

MAPS Summary Winter Break 2002

To further improve the gui we had Camille propose a better design and better colors. Last month I reorganized our design to include the good elements of her design. This month I redid the color scheme. I noticed a difference between how the colors looked on my home machine compared to the one in the lab, and this will still have to be reconciled.

The next thing I did with the colors was to make them all be set up upon formload. This will make it easier later if we want to allow the user to change the color scheme.

I also toyed around with initialization file stuff. After figuring out how easy it was to do, I added some initialization functionality to the application. Previously we had the program writing to a file with the information of where to have the directory's start up at.

Then on start up of the program it would read from those files. Using the initialization files this process becomes much easier. Later on we plan to have a lot more things being set up from the initialization file.

The next thing i worked on was to load a script from the database. having done some previous manipulation with database stuff, this was a fairly simple copy and paste with some help from Stefan.

This went over pretty well.

I continued to work out a few bugs and continued to test the loading of a script. I also implimented a menu item called "New" that would clear out the form and make it appear like the form was just opened fresh.

Next we had Anja look over the program and help us figure out several design things. Anja helped us develop a long list of stuff to improve which will begin the next step towards beginning user testing.

Stefan and I also decided to change what we were storing in the array 'ScriptBinarys' because of how the program writes the binary files when it loads a script from the databaase. At first we were just going to store the name of the file rather than the whole path to the picture or sound in the array. We then added some global variables that were going to store the current path to the pictures and prompts. But some problems began to arise from having the path be so apt to changing. It also complicated the process of loading pictures from the database.

So ultimately we decided to add a field to the array so that now it would store the path and the filename separately, both for each type of media, pictures and prompts. Now the complete path can be pieced together or just the filename can be used without having to do any tricky splicing of the full path.

The next step will be to add and fix all of the things that Anja talked to us about, and then, user testing time.