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CSCI 3081W

Writing Assignment 2

1. The title of the project I'll be examining today is Blender, the documentation can be found at the link in the citation below.

   "Blender Manual." *Blender*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Sept. 2016. <https://www.blender.org/manual/contents.html>

2. The intended audience for the documentation for Blender is both casual users and technical users. The documentation explains basic functionalities in Blender, such as its interface for casual users. It also discusses more advanced techniques and capabilities such as modifying and expanding the engine code for more technical users. The documentation is not intended for academics/researchers. However, the documentation explains the implementation of many algorithms and techniques which may interest academics. Lastly, the documentation is for both end users and programmers looking to contribute to the project, thus its complexity and level of explanation varies.

3.

   A. States key information clearly (important findings, recommendations, ideas,

issues, etc.).

   It is extremely relevant that key information is clearly stated given that this type of documentation is partially intended for casual users so any lack of clarity would cause confusion.

B. Addresses the target audience with an appropriate tone and level of explanation.

   It is extremely relevant that the appropriate tone and level of explanation are used given that the target audience includes people who may have no prior experience in the subject matter.

C. Presents any needed background explanation clearly or informatively.

   It is of little to no relevance that documentation of this type provides background explanation clearly or informatively. Most of the background information needed already has its own documentation elsewhere.

D. Persuasively justifies any choice of algorithm, design, problem approach,

problem solution, etc.

   It is moderately relevant that justification is given for any choice of algorithm, design, problem approach, etc. given that some justification will help the user understand the underlying functionality.

E. Describes algorithms, data structures, software system components, etc.

accurately.

It is moderately relevant, given that you need to know how something is implemented in order to use it most effectively.

F. Describes algorithms, data structures, software system components, etc.

informatively and concisely.

It is moderately relevant given that a lack of information would make it hard to use it effectively. It also needs to be concise and well organized or the reader will have trouble finding what they need, and understanding it in a timely manner.

G. Uses terminology and notation correctly.

It is extremely relevant given that this type of documentation is very terminology and notation heavy. If not explained correctly it would be difficult to understand and learn for those who are unfamiliar with it.

H. Explains high-level ideas with low-level details.

It is moderately relevant given that many new high-level ideas are presented in the documentation, and understanding how they work is an important part to using them effectively.

I. Presents low-level details clearly and accurately.

It is extremely relevant because low-level materials in documentation like this is extremely hard to understand unless it is written clearly and if it's not written accurately it will not be conveyed correctly.

J. Uses appropriate structures (e.g., lists, diagrams, equations, code samples,

etc.).

It is extremely important given that documentation of this type is intended to inform the reader about how to add on to and use existing code, which is difficult when there are no clear references available.

K. Tables, diagrams, references, etc. are clear and informative.

It is extremely relevant given how hard it would be to find information in this type of documentation if it wasn't clear and informative.

L. Tables, diagrams, references, etc. are smoothly integrated into the text.

It is extremely relevant given that most readers will be constantly transitioning between diagrams, tables and the text as they read through documentation of this type.

M. Has a good organization and logical flow.

It is extremely relevant given the amount of documentation and how dense it is with information.

N. Uses correct grammar, spelling, and mechanics.

It is extremely relevant given how hard it is to understand an explanation for something that is written poorly.

O. Avoids including irrelevant information, overemphasizing less important

material, or writing verbosely.

It is moderately relevant because some information that may be consider irrelevant may be relevant but only to certain people. Thus it's important in this type of documentation to insure that the important material is emphasized.

4. The writing in the documentation for Blender is highly structured using many graphical representations, lists, submenus and a glossary. It also features lots of terminology but defines it clearly and provides hyperlinks for those who want a deeper explanation. The documentation also features various tips to enrich the readers understanding. Graphics can be found embed in section to provide a visual representation of what is being explained. Each section is organized first explaining how something works, then explaining how it can be used/implemented, and lastly examples are given.