

Eye Tracking HMD Upgrade Package for the Oculus Rift DK2

Quick Start Guide



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1 Introduction

The Eye Tracking HMD Upgrade Package for the Oculus Rift DK2 is an Oculus Rift virtual reality (VR) head-mounted display (HMD) with an integrated binocular eyetracker from SensoMotoric Instruments.

The purpose of this document is to give a brief introduction. Along with that, assistance will be offered for creating an application which makes use of eye tracking and thereby giving advice on what data to use for which purpose. This document is not meant as a programming reference (consult iViewHMDAPI.h header file), but rather as a best practice quick start.

While most of the explanations below are made with an OpenGL-based application in mind, the principles are equally applicable for any other visualization framework.

2 Important Notes

- Read and understand the Health and Safety Warning from Oculus Rift.
- Do not leave the Oculus Rift HMD connected to USB and power source when not in use.
- Do not change the distance adjustment as it is fixed. Turning one of the distance adjustment screws on the side of the HMD housing brakes the product.
- Do not exchange lens cups. The product use custom cups, which correspond to Occulus cup set A for moderately nearsighted users or users with normal vision.

3 Setting up a new system

- 1. Download and install the Oculus Windows Runtime 0.5.0 beta from the Oculus Rift website https://developer.oculus.com/downloads/
- 2. Download and install the latest SMI Eye Tracking HMD installer from the SMI website http://update.smivision.com/iViewNG-HMD.exe
- 3. Plug the HMD into a power socket using the included power adapter and connect both the HDMI and USB connectors to your computer.
- 4. The SMI iViewNG HMD SDK supports both, the Extend Desktop to the HMD and Direct HMD Access from Apps mode for your Oculus. Open the Oculus Configuration Utility by right clicking on the Oculus icon in the Windows tray menu and perform the following steps:
 - a) If you want to use the Oculus in Extend Desktop to the HMD mode:
 - Open in the menu Tools > Rift Display Mode. Set display mode to Extend Desktop to the HMD, apply the changed settings, and close the display mode dialog.
 - Create a new user by using the + button, and click **Advanced**. After reading and understanding the *Health and Safety Warning* section in the quick start guide from the Oculus Rift DK2, enable the checkbox to remove this warning. Confirm the subsequent dialog.
 - Open the Windows Screen Resolution configuration dialog.
 - Choose to extend your desktop with the Oculus Rift as a second screen and
 - Change the orientation of the Oculus Rift screen to "Portrait". Note that the portrait mode actually looks here like a landscape orientation; this is to be expected.
 - b) If you want to use the Oculus in Direct HMD Access from Apps mode:
 - Open in the menu Tools > Rift Display Mode. Set display mode to Direct HMD
 Acces from Apps, apply the changed settings, and close the display mode dialog.
 - Create a new user by using the + button, and click Advanced. After reading and understanding the Health and Safety Warning section in the quick start guide from the Oculus Rift DK2, enable the checkbox to remove this warning. Confirm the subsequent dialog.
- 5. Test your installation with the example program C:/Program Files/SMI/iViewNG-HMD/iViewNG-HMD-API-Example/bin/iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe. The program shows the time-stamp and the 2D gaze coordinates of incoming gaze samples if the system has been setup successfully. For further help consult Section 5. Note that on 64-bit Windows systems the SMI software can be found at C:/Program Files (x86)/....

4 Creating a new application

4.1 Full-screen stimulus presentation window required

It is important for applications that your stimulus presentation window is displayed in a non-windowed, full-screen mode. For instance, you can achieve this with the OpenGL function glutFullScreen(). The following code example shows how to maximize and position the window.

```
#include < OVR_CAPI.h>
   #include <GL/glut.h>
   [...]
   ovr_Initialize();
   ovrHmd hmd = ovrHmd_Create(0);
   glutInit(...); // adapt this according to your application
   glutInitWindowSize(hmd->Resolution.w, hmd->Resolution.h);
   glutCreateWindow("My HMD application");
   HWND myWindow = FindWindow(NULL, L"My HMD application");
   ShowWindow(myWindow, SW_SHOWMAXIMIZED);
   if (hmd->HmdCaps & ovrHmdCap_ExtendDesktop) {
     SetWindowPos(myWindow, HWND_TOP, hmd->WindowsPos.x, hmd->WindowsPos.y,
15
       hmd->Resolution.w, hmd->Resolution.h, SWP_SHOWWINDOW);
     glutFullScreen();
   }
   [...]
   if (hmd) {
     ovrHmd_Destroy(hmd);
   ovr_Shutdown();
   [...]
```

Listing 1: Example code for the creation of a maximized stimulus presentation window

4.2 Gaze interaction: 2D or 3D gaze

The most important step of creating a new application is to decide in what format to process gaze input. The decision boils down to the question of 2D vs 3D: whereas 2D is easier to get started with, 3D data opens the most possibilities for more advanced applications. In the following sections both gaze input data types are explained in detail and some typical use cases are given. Obviously the data types are not limited to those applications.

4.2.1 2D gaze input: point of regard (POR)

Details

- POR is the gaze vector mapped onto a plane at a specific location within the eyetracker coordinate system.
- The mapping distance can be controlled via the TrackingParameter option in iV_StartStreaming()
 - A value of DBL_MAX will cause the POR to be mapped dynamically to the vergence distance (which is essentially the intersection of left and right gaze rays).
 - An absolute value will result in the POR being mapped to this specific distance.
 - Generally, setting a fixed mapping distance results in better accuracy and precision.
- Monocular PORs for left/right eyes and binocluar POR are mapped to the complete resolution of the HMD screen (1920 \times 1080). Realized via virtual camera with a field of view of 87 $^{\circ}$.

When to use POR?

- Monocular POR can be used for interaction applications where the 2D gazes of individual eyes are
 of importance.
- Binocular POR is a robust entry into simple 2D gaze interaction. It can also be used for reconstructing gaze vectors (e.g. using ray casting) and therefore avoiding transformations.
- Use a fixed mapping distance if you can, e.g. when a scene has only little depth.

How to use POR?

- To use the 2D POR coordinates, which are given in pixels, it might be necessary to transform them into relative screen coordinates.
- The following code example can be used, e.g. in combination with the Oculus SDK, to transform pixels (with an origin at the top-left corner of the display screen) into OpenGL coordinates (with an origin at the center of the display). planeDepth is the distance in z-direction between the projection plane and the coplanar display.

```
std::pair<double, double > pixelToScreen(double xpixel, double ypixel, double
  height, double width, double planeDepth)
{
  double xgl,ygl = 0.0f;
  xgl = planeDepth * (xpixel/(width/2.0)) -planeDepth;
  ygl = planeDepth - planeDepth * (ypixel/(height/2.0));
  return std::make_pair(xgl, ygl);
}
```

Listing 2: Transformation of pixels into OpenGL coordinates

4.2.2 3D gaze input

Details

- 3D gaze is provided as a normalized gaze direction vector (gazeDirection) and a gaze base point (gazeBasePoint).
- Gaze base point is given in mm with respect to the origin of the eyetracker coordinate system.
- "Cyclops" gaze is the averaged gaze direction of both eyes, originating at the virtual center "cyclops" eye of the user.

When to use 3D gaze?

- Monocular gaze vectors can be used for vergence research and depth-based selection of objects.
 The quality of the vergence information varies highly between users and depends highly on ocular
 motor performance of the wearer. Vergence information works best for viewing distances below
 1.5 m.
- Cyclops gaze is optimal in a virtual 3D environment for selecting objects, which the user is gazing
 at. For instance, select an object where the object's mesh intersects with the ray of the cyclops
 gaze.
- When displaying the user's gaze it is best to start the ray at around 1m away from the user in order to avoid discomfort.

How to use 3D gaze?

- Using the 3D gaze requires a transformation of vectors from the eyetracker coordinates into user coordinates in the respective scenario.
- As a shared reference between HMD coordinates and eyetracker coordinates Figure 1 and Table 1 define landmarks for the HMD given in eyetracker coordinates.

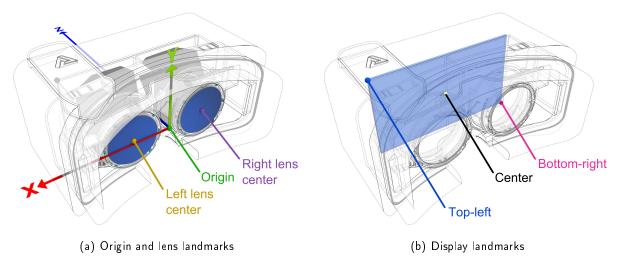


Figure 1: HMD landmarks in eyetracker coordinates

Point	Coordinates (x, y, z) [mm]
Origin	(0.00, 0.00, 0.00)
Left lens center	(31.75, 2.70, 0.24)
Right lens center	(-31.75, 2.70, 0.24)
Display top-left	(63.00, 39.20, 49.00)
Display center	(0.00, 3.70, 49.00)
Display bottom-right	(-63.00, -31.80, 49.00)

Table 1: Coordinates for HMD landmarks in eyetracker coordinates

4.3 Display calibration: personal 3D

When a user's physiognomy diverges from made assumptions, a correct projection of a virtual scene to a stereoscopic scene is not possible. Effects can range from a mismatch of object sizes and proportions to unnatural distortions of objects, especially during movement, which may cause nausea and discomfort.

The adaption of the relevant parameters to the user's physiognomy is known as display calibration and gains relevance when presenting close objects. In order to get the best possible results, the virtual cameras (responsible for the left and right eye projections) will have to be placed at the 3D positions of the user's pupils, that is at the position where the light enters the eyes. Keep in mind that it is possible to achieve good results by setting only some of parameters discussed described below while ignoring others.

4.3.1 Interocular distance (IOD)

Details

- IOD is the distance between the user's left and right eye.
- Can be calculated from the streamed gazeBasePoint.
- Constant for each user, independent from gazeDirection of each eye.

When to use IOD

- For roughly correct proportions and size of virtual objects.
- Approximate replacement for IPD.

How to use IOD

- Can be set e.g. in the Oculus Configuration Utility or via the Oculus SDK.
- Set as stereo basis for virtual cameras.

4.3.2 Interpupillary distance (IPD)

Details

- IPD is the distance between the pupil center points of the left and right eye.
- Can be calculated from the streamed pupilPosition.
- Changes with gaze direction (gaze angles) and especially vergence.

When to use IPD

- Correct position for the virtual cameras.
- Dynamic setting of stereo basis with changing vergence.

How to use IPD

• Set as stereo basis for virtual cameras.

4.3.3 gazeBasePoint, pupilPosition, eyeLensDistance, and eyeScreenDistance

Details

- gazeBasePoint is roughly comparable to the eyeball center.
- gazeBasePoint should be used in combination with eyeLensDistance and eyeScreenDistance in order to position the virtual cameras.
- pupilPosition must not be used in combination with eyeLensDistance and eyeScreenDistance, since they are based on gazeBasePoint. Corresponding values would have to be calculated on the fly (check the HMD coordinate system).

When to use

- While a good approximation, eye distance is not enough for true stereoscopic projection. For this, 3D positions and orientations have to be set independently for each eye.
- Complete display calibration for user's physiognomy is required in order to achieve best possible rendering quality.

How to use

• Place virtual cameras at gazeBasePoint or pupilPosition (e.g. by transforming the Oculus Rift projection matrix) and orient them using gazeDirection. Alternatively use eyeLensDistance and eyeScreenDistance in combination with IOD or IPD.

4.4 User calibration

Details

- The 3-point user calibration is the preferred method, however, 0-, 1-, 5- and 9-point user calibrations are available as well.
- Calibration points have to be accepted. Accept them automatically while fixating them, or manually by pressing space bar.
- User calibration stays intact after moving the HMD thanks to built-in drift correction.
- Calibration will be visualized by the API and therefore it is essential that the application window
 and calibration window have the exact same size and resolution (check Listing 1) so they can be
 aligned correctly.
- User calibration can be saved with a specific name and loaded, to instantly apply the gazecorrection without doing the calibration process.

User calibration types

0 point	1 point	3, 5, 9 point
 Begins as soon as the eye tracking HMD is put on 	 Improves accuracy over 0 point user calibration 	 Improves accuracy over 0 and 1 point user calibration
 Happens automatically If accuracy is precise enough, you can start immediately 	 Uses 1 calibration point at 1.5 m distance 	 Best calibration compromised between accuracy and speed
		 Uses calibration points at 1.5 m distance

When to use

• Redo calibration when switching users or when accuracy seems low.

How to use

- If necessary, minimize your application before starting the SMI user calibration; due to conflicts with 3rd party applications, the user calibration window cannot be drawn as top-most window
- Launch the calibration (optionally configure it before, e.g. if you want to have a different color set and/or if you want use custom positioned calibration points).
- Each calibration point has to be accepted by fixating on it, this will be automatically detected. In the case that the point is not recognized a manual acception via space bar is possible.

4.5 Client Side Calibration

Details

- Create custom calibration visualization
- 1-, 3-, 5-, 9- and 13-point calibration are supported

When to use

• Calibration in native environment is preferred to the default SMI windowed one

How to use

- See the code snippet below as an example how to call a client side calibration
- Use the same calibration point order in your visualization as you did for the smi_CalibrationHMDStruct
- smi_calibrate() is blocking, therefore it's best practice to call your calibration visualization right before in a different thread
- To accept the currently shown calibration point, call smi_acceptCalibrationPoint(). The calibration will automatically end all points of your calibration method have been accepted.
- You can also use our fixation detection for your calibration visualization. Therefore call smi_startDetectingNewFright before your rendering loop. Then call smi_smi_checkForNewFixation() in your loop, and when it's true, call smi_acceptCalibrationPoint(). Then call smi_startDetectingNewFixation() again.
- To abort the custom calibration, call smi_abortCalibration()

Listing 3: Calibration call for client side calibration

```
smi_startDetectingNewFixation (); // initialize the fixation detection
while (runVisualization) {
   if (smi_checkForNewFixation ()) { // check for fixation
       smi_acceptCalibrationPoint (); // accept calibration point
       smi_startDetectingNewFixation (); // initialize a new fixation detection
   }
   [...]
}
```

Listing 4: Fixation detection calls for client side calibration

4.6 Quantitative Validation

The quantitative validation will show a 2x2 grid of points, with only one point shown at a time. As for the calibration, each validation point has to be accepted automatically or manually. After performing the quantitative validation a result window will be shown on both, the user screen (HMD) and the operator screen (this can be turned off programmatically). The result window will show a plot of the fixation per validation point and the average accuracy in degree.

When to use

• To measure the accuracy of a calibration.

4.7 Recording and evaluation

Currently, recording of gaze data is only possible by doing a client-side file-dump of the streamed data in your preferred format.

4.8 Simulator Mode: Use eye tracking API without an HMD device

It is possible to develop and test your eye tracking HMD application using the eye tracking API without having the HMD device attached to your computer. Then the SMI eye tracking API calls your specified callback function at 60 Hz. The exemplary gaze data as shown in Fig. 2 repeats after a while, even though the timestamp is increased further.

```
The simulator mode can be activated by calling 
 smi_StartStreaming(true); 
instead of 
 smi_StartStreaming();
```

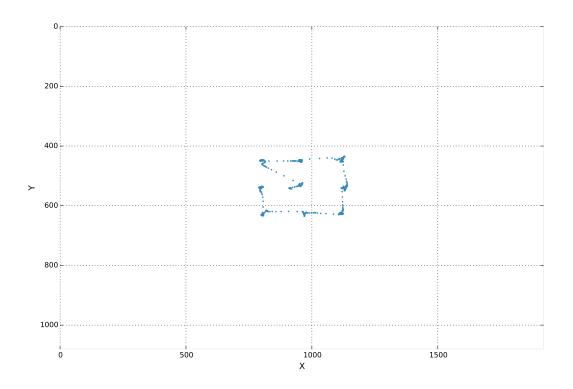


Figure 2: Simulator mode gaze pattern

5 Example program for C/C++ SDK API

The SMI Eye Tracking HMD provides a pre-built example (iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe), which can be used to test the device. It is located in the directory:

C:/Program Files/SMI/iViewNG-HMD/iViewNG-HMD-API-Example/bin/

Note that the SMI software can be found on 64-bit Windows systems at C:/Program Files (x86)/....

After starting the example, the console output of gaze data shows that the eye tracking is up and running; otherwise error messages will be shown. Note that the console window has to have the input focus in order to control the program via keyboard inputs given in Table 2.

By default, the *SMI Eye Tracking HMD* employs 0-point user calibration for gaze computation. The recommended 3-point user calibration can be started by pressing 3. The calibration points can be accepted automatically or manually. To accept the point automatically, fixate on the point for a short period of time. To accept them manually, press the space bar. In this case, please make sure that the user of the HMD is fixating on the current point, e.g. the user signals if point gets fixated.

The new user calibration can be tested in the validation mode, which is started by pressing v. A validation pattern (grid of points) will be shown including the POR (2D gaze).

Keys	Functionality
q	Quit the program
1	Start 1-point user calibration
3	Start 3-point user calibration
5	Start 5-point user calibration
9	Start 9-point user calibration
n	Reset current user calibration to the default 0-point user calibration
h	Save the current calibration
j	List all saved calibrations
k	Load a previously saved calibration
е	Show/hide eye images
v	Show validation pattern and POR (2D gaze) overlay
b	Show quantitative validation pattern and computes the average accuracy
s	Start eye image streaming: Callback gets called with result types
	SMI_EYE_IMAGE_LEFT and SMI_EYE_IMAGE_RIGHT with 5 Hz per eye
u	Stop eye image streaming
Esc	Finish current action like user calibration or validation

Table 2: Keys used in the iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe

6 Unity integration and example

Unity is a cross-platform game creation tool by Unity Technologies, including a 3D/2D game engine and an integrated development environment. With Unity you can create various applications like games, simulations, or training software.

The SMI Eye Tracking HMD Upgrade Package for the Oculus Rift DK2 offers an integeration for Unity.

6.1 Precompiled Unity integration example

The precompiled Unity integration example can be found in the directory C:\Program Files\SMI\iViewNG-HMD\HMD Unity Example\bin

Different eye tracking user calibration modes are available, see Table 3 for available keys.

Keys	Functionality
n	Reset current user calibration to the default 0-point user calibration
1	Start 1-point user calibration
3	Start 3-point user calibration
5	Start 5-point user calibration
9	Start 9-point user calibration
h	Save the calibration
j	List available calibrations
k	Load Calibration
v	Show validation pattern and POR (2D gaze) overlay
b	Start quantitative validation
Esc	Terminate program
ctrl	Open the Oculus menu

Table 3: Keys used in the precompiled Unity integration

6.2 Setup

- 1. If you are using the Oculus in **Extend Desktop to the HMD** mode open the Windows Screen Resolution control panel. Change the order of displays so that the DK2 display is the most right display. Further on, the DK2 display has to be aligned to the top.
- 2. Import the SMI_UnityHMD_Integration.unitypackage (located at C:\Program Files\SMI\iViewNG-HMD\HMD Unity Example) into your Unity project. The Oculus SDK version 0.6.0 is already integrated. You can either drag&drop our unity package into your project view or right-click on Asset, choose Import Package and find our package. Afterwards you have to confirm all the parts being imported.
- 3. Change Unity settings in the playersettings to API compatibility level ".Net 2.0"

Note: On 64-bit Windows systems the SMI software can be found at C:/Program Files (x86)/....

6.3 Notes

- All coordinates are calculated in the classic screen space with [0,0] being top left
- Mapping distance is fixed to 1500 mm

6.4 Compatibility

• Use the 32bit editor for Unity 5.0 or Unity 5.1

7 General comments and troubleshooting

7.1 Usage

- Do not leave the Oculus Rift HMD connected to USB and power source when not in use.
- If using the Oculus in Extend Desktop to the HMD use the Oculus Rift only in Portrait mode.
 Note that the portrait mode of an Oculus Rift display is visualized in the Windows Screen Resolution dialog as a landscape mode.
- Always connect the Oculus Rift to an external power source.
- Do not change the resolution of the Oculus Rift display. Use the native display resolution of the Oculus Rift: 1920 x 1080
- Lenses of the Ouclus Rift have to be handled with absolute care. For cleaning, use a soft damp cloth only.

7.2 Update the SDK

SDK updates for the Eye Tracking HMD Upgrade Package for the Oculus Rift DK2 will be made available at http://update.smivision.com/iViewNG-HMD.exe.

For your convenience you can use the Windows Start Menu entry **SMI** > **Eye Tracking HMD** > **Check for Updates** to check if a newer version is available. If a newer version is available it will be downloaded and installed.

7.3 Error codes

Error code	Explanation
ERROR_NO_CALLBACK_SET	No callback function set. Set a callback function
	with smi_SetCallback().
ERROR_CONNECTING_TO_HMD	Unable to find the Oculus HMD or to start the eye
	tracking server, check the Task Manager and if still
	running terminate iViewNG-Server.exe
ERROR_HMD_NOT_SUPPORTED	HMD device could not be recognized. Download
	and install an update from
	http://update.smivision.com/iViewNG-HMD.exe
ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER	Parameter passed to the API is invalid.
ERROR_EYECAMERAS_NOT_AVAILABLE	The SMI eye tracking cameras are not available.
ERROR_NO_SMI_HARDWARE	The SMI eye tracking system is not available.
ERROR_OCULUS_RUNTIME_	The Oculus runtime you are using is not supported.
NOT_SUPPORTED	Please use 0.5/0.6 runtime.
ERROR_FILE_NOT_FOUND	The calibration file could not be found.
ERROR_FILE_EMPTY	The calibration file you want to load is empty.
ERROR_SDK_NOT_INSTALLED	The SMI HMD SDK is not installed, and our func-
	tionality can not be used.
ERROR_UNKNOWN	Unknown error occurred. Close program and dis-
	connect the device. Kill iViewNG-Server.exe us-
	ing the Task Manager. Reconnect the device.

Table 4: API error codes

7.4 Common Problems

Health and Safety Warning shows up again

Go to Oculus Configuration Utility, uncheck the *Disable Health and Safety Warning* checkbox. After applying your changes repeat the procedure and check the checkbox again.

Head mounted display (HMD) flipped vertically on Windows 8.1 systems

Open the Windows Screen Resolution configuration dialog and change the "Portrait" mode to the "Portrait (flipped)" mode.

Main Screen is turning black when starting programm

This might occur when Windows Aero is enabled or the Windows DPI is set above 100%. Disable Windows Aero design or set Windows DPI to 100% as a workaround.

Oculus Service Crashes

This might occur randomly when using the Direct To Rift mode and closing an application. Since our calibration visualizer is an own application aswell, it might call this behaviour. Make sure to use a graphical adapter which is recommended by Oculus when you want to use the Direct to Rift mode, otherwise choose Extended Mode.

HMD is working, but eye tracking isn't.

The eye tracker uses the USB accessory port on the DK2 headset and hence requires the power supply which has to be connected to the connector box. Please be aware that the order of connecting the cables to the DK2's connector box has to be as follows:

- 1. Connect the HDMI cable.
- 2. Connect the USB cable from the connector box to one of the USB ports on the computer.
- 3. (optional) Positional tracker sync cable: Connect the positional tracker with the cable connector box via the sync cable.
- 4. (optional) Positional tracker USB cable: Connect the positional tracker with the mini USB cable to one of the USB ports on the computer.
- 5. Finally, plug the barrel connector of the power cord to the cable connector box.

Retry eye tracking functionality after connecting all cables according to the above sequence of steps.

Cannot execute example program directly from Visual Studio

Open the Visual Studio project configration for the example program. Select as configuration "All Configurations" and platform "Active(Win32)". Go to Configuration Properties > Debugging > Working Directory and set it to \$(OutDir).

Could not open codec file, make sure its located in the same directory

Although the Oculus Rift DK2 is connected to the system, the execution of the example program iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe results in the error message

smi_StartStreaming:

Could not open codec file, make sure its located in the same directory

Solutions:

1. Run iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe as administrator if executed from a directory with restricted access rights (e.g. C:\...), because the program has to copy files to the working directory of the example program.

2. Copy the whole bin directory of the example program to another drive where write access is granted and execute iViewNG-HMD-API-Example.exe from there.

Unity 5.1: UnityEditor.PlayerSettings does not contain a definition for 'd3d11FocreExclusiveMode'
Unlike Unity 5.0, Unity 5.1 does not contain a definition of d3d11ForceExclusiveMode as a PlayerSetting,
depending on which Oculus SDK you are using. Go into the source file and comment the line
PlayerSettings.d3d11ForceExclusiveMode = OVRUnityVersionChecker.hasD3D11ExclusiveModeSupport;

8 Declaration of Conformity



SMI products are for use in office environments and bear the CE mark to indicate compliance with the health and safety requirements according to European Directives. For individual product declarations please refer to sales@smivision.de.

The equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for class A digital devices, pursuant to EMC directive 2004/108/EC, and conforms to the low-voltage directive 2006/95/EC.

The device is meant for use in office environments and as such may generate radio frequency emissions that can cause interference with radio communications. To reduce the potential impact on radio communications, the operator may have to take measures such as increasing the separation between such devices or changing the orientation of the equipment.

The SMI Eye Tracking HMD Upgrade Package for the Oculus Rift DK2 is eye safe according to EN62471:2008.

9 3rd Party Licenses

9.1 Boost Software License

http://boost.org/LICENSE_1_0.txt

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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Version 3.1, 31 March 2009

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