MAPS
July 3, 2001

This last week I spent finishing the Palm pilot tutorial. In the tutorial, I basically put together the memo pad that is a regular application on the palm pilot. As far as the cosmetic/user interface part of it, it is really easy to put together. I also read over all of the coding parts of the tutorial and tried to get a basic understanding of how that works. I sort of understand how it works, but some of their names were long and complicated, so it seemed a bit confusing. I also think that the code was written in C and not C++, which is more of what I'm used to, so that lost me a bit there too.

Parts of the tutorial that I think will be of use to us are the parts about using a Database, error messages and alerts, and hard button mapping. Although there is only a short paragraph in the tutorial about hard button mapping, I'm sure there are other resources we can use to do what we need to.

I'm not completely sure how the database manipulation will work either. Especially because our databases are going to be so large and have a lot of data. This will make the parts about connecting to a desktop useful, if we plan to have people connect it to a desktop computer to say download other scripts from the net and so on.

Unfortunately, the tutorial did not talk anything about sounds and mentioned little about pictures. It tells you how to do bitmaps, and I'm wondering if there is some way for us to put actual pictures on them. We are thinking of using a color palm pilot, right? (Perhaps they are all in color now, the last one I owned was several years ago).

Hopefully we'll be able to borrow a lot of the code from other sources, or at least have some sort of model to follow.

On a different topic, the L3D meeting last week was very interesting. I really like all the work that is being done. I must say though that I feel a little inferior to many of the other people working on the project, although I feel as though I have a lot of room to learn.

One thing that I thought of at that meeting that was being discussed was the image library that they were working on. I worked last semester at NCAR and they were about to start a project of a Digital Image Library, categorizing all of their pictures and making them more accessible to anyone who needs them. Unfortunately, I think their needs differed too much from ours. They were using categorizing techniques similar to the Library of Congress I think.

I also found the analogy of the reference librarian in a library knowing where everything is and trying to create a database that responded in a similar way interesting. I worked in a library for four years throughout high school, and it's interesting how you get to know where things are. I did mostly shelving, so I got to know what kinds of things went where.

I also thought the discussion about how different people categorize things differently was very interesting. I have a strong interest in linguistics as well as psychology and I think these things both tie into that.

To sum up I think that our plan of a meeting twice a week to work together on the project is a good idea and should help our project move along. I also found it very helpful when we made a list of what to get accomplished in the next week to guide me along.