

wv: A General Web-based 3D Viewer

Bob Haimes (haimes@mit.edu)

Aerospace Computational Design Laboratory
Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Objective



The objective of this work is to generate a **visual** tool targeted for the 3D needs found within the MDAO process. A **WebBrowser**-based approach is considered, in that it provides the broadest possible platform for deployment.



Outline



- System Architecture
 - Browser / WebGL / WebSockets
 - Server or Data Generator(s)
- Data Model
 - VBO based
 - Primitives
 - Graphic Objects
- Functionality at the Viewer
 - IO Handling
 - Rendering / GUI Loop
- Binary Data Packets
- GUI Call-backs
- Procedural-based Server-side API



System Architecture



Goal: Effective 3D component that can support the viewing of:

- Geometry
- Meshing
- Scientific Visualization Tools (including transient data)
- Multi-dimensional Design Space Examination
- Other 3D needs

Contains no GUI but the *hooks* (in the form of *JavaScript* call-backs) to graft a customized UI specifically designed for the task at hand.



System Architecture -- Viewer



Efficient Browser Implementation

- Must support WebGL (& JavaScript)
- Use of WebSockets (part of HTML5)
 - Asynchronicity
 - Segregation of data-streams (via protocols)
 - Data handling consistent with WebGL
- Extensive use of Vertex Buffer Objects (VBOs)
- IO from the server
 - Packed messages -- few network packets that are unpacked into typed JavaScript Arrays at the Browser
 - Binary -- known common types, allows avoiding the costs of serialization / deserialization (WebSocket binary)
 - Techniques to provide data to the GUI (WebSocket text)
- IO to the server
 - Nothing from the Viewer by default
 - Only data from the customized GUI (WebSocket text)



System Architecture -- Server



Data Generation and Handling

- Web server (or acts as one -- libwebsockets)
- Visualization state must be maintained (note: Viewer is stateless except for viewMatrix & current plotting attributes)
- VBO components generated and sent
- IO to the Viewer
 - Aggregated VBOs with metadata
 - What is sent is based on changes from the GUI or from transient data
 - Data for the GUI portion of the Viewer
- IO from the Viewer



Only data from the customized GUI

Data Model -- VBO Components



- Vertices
 - Coordinates (3 by *float -- Float32Array*)
 - length
- Indices (optional)
 - The index into the Vertex Array (unsigned short -- Uint16Array)
 - length (can be different from Vertex length)
- Colors (optional)
 - RGBs associated with the Vertices(3 by unsigned byte --Uint8Array)
 - Must be same length as Vertices
- Normals (optional, used for Triangles or Decorated Lines)
 - The normal pointing vector for lighting (3 by float --Float32Array) or Decorated Triangles and normals (no stripes)
 - Must be same length as Vertices (Triangles)

Note: the *unsigned short* of *Indices* limits the size of the VBO used, so larger data needs to be *striped*.

Data Model -- VBO Types



- Points
 - Vertices [Colors & Indices]
- Lines (2 vertices per -- disjoint segments)
 - Vertices [Colors & Indices]
 - Optional Normals for Decorations (i.e. 3D Arrows)
- Triangles (3 vertices per -- also disjoint)
 - Vertices [Normals, Colors & Indices]

Notes:

- Constant element coloring of *Lines/Triangles* requires non-indexed **VBO**s and the duplication of color information (per vertex)
- 2. Facetted lighting requires similar treatment with *Normals*
- 3. Any non-planar set of *Triangles* requires *Normals* **VBO** component



Data Model -- Graphic Primitives



- Locations (GPType 0 -- 0D)
 - Collections of one or more Points
 - Foreground Color
 - Size (in pixels)
 - Coloring & Transparency Flags
- Disjoint Lines (GPType 1 -- 1D)
 - Optional collected Indexed Points into the Lines Vertex Array
 - Collections of one or more Lines
 - Line Color
 - Foreground Color for Decorations
 - Back-facing Color for Decorations
 - Line Width (in pixels)
 - Point Color
 - Point size (in pixels)
 - Coloring & Transparency Flags



Data Model -- Graphic Primitives



- Disjoint Triangles (GPType 2 -- 2D)
 - Optional collected Indexed Points into the Triangles Vertex Array
 - Optional collected Indexed Lines into the Triangles Vertex Array
 - Collections of one or more *Triangles*
 - Foreground Color
 - Back-facing Color
 - Planar Normal (if planar)
 - Line Color
 - Line Width (in pixels)
 - Point Color
 - Point size (in pixels)
 - Coloring, Transparency, Orientation & Point/Line Flags

Note: Simple two-sided (ambient & diffuse) lighting is applied by default (modification to **wv_render.js** is required for other lighting models)



Data Model -- Graphic Objects



Graphic Object

- ID -- Unique character string assigned by the server
- GPType
- Number of Striped Primitives in the Collection
- GPType specific metadata
- Graphic Primitive data

VBO Internal Reference

_	ID	string
_	Stripe #	24bits
_	One of <i>Point</i> , <i>Line</i> , <i>Triangle</i> Data (3)	byte
_	One of Vertices, Indices, Colors, Normals (4)	bvte



Functionality at the Viewer



10 Handling

- Initialize (connect to server)
- Handshake to ensure compatibility
- Arrays generated by "unpacking" received VBOs (with metadata) via binary protocol
- Handle any GUI related data (text protocol) via the call-back ServerMessage
- Continue until End-of-Frame marker
- Inform Rendering Loop that there is new data and accept no new data until released

Asynchronously performed by WebSocket event handling



Functionality at the Viewer



Rendering / GUI Loop

- Initialize (generate canvas on WebGL context)
- Execute GUI setup call-back *InitUI*
- 1. Setup scene
 - Blank canvas and depth buffer
 - Adjust viewMatrix (*UpdateView* call-back)
- 2. Render any *Graphics Objects*
- 3. Add custom renderings by call-back *UpdateCanvas*
- 4. Execute GUI call-back *UpdateUI*
- 5. Do we have an End-of-Frame marker?
 - If no -- has anything changed in the GUI?
 - No -- Wait then goto 4
 - Yes -- goto 1
- 6. Handshake with IO Handling, update the *Graphics Objects* & release the IO hold
- E ACD

Functionality at the Viewer



Rendering Model

- WebGL requires fragment & vertex shaders
- Lighting & texture mapping done in the shaders
- The supplied shaders support:
 - Two-sided lighting
 - Ambient & Diffuse lighting model
 - Back-face coloring
 - Constant and/or linearly interpolated color-space mapping
 - Simple transparency
 - Picking
 - Bumping of lines forward (in screen Z)
- Any other requirements will involve modifying the shaders (which can be found in wv-render.js)





- Individual data collections should be aggregated to reduce network latencies -- large packets
- All data is tightly packed and VBO "ready"
- Data collections begin with an Opcode (1 byte):
 - 0 -- end of packet (but not End-of-Frame)
 - 1 -- new Graphic Object
 - 2 -- delete Graphic Object
 - 3 -- new Data for Graphic Object
 - 4 -- update Data in Graphic Object
 - 7 -- End-of-Frame Marker (must be last in total packet)
 - 8 -- Initialize Packet
- All data is aligned on 4-byte boundaries
 - Colors are unsigned byte
 - Indices are unsigned short
 - The ID is a string





- Each collection starts with:
 - Opcode (MSB)
 - Stripe # or Number of Stripes (3 bytes -- LSB)
 - Complete for Opcode 0 & 7
- Next 32 bits (all but Opcode 0, 7 & 8):
 - GPType (1 byte -- MSB)
 - vflag -- bits can be summed (1 btye):

_	Vertices	1
_	Indices	2
_	Colors	4
_	Normals	8
_	Point Indices	16
_	Line Indices	32

- ID character Length (integer factor of 4) (2 bytes -- LSB)
- ID Character string (number of bytes above)



Opcode 2 (delete) requires no more data



- Opcode 1 (new Graphic Object)
 - Plotting Attributes (bit flag -- int):
 - 1 Render On
 - 2 Transparent
 - 4 Color Interpolation
 - 8 Show orientation
 - 16 Plot Points
 - 32 Plot Lines
 - Point size (*float*)
 - Point color (3*float)[Done for Point Objects]
 - Line width (*float*)
 - Line color (3*float)
 - Foreground constant color (3*float)
 - Background color (3*float)[Done for Line Objects]



Constant Normal (3*float)



- Opcode 3 (new data) & 4 (update data)
 - Number of data elements for the Graphic Primitive stripe (*int*):
 - Total number of primitive words is found by multiplying by 3 for Vertices (xyz), Colors (rgb) & Normals
 - Applying "sizeof()" to the above provides the total byte length (plus any required padding)
 - The VBO data (type based on bit in vflag)
 - Repeated for each bit in vflag in LSB order (Opcode 3), i.e. vertices always first

Notes:

- Opcode 4 can only have a single bit in vflag set
- Data types shorter than 32 bits must be padded at the end so that the next read can be 4-byte aligned





- Opcode 8 (Initialize) -- 56 bytes long
 - Opcode field (4*bytes)
 - Field of View (float)
 - zNear (float)
 - zFar (float)
 - Eye location (3*float)
 - Focus position (3*float)
 - Up direction (3*float)
 - End-of-Frame (4*bytes)





- Opcode 9 (Color Key Definition)
 - Opcode field (4*bytes), Stripe # is the number of characters in title – nLen (integer factor of 4)
 - # of Colors nCol (int)
 - The title (nLen*bytes)
 - Scale for bottom (*float*)
 - Scale for top (*float*)
 - rgb Colors (3*nCol*float)
- Examples of IO routines:
 - Reading in wv-socket.js
 - Writing in wsServer/wv.c



GUI Call-back Signatures



function InitUI()

Invoked once to initialize the UI variables and state

function UpdateUI()

- Called in the rendering loop so that the state of the UI can be adjusted
- Note: if the state is modified directly in an event handler the rendering for that frame may be corrupted

function UpdateView()

 Allows for the adjustment of the viewMatrix before the scene is rendered again

function UpdateCanvas(gl)

 Allows for the customization of what is rendered by additional WebGL calls



gl is the WebGL context

GUI Call-back Signatures



- function Reshape(gl)
 - Checks if the canvas has been resized or moved
 - If so, reestablishes the WebGL viewport in gl
- function ServerMessage(text)
 - Called when an ASCII *text* message has been received from the server (*UI text protocol*)
 - Note: this is invoked from a WebSocket event handler

Usage examples can be found in SimpleUI.js



Other Useful Functions



wvServerDown()

- a required call-back function that is invoked when the server has closed down
- this can be because the server has aborted or the server was taken down gracefully

wv.socketUt.send(text)

- wv (wv globals), socketUt (*UI text* interface)
- Send the string text to the server using WebSockets
- Communicates GUI information to the server
- Can be used from within any call-back (except wvServerDown)



Registering GUI Call-backs



wv.setCallback(cbName, cbFn)

- This sets the specified call-back to the function *cbFn* (which has a signature as described in the previous slides)
- cbName can be one of the following strings:
 "InitUI", "UpdateCanvas", "UpdateUI",
 "UpdateView", "ServerMessage", or "Reshape".
 Any other string is an error.
- There are useful defaults for both "UpdateView" and "Reshape" (see wv-cbManage.js). All other call-backs should be specified for a fully functional UI.



Example usage can be found in wv.js

wv Status



Viewer

- Tested against:
 - Google Chrome
 - Mozilla FireFox (& SeaMonkey)
 - Apple Safari (at Rev 6.0 or higher)
- Greater than 18 MegaTriangles per second for large VBOs on a MacBook Pro i7 2.8MHz 15" Mid-2010 (Chrome about 20% slower than SeaMonkey)

Server-like Implementation

- Python options:
 - · pywebsockets
 - ws4py
 - gevent-websocket
- Use of libwebsockets open source project (http://git.warmcat.com/cgi-bin/cgit/libwebsockets)
 - · C API to specify data and allow for GUI IO
 - Used to generate the Procedural-based Server-side API





createContext

Initializes a WebViewer Context.

```
bias the offset used for indexing (usually either 0 or 1)
fov the field of view for the perspective (angles)
zNear the Z value for the clipping plane closest to the observer
zFar the Z value for the clipping plane farthest from the observer
eye the position of the observer (X,Y,Z)
center the focus for the viewing matrix
up a normalized vector referring to positive Y
context the returned WebViewer context
```





setCallBack

```
wv_setCallBack(wvContext *context, callBackFn)
```

Sets the message handling routine, where the function has the same calling sequence as **browserMessage**.

```
context the WebViewer context (from wv_createContext) callBackFn the function to use for browserMessage
```

This is required when using the dynamic version of the library

setUserPtr

```
wv_setUserPtr(wvContext *context, int index)
call iv_setUserPtr(I*8 context, I*8 pointer)
```

Sets a user defined pointer that can be used to pass data through to the message handling routine.

context the WebViewer context (from wv_createContext)
pointer the C pointer to pass to browserMessage





startServer

Starts a server thread on the WebViewer Context. The calling thread of execution continues. Use **statusServer** to determine the state of the connections.

```
the socket port to use for communication
the network interface device name (can be NULL)

path the path to locate certificate (if secure transmissions are used) *

key the file path for the private key (if secure transmissions are used) *

opts 0, or 1 (Defeat the client mask)

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)

status the server instance/return status (negative is an error)
```

* Note: see building with SSL





statusServer

```
status = wv_statusServer(int server)
status = iv_statusServer(I*4 server)
```

Checks the state of the server connections.

```
server the server instance (from startServer)
```

status the state (negative is an error):

0 - all clients have disconnected

1 - active

cleanupServers

```
wv_cleanupServers()
call iv cleanupServers()
```

Cleans up all memory associated with this API. Should be used as the last function in this suite.





setData

Sets the data associated with an item to be used with addGPrim and modGPrim. Striping is internally performed where necessary.

dtype the type of the data array (see wsss.h or wsserver.inc) len the number of elements in the data array (Vertices, Normals,

and *Colors* require 3 words per element)

data the data array of type dtype

VBOcomp the type of the VBO component (see wsss.h or wsserver.inc)

item the output placement for the item

status the return status (negative is an error)





adjustVerts

Allows for the adjustment of the vertex coordinates so they fit into screen coordinates (not clipped away).

item the Vertices component (from setData)

focus a vector of length 4 that is used to adjust the coordinates

the first is subtracted from the X coordinate the second is subtracted from the Y coordinate

the third is subtracted from the Z coordinate

the forth is used to normalize (divide) all coordinates





addGPrim

Creates and adds this Graphics Primitive to the scene graph associated with this context.

context	the WebViewer context (from createContext)
name	unique (in the scene graph) name of the primitive
gtype	the graphics primitive type: Point, Line, Triangle
	(See wsss.h or wsserver.inc)
attrs	the initial plotting attributes (see wsss.h or wsserver.inc)
nltems	the number of components used to define the primitive
items	the components (from setData)
status	the index created for the primitive (where negative is an error)





modGPrim

Modifies an existing Graphics Primitive in scene graph associated with this context.

the WebViewer context (from createContext)
index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)
nltems the number of components to modify in the primitive items the components (from setData)
status the return status (where negative is an error)





addArrowHeads

Add Arrow Head decorations (in the foreground color) to an existing *Line* Graphics Primitive associated with this context.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext) index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)

size the size of the arrow head

if adjustVerts is in use, the size should be divided by focus[3]

nHead the number of head definitions

heads the head definitions (index into the line segments -- if negative

the head position (and direction) is associated with the first

point in the segment, otherwise it is the second position. This is

always bias 1.

status the return status (where negative is an error)





setKey

Specifies the color key that gets drawn at the browser.

the WebViewer context (from createContext)

nCol the number of colors found in the key – a 0 removes the key colors the colors for each entry (rgb) – nCol*3 in length the key value for the first color end the key value for the last color title the text written above the colors in the key status the return status (where negative is an error)





removeGPrim

```
wv_removeGPrim(wvContext *context, int index)
call iv_removeGPrim(I*8 context, I*4 index)
```

Removes an existing Graphics Primitive in scene graph associated with this context.

```
context the WebViewer context (from createContext) index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)
```

removeAll

```
wv_removeAll(wvContext *context)
call iv_removeAll(I*8 context)
```

Removes all Graphics Primitive from the scene graph associated with this context.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)





indexGPrim

```
status = wv_indexGPrim(wvContext *context, char *name)
status = iv_indexGPrim(I*8 context, C** name)
```

Finds the index given the name for an existing Graphics Primitive in scene graph associated with this context.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)

name the name of the GPrim in the scene graph

status the index (where a negative value is an error)

printGPrim

```
wv_printGPrim(wvContext *context, int index)
call iv_printGPrim(I*8 context, I*4 index)
```

Prints the Graphics Primitive to standard output.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)
index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)





nClientServer

```
status = wv_nClientServer(int server)
status = iv_nClientServer(I*4 server)
```

Returns the number of clients connected to the server.

```
server the server instance (from startServer) status the number of clients (negative is an error)
```

activeInterfaces

```
status = wv_activeInterfaces(int server, int *nwsi, void ***wsi)
status = iv_activeInterfaces(I*4 server, I*4 nwsi, I*8 wsi)
```

Returns the active text interfaces for each attached client.

```
server the server instance (from startServer)
```

nwsi the number of *text* interfaces (the number of clients)

wsi a returned pointer to the list of active interfaces



FORTRAN note: nwsi must be the length of wsi on input, -999 is error flag for not large enough.



killInterface

```
wv_killInterface(int server, void *wsi)
call iv_killInterface(I*4 server, I*8 wsi)
```

Aborts the client associated with the *text* Interface.

```
server the server instance (from startServer) wsi the interfaces (client) to shutdown
```

handShake

```
status = wv_handShake(wvContext *context)
status = iv handShake(I*8 context)
```

Performs coarse-level handshaking. Both addGPrim and modGPrim will do fine-level handshaking, but to fully synchronize a larger suite of updates use this function.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)
status 0 – the data is released to send, 1 – the data is grabbed until invoked again when the updated GPrims will be sent





postMessage

```
status = wv_postMessage(int server, char *text)
status = iv_postMessage(I*4 server, C** text)
```

Allows the server to post messages that will be intercepted by the **browserMessage** call-back.

```
server the server instance (from startServer)
text the ASCII text to be sent to browserMessage.
status a negative value is an error
```

makeMessage

woi

Allows browserMessage to post messages to itself.

WSI	a pointer to the WebSocket Interface Structure
text	the ASCII text to be sent to browserMessage when it returns
status	a negative value is an error

a pointar to the Wah Cooket Interface Structure





Callback Required to catch Client Messages

browserMessage

```
void browserMessage(void *uPtr, void *wsi, char *text, int len) subroutine browserMessage(I*8 uPtr, I*8 wsi, C** text)
```

This required routine gets called for each message sent from a client (or a server instance).

uPtr the user pointer set by wv setUserPtr

wsi a pointer to the WebSocket Interface Structure

NULL if coming from a Server instance

text the ASCII text received from the Browser (or internally)

len the length of the text

- Notes: (1) invoking wv_makeMessage from within this routine defers reentry until browserMessage (or appropriate callback) returns.
 - (2) call wv_setCallBack with this function before wv_startServer (even if it has this name) when using the dynamic library (the default).
 - (3) FORTRAN requires the use of the static library.





Text based communication to the Client(s)

broadcastText

```
wv_broadcastText(char *text)
call iv_broadcastText(C** text)
Sends the text to all active clients (Browsers).
```

text the text to send

sendText

```
wv_sendText(void *wsi, char *text)
call iv_sendText(I*8 wsi, C** text)
```

Sends the text to the specific client designated by wsi.

wsi the WebSocket Interface Structure (from browserMessage)

text the text to send





FORTRAN Only Utility Functions

setPsize

```
call iv_setPsize(I*8 context, I*4 index, R*4 size)
```

Sets the Point Size in an existing Graphics Primitive in scene graph associated with this context.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext) index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)

size the point size in pixels

setLwidth

call iv_setLwidth(I*8 context, I*4 index, R*4 width)

Sets the Line Width in an existing Graphics Primitive.

context the WebViewer context (from createContext)

index the index created for the primitive (from addGPrim)

width the line width in pixels





usleep

```
call iv_usleep(I*4 micsec)
```

Suspends the calling thread for the specified number of microseconds

micsec the number of microseconds



Building with SSL (for secure 10)



- In the wvServer directory:
 - Type: "make cleanall" (or "nmake –f NMakefile cleanall")
- Modify the MAKE (SSL.make or SLL.mak):
 - Specify the include and lib locations for OpenSSL
- MAKE:
 - Type: "make" (or "nmake –f NMakefile")
- Modify the server code:
 - Fill in path and key of wv_startServer
- Modify other MAKEs that build servers:
 - Link in OpenSSL and Crytpo libraries (see SSL makes)
- In the HTML (top level script):
 - Use wv.getSockets("wss:actualURL");

