MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Project Plan Lateral Map Display

Team GE Aviation CSE 498, Collaborative Design

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Project Overview

- Lateral Map Display
 - Top down view of aircraft's position
 - Aids in navigation
 - Multiple layers that can be toggled on/off
- Control Panel
 - Buttons to change active layer(s)
 - Insert/delete waypoints
 - Dials to change map mode, zoom in/out
 - Utilize controls in X-Plane to update external control panel

Functional Specifications

Lateral Map Display

- Display information pertaining to aircraft's situation
- Show possible risks including air traffic, hazardous terrain, and inclement weather
- Control Panel
 - Include buttons for weather, traffic, waypoints, airports, VORs, terrain, etc.
- Optional Extended Functionality
 - Display horizontal view of surrounding terrain (Vertical Situation Display)
 - 3D tilting view to see terrain elevations

Design Specifications

- Terrain data transmitted over network and rendered using C and OpenGL
- Lateral Map Display created using OpenGL and GLUT in Visual Studio
- Flight data sent over network using separate plug-in
- Rendering component receives flight data and displays icons as 2D overlays

Screen Mockups



Team GE Aviation

Technical Specifications

Main Machine:

- Runs X-Plane and plug-ins, sends flight and terrain data over network
- DSF parser converts terrain data to be rendered by the client
- Secondary Machine:
 - Runs rendering component, receives data from X-Plane
 - Displays Synthetic Vision Display, Lateral Map Display, Control Panel, and Vertical Situation Display

Architecture Illustrated



System Components

Hardware Platforms

- One machine running X-Plane and custom installed plugins
- One machine running client rendering program
- Machines networked to stream data
- Software Platforms / Technologies
 - X-Plane
 - Realistic flight simulator to be used as data source to drive the Lateral Map Display
 - Visual Studio, GL Studio
 - OpenGL, GLUT

Testing

- Data Output
 - Plug-ins will be tested to ensure that data being exported is correct
- Data Parsing
 - Make sure that data read by rendering software is equivalent to data in X-Plane
- Data Display
 - Ensure that data displayed in Lateral Map Display is consistent with that shown in X-Plane monitors
- Code
 - Avoid memory leaks and inefficiencies



Risks

- Maximize compatibility with previous code
 - Port code to ANSI C, add features to flight data plug-in
- Performance
 - Utilize POSIX threads to avoid lag in X-Plane
- Weather data
 - Determine where to obtain up-to-date weather data that can be displayed in a radar map