



Augmented Presentation of Animal and Environmental Data

Using Augmented Reality to Locate Species in the Zoo of Osnabrueck

Christian Plass and Manfred Ehlers

Institute for Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing University of Osnabrueck, Germany





- The Project Zoowiso
- Where are the Tortoises?
- Augmented Reality
- Using Augmented Reality at the Osnabrueck Zoo
- Conclusion and Outlook





- General Information
- System components
- The project website
 - Livestock
 - 2D-maps
 - 3D-views
 - Games
 - Geodata
 - Zoo to go







- Funded by the DBU
- Start 2007 "End" 2009
- Partners



- Institute for Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing
- Osnabrueck Zoo
 ZOO

OSNABRUCK



Server

Apache PHP

MapServer

PostgreSQL

Mapbender

IS / CMS / Database

Web Server

Programming Language

Basic Technology

Spatial Database

WebGIS Client

The Project Zoowiso



System Components

- All important data is stored in a spatial database
 - Data maintenance via CMS





The Project Zoowiso - Website

Project homepage – www.zoowiso-os.de



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Start



The Project Zoowiso - Website

Alphabetical and taxonomic overviews



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The Project Zoowiso - Website 2D Maps

Species by animal class on a high res. aerial photograph





The Project Zoowiso - Website 3D Views

Interactive panoramas linked with the database







Memory in a different way – you have to know the name!





The Project Zoowiso - Website Geodata

Free geodata for GPS devices (gpx)



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The Project Zoowiso - Website Zoo to Go

(Public) mobile zoobook (server side generated)







Common practice

Overview maps with

- generalized paths
- important buildings
- Iocations of the most well known species like elephant, lion, giraffe...

Orient Yourself in the Zoo





Locating a Species

The Website allows to locate a species before a visit.





Locating a Species

Internet Explo

hemselves up deep into their den and lowerer

Digital Zoobook

The digital (offline) zoobook provides

- animal data (digital photo, distribution, habitat...)
- shows the visitor's position only indirectly (when standing in front of a cage)



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Locating a Species

Digital Zoobook (WebOS)

The digital zoobook with WebOS (not yet completed)

Ajax / Interactive Map / First attempts with GPS



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Locating a Species

Downloaded free GPS data and GPS tracks

Visitors with a GPS device can

- navigate to a species via line of sight
- walk along a track (i.e. track "animals of africa")



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Locating a Species

What other possibilities exist???

Implemented¹, not yet finished², intended³

- Offline / online zoobook with aerial photographs¹
- WebOS zoobook with interactive map²
- Android application with GPS³
- Augmented reality application²





- Definition
- Applications
- Potential Applications
- Wikitude and layar
- Example University of Osnabrueck











Definition of Augmented Reality

- "Augmented reality is a technology which integrates the computer-generated scene to the real world.
- It provides a mixed scene of virtual information and real scene for users through the display devices such as head mounted display (HMD), glasses, projectors, general displays and even mobile phone screens.
- It can make users interact in a more natural way with the real and virtual objects in the environment.
- Augmented reality technology expands and supplements the real world rather than substitutes the real world completely."

Yan, Yun, Liang, Yu and Zhang, 2011





Applications as of 2011

- Advertising: Usage of AR to promote products via interactive AR applications is becoming common now.
- **Task support**: Complex tasks such as assembly, maintenance, and surgery can be simplified by inserting additional information into the field of view.
- **Navigation**: AR can augment the effectiveness of navigation devices.
- Industrial: AR can be used to compare digital mock-ups with physical mock-ups for efficiently finding discrepancies between them.
- Military and emergency services: Wearable AR can provide information such as instructions, maps, enemy locations, and fire cells.
- Art: AR can help create art in real time integrating reality such as painting, drawing and modeling.
- Architecture: AR can simulate planned construction projects.
- **Sightseeing**: Guides can include labels or text related to the objects/places visited. With AR, users can rebuild ruins, buildings, or even landscapes as they previously existed.
- **Collaboration**: AR can help facilitate collaboration among distributed team members via conferences with real and virtual participants.
- Entertainment and education: AR can create virtual objects in museums and exhibitions, theme park attractions, games and books.
- **Performance**: AR can enhance concert and theater performances.
- **Translation**: AR systems can provide dynamic subtitles in the user's language.

Extract from Wikipedia, 2011





Potential applications

- **Devices**: Create new applications that are physically impossible in "real" hardware, such as 3D objects interactively changing their shape and appearance based on the current task or need.
- Multi-screen simulation: Display multiple application windows as virtual monitors in real space and switch among them with gestures and/or redirecting head and eyes. A single pair of glasses could "surround" a user with application windows.
- Holodecks: Enhanced media applications, like pseudo holographic virtual screens and virtual surround cinema.
- Automotive: eye-dialing, navigation arrows on roadways
- "X-ray vision"
- Furnishings: plants, wallpapers, panoramic views, artwork, decorations, posters, illumination etc. For example, a virtual window could show a live feed of a camera placed on the exterior of the building, thus allowing the user to toggle a wall's transparency.
- **Public displays**: Window dressings, traffic signs, Christmas decorations, advertisements.
- Gadgets: Clock, radio, PC, arrival/departure board at an airport, stock ticker, PDA, PMP, informational posters/fliers/billboards.
- **Group-specific feeds**: For example, a construction manager could display instructions including diagrams at specific locations. Patrons at a public event could subscribe to a feed of directions and/or program notes.
- **Speech synthesis**: Render location/context-specific information via spoken words.
- **Prospecting**: In hydrology, ecology, and geology, AR can be used to display an interactive analysis of terrain characteristics. Users can collaboratively modify and analyze, interactive three-dimensional maps.

Extract from Wikipedia, 2011





Augmented Reality Browsers

Wikitude and layar

Most known AR browsers are Wikitude and layar

These browsers interact with the hardware of the mobile device and overlay the camera view with virtual information





Augmented Reality Browsers

Wikitude

"... Wikitude World Browser is a fun, innovative and informative Augmented Reality (AR) platform allowing you to discover what's around you in a completely new way...

Wikitude will overlay the camera's display and the objects you look at with additional interactive content and information – really cool!"







Augmented Reality Browsers

layar

"A beautiful, fun augmented reality app that shows you things you can't see"



Extract from www.wikitude.com, 2011



Augmented Reality

Example University of Osnabrueck

Testing on the doorstep (layar)





Content

- Goals
- Technical background
- Testing a layer in layar
- Testing layar at the zoo







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- Why using AR at the zoo?
 - Increasing use of such mobile hardware and software
 - Young people (mostly not very interested in environmental themes) use this technology
- \rightarrow AR is a modern way to present a company / zoo
- \rightarrow AR will bring more visitors to the zoo?
- \rightarrow AR to interest (the youth) in environmental themes?





Technical Background

Prerequisites

MySQL database

- The structure of a table containing the data for an AR Layer is predefined
- Webspace with PHP
 - The access script is written in PHP and also predefined
- \rightarrow User fills the table and configures the script
- → User creates layers in the (online) developer section

Technical Background

Table in the MySQL database

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Some important fields are "title", "lat", "lon" and imageURL.





But the zoo data is stored in a **PostgresSQL database**

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	Bearbeiten Löscher	1208	0101000020EB7A00009A999959DB374A41CDCCCC2CA3175641	113	Graupapagei	African Grey Parrot	3 V	6;gel	birds		
	Bearbeiten Lösche	NULL	0101000020EB7A00009A99991934384A4166666662656175641	274	Spornschildkröte	African Spurred Tortoise	2 Reptili	en	reptiles		
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	Bearbeiten Löscher	1219	0101000020EB7A0000CDCCCC8C83384A41CDCCCC2C7C175641	137	Alpaka	Alpaca	4 S	8;ugetiere	mammals		
	Bearbeiten Löscher	1548	0101000020EB7A0000000000029384A41333333B39F175641	277	Ochsenfrosch	American Bullfrog	1 Amphi	bien	amphibians		
	Bearbeiten Löscher	1365	0101000020EB7A0000000004041384A41666666666E175641	181	Nandu	American Rhea	3 V	lð;gel	birds		
	Bearbeiten Lösche	1438	0101000020EB7A00009A9999D929384A41333333D39A175641	158	Blauer Antennenwels	Ancistrus	6 Knoch	enfische	bony fishes		
	Bearbeiten Lösche	1187	0101000020EB7A0000E17A148E20384A415C8FC2F59B175641	74	Arabischer Bambushai	Arabian bambooshark	5 Fleisch	nflosser	lobe-finned fish		
	Bearbeiten Lösche	1451	0101000020EB7A00000000000A6384A410000004074175641	7	Eisfuchs	Arctic fox	4 S	8;ugetiere	mammals		
		Bearbeiten Lösche	1477	0101000020EB7A0000CDCCCCCC17384A419A9999E95E175641	253	Chinesische Zwernwachtel	Asian Blue Quail	3 \/8#24	le nel	hirds	

Coordinates are stored in a different format and coordinate system





Technical Background

Solution: cronjob (with coordinate transformation)

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The cronjob script (PHP) is an update script and periodically executed



Process sequence



The AR Browser can integrate current animal data now



Testing a Layer in layar

Video









Testing layar at the Zoo

Layar on a (less powerful) device – here is the tortoise!







Testing layar at the Zoo

Using layar for orientation during a zoo visit





Testing layar at the Zoo

Seeing what's inside a building





Testing layar at the Zoo

Seeing animals that are not there





- First attempts of using AR very promising
- AR is a modern way to present animal and environmental data
- AR seems to be suitable for the projects goals

Further Steps

- Publishing the layers
- Get a feedback
- Testing further functions of layar
- Testing Wikitude
- Integrating the results in the follow-up project "Expedition Moor"

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Universität Osnabrück

Institut für Geoinformatik und Fernerkundung (IGF) Barbarastr. 22 b 49076 Osnabrück

Manfred Ehlers

Christian Plass

E-Mail:

mehlers@igf.uni-osnabrueck.de cplass@igf.uni-osnabrueck.de

E-Mail:

Web:

www.zoowiso-os.de











