

(pronounced "See Sharp") A modern, object-oriented, and type-safe programming language. C# enables developers to build many types of secure and robust applications that run in .NET. C# has its roots in the C family of languages and will be immediately familiar to C, C++, Java, and JavaScript programmers.

LINQ

Language-Integrated Query (LINQ) is the name for a set of technologies based on the integration of query capabilities directly into the C# language.

Entity Framework Core

Entity Framework (EF) Core is a lightweight, extensible, open source and cross-platform version of the popular Entity Framework data access technology.

SQL Server

SQL Server is a relational database management system, or RDBMS, developed and marketed by Microsoft.

Transparent Data Encryption (TDE)

Transparent data encryption (TDE) encrypts SQL Server, Azure SQL Database, and Azure Synapse Analytics data files. This encryption is known as encrypting data at rest.

Basic Authentication

In the context of an HTTP transaction, basic access authentication is a method for an HTTP user agent (e.g. a web browser) to provide a user name and password when making a request. In basic HTTP authentication, a request contains a header field in the form of `Authorization : Basic <credentials>`, where credentials is the Base64 encoding of ID and password joined by a single colon `:`.

JSON

JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation. JSON is a lightweight format for storing and transporting data. JSON is often used when data is sent from a server to a web page

HTTPS

Hypertext transfer protocol secure (HTTPS) is the secure version of HTTP, which is the primary protocol used to send data between a web browser and a website. HTTPS is encrypted in order to increase security of data transfer.

REST

REST, or REpresentational State Transfer, is an architectural style for providing standards between computer systems on the web, making it easier for systems to communicate with each other. REST-compliant systems, often called RESTful systems, are characterized by how they are stateless and separate the concerns of client and server

CSS

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets which describes how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, paper, or in other media

HTML

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), a standardized system for tagging text files to achieve font, color, graphic, and hyperlink effects on World Wide Web pages.

Bootstrap

Bootstrap is the most popular CSS Framework for developing responsive and mobile-first websites.

Web API

Web API is an application programming interface (API) is a set of subroutine definitions, protocols, and tools for building software and applications over the web which can be accessed using HTTP protocol.

GUID

A globally unique identifier (GUID) is a 128-bit number created by the Windows operating system or another Windows application to uniquely identify specific components, hardware, software, files, user accounts, database entries and other items.

Git

Git is a free and open source distributed version control system designed to handle everything from small to very large projects with speed and efficiency.

Dependency Injection

Dependency injection is a programming technique that makes a class independent of its dependencies. It achieves that by decoupling the usage of an object from its creation.

Razor View Engine

Razor View engine is a markup syntax which helps us to write HTML and server-side code in web pages using C# .

Visual Studio

Microsoft Visual Studio is an integrated development environment (IDE) from Microsoft. It is used to develop computer programs, as well as websites, web apps, web services and mobile apps.

Unity Editor

Unity Editor is the IDE to enable Unity development. Unity is a game development platform used to build high-quality 3D/2D games that can deployed across mobile, desktop, VR/AR, consoles, or the web.

Cross Site Scripting (XSS)

Cross Site Scripting (XSS) attacks are a type of injection, in which malicious scripts are injected into otherwise benign and trusted websites. XSS attacks occur when an attacker uses a web application to send malicious code, generally in the form of a browser side script, to a different end user.

SQL Injection

A SQL injection attack consists of insertion or “injection” of a SQL query via the input data from the client to the application. A successful SQL injection exploit can read sensitive data from the database, modify database data (Insert/Update/Delete), execute administration operations on the database (such as shutdown the DBMS), recover the content of a given file present on the DBMS file system and in some cases issue commands to the operating system. SQL injection attacks are a type of injection attack, in which SQL commands are injected into data-plane input in order to affect the execution of predefined SQL commands.

xUnit

xUnit.net is a free, open source, community-focused unit testing tool for the .NET Framework.

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

The rise of globalism has prompted people of different cultures to increasingly work together and interact with one another. Thus, understanding other cultures and languages will become ever more important. Often times this can be hard to teach, especially in a classroom. Virtual reality can be used as a means to bridge the gap between real-world understanding and classroom knowledge. Virtual reality allows for a more immersive experience. A more immersive experience is a more effective way to engage students and promote learning.

In 2017-2018 there was an initial virtual reality project conducted by Claire Mitchell to take tours of Medellin, Colombia. This project was a success and discussions were made to expand on this initial success. In 2019, there was a grant proposal for development of a new project to further enhance experiential learning. As virtual reality is a vanguard area of software development, such resources don't exist yet and would require new development. The proposal also requested an orienteering component to be included. Orienteering is an activity where participants "navigate between checkpoints along an unfamiliar course" [1]. The primary purpose of adding an orienteering aspect is to add to the depth of cultural understanding, as orienteering requires the participants to have a more active role in the experience.

The initial virtual reality project was predefined allowing no customizability within the courses. Also, there was no grading aspect of the project. The prior project helped expand students cultural understanding, but there was no built-in grading. The virtual reality wasn't very immersive and required holding a phone in front of the head to look around. The goals of this project want to improve upon these limitations. The project should be customizable, gradeable, and immersive all while garnering student interest and understanding of culture.

The project was designed with two components: A web application and a virtual reality application. The Course Creator web application is used to create the courses that the Virtual Reality Orienteering application uses to consume and display. The Course Creator program allows for full customizability of the orienteering courses that student's can take with verified users being able to create, edit and delete the course contents comprising of locations, questions, and answers. The Virtual Reality Orienteering program communicates with the Course Creator program to provide an immersive virtual reality experience. This immersive experience will help engage students while also giving clear metrics on understanding of material. Once a course has been completed by a student the graded results are found within the Course Creator program. As the courses created are custom tailored, the courses contain pertinent and applicable content based on the class being taught and the cultural context the class instructor hopes to convey.

2. Requirements

2.1. Overview

The following section is on the requirements of the project and development methodology.

2.2. Development Methodology

The stakeholders for this project is the project owner and sponsor, project advisor, and developer, Claire Mitchell, Elliott Forbes, and Austin Klum respectively. The end users are the students using the virtual reality tool for their learning and the instructors using the quiz management tool for assessment of student's comprehension of classroom material. The chosen development methodology for a project is an early and influential decision made that alters the course of development. As this was a solo-developer, web, and virtual reality project with a busy project sponsor, the decision was made to make use of an iterative agile methodology. An iterative agile approach focuses on delivering value to the product in fast small increments, rather than all at once. This approach allows software developers to adjust, refine, and review the development process to better provide value and output. This approach also allows for earlier risk identification and the flexibility to easily correct course.

Traditional methodology follows the waterfall approach which "contains five phases of management, where each requires a deliverable from the previous phase to proceed" [2]. The waterfall method is more suitable for projects that follow a linear path and is fixed and rigid. The project did not have this rigidity or clarity of output, hence a more Agile approach was taken. The developer also made use of a KanBan board to help keep organized which a snippet can be seen in Figure 1.

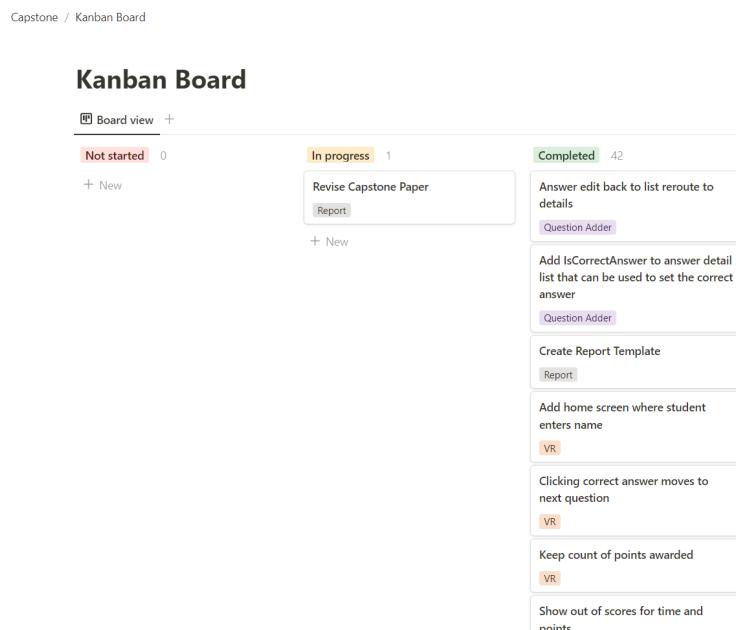


Figure 1. KanBan Board Snippet

2.3. Functional Requirements

Functional requirements describe what the system does. These are hard functionalities that the system must provide in order to be considered complete. The following are the high-level functional requirements for this project described from the viewpoint of the users:

- As a user, I would like to...
 - register an account
 - login and logout of my account
 - edit my account information
- As a verified user, I would like to...
 - view, create, update, and delete courses
 - view, create, update, and delete locations
 - view, create, update, and delete questions
 - view, create, update, and delete answers
 - view the list of courses
 - view course results
 - verify other users
- As a student, I would like to...
 - enter my student ID within a VR experience
 - select a course within a VR experience
 - complete a orienteering course within a VR experience

2.4. Non-functional Requirements

Non-functional requirements describe how a system performs its required functions. These describe the qualities that the system should aim for. The following are the high-level non-functional requirements for this project:

- The project should be open-sourced
- The project should be cross-platform supported
- The project should securely store student result information
- The project should securely transmit student results between the two programs
- The project should be light-weight and portable
- The Virtual Reality Orienteering program should promote immersion and cultural understanding
- The Course Creator program should be easy and intuitive to use
- The Course Creator should require proper authorization and authentication policies
- The Course Creator should validate user input and display the errors in a user friendly message

In regards to security, the most important data is the scoring results related to the students which are protected by FERPA. These student records may be tried to accessed by other malicious students to compare other's results. Another possible attacker could be concerned parents. The project takes several efforts to prevent any data breaches. The use of a secured SQL connection which encrypts while the data at rest is one measure taken. The data transmitted by the Web API is also encrypted and secured. A student may also try to access the course contents prior to taking the test to improved their scores. The Course Creator program is secured by several measures including user roles and password protection. Any nefarious user input is also sanitized or prevented and access points are minimized.

2.5. Course Creator

This tool allows the project sponsor and verified users to create orienteering courses for the students to complete. Upon logging in, the verified user views the list of courses available.

Each course is comprised of locations which has a corresponding photo to accompany the location. To help with immersion and to best utilize the capabilities of virtual reality, the uploaded photos must be 360 Photos, also known as a photo sphere. This type of photo allows for the virtual reality tool to wrap the image around the user making a sphere, such that the user is able to look around as if they were really at that location. The decision to use 360 Photos was made as the 3D models for the locations aren't available and would limit the locations possible for the courses. This decision enables the verified users to create any course desired as 360 Photos are easy to capture and create.

The tool also allows for locations to be added, updated, or deleted. Each location has a list of questions. There is no limit to the number of questions per location. The tool allows for each question to be added, updated, or deleted. Each question has a list of answers which can be of one to six possibilities. The tool allows for each answer to be added, updated, or deleted.

Once a course has been completed by a student, a verified user can view the results from the course main dashboard. This dashboard lists the student ID, point score, time score, and total score. As security is important, the database is encrypted and requires an authorized administrator database account to access the data outside of the tool.

For a user to be created, they must create an account with an email and password. Once the account is created, the user is immediately able to login, but will be unable to access any of the course creation or course results pages, limited only to the homepage and user settings. Each verified user has the capability to approve other users. In the user settings page, there exists a link to verify users. The verify users page list all users and their status of verified or not verified. From here a verified user can verify or un-verify other users by selecting the corresponding checkbox and saving.

2.5.1. Users

Figure 2 explains the use case diagram. The use cases shows the actions a new user and a verified user can take. A new user is limited to registering, logging in, and update their account. A verified user is able to create, update, and delete courses and subcomponents.

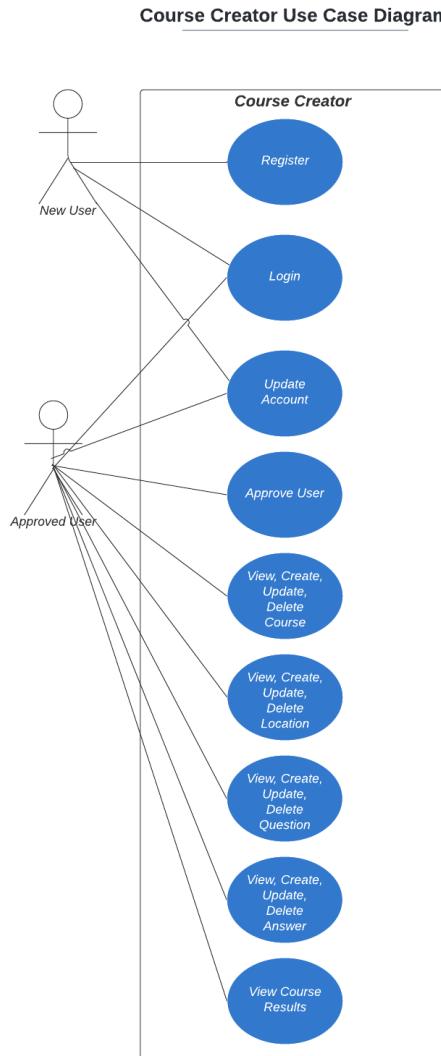


Figure 2. Course Creator Use Case Diagram

2.5.2. Create Course Flow

When a user first navigates to the Course Creator they will be required to login to their account or register an account. Figure 3 shows this login screen.

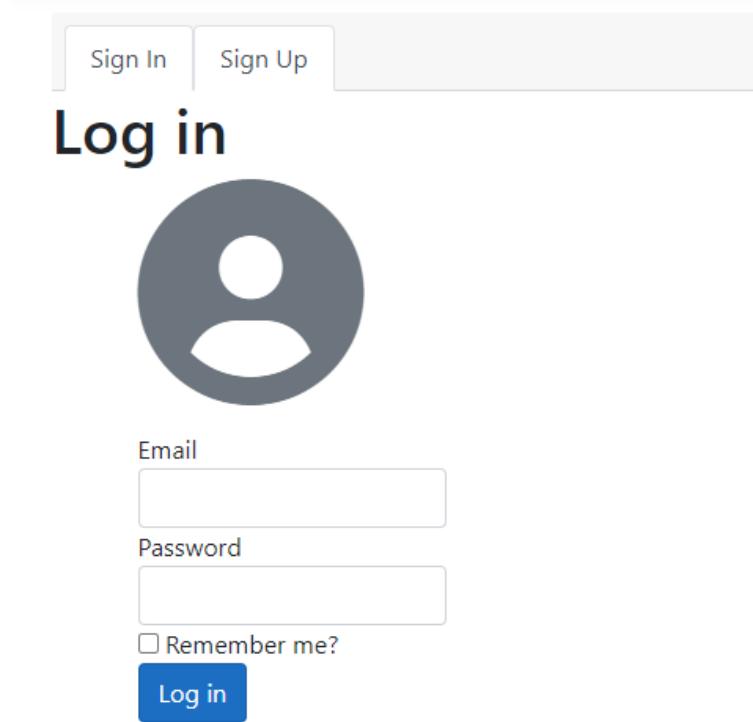


Figure 3. Course Creator - Login

Once logged in or registered with a new account, the user is not verified. A non-verified user cannot view, create, update, or delete any of the courses or sub-components. Figure 4 shows the access denied screen for not verified users.



Figure 4. Course Creator - Access Denied

However, a non-verified user can still access their account details and make changes. For verified users, the account management page also allows for verifying other users. Figure 5 shows a verified users account management page.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Manage your account" with a sub-section "Change your account settings". On the left, there is a vertical navigation bar with four items: "Profile" (which is highlighted in blue), "Email", "Password", and "Verify Users". The main content area is titled "Profile" and contains two input fields: "Username" (with the value "klumaustin@gmail.com") and "Phone number" (an empty field). At the bottom right of the content area is a blue "Save" button.

Figure 5. Course Creator - Manage Account

When a verified user accesses the “verify users” page a list is presented of users with their verification status. From here a verified user can verify non-verified users. Figure 6 shows the verify user page.

The screenshot shows a web page with two sections: "Add To Verified" and "Remove From Verified". In the "Add To Verified" section, there is a single input field containing the email "klumaustin2@gmail.com" with an associated checkbox. In the "Remove From Verified" section, there are two input fields: one with "klumaustin@gmail.com" and another with "klumaustin3@gmail.com", each with its own checkbox. At the bottom of the page are two buttons: "Back" and "Save". A cursor arrow is visible on the right side of the page.

Figure 6. Course Creator - Verify Users Page

Once a user is verified and completes logging in, they will see a list view of all the created courses. From this page a verified user is able to view, create, update, and delete courses. Figure 7 shows the list view of the existing courses.

The screenshot shows a web application interface titled "All Courses". At the top, there is a header with the text "ImmersiveQuiz" and "Hello klumaustin3@gmail.com! Logout". Below the header, the title "All Courses" is displayed in a large, bold font. Underneath the title is a green "Add Course" button. A table follows, with the first column labeled "Name" and the second column labeled "Details". The table contains two rows: "Around LaTeX" and "Second Course", each with a blue "Details" button next to it.

Name	
Around LaTeX	Details
Second Course	Details

Figure 7. Course Creator - View All Courses

Upon clicking the “Add Course” button a verified user will be taken to the Course Create screen. A course is simply a named container for all the locations, questions, and answers. While not pictured the create screens for questions and answers are also similar. Figure 8 shows the Course Create screen.

The screenshot shows a "Create Course" form. The title "Create Course" is at the top in a large, bold font. Below the title is a horizontal line. The form consists of a "Name" label followed by a large input field. At the bottom left is a blue "Create" button, and at the bottom right is a blue "Back to List" link.

Name

Create

[Back to List](#)

Figure 8. Course Creator - Create Course Screen

Once a course is created, a verified user can click the “Details” button on a course from the list view which loads the Course Details screen. The Course Details shows all of the locations, questions, and answers for a course in expandable dropdowns. The location dropdown also shows a preview of the image and a link to view the full image in a new tab. Figure 9 shows the details of the Around LaX course.

Details

Course

Name	Around LaX
Back to List Scores	
Add Location Edit Delete	
Winter Campus	
Add Question Edit Delete	
 View Image	
Who is Pablo Escobar?	
What is the mascot of UWL?	
Bluffs Spring	
Add Question Edit Delete	
 View Image	
¿Qué es esta ubicación?	

Figure 9. Course Creator - Course Details Screen

Figure 10 shows the expansion of the questions on a given location. The expanded view shows all of the details which corresponds to a question.

Add Location | Edit Delete

Winter Campus

Add Question | Edit Delete



View Image

Who is Pablo Escobar?

Edit Delete

Correct Answer	Answer	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A drug lord	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	el presindente	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	football player	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	tennis player	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	Famous Painter	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	No sé	Edit	Delete

What is the mascot of UWL?

Add Answer | Edit Delete

Correct Answer	Answer	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joe Gow	Edit	Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	Redskins	Edit	Delete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Styker Eagle	Edit	Delete

Figure 10. Course Creator - Course Details Expanded Questions

To create a new location, a verified user clicks on the “Add Location” button which loads the Create Location screen. The Create Location screen contains the location name and a file uploader for the 360 photo of the location. Figure 11 shows the Create Location screen.

Create

Location

Name

Location Image

Choose file

[Back to Course](#)

Figure 11. Course Creator - Create Location Screen

All of the components of a course are editable. The edit of a course, location, and question are all similar with the current value filled in and the ability to edit the value and save. The edit of an answer is more interesting including the answer content and a checkbox for a “Is Correct” answer. A verified user can click the “edit” button on any of these components to bring up the corresponding edit screen. Figure 12 shows an answer being edited.

Edit Answer

Who is Pablo Escobar?

Correct Answer

Answer

A drug lord

Save

[Back to Course](#)

Figure 12. Course Creator - Edit Answer Screen

Along with being editable, all components are deletable. The delete of a course, location, question, and answer are all similar. A verified user can click the “Delete” button to delete a component. A confirmation screen is loaded describing the action the user is about to take. Upon deletion all corresponding subcomponents are also deleted. An example of this would be deleting a course, which would also delete the locations, questions, and answers related to the course. Figure 13 shows the confirmation screen of deleting a course.

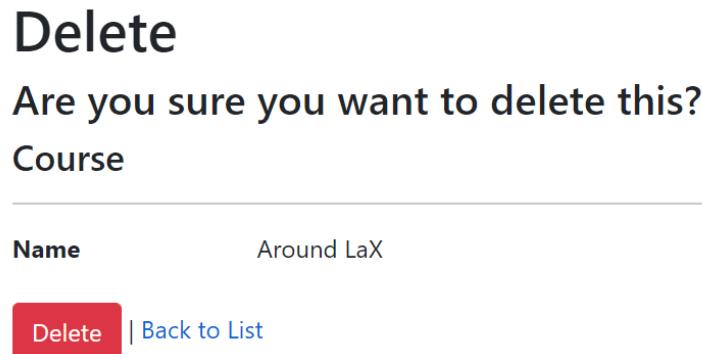


Figure 13. Course Creator - Delete Course Screen

Once a course is completed by a student the results are viewable in the Course Score screen. A verified user can click the “Scores” button to view the related scores for a course. The Scores view lists the results of the students who have taken the course. A verified user is also able to create, edit, and delete scores. Figure 14 shows the Score screen for the Around LaTeX course.

Index			
Create New		Back to Course	
Around LaTeX			
Student ID	Time Score	Point Score	
978123048	1.92	4.00	Edit Delete
765908736	1.98	4.25	Edit Delete
893046837	0.98	2.75	Edit Delete

Figure 14. Course Creator - Course Scores Screen

Once a user is finished using the Course Creator program, they are able to logout by clicking the “Logout” button on the top toolbar. This destroys the user’s session and will require the user to log back in to use the Course Creator again.

2.6. Virtual Reality Orienteering

This tool is used by the students to complete the created orienteering courses that the project sponsor or verified user(s) created. Upon starting the program the user is prompted to enter their student ID using a “mallet” and tap virtual keyboard. Once the student has entered their student ID, they then select the course via a select list with a point and trigger arrow pointer buttons.

After hitting the start button the student begins the course. The first location is loaded up and the student can look around the location. Upon touching the touch pad the first question and corresponding possible answers appears in the world view. As part of the orienteering spirit each question must be answered correctly to continue on to the next question. When a student answers incorrectly the button turns red and is disabled. When answered correctly the button flashes green and the next question and corresponding possible answers load.

The student is graded on how quickly they came to the correct answer and, with the orienteering aspect in mind, the time to completely answer all the questions in a location. Each question is worth one point and each location time is worth one point. The point for each question is divided by the number of attempts to answer the question. This means that a question with four possible answers the following outcomes are possible: answered correctly has one point awarded, one incorrect attempt has .75 points awarded, two incorrect attempts has .5 points awarded, and three incorrect attempts has .25 points awarded. For the time aspect of the grade, the student has 100 seconds to complete the location, where each second is worth .01 points. This means if the student took 30 seconds to answer the questions and complete the location, they are awarded with .70 points. A time of 45 seconds is awarded .65 points. Any time greater than 100 seconds will award 0 points.

Upon answering all the questions for a location, the next location is loaded and the timer is reset. Once all locations have been completed a game over screen appears stating the student’s point score, time score, total score, and what the maximum points awarded could be.

2.6.1. Users

Figure 15 shows the use case diagram for the Virtual Reality Orienteering program.

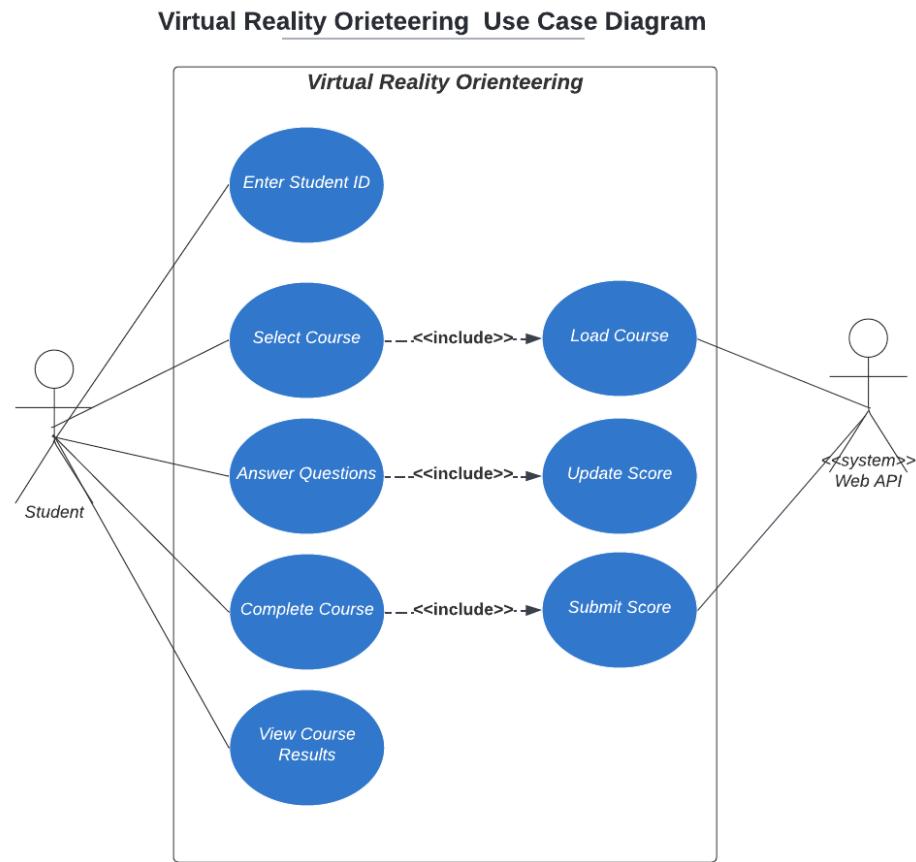


Figure 15. Virtual Reality Orienteering Use Case Diagram

2.6.2. Virtual Reality Orienteering Flow

To complete a course a student must start the Virtual Reality Orienteering program and put on a Virtual Reality headset. Figure 16 shows the student entering their student ID with the virtual keyboard and “Mallet” input system.

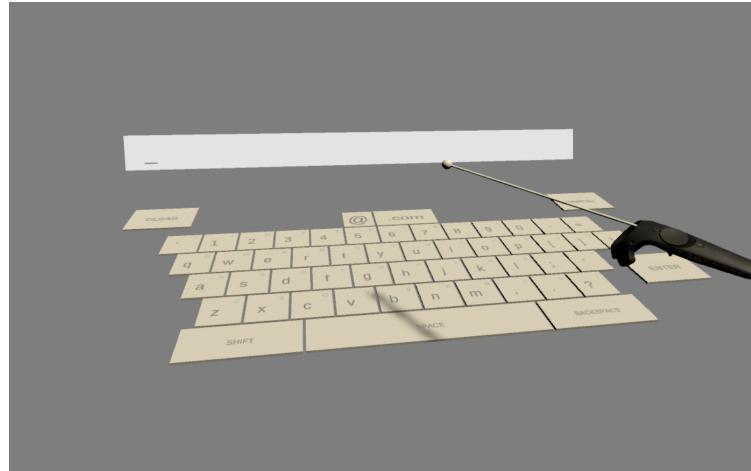


Figure 16. Virtual Reality Orienteering - Student ID Keyboard

Once a student has entered their student ID, the Course Selector screen appears. The Course Selector screen is a list of all possible courses served up by a call to the Web API. The student is able to use a point and trigger input system to move up or down the list with the corresponding buttons. Once a desired course is picked the student clicks the “Start” button to begin the course.

Upon starting a course the 360 photo of the first location is loaded. The timer for the each location starts upon loading a new location. The student is able to look around the worldspace to promote an immersive experience. Figure 17 shows the student looking around the location in the worldspace.



Figure 17. Virtual Reality Orienteering - Viewing Worldspace

Once the student has looked around and is satisfied that they know the location, they are able to press the touchpad and load up the questions screen. The question screen is populated by a call to the Web API. A student is able to answer the questions by using the point and trigger input system and the corresponding answer buttons. Figure 18 shows the student looking at the questions screen and hovering over an answer button.

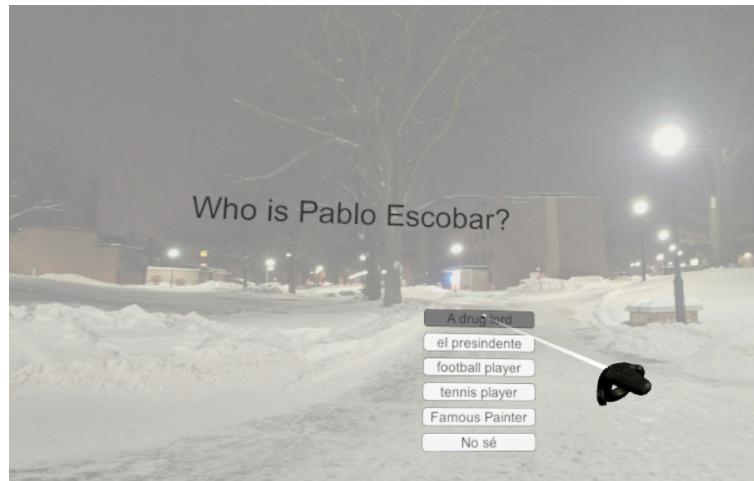


Figure 18. Virtual Reality Orienteering - Questions Screen

When a student answers incorrectly, their point score is subtracted and the answer button turns red to indicate an incorrect answer. Upon answering correctly the answer button flashes green and the next question is loaded. Figure 19 shows a student who answered a question incorrectly twice with two red answer buttons indicating an incorrect answer.

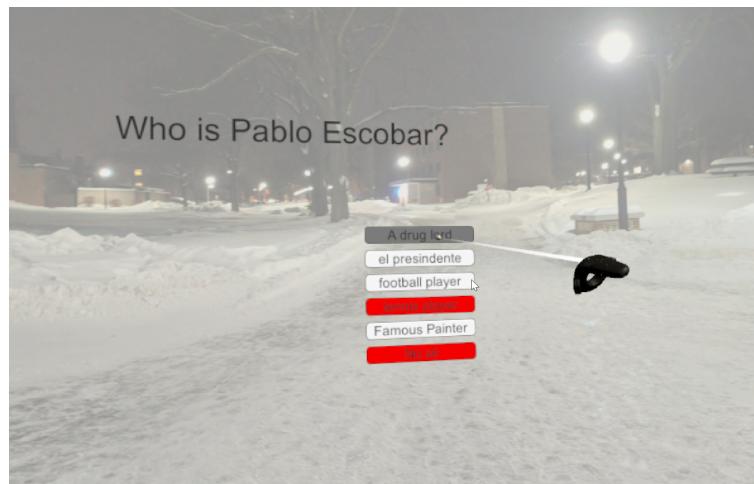


Figure 19. Virtual Reality Orienteering - Incorrect Answers

The student continues answering the questions until all are answered correctly. Once all questions are answered, the next location is loaded with the new 360 photo loaded into the worldspace. The timer is reset upon loading the new location. Again, once the student is satisfied they know the location they are able to press the touchpad and answer the questions for the corresponding location. This continues on until all locations and corresponding questions are answered. Once all locations are completed a game over screen is displayed presenting the student with their point and time score. The score is submitted to the Course Creator database via another call to the Web API. Figure 20 shows an example game over screen with the point and time score presented.

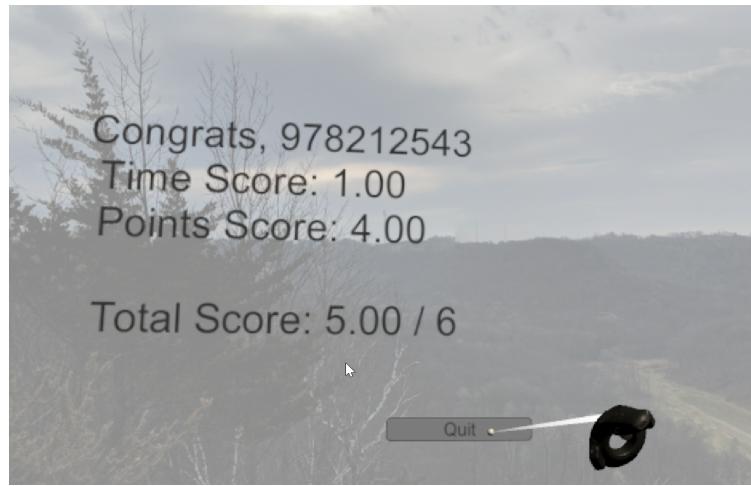


Figure 20. Virtual Reality Orienteering - Game Over

The student is able to exit the Virtual Reality Orienteering program by using the point and trigger input system to click the “Quit” button.

3. Design

3.1. Overview

This section discusses the design of the project including technologies used, classes, database schema, and user interface.

3.2. Technologies

This project uses a combination of ASP.NET Core MVC and Unity XR. The Course Creator was developed with the former and the Virtual Reality Orienteering was developed with the latter.

3.2.1. Course Creator

ASP.NET Core MVC “is a lightweight, open source, highly testable presentation framework optimized for use with ASP.NET Core.” [3] ASP.NET Core is the underlying framework that enables development. ASP.NET Core “is a cross-platform, high-performance, open-source framework for building modern, cloud-enabled, Internet-connected apps.” [4].

The MVC in ASP.NET Core MVC stands for Model-View-Controller. MVC is an architectural pattern which separates an application into three main components: Models, Views, and Controllers. This separation helps achieve a “separation of concerns”, which asserts “that software should be separated based on the kinds of work it performs” [5]. Models represent the data structure, independent of the user interface. Models are responsible for data, logic, and rules of the application. Views represent the user interface and information. Views are responsible for presenting content with minimal logic. Controllers represent the logic and actions for models and views. Controllers are responsible for responding to user input and performing operations. In summary, models are what it is, views are for what it looks like, and controllers are for how it behaves.

ASP.NET Core MVC was chosen because of the developer’s prior experience and the extensive functionalities that the framework provides. ASP.NET Core MVC is open-source and multi-platform, supporting Windows, macOS, and Linux out of the box.

ASP.NET Core MVC provides routing which is a useful URL-mapping component. Routing provides for easy link generation without regard to the actual file structure.

ASP.NET Core MVC also provides model binding on requests. This makes incoming and outgoing requests easy to process or generate without further processing. Model validation is also built-in using data annotation attributes. These are pre-built or custom attributes within the model that validate on the fly rather than requiring explicit checking. This allows for guaranteeing the state of the model before further processing.

Dependency injection is also supported, which is a key feature for building the controllers.

Dependency Injection (DI) is a software design pattern, “which is a technique for achieving Inversion of Control (IoC) between classes and their dependencies.” [6] A dependency is an object that another object depends on. When a class depends on another class, future changes become problematic. Dependency Injection solves this by using an interface to abstract the dependency, registering the dependency in a service container, and then injects the dependency when needed.

ASP.NET Core MVC provides filters which can be placed on controllers so that all actions must meet this filter. Oftentimes filters are added for exception handling or authorization. This way instead of each action requiring authorization, one can require the entire controller with all actions to be authorized.

ASP.NET Core MVC is also a great platform for building Web APIs. HTTP content-negotiation with common data formats such as JSON or XML is already supported.

The Razor view engine is another key advantage for ASP.NET Core MVC. Razor view engine is a compact and easy template markup language used for defining views with embedded C# code. Razor can be used to dynamically generate web content with a mix of server side and client side code. Tag Helpers are also used with Razor to facilitate creating and rendering HTML. Tag Helpers bind to certain HTML elements and vastly improves their use cases.

Another tool used to aid in development was Bootstrap. Bootstrap is a CSS framework that helps standardize easily making changes to the look of websites and applications. Bootstrap makes use of a grid system comprised of 12 grid boxes evenly split across a page. These grids can be coalesced to form sections within the web page. Bootstrap has built-in functionality that makes web pages mobile friendly.

ASP.NET Core MVC also provides a database object-relational mapper (O/RM) tool called Entity Framework Core. Entity Framework Core provides a “code first” experience to create database entity models by writing code. This cuts down on the boilerplate code required for making database connections. The database can be accessed and queried using LINQ, Language-Integrated Query, a set of technologies based on the integration of query capabilities directly into the C# language. Entity Framework Core makes committing changes to the database simple with automatic change tracking.

3.2.2. Virtual Reality Orienteering

Unity is a cross-platform game engine developed by Unity Technologies with the goal to provide developers with the tools to make game development simple. Unity supports a vast variety of platforms and user experiences. These tools extend to desktop, mobile, console, and virtual reality with support for 2D, 3D, and other experiences. It’s also used in other areas outside of game development such as film, engineering, architecture, and automotive modeling. This makes Unity a popular choice, not only for the developer of this project, but for the world at large. “In the fourth quarter of 2021, Unity had, on average, 3.9 billion

monthly active end users who consumed content created or operated with its solutions.” [7]

The basic components of a game developed in Unity are GameObjects, Assets, Scenes, and Scripts. Every object in a game is a GameObject.

Assets are reusable items that can be used throughout the game. They can be of any file type that Unity supports, such as a 3D model, audio file, image. Oftentimes these assets come from outside Unity, created by the developer or other developers which are found in the Asset Store.

Scenes contain the objects of the game. Oftentimes these are split into logical groupings such as main menu, individual levels, or the environment.

Scripts are what controls the behavior of the GameObjects. Without scripts the game would be static and have no interaction or logic. Unity supports C# natively and is the standard used for scripting. A new script has two functions, `Start()` and `Update()`. `Start()` is called once by Unity before gameplay begins which is used to setup initial configurations. `Update()` is called once per frame update for the GameObject. This is used to handle anything that needs to be done over time in the gameplay, such as movement, triggering actions, or responding to user input.

Listing 1. New Script in Unity

```
1 using UnityEngine;
2 using System.Collections;
3
4 public class NewBehaviourScript : MonoBehaviour {
5
6     // Use this for initialization
7     void Start()
8     {
9
10    }
11
12    // Update is called once per frame
13    void Update()
14    {
15
16    }
17 }
```

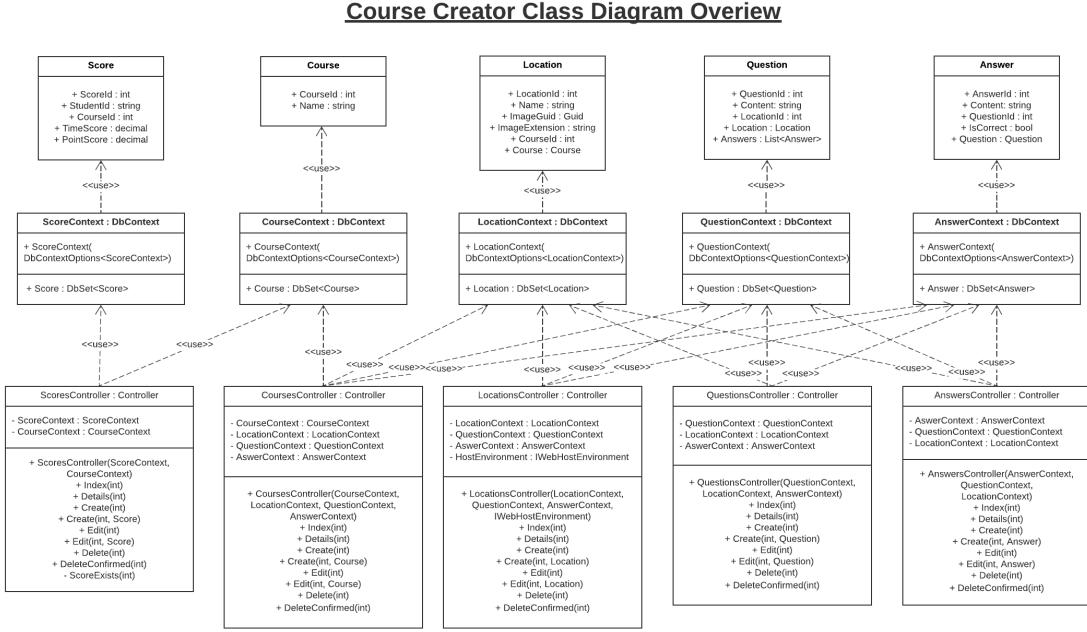
Unity XR Interaction Toolkit is a cross-platform plugin used for virtual, mixed, and augmented reality. XR Interaction Toolkit provides easy built-in functionality to select, grab, throw, rotate objects within a VR scene. This also extends to the UI interactions and the haptic feedback that comes with it. The ability to look around and move within the

worldspace is also provided with this plugin. As this project uses a HTC Vive headset, OpenXR was the targeted development platform. OpenXR is an open standard that targets a wide array of virtual reality devices.

3.3. Class Diagrams

3.3.1. Course Creator

Figure 21 shows the class diagram. Each component of the Course Creator is comprised of a model, DbContext, and controller. The model describes what each object represents with minimal processing. The DbContext is the connection to the database. Entity Framework Core uses these DbContext classes linked with the models to provide the database operations. The controller provides the implementation and logic needed to handle operations. The controller makes use of the DbContexts to make changes to the data. The DbContext and Controller classes use Dependency Injection to separate the data and processing layers without needing to know the implementation details of each. The Startup class not shown links up the Dependency Injection needed for the DbContext and Controller.



** Not shown due to complexity added to diagram:
Startup, RolesController, HomeController, WebApi

Figure 21. Course Creator UML Class Diagram

3.3.2. Virtual Reality Orienteering

Figure 22 shows the class diagram. The VRInputModule contains much of the logic and operations needed for the Virtual Reality Orienteering program. The VRInputModule also mediates the Pointer and ButtonTransitioner classes so that buttons respond to a click action. The VRInputModule calls the EnvironmentLibrary for loading new locations. The EnvironmentLibrary makes calls to the Web API and uses the SkyBoxController to display the 360 Photos in the worldspace.

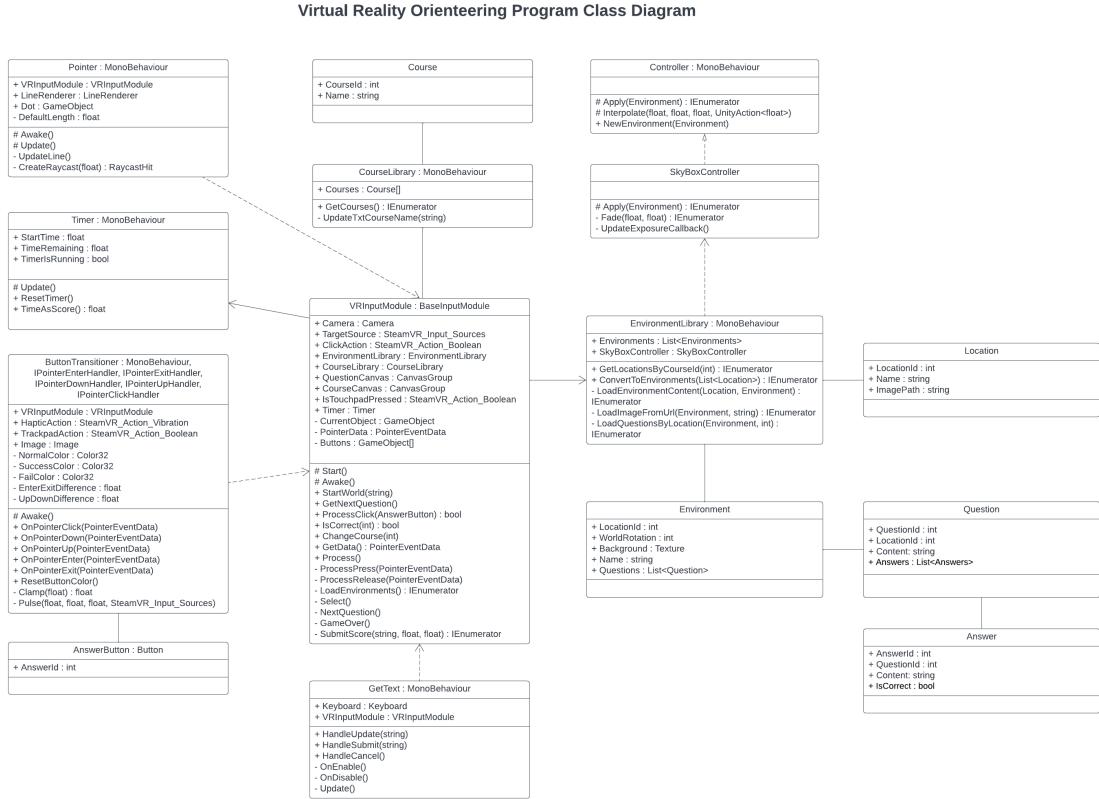


Figure 22. Virtual Reality Orienteering UML Class Diagram

3.4. Database

The database uses Microsoft’s SQL Server. SQL Server is the de facto used for .NET projects. SQL Server is a relation database management system which manages and stores information. The standard tool for working with SQL Server is SQL Server Management Studio which makes database changes and transactions easy. Transparent Data Encryption (TDE) encrypts data files at rest. This means that any data files stored are encrypted preventing any malicious attempts to read the database.

3.4.1. Database Schema

Figure 23 shows the ER Diagram for the database that the project uses. Each component of a course has a one-to-many relationship with each parent object. This means that a course has many locations, a location has many questions, a question has many answers.

**ER Diagram for Course Creator and Virtual Reality
Orienteering Programs**

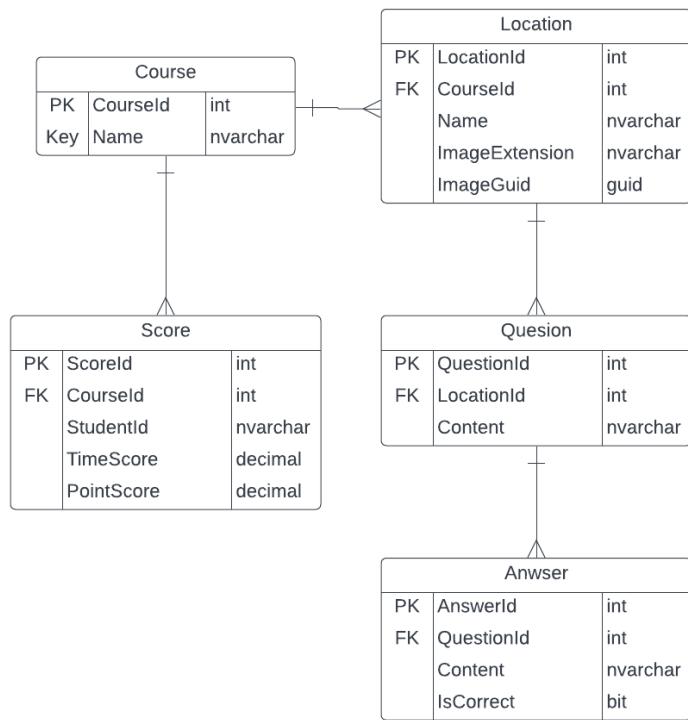


Figure 23. ER Diagram

3.5. Communication between Programs

This project comprises of two separate programs which must communicate with each other, and do so securely. The Course Creator has a RESTful Web API which requires Basic Authentication to make calls to. Basic Authentication requires a username and password over an HTTP connection. Using just an HTTP connection is not secure though, as the username and password are sent over in plaintext. This means any malicious user can sniff the network and easily obtain the credentials. To counter this the project requires a secure connection using HTTPS, with the 'S' meaning secure. An HTTPS connection encrypts any data sent over it; thereby securing the Basic Authentication credentials.

The RESTful Web API provides predefined endpoints for authorized users to use with REST

calls. REST stands for REpresentational State Transfer and is a architectural standard for communication on the web. REST is stateless, meaning that the server does not need to know about what state the client is or vice versa. This allows for communication without needing to know the previous messages. A REST request usually is comprised of an HTTP verb, header, URI path, and an optional body containing data. The four basic HTTP verbs are GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE. GET retrieves data or a specific resource. POST creates new data or a new resource. PUT updates data or a specific resource. Finally, DELETE removes data or a specific resource. The header is used for carrying pertinent information about the request being made. This includes the authorization, cookies, caching, and other logistical information for fulfilling the request. The REST requests consume or return data in JSON which is a standard data-interchange format. JSON is easy for humans to read and simple for computers to parse and generate.

4. Implementation

4.1. Overview

This section goes into details on the implementation of the Course Creator and Virtual Reality Orienteering programs. Key examples and general explanations are presented, to help the reader understand the code without rehashing the entire project.

4.2. Course Creator

The Course Creator's primary responsibilities is creating courses and viewing results of those courses. Courses are comprised of locations, questions, and answers; each course has many locations, each location has many questions, and each question has many answers.

4.2.1. Authorization

The Course Creator uses ASP.NET Core Identity to secure the application. This tool makes creating the registration and login pages simple, and has built-in security for securely storing passwords and other personal user data. ASP.NET Core Identity also makes use of user roles to ensure the user is authorized to do certain actions. The verified user role is an example of this in the project. Using a filter on the protected controllers is simple with Identity.

Listing 2. Securing Controllers using Filter on User Role

```
1 using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization;
2
3 [Authorize(Roles = "Verified")]
4 public class HomeController : Controller
5 {
6     ...
7 }
```

4.2.2. Courses

The course is the high level object with which the locations, questions, and answers become associated with. A course can be added, updated, or deleted. The [CoursesController](#) handles all of these actions. Each of these actions has a corresponding View Razor page.

The create and edit pages are similar to the other pages for the locations, questions, and answers, so this section will not go in depth on them, but instead elaborate further on the details and delete pages. The details page displays not only the course model information, but also all information relating to the course. To make the related course information modularize and reusable, the developer made use of “View Components”. View Components render a chunk of HTML output within another markup’s file. This breaks up large markup files into smaller parts, reduces duplication of markup content, and provides an opportunity to use logic to control the rendered HTML. Each of the dependent classes on a course has

a corresponding View Component which lists the data relating to the course. This can be seen in Listing 3 of the course details page on line 30:

Listing 3. Course Details Razor Page

```
1  @model ImmersiveQuiz.Models.Course
2
3  @{
4      ViewData["Title"] = "Details";
5  }
6
7  <h1>Details</h1>
8
9  <div>
10     <h4>Course</h4>
11     <hr />
12     <dl class="row">
13         <dt class="col-sm-2">
14             @Html.DisplayNameFor(model => model.Name)
15         </dt>
16         <dd class="col-sm-10">
17             @Html.DisplayFor(model => model.Name)
18         </dd>
19     </dl>
20 </div>
21 <div class="mb-4">
22     <a class="badge large-badge bg-secondary text-light" asp-action="Index">Back to List</a> |
23     <a class="badge large-badge bg-success text-light" asp-controller="Scores" asp-action="Index" asp-route-id="@Model.CourseId">
24         Scores</a>
25 </div>
26 <div>
27     <a class="badge large-badge bg-success text-light" asp-action="Create" asp-controller="Locations" asp-route-id="@Model.CourseId">Add Location</a> |
28     <a class="badge large-badge bg-primary text-light" asp-action="Edit" asp-route-id="@Model.CourseId">Edit</a>
29     <a class="badge large-badge bg-danger text-light" asp-action="Delete" asp-route-id="@Model.CourseId">Delete</a>
30 </div>
31 @await Component.InvokeAsync("LocationList", new { CourseId =
32     Model.CourseId.ToString(), search = "" })
```

Another area of interest for the Courses is the delete action. A course could be deleted independent of the dependencies which destroys the concept of Referential Integrity, which is “a database concept that is used to build and maintain logical relationships between tables to avoid logical corruption of data.” [8] When data is deleted independently, the dependencies now have a reference to data that no longer exists. This corrupts the reliability of the data. To counter this the developer made use of cascading deletes. That is to say, when a course

is deleted, the delete cascades onto the locations, questions, and answers dependent on that course. The cascading delete can be seen in Listing 4 using LINQ, Entity Framework Core, and Dependency Injection.

Listing 4. Course Cascade Delete

```
1 [HttpPost, ActionName("Delete")]
2 [ValidateAntiForgeryToken]
3 public async Task<IActionResult> DeleteConfirmed(int id)
4 {
5     var course = await _courseContext.Course.FindAsync(id);
6
7     var locations = _locationContext.Location.Where(l => l.CourseId ==
8         course.CourseId);
9
10    foreach (var location in locations)
11    {
12        var questionsToLocations = _questionContext.Question.Where(q => q
13            .LocationId == location.LocationId);
14        foreach (var question in questionsToLocations)
15        {
16            var answersToQuestion = _answerContext.Answer.Where(ans => ans.
17                QuestionId == question.QuestionId);
18            _answerContext.Answer.RemoveRange(answersToQuestion);
19
20            _questionContext.Remove(question);
21        }
22        _locationContext.Location.Remove(location);
23    }
24
25    _courseContext.Course.Remove(course);
26
27    await _answerContext.SaveChangesAsync();
28    await _questionContext.SaveChangesAsync();
29    await _locationContext.SaveChangesAsync();
30    await _courseContext.SaveChangesAsync();
31
32    return RedirectToAction(nameof(Index));
33 }
```

4.2.3. Locations

The Location is the container for the questions and answers. The Location is also responsible for the management of the 360 photos. While it is possible to store images and files directly into the database using BLOBS, this is inefficient in storage and retrieval. Instead the developer made use of File System storage. Thus, the location's database record instead contains a reference to where the image lives, rather than the image itself. A location can be added, updated, or deleted. The `LocationsController` handles all of these actions. Each of these actions has a corresponding View Razor page.

The Location keeps track of the `ImageGuid` and `ImageExtension` to create the `ImagePath`. Each uploaded image is given a globally unique identifier (GUID) which “is a 128-bit number created by the Windows operating system or another Windows application to uniquely identify specific components, hardware, software, files, user accounts, database entries and other items.” [9]. Assigning each image with a GUID guarantees unique image file names when storing in the File System storage and discourages malicious users from scrapping the File System with predictive names. The process for uploading a new image can be seen in Listing 5.

Listing 5. Uploading an Image

```
1 private Guid UploadImage(IFormFile image)
2 {
3     Guid imageGuid = Guid.NewGuid();
4     string filePath = Path.Combine(Path.Combine(_webHostEnvironment.
5         WebRootPath, "images"), imageGuid.ToString()) + Path.GetExtension
6         (image.FileName);
7
8     using var fileStream = new FileStream(filePath, FileMode.Create);
9     image.CopyTo(fileStream);
10 }
```

4.2.4. Questions

The Question is the container for answers and contains the content for question being asked. A question can be added, updated, or deleted. The `QuestionsController` handles all of these actions. Each of these actions has a corresponding View Razor page.

4.2.5. Answers

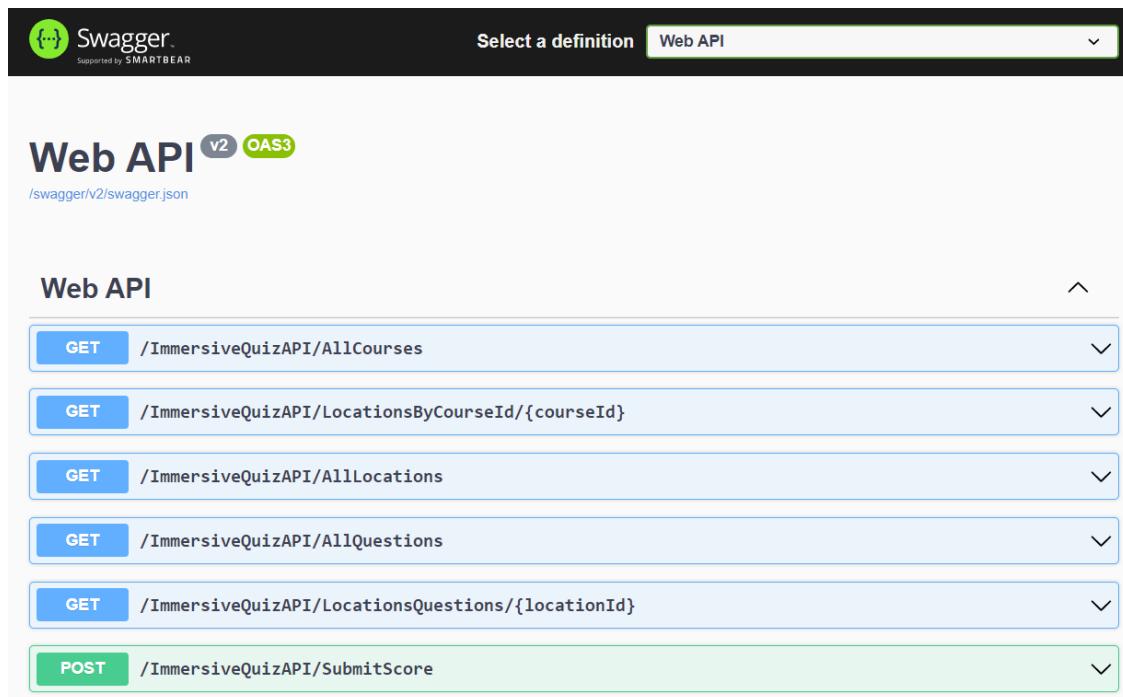
The Answer is the lowest-level object for the Course Creator, containing nothing but the answer content and a boolean for a correct answer. A answer can be added, updated, or deleted. The `AnswersController` handles all of these actions. Each of these actions has a corresponding View Razor page.

4.2.6. Course Results

The course results is handled by the Score class which contains the student ID, Time Score, and Point Score. The Total Score is calculated by read only property which adds the time score and point score together. A score can be added, updated, or deleted to give a verified user full control over the scores. The scores will typically come from the Virtual Reality Orienteering program in a POST request. The `ScoresController` handles all of these actions. Each of these actions has a corresponding View Razor page.

4.2.7. Web API

The Web API is a RESTful API which controls all of the allowed external endpoints. This Web API is how the Virtual Reality Orienteering program is able to communicate with the Course Creator. Courses are loaded and scores submitted via requests to this Web API. The Web API is secured using a filter with Basic Authentication and a HTTPS connection. Using a tool called Swagger the request documentation is auto generated, providing an easy visualization of the endpoints, schema, and resources available for the Web API. The endpoints can be seen in Figure 24.



The screenshot shows the Swagger UI interface for a Web API. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Swagger logo, a dropdown menu labeled "Select a definition" set to "Web API", and a "v2 OAS3" badge. Below the header, the title "Web API" is displayed, followed by the URL "/swagger/v2/swagger.json". The main content area is titled "Web API" and lists several endpoints:

- GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/AllCourses**
- GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/LocationsByCourseId/{courseId}**
- GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/AllLocations**
- GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/AllQuestions**
- GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/LocationsQuestions/{locationId}**
- POST /ImmersiveQuizAPI/SubmitScore**

The "POST /ImmersiveQuizAPI/SubmitScore" endpoint is highlighted with a green background, indicating it is the active or selected endpoint.

Figure 24. Web API Endpoints

Swagger also auto generates the class schema for the request body's that the endpoints use. The Web API sends only the needed model information and nothing more. Thus, business objects of each of the main components of the Course Creator are used to simplify the requests. These objects can be seen in Figure 25.

4.3. Virtual Reality Orienteering

The Virtual Reality Orienteering primary responsibilities are to display the course and to keep track and submit the results. The Virtual Reality Orienteering program must have authorized communication with the Course Creator program.

Schemas

```

CourseVR ∵ {
    courseId      integer($int32)
    name          string
    nullable: true
}

LocationVR ∵ {
    locationId   integer($int32)
    name          string
    nullable: true
    imagePath     string
    nullable: true
}

QuestionVR ∵ {
    questionId   integer($int32)
    content       string
    nullable: true
    locationId   integer($int32)
    answers       ∵ [
        nullable: true
        AnswerVR ∵ {
            answerId   integer($int32)
            questionId integer($int32)
            content     string
            nullable: true
            isCorrect   boolean
        }
    ]
}

Score ∵ {
    scoreId      integer($int32)
    studentId    string
    nullable: true
    courseId      integer($int32)
    timeScore    number($double)
    pointScore   number($double)
    totalScore   number($double)
    readOnly: true
}

```

Figure 25. Web API Schema

4.3.1. Authorization

The Virtual Reality Orienteering makes use of Basic Authentication to securely make requests to the Web API in the Course Creator. To access the Virtual Reality Orienteering program the student must be physically present on a computer with a headset, the Course Creator program, and the Virtual Orienteering program. The instructor will proctor the student to ensure the student ID and chosen course is correctly entered.

4.3.2. Displaying a Course

The Virtual Reality Orienteering makes requests to the Web API to get course data. Once a student has entered their student ID, they must select a course. The Virtual Reality Orienteering program calls the endpoint `GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/AllCourses` to display this list of courses. Once a course is selected, a call is made to the `GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/LocationsByCourseId/{courseId}` to get all locations for the course. As each location is loaded,

another call is made to the `GET /ImmersiveQuizAPI/LocationsQuestions/{locationId}` to load the questions and corresponding answers for each location.

4.3.3. Tracking and Submitting Score Results

In the spirit of orienteering, each location is timed to completion and is added to the total score. A Timer class is associated with the main controller, `VRInputModule`, and provides the functionality for keeping track of the time and returning the time as a score. Listing 6 shows a snippet of the Timer class and the code for the `Update()` which is updated every frame.

Listing 6. Timer Update Snippet

```
1 using UnityEngine;
2 using UnityEngine.UI;
3
4 public class Timer : MonoBehaviour
5 {
6     public static float startTime = 100;
7     public float timeRemaining = startTime;
8     public bool timerIsRunning = false;
9
10    ...
11
12    void Update()
13    {
14        if (timerIsRunning)
15        {
16            if (timeRemaining > 0)
17            {
18                timeRemaining -= Time.deltaTime;
19            }
20            else
21            {
22                // Time ran out!
23                timeRemaining = 0;
24                timerIsRunning = false;
25            }
26        }
27    }
28
29    ...
30}
31 }
```

Throughout the progress of the course, the point score and time score are kept track of in aggregate. When all locations have been completed the UI displays a game over message with the point score, time score, and total score. The Virtual Reality Orienteering program then makes a call to the Web API to `POST /ImmersiveQuizAPI/SubmitScore` with the JSON body of `{studentId: "string", courseId : int, timeScore: float, pointScore: float}`. The

`SubmitScore()` method making the call to the Web API is shown in Listing 7.

Listing 7. Submit Score

```
1 private IEnumerator SubmitScore(string studentId, float timeScore,
2                                 float pointScore)
3 {
4     var json = JsonConvert.SerializeObject(new { studentId,
5                                               CourseLibrary.Courses[currentCourse].CourseId, timeScore,
6                                               pointScore });
7     var request = new UnityWebRequest($"{WebApi}/ImmersiveQuizAPI/
8                                     SubmitScore", "POST")
9     {
10        uploadHandler = new UploadHandlerRaw(Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(json)),
11        downloadHandler = new DownloadHandlerBuffer()
12    };
13    request.SetRequestHeader("Content-Type", "application/json");
14    request.SetAuthHeader();
15
16    yield return request.SendWebRequest();
17 }
```

5. Testing

5.1. Overview

This section describes the testing done to verify and validate that the Course Creator and Virtual Reality Orienteering programs are correct and can handle invalid or malicious input. As part of the iterative design for agile, the programs were tested as new functionality was added.

5.2. Input Validation

Through a variety of means the programs ensure the input entered by users is valid. By preventing invalid input, the programs ensure the data received and presented is correct and avoids issues of unreliable data causing issues downstream. ASP.NET Core MVC provides Tag Helpers which ensures client-side validation takes place. These Tag Helpers use the Data Annotations on the models to determine valid input. A helpful error message is returned to the Razor Page views which describes to the user the invalid input. On the server-side, the Data Annotations on the model are also checked again. This prevents the user from bypassing the client-side and forcefully entered invalid data. When the Data Annotations are not sufficient, the developer manually checked input to ensure valid data. The developer grouped the validation into separate static classes to promote reuseability and modularization.

One common type of attack on web platforms is Cross Side Scripting (XSS). XSS is inserting malicious code into the web page. Once this malicious code runs, the attacker can do anything within the web page to comprise the interactions the victim's has with the page. ASP.NET Core MVC automatically sanitizes input which is the process of disallowing, escaping, or preventing potential code from being executed. Any code entered via inputs is sanitized and cannot execute. Instead the worst case scenario is malicious code is rendered as HTML text on the page.

Another common type of attack is SQL Injection. SQL Injection is inserting malicious SQL statements that will run against the database to either gain information or destroy data. Dynamically generated SQL has more avenues for injection of malicious SQL statements. As Entity Framework Core is how the database connection is created and SQL statements are executed, the only potential vectors for SQL Injection are the values asked for. The risk for SQL Injection is greatly mitigated, as these malicious values are prevented client-side, server-side, and, if not prevented by these other measures, sanitized.

5.3. Unit Testing

Unit Testing is writing code to test your code. Unit Testing are automated tests that test the smallest piece of code. By ensuring all the individual parts of the code are correct, the entire program can be tested quickly, easily, and reproducibly. Unit Tests were created using xUnit. “xUnit.net is a free, open source, community-focused unit testing tool for the .NET

Framework.” [10]. One guiding principle for creating unit tests is to ensure reproducible, deterministic tests. Unit tests should avoid external dependencies or rely on other sources in order to determine the result. Unit tests are best used for testing business logic, ensuring expected input and output correctly do the data manipulation needed. Sometimes external dependencies cannot be avoided. This problem can be solved by “mocking” the dependency and returning a predetermined result. In xUnit the common tool to do this mocking is called, Moq. Moq is a popular lightweight mocking library. Moq also supports LINQ to succinctly mock up dependencies. Unit tests are usually of the following format: Arrange, Act, and Assert. Arrange means setting up the test and mocking any dependencies, Act means executing the code piece that’s being tested, and Assert means the output of the code matches the expected output. An example of a unit test from the project can be seen in Listing 8 using xUnit and Moq.

Listing 8. Example Unit Test

```

1 public class WebApiTests
2 {
3     private readonly ImmersiveQuizApi _webApi;
4     private readonly Mock<CourseContext> _mockCourseContext;
5     private readonly Mock<LocationContext> _mockLocationContext;
6     private readonly Mock<QuestionContext> _mockQuestionContext;
7     private readonly Mock<AnswerContext> _mockAnswerContext;
8     private readonly Mock<ScoreContext> _mockScoreContext;
9     private readonly Mock<DbContextOptionsBuilder> _mockOptions;
10
11    public WebApiTests()
12    {
13        _mockOptions = new Mock<DbContextOptionsBuilder>();
14        _mockCourseContext = new Mock<CourseContext>(_mockOptions.Object);
15        _mockLocationContext = new Mock<LocationContext>(_mockOptions.
16            Object);
17        _mockQuestionContext = new Mock<QuestionContext>(_mockOptions.
18            Object);
19        _mockAnswerContext = new Mock<AnswerContext>(_mockOptions.Object);
20        _mockScoreContext = new Mock<ScoreContext>(_mockOptions.Object);
21
22        _webApi = new ImmersiveQuizApi(_mockCourseContext.Object,
23            _mockLocationContext.Object, _mockQuestionContext.Object,
24            _mockAnswerContext.Object, _mockScoreContext.Object);
25    }
26
27    [Fact]
28    public async Task Post_InvalidScore_ReturnsBadRequest()
29    {
30        // Arrange
31        Score score = new Score()
32        {
33            StudentId = "1234",
34            CourseId = 1,
35            TimeScore = -1,
36            PointScore = -1
37        };
38    }

```

```

34
35     // Act
36     var response = await _webApi.SubmitScore(score);
37
38     // Assert
39     var badRequestResult = Assert.IsType<BadRequestObjectResult>(
40         response);
41     Assert.IsType<string>(badRequestResult.Value);
42
43     ...
44
45 }

```

5.4. Acceptance Testing

Acceptance Testing is testing to make sure the programs can perform the functionality that is required. Throughout the iterative agile process, functionality was tested. This means testing the programs as a user would, creating accounts, verifying users, creating courses with location, answers, and questions, etc. Along with this invalid input was tested to ensure a proper error message would appear. Dr. Mitchell, the project sponsor, also approved early prototypes of the Course Creator and Virtual Reality Orienteering program. As functionality was tested as it was developed, bugs and defects were caught early and often. This reduced the amount of time needed testing everything at the end of the project.

5.5. Integration Testing

Integration Testing is a type of testing that ensures individual components work correctly together as a whole unit. This was primarily seen in the integration and communication of the Course Creator and Virtual Reality Orienteering programs. Ensuring that the Virtual Reality Orienteering program can interface with the Web API, and that the Web API could properly handle these requests, was vital. Without the testing of this area, the project could not function correctly.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Overview

This project succeeds in achieving the goal of creating a customizable, gradeable, and immersive cultural virtual reality orienteering program. The two programs working in conjunction provide all the functional requirements expected. In addition, the non-functional requirements of being open-sourced, secure, portable, efficient, and easy-to-use have also been kept in mind during development.

6.2. Challenges

There were numerous challenges throughout the project. The biggest was the time and effort the developer had available. The developer also worked full-time as a Software Developer II at Kwik Trip. While at times related work as a software developer helped the development of the project, most often the work was unrelated and was a hindrance in terms of time and energy. This set the initial expect completion of Spring 2021, to almost a year and half later, with the actual completion during Summer 2022.

Another challenge was the decreased involvement over time of the project sponsor. The project sponsor had a busy workload with other priorities and could not meet often past the initial requirements gathering and early demonstrations. This proved to be challenging as the primary stakeholder's feedback was not taken into consideration as often as an agile process dictates.

As the developer was familiar with ASP.NET Core MVC from working experience, the Course Creator program didn't encounter too many hard blockers. The Virtual Reality Orienteering program on the other hand had many hard stops. The developer had no prior experience working with Unity or designing a VR program. The program flow in a game setting is very different than that of a website. The developer had to learn not only how to develop in Unity, but also understand the order of events and processes that enable real-time interaction within the worldspace. In addition, VR development is still not nearly as standardized or mature as web development. Several techniques or solutions tried proved to be ineffective or considered deprecated. The UI interaction paired with looking around the worldspace took multiple attempts to get right and countless hours to correctly execute. At one point, the developer posted an online listing to pay for a consultant to help solve this issue. Luckily, the developer was able to figure out a solution without the help from a third party.

6.3. Future Work

While the Course Creator and Virtual Reality Orienteering programs achieve the goals for this project, there are multiple areas that could be improved upon, extended, or enhanced. Currently, the programs are portable in the sense they are lightweight and simple to setup. One area of improvement would be to setup the Course Creator to a dedicated server that

would be accessible on the UWL campus intranet. The Course Creator was developed as a web application, yet only exists on machines with the program executable downloaded. This would allow courses to persist outside of a local database and allow verified users to view, create, update, and delete data anywhere with a secured connection to UWL. Depending on how the server(s) are setup this would increase redundancy which would provide a more reliable and consistent experience. Database backups and contingencies could be enacted further protecting any loss of data.

The Virtual Reality Orienteering program would also do well for rewriting and increasing modularization. Robert “Uncle Bob” Martin is a famous software engineer and coding author. Five of Martin’s principle’s have become known as SOLID programming practices. SOLID stands for: Single-responsibility principle, Open-closed principle, Liskov Substitution Principle, Interface Segregation Principle, and Dependency Inversion principle. Over time the [VRInputModule](#) grew in size and became a bit of an anti-pattern known as the “God Class”. God classes break the ‘S’ in SOLID programming practices which states “Classes should have one responsibility — one reason to change.” [11] During development early mistakes were made and kluged together over time. To reapproach and refactor the program to be “cleaner” and more maintainable would be great future work.

Along with increasing modularization more ease-of-use features could also be added. Currently the course list view displays all courses in the order of creation. One useful feature would be adding a search functionality to the page so a verified user could easily search for the desired course. Another, ease-of-use feature would be adding a way to clone or copy content, whether that content be a course, location, question, or answer. This feature would be helpful in creating content that is to be reused by another course. Another feature that would aid in course creation would be a way to order the locations, questions, and answers. The current design displays to the student in the order the content was created. Perhaps it would be useful to change the order or to display these to the student in the Virtual Reality Orienteering program in a randomized order. This would ensure the content is displayed as the verified user wanted or to have each course displayed in a different order to prevent students from gaining prior knowledge or cheating.

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