

Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

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Summary Statement

Alex Hill is a computer scientist and artist driven by a desire to mediate the relationship between the user and technology. He is currently finishing his doctorate in Human Computer Interfacing in association with the Electronic Visualization Laboratory in Chicago. His research focus is on developing 3D user interfaces that provide levels of productivity equaling or exceeding those of desktop systems. He has proposed a development framework that allows the same user interface to be used on the desktop and within virtual/augmented reality with a single development effort, high levels of novice usability, and significantly reduced levels of fatigue.

Alex Hill has extensive technical and esthetic experience with the hardware, software, and development process of virtual reality and user interfaces in general. Alex was the lead technical engineer for *Alive on the Grid* which brought 8 artists and 6 institutions together in a collaborative VR art piece at the 2001 Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria. He was also the lead technical engineer for *Citycluster*, which was also shown at Ars Electronica in 2003 and is on permanent display there along with *Alive on the Grid*. Alex has been a lecturer on Virtual Reality in the Art and Design School of the University of Illinois at Chicago for the last five years. He is currently the lead developer of the Ygdrasil VR authoring library developed at UIC. He has been an invited panelist at the Version festival at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and his work has been featured on the cover of Presence magazine.

Before seeking his doctorate, Alex Hill was an Advanced Process Controls Engineer for five years in the hydrocarbon industry where he specialized in relational database and user interface development.

Education

University of Illinois at Chicago P.H.D. Computer Science 2001-(2007)
Withindows: A Framework for the Development of Desktop and Immersive User Interfaces

University of Texas at Austin M.S. Mechanical Engineering 1989-1992
Reduced Order Modeling and First-Order Multivariate Control of a Coal Fired Power Plant

Trinity University B.S. Mathematics 1984-1988
Minor Art History

Employment History

University of Illinois Chicago Associate Adjunct Professor 2001-present

University of Illinois Chicago Research Assistant 1999-2001

Priority Staffing, Ltd. Systems Analyst 1997-1999

Aspen Technology Inc. Senior Project Engineer 1995-1997

Setpoint Incorporated Project Engineer 1992-1995

University of Texas at Austin Research Assistant 1991-1992

Professional Affiliations

Tua Beta Pi

Phi Kappa Phi

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Fellowships and Grants

Graduate Fellows in K-12 Education University of Illinois at Chicago 2001

Publications

Franz Fischnaller, Alex Hill: CITYCLUSTER "From the Renaissance to the Megabyte Networking Age": A Virtual Reality and High-Speed Networking Project, Presence: Teleoperators & Virtual Environments, February 1, 2005, Vol. 14, No. 1, Pages 1-19