Philip Straw

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Portfolio: https://philcstraw.github.io/Portfolio/
Github: https://github.com/philcstraw

Game designer and self-taught software engineer with 14 years industry experience. I am an effective communicator and collaborator with great attention to detail and a drive for tackling ambitious problems. I thrive on delivering goals to a high standard and within challenger constraints. I have been responsible for content design and implementation for multiple industry-leading and award winning AAA games.

Games Shipped Little Big Planet | Little Big Planet 2 & Move Pack | Tearaway
Independent Games Released Linking | Dynoball
Game worked on: Dreams | Man of Medan | Jigsaurus

Tools and frameworks

- C# ● C++ ● C++/CLI ● LUA
- GLSL ● HLSL
- OpenGL ● Vulcan
- Unity ● Unreal Engine 4 ● Blueprints
- DearImGui ● Winforms ● WPF
- Visual Studio ● RenderDoc
- Github ● Perforce ● Source Tree ● Jira
- 3DSMax ● Blender

Technical Skills

- Gameplay design and balancing
- Level design
- Event scripting
- AI behaviour authoring
- Visual scripting
- Cinematic design
- Environmental Art
- Software Engineering
- Performance Analysis and Optimisation
- Debugging
- Documentation and tutorials

Soft Skills

- Good communicator
- Team player
- Creative collaborator
- Quick learner
- Proactive
- Multitasking
- Attention to detail
- Easy going

Work History

KytheraAI AI Developer
Dec 2021 - Present, Unity - C++

- Responsible for the development and management of a plugin that enables Unity's scripting system to interact with Kythera's proprietary C++ AI path finding engine.
- Maintained code in Unity and Kythera to facilitate interoperability between C# and C++.
- Built Unity components and user interfaces that interact with the C++ library.
- Designed and built levels to test and demonstrate Kythera's AI features.
- Optimised debug rendering to achieve real-time frame rates.
- Liaised with clients to address queries, gaining a better understanding of their requirements and constraints in order to help them achieve their goals.
- Collaborating with other engineers to revise and improve implementations.
- Wrote comprehensive documentation and tutorials for the plugin's available features.

Personal Projects

C++ Game Engine

3D Rigidbody physics ● Collision detection ● Spatial partitioning Assimp SDK file import and exporting ● Skinned mesh rendering ● Animation motion matching Skeleton retargeting ● 2D Rigidbody Physics ● Physically Based Rendering ● Deferred shading ● Shadow mapping Signed Distance Field rendering Marching Cubes ● Jump Flooding ● Text rendering ● HTC Vive Controller Integration ● Input handling ● Sound Integration ●
Custom file format serialization

C# Music Player

Audio playback ● ID3 tag editor ● Asynchronous file loading   SQLite

Independent Developer
2019-2021 | Unity-Android

- Worked on 3 mobile games on all aspects of game creation from prototype to completion, including gameplay design, difficulty balancing, art, UI, UX, audio and asset management.
- Wrote shaders and developed custom UI tools to facilitate experimentation and faster iterations times.
- Doing performance optimisations for Android devices.
- Running tests for multiple android devices to ensure maximum compatibility.
- Published 2 of the finished games to the Android play store, and pushing updates post release.
- Google AbMob and in-app purchase integration.

Super Massive Games Contract Level Designer
2018-2019 | Unreal Engine

- Level designer on Super Massive Game's branching narrative game Man of Medan.
- Added motion captured animations, creating cinematic interactions and responsible for overall maintenance for a number of levels.
- Authoring cameras to achieve a cinematic feel that invokes tension, fear and mystery.
- Helped with localisation, bug fixing, network testing and participated in peer reviewed feedback.

Sony Media Molecule Level Designer
2011 - 2018 | PlayStation 3-4-Vita

- Worked closely with directors to implement levels and gameplay that spanned multiple genres and targeted all age groups across 3 of their published games.
- Responsible for cinematic and tutorial design.
- Collaborated with team members across all disciplines to aid in the creation of customer facing tools for user generated content.
- Conducted user tests and implemented feedback.
- Quality assurance test for gameplay, networking and user generated content tools.

Education
GCSE O Level Mathematics, English, Economics, Fine Art, Biology

Qualifications
NVQ Level 2 Certificate in Customer Services

Word Processing, Access, PowerPoint, Excel, Equals Level 1

European Computer Driving License Level 1