The Naval Postgraduate School

The Design and
Development of a
Virtual Environment
for Asynchronous
Collaboration
(VEAC)

DOMONIQUÉ HITTNER PH.D. CANDIDATE

MOVES INSTITUTE DOMONIQUE.HITTNER@NPS.EDU

Introduction

Problem

There are no theoretical frameworks to guide research on virtual environments for asynchronous collaboration (VEAC) in human activity.

Research Question

In a virtual environment (VE), what are the novel analytical approaches and Modeling and Simulation (M&S) tools that could be introduced to support the tasks and collaboration of multiple communities of practice?

Methodology

Developmental Design Approach:

- ➤ Step 1 Aggregate Task Analysis Study Data
- ➤ Step 2 Aggregate Theoretical Framework for Asynchronous Collaboration (TFRAC) Studies Data points
- ➤ Step 3 Integrate into the design of the Target System User Interface
- ➤ Step 4 Select a subset of data to integrate into VEAC

Desired VEAC: Current System

From Task analysis: Input 1

- 1a. Steps, tools, and standards of performance as reported by subjects in task analysis user study, currently supported in the workforce
- 1b. Desired and missing capabilities as reported by subjects, reviewed and subset approved for further consideration
- 1c. Current suboptimal solutions as reported by subjects, reviewed and subset approved for further consideration
- 1d. Task characteristics reported in TFRAC-VE (Acq) study

From TFRAC Study: Input 2

• 2a. Resources, tools, and processes needed to support effective and efficient optimal asynchronous collaboration

Design of targeted **New System** -> VE

- 3a. Subset of 1a. Support the elements of 1a that make a good match with the VE capabilities
- 3b. Subset of 1b. Support the elements of 1b that make a good match with the VE capabilities
- 3c. Subset of 1c. Support the elements of 1c that make a good match with the VE capabilities
- 3d. Subset of 1d. Support the elements of 1d that make a good match with the VE capabilities
- 3e. Subset of 2a, Support the elements of 2a that make a good match with the VE capabilities

Implementation of VEAC in concrete VE system-> Persistent Virtual Environment

