Virtual Venues: Low-fi Prototype

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Overview

- Learned more about lighting design and existing interfaces from an experienced lighting designer on campus
- Created our low-fi prototype using a digital prototyping tool
- Tested our prototype with two experienced users and one beginner
- Received feedback about our interface for specific tasks and made plans to improve our next prototype accordingly

Team Mission Statement

- Utilize VR headsets to allow designers to create and test light shows in advance
- Tackle issues currently associated with lighting design:
 - Number of tasks and options involved in developing a light show
 - Lack of informative interfaces
 - Inherent physical and temporal constraints

Task 1: Lighting Placement

- Unique drag-and-drop functionality
- Ability to adjust lights in groups
- Top view and side view in 2D
- Fine tune in 3D

Task 2: Lighting Adjustments

- Select individual lights or groups of similar lights to adjust
- Can pan and tilt from vantage point of light
- One "drawing" area
- Can view previously used cues
- Used tabs to reduce clutter from the large number of options
- Can step through cues

Task 3: Visualization

- Can play, rewind, or fast forward through show
- Can adjust your position in the audience, will be transported smoothly

Low-fi Prototype Structure













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Show Testing





Experimental Method

- <u>Participants:</u> wanted professional feedback, two participants from Dynamic Sound and Lighting in San Jose
- <u>Environments:</u> two subjects in lighting store, the other in Kairos -- minimized distractions
- <u>Tasks</u>: place lights, adjust light type and movement, test
- <u>Procedure</u>: demo major screens and venue selection

Results

- Early screens navigated easily by all three subjects
- Positive feedback on lighting placement
- No options for fixture types to place
- Lighting design screen: easy to navigate, well laid out

Results: Subject One

- From lighting store
- Liked the option to draw movement pattern
- Lacked delay cue options

Results: Subject Two

- From lighting store, experienced with customers
- Liked that entire process was virtual
- Concerned about defining parameters on a venue to keep lights tracking in correct space
- Delay cues essential to any performance

Results: Subject Three

- Unfamiliar with lighting design
- Able to navigate through screens easily despite being a beginner
- Commented that layout was clear and easy to understand

Suggested UI Changes

 We learned that our application would be most popular with inexperienced and amateur lighting designers, such as mobile DJs

Suggested UI Changes

- The average DJ doesn't have access to HMDs and motion tracking systems
 - Normal user input devices (e.g., mouse & keyboard)
 iPad interface?
- Beginning lighting designers don't want to be overwhelmed with options
 - Modify interface to be less technical
 - Reduce number of options
 - More presets/ built-in features and effects

Summary

- Talking to four potential users and learning more about lighting design and current industry standards gave us insights into the features we wanted and the users we wanted to target
- Didn't have all of the features in this prototype
- We missed some obvious features
- Overall, confident about our layout and design choices