



THE DIGITAL SPACE COMMONS



so
Let's take
a look!



THE DIGITAL SPACE COMMONS

The Origins and Evolution of Social Virtual Worlds Presentation to the Lindens (October 27, 2006)

Phase I: 1960s-1980s, Precursors to the Virtual World

Phase II: 1990s, The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

Phase III: Third Generation bids for the mainstream

The Social Virtual Worlds Timeline Project

The Avatars Conferences

Acknowledgements and Resources

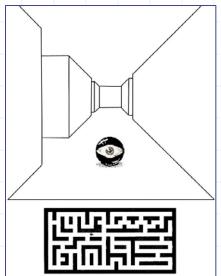
Discussion



- First multiplayer graphical game: Space War 1961
- Multiple players in3D: Maze War 1974
- Boom in textual virtual world: MUDs and MOOs
- The dawn of Avatars: Habitat, 1986





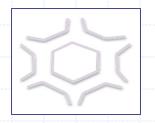




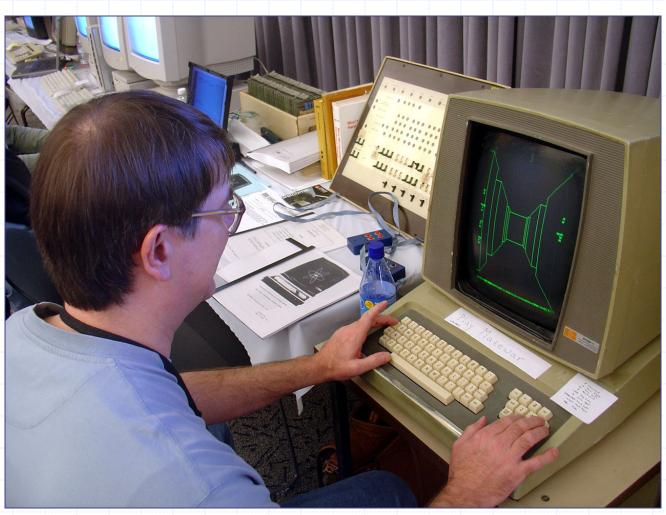


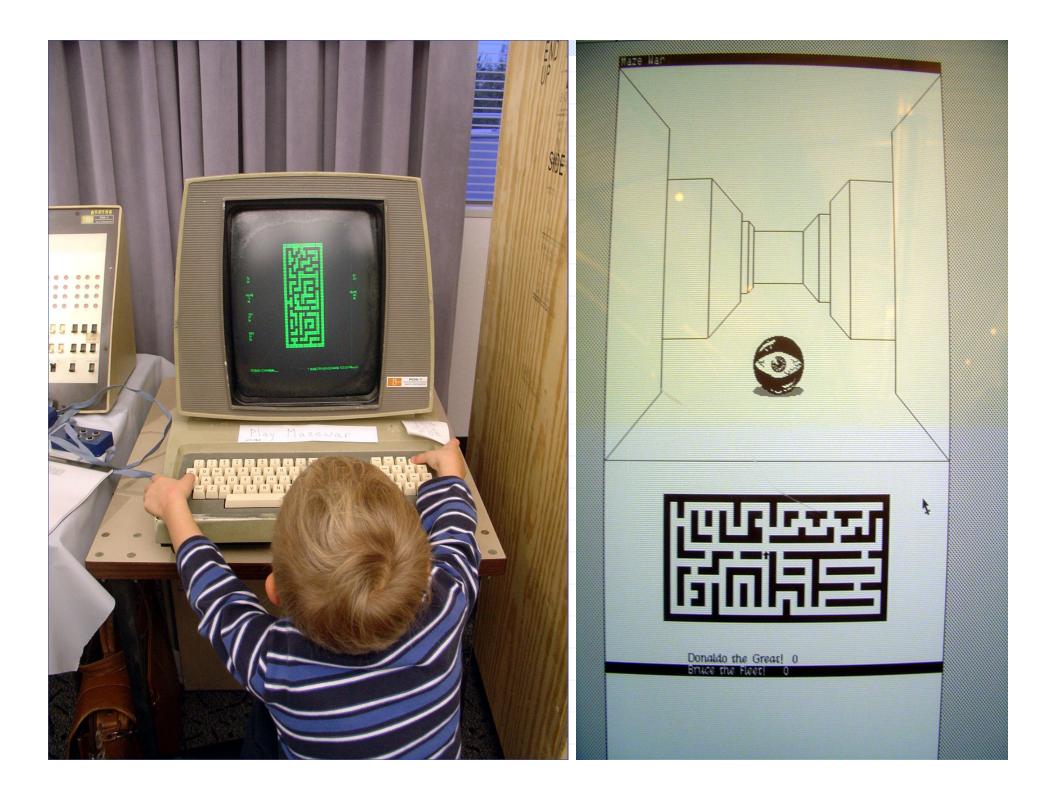
Space War Film Clip

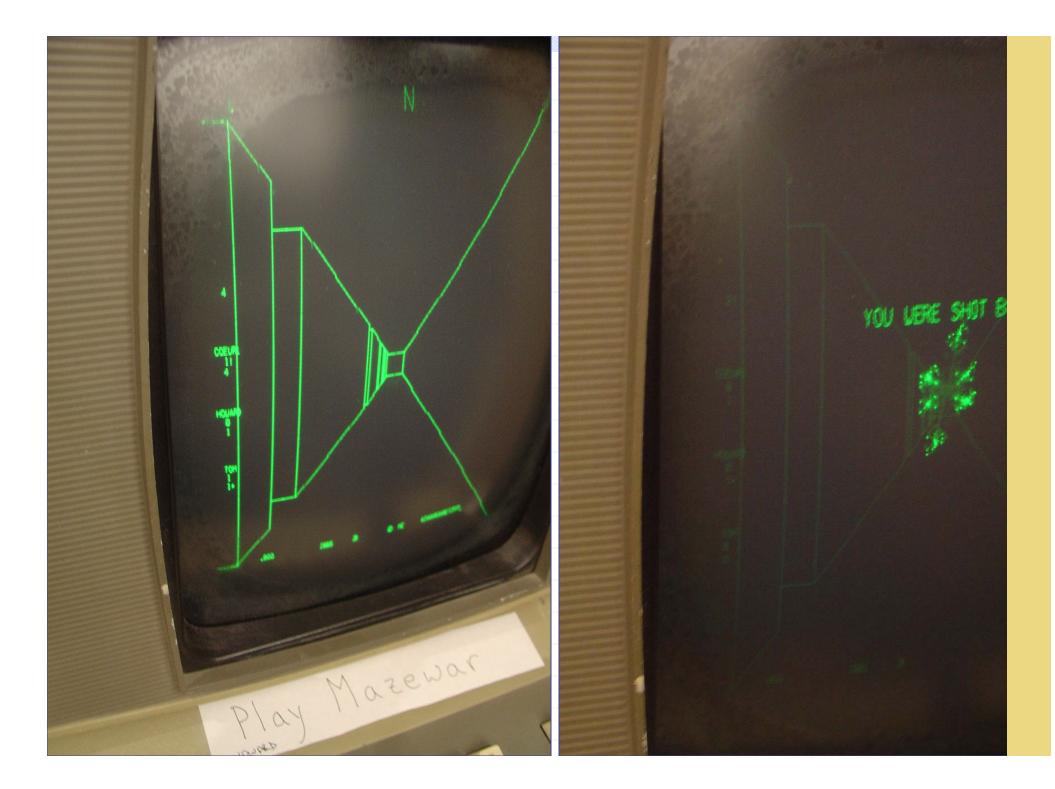


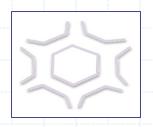


Mazewar









MUDs and MOOs

Textually described and navigated virtual worlds
Pre-1990 example from TinyMUD Islandia (Mitchell, 1995)

>LOOK

Town Square

A large oak tree spreads its branches over a wooden kiosk covered with announcements in the grassy center of the square. Park benches line the sidewalks amidst flowery shrubs. You see the library to the northwest, the post office to the southeast, the homeless shelter to the southwest, and the hotel and convention hall to the northwest.

>SIT

You sit down on a park bench.

>LOOK WEST

The duck pond is to the west, and banners and pennants are beyond it.

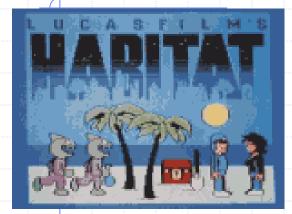
Lucky for you, there is a wooden bridge upon which you can cross, if you can get past the horrendous crowd on it.

>WEST

You head for the bridge, hoping to push your way across.



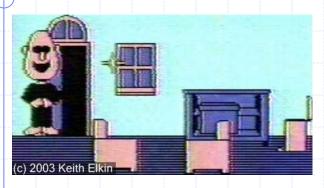
Lucasfilm Habitat, 1987 on C64



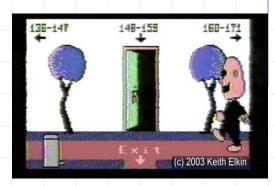




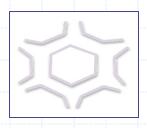
Lucasfilm Habitat: Quantumlink (1987), Fujitsu (1990)







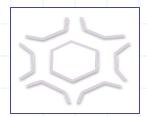




Transitioning into the 1990s

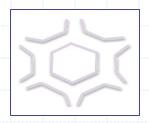
The Descent of Avatars





DOOM (1993) - real time 3D on consumer PCs, single user





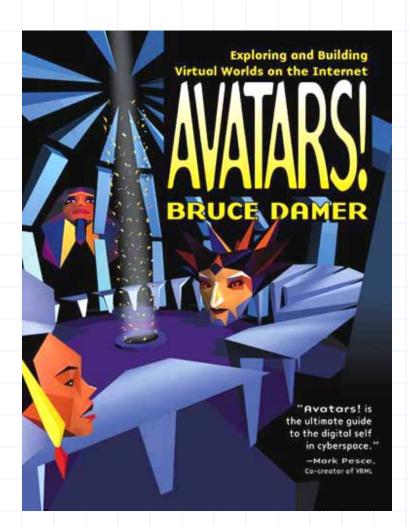
Lucasfilm 1987 - Damer 1997

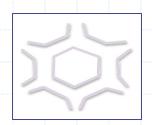
THE OFFICIAL AVATAR HANDBOOK

A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding

Habitat TM

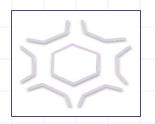
"Look Theodosis, a book for us!"





Multi player gaming vs. multi user social virtual worlds

- How is a Social Virtual World (SVW) different from a Game Play World (GPW)?
- SVWs are first and foremost about communications between people on topics of their choosing.
- SVWs may include a creative aspect, such as building, that facilitates communications.
- SVWs may also include gameplay as an activity.
- GPWs may also include features of SVNs but they are primarily about game play.



Phase II: 1990s

The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

Multi player gaming vs. multi user social virtual worlds

1994-1996: along with the explosion of the web, an explosion of social virtual worlds platforms















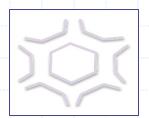








Lets take a look...





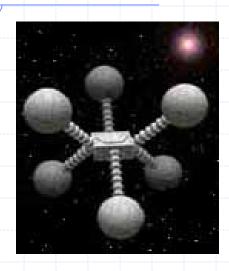




Phase II: 1990s

The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

Knowledge Adventure Worlds (1994): Worlds Chat

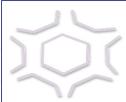


- "Doom" meets multi user avatar worlds on the internet
- Avatars are 2D sprites moving in a high fidelity, high speed "canned" 3D world (space station)
- No building, worlds all from original company
- Teleports to other worlds
- Great use of sound, simple physics
- Original world converted into a music marketing space

WorldsChat Space Station Spring

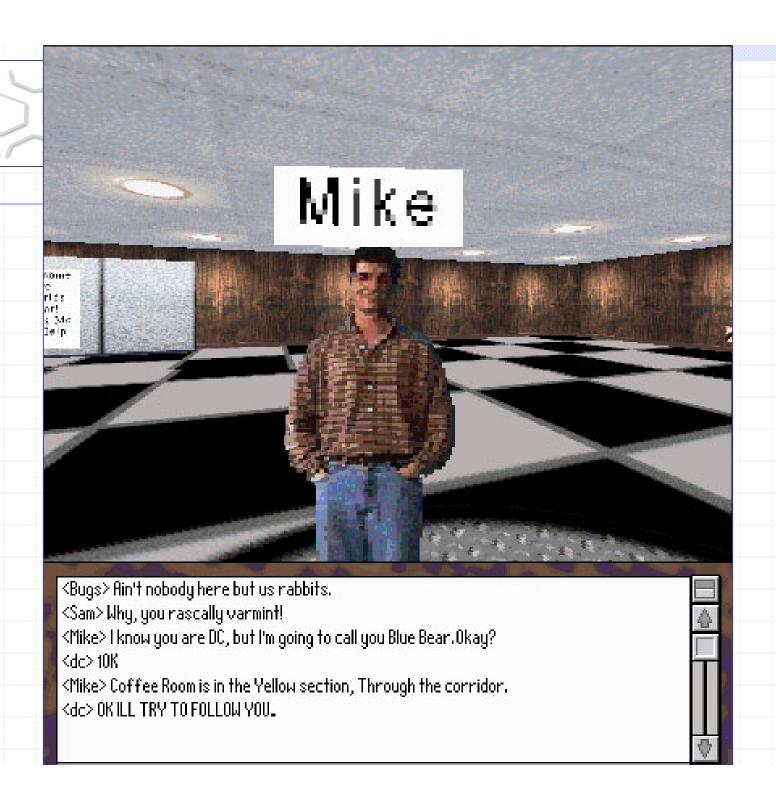
1995...





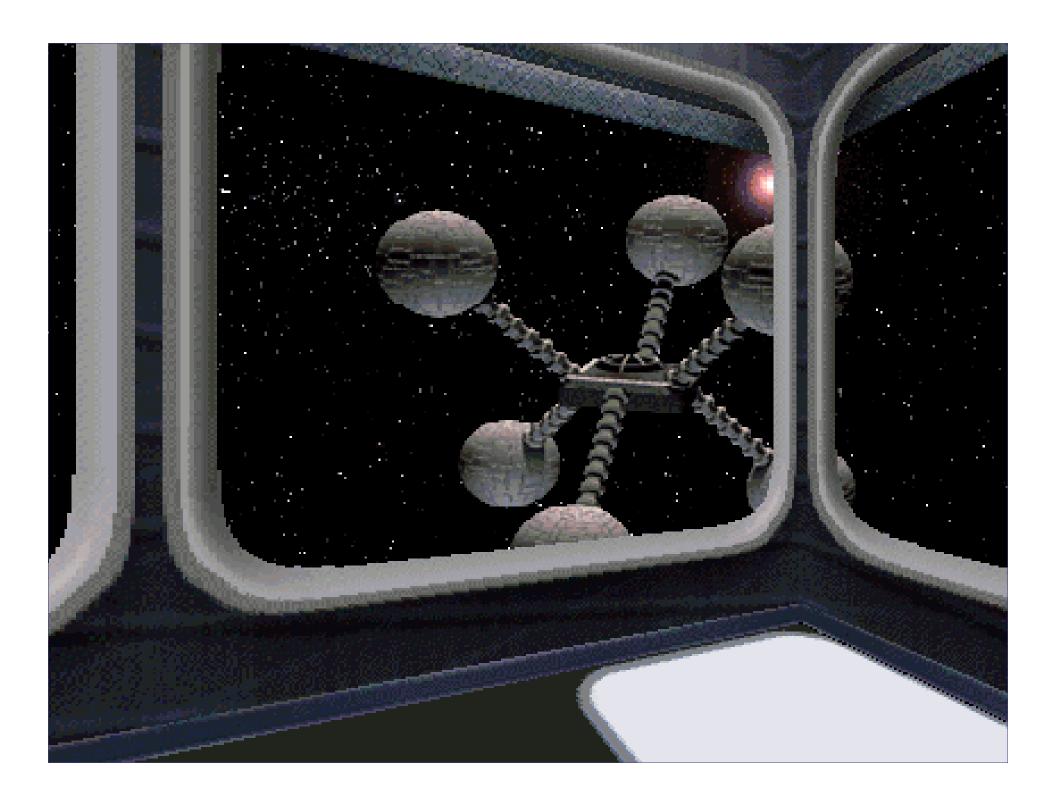


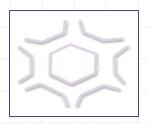




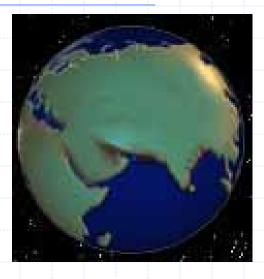




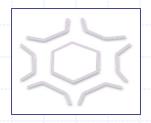




Worlds Inc. AlphaWorld: Summer 1995



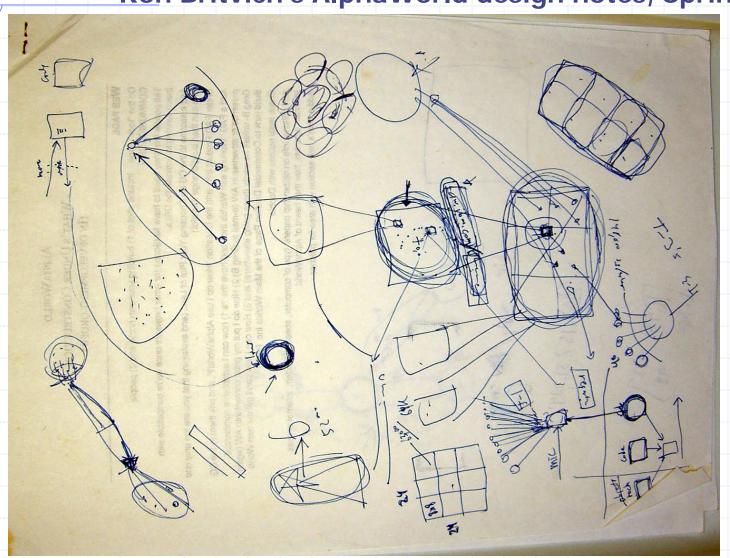
- 3D, Avatars, chat, large extensible landscape
- Citizen-built with direct in-world building "Lego"
- Community, newspapers, groups, events
- Distributed servers like SL islands
- Educational users, media coverage, many firsts
- No direct object economy but informal economy of object and avatar designers, world builders
- Simple scripting, bots
- Closest precursor to SL



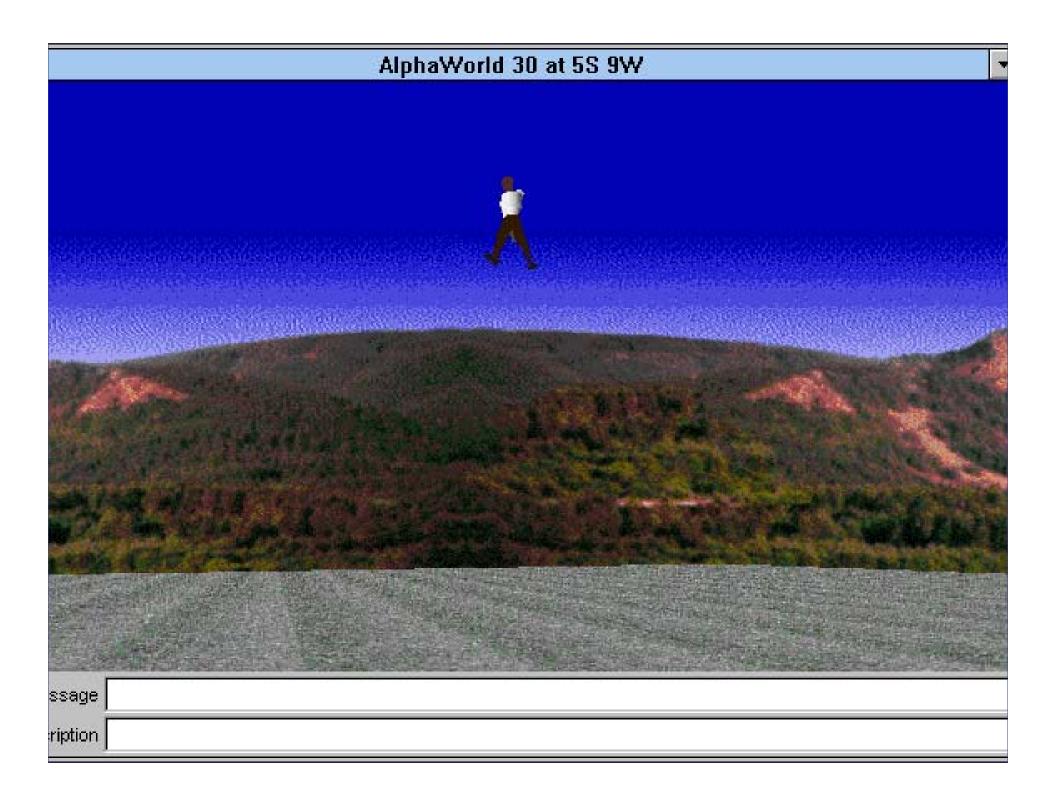
Phase II: 1990s

The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

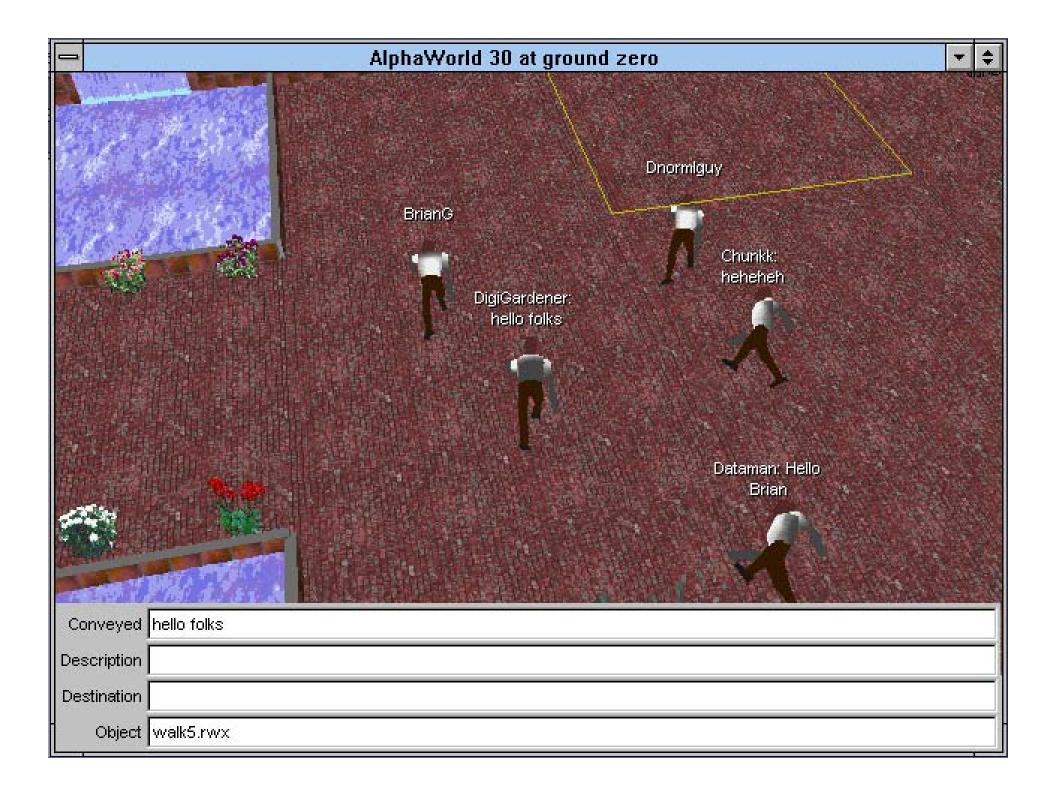
Ron Britvich's AlphaWorld design notes, Spring 1995

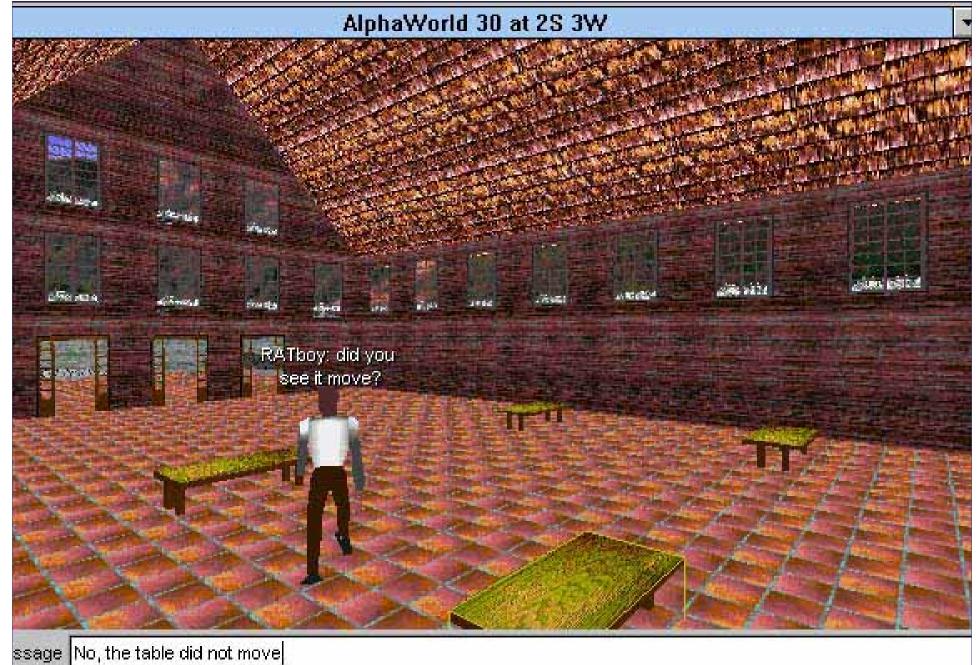


Leading to AW launch, Summer 1995...



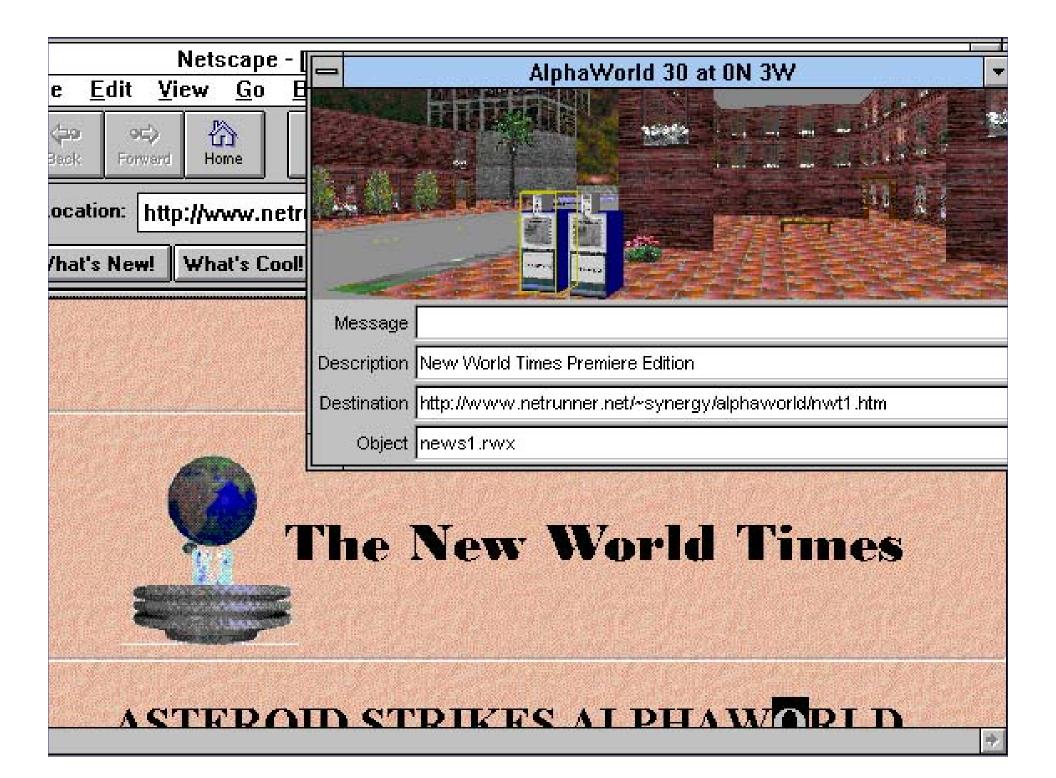
AlphaWorld 30 at 4S 8W veyed brian! ription

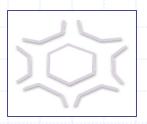




RESULTATION OF THE PARTY OF THE

ription How to build

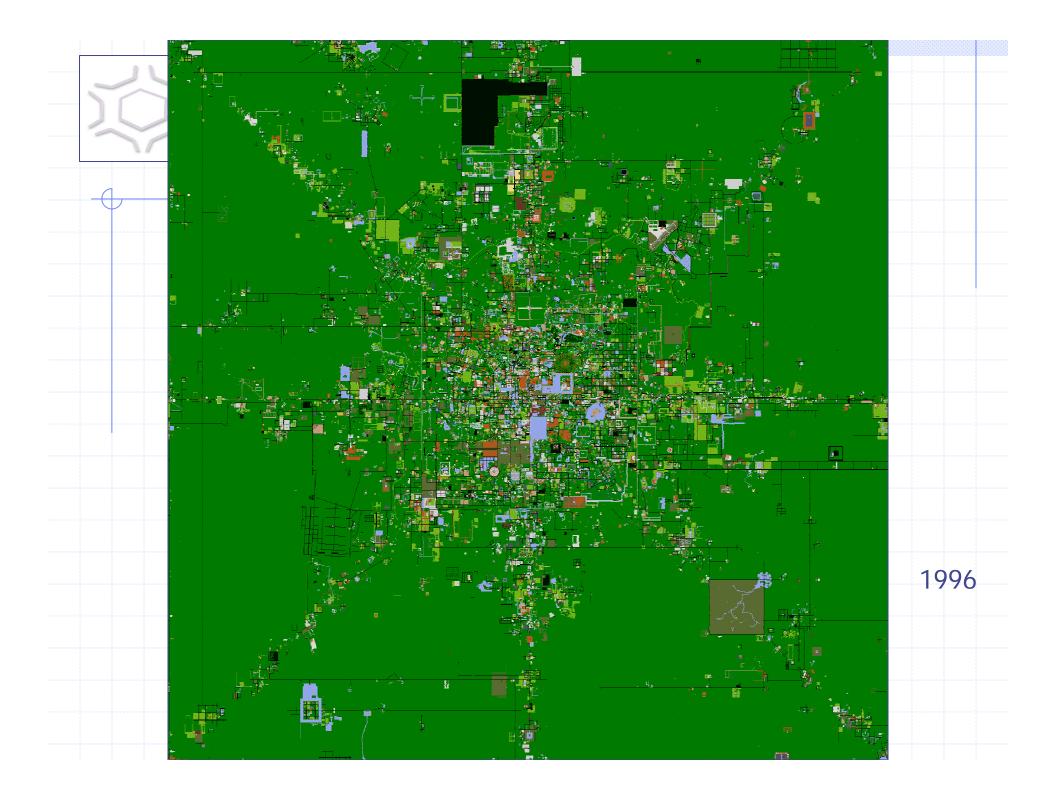


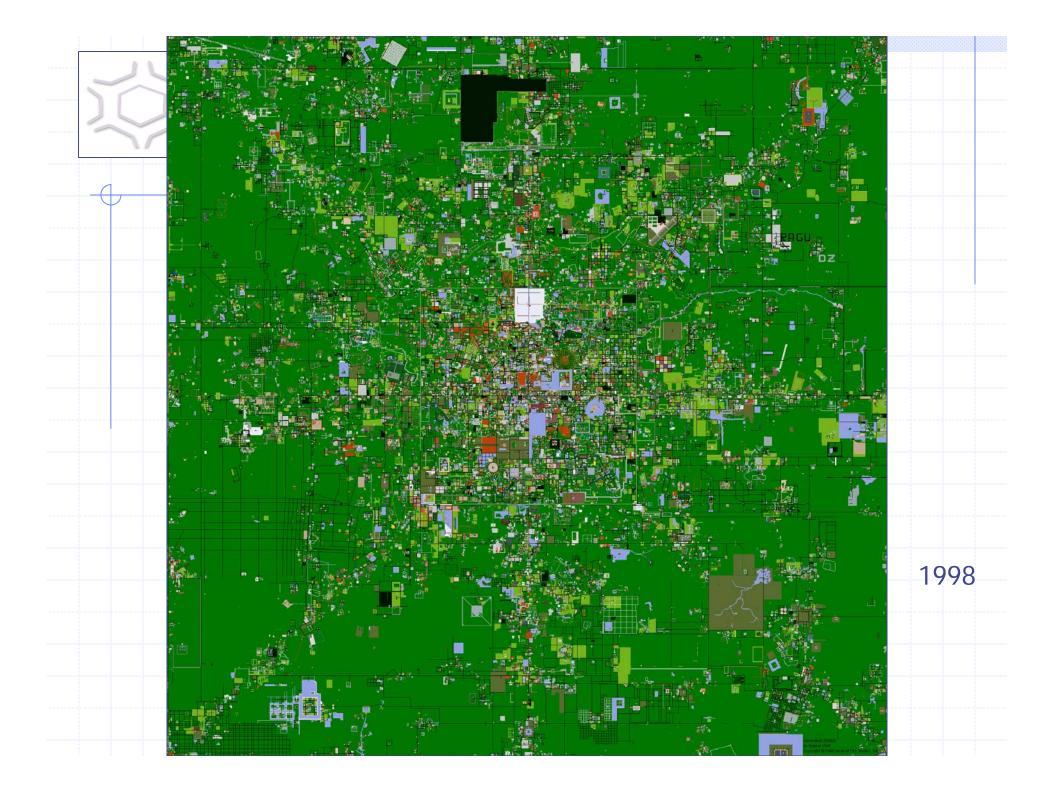


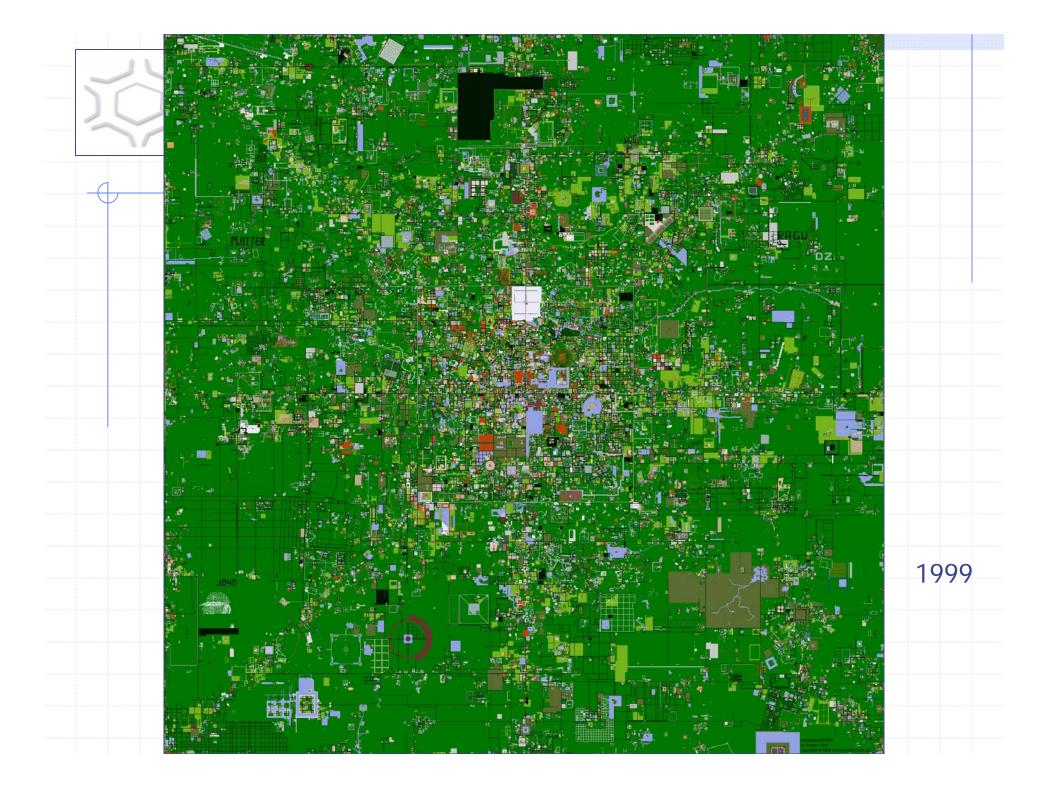
Phase II: 1990s The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period AlphaWorld/Active Worlds

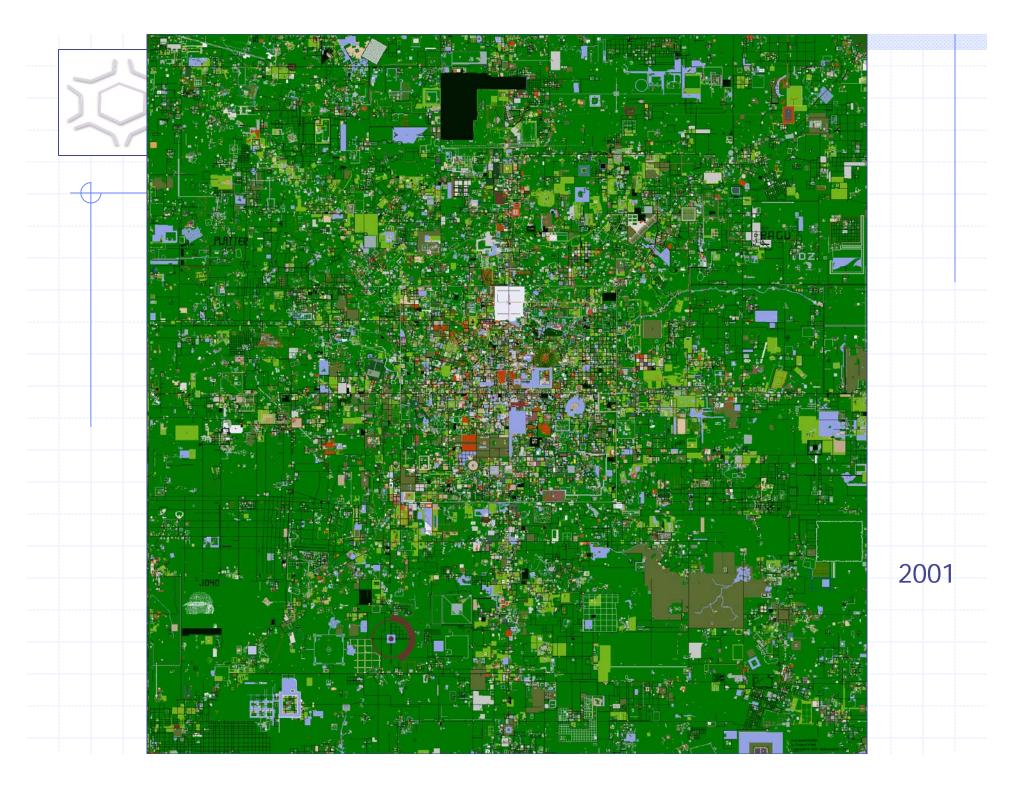


- Flood of users, peaks at approx 1000 simultaneous, 600k unique user download/installs
- Platform of choice in many early experiments, educational uses
- Worlds Inc bankruptcy January 1997, user group takes over platform, Active Worlds, Inc. Switched to paying model, sells worlds
- Still operating today in Newburyport, MA
- Many AW citizens now active in SL
 Witness the building boom in original AlphaWorld...











Phase II: 1990s

The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

AlphaWorld/Active Worlds: Thousands of Worlds

- !@Mart
- AWInfo
- !Nebula!
- S A!!FLYER
- A!!Vines
- A!Caribe
- A'tuin
- 🗃 abc
- Abriendo A
- Abroad
- Abyssia
- Active: AD&DRPG
- Adronis
- Aegyptos Aeon
- Agape
- Agora AirGlow

- AJ_Creek Akingdom.
- Akrapol2
- Akrapoli Albany
- Alliance
- AlwaysOK
- America
- Amigos1
- Amigos2
- Amigos3 Amigos4
- Amigos6
- Amircot
- Amárí
- Ancients
- Anduin
- Aguarius Arabus
- Aranil

- Anduin
 - Aquarius

Ancients

- Arabus Aranil
- Arisia.
- ArteOp
- ArtsHiwy
- Atlantis AuMilieu
- Aureus
- AureusOY
- OOVA 😥
- AV01art
- AV01cams
- AV01exb
- AV01tour

- **₩**AV02
- AV02art AV02avvv
- AV02test
- @av98
- **₩**AV99 av99art
- av99avvv
- AV99cams AV99exb
- AV99tour
- AvsbyRet
- WAGE
- aw3d#0
- - aw3d#1
 - 3 aw3d#10 aw3d#11
 - aw3d#12

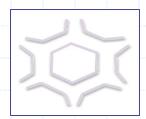
- AWBingo2
- AWBots .
- AWBuild2
- AWCastle
- AWCC
- AWChekrs
- AWChess **₩ctf**
- AWDebate
 - AWDemo.
 - AWDisco
 - AWEC
 - AWEvents

 - **₩**Games AWGames2
 - AWGate

- AWHelp
 - **AWLife**
 - AWMegaOY **AWNybble**
 - AWParent
 - AWRental.
 - AWRPG
 - AWSchool
 - AWShow. AWSingle
 - AWSome
 - AWSpades
 - AWTeen
 - AWTrivia
 - AWUniv
- AWUniv2
- AWUnivAB AWWomen.

- € Train Training
- Tranquil
- Transcen.
- Trinkets Tristan
- Tritus
- TrkNFld
- Tropolis
- TrueSpac
- TwinOaks
- TyriaX
- Uniden
- VanGogh
- Vertigo Vertigo
- Village 1 **₩** Visions
- **ௐ** Void ₩VR5

- ₩ VRSoup
- Vultus
- Whyst
- WAbliw 📵 ₩ildWest
- WinBack
- Wishes
- Wistaria
- ₩itchWay Wolf
- ₩onders
- WWorld
- X-Men X Files
- X Files2
- S XarMazes Yellow
- 3 Ysabeau
- Zelda Zephir



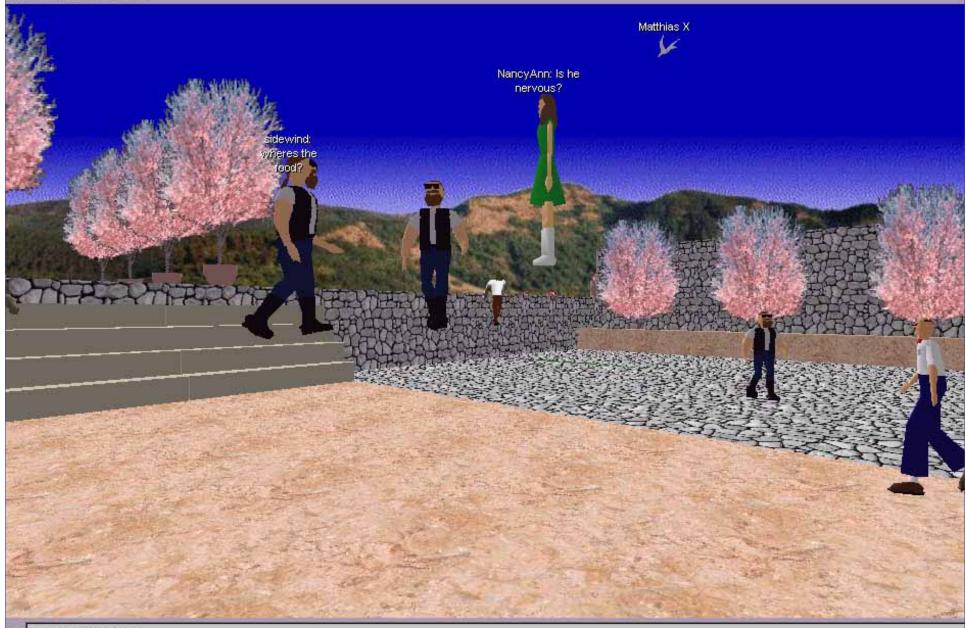
AlphaWorld and Active Worlds

Anatomy of an event in AlphaWorld, first Wedding in an Avatar space, Summer 1996: first, friends lovingly build the wedding

space:



<u> W</u>orld <u>O</u>ptions <u>A</u>vatar



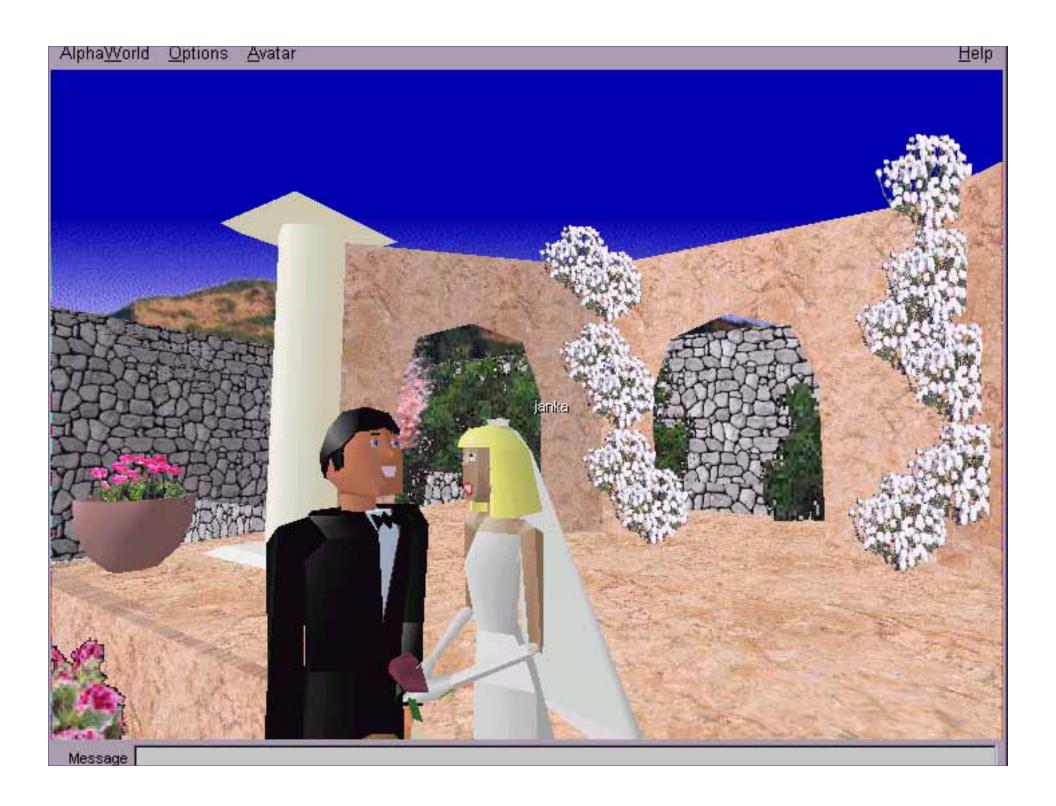
ved who is getting hitched

ior

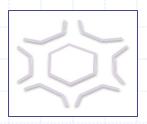














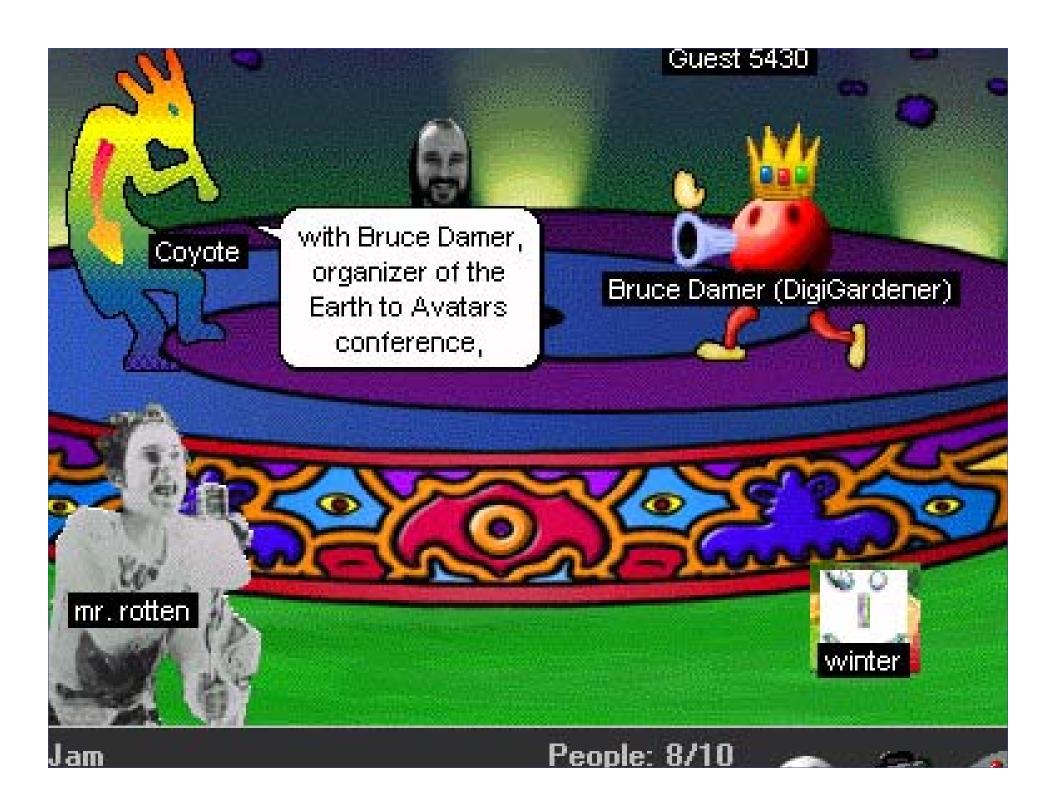
The Palace

- Worlds are image backdrops, fully distributed worlds
- Avatars are 2D with props, gestures, sound effects, own image as av
- Satchel of objects (inventory in SL)
- Most successful by the numbers
- Company gone, some servers still operating

The Palace goes online in late 1995...











Black Sun Interactive (Blaxxun) Pointworld



- First multi-user VRML platform
- Inspired by "Snow Crash"
- Personal cyber-cards
- User built worlds
- Many community events and firsts
- Still operating today, Cybertown
- Blaxxun users in SL

Black Sun goes online in early 1996...







COME TO CYSCHIOVIN

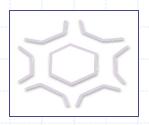
Γ included at no cost!

itizens Online The Year is 📢



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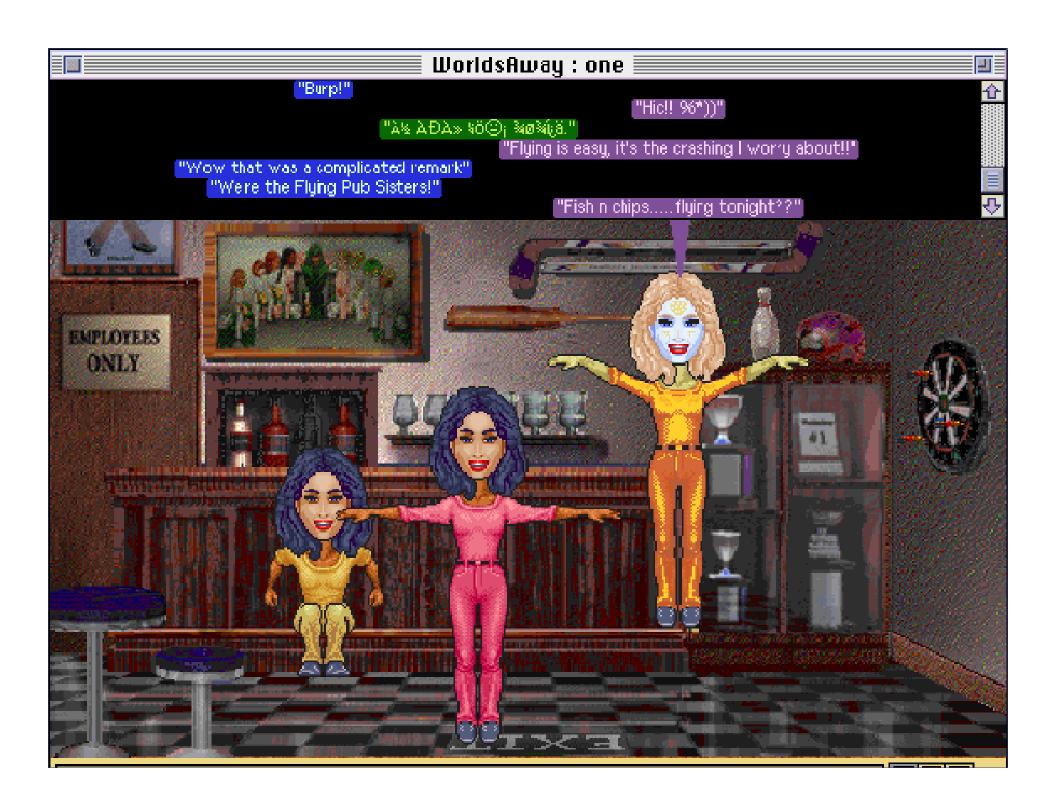


Fujitsu WorldsAway Dreamscape

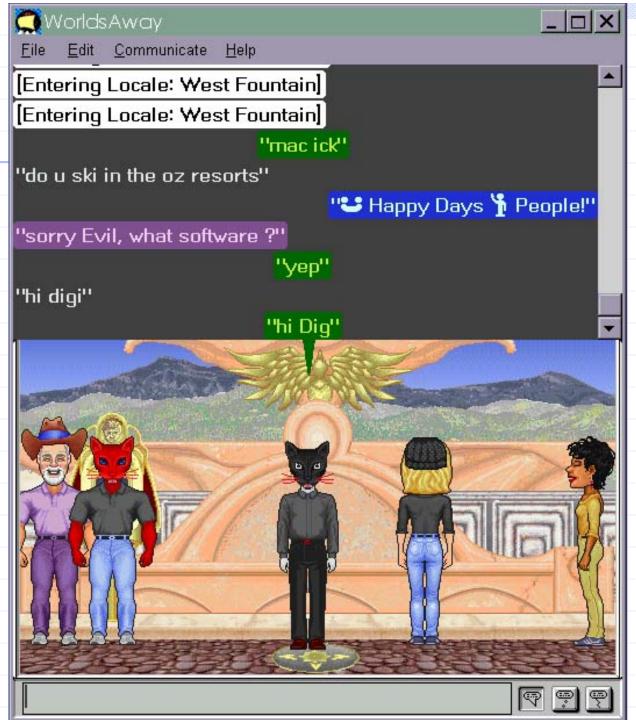


- Direct offspring of Habitat
- Virtual currencies, prices and private "turfs"
- Vending systems and barter trade, gift giving
- Precursor of SL's object economy
- Financial success, but sold by parent, operating as Vzones

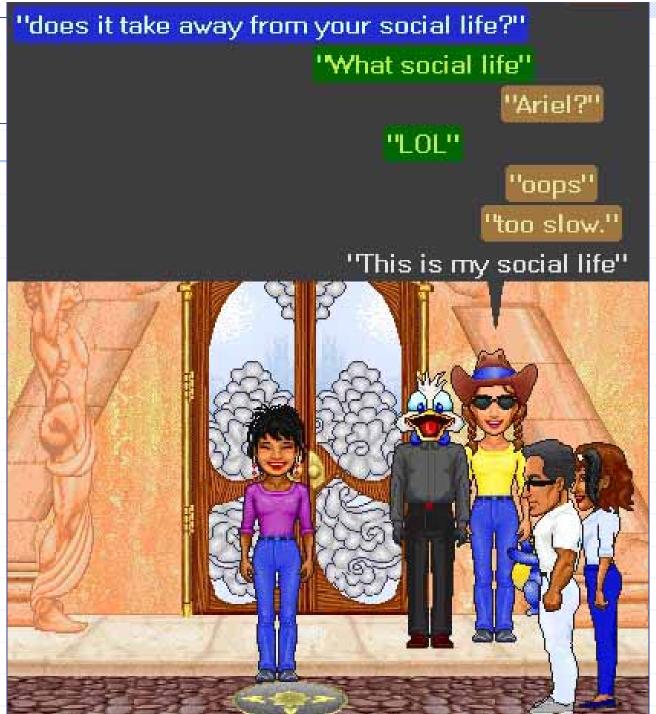
WorldsAway goes online in 1995...

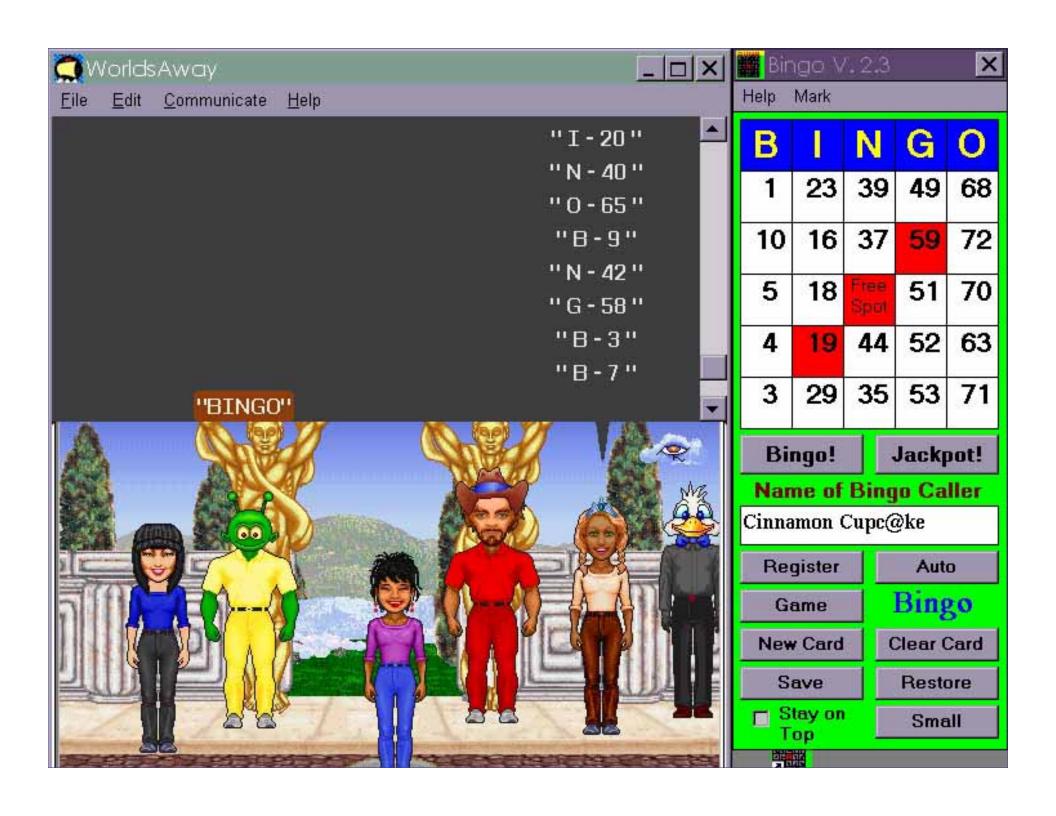










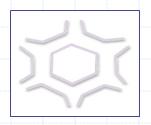






⊚ 1995 Fujitsu Cultural T





Phase II: 1990s

The Early Adopter "Cambrian Explosion" period

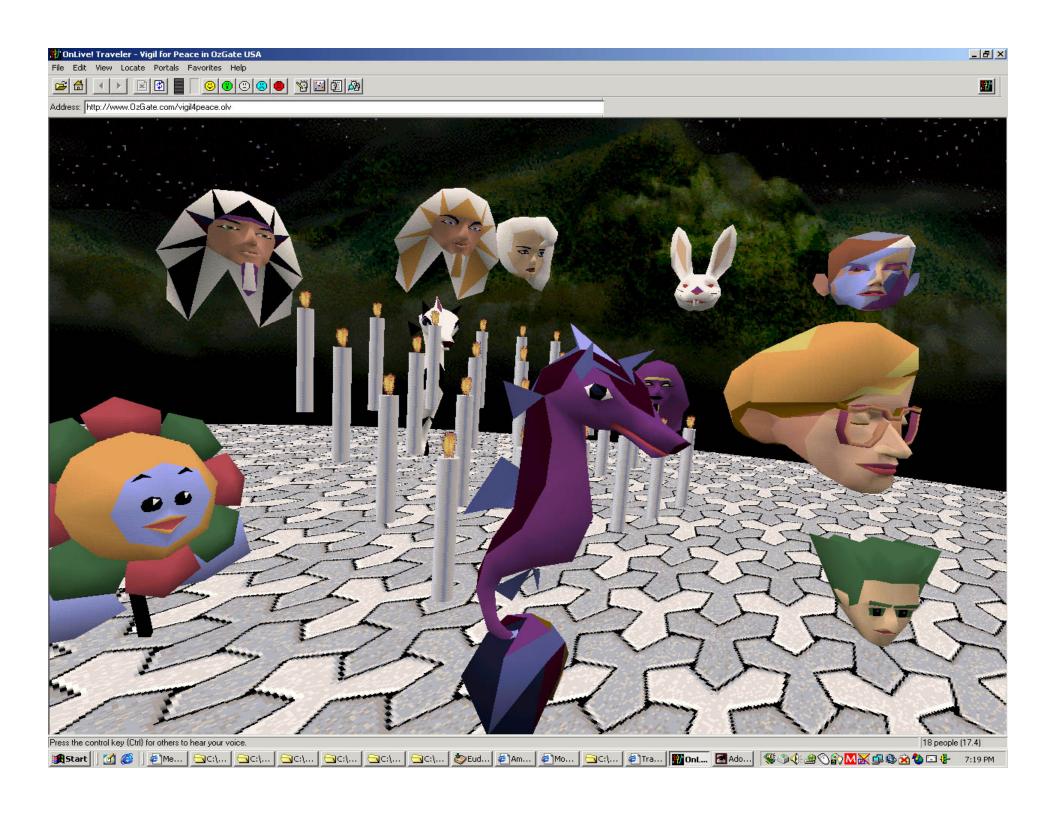
EnterTV/Onlive Technologies (1994): Traveler

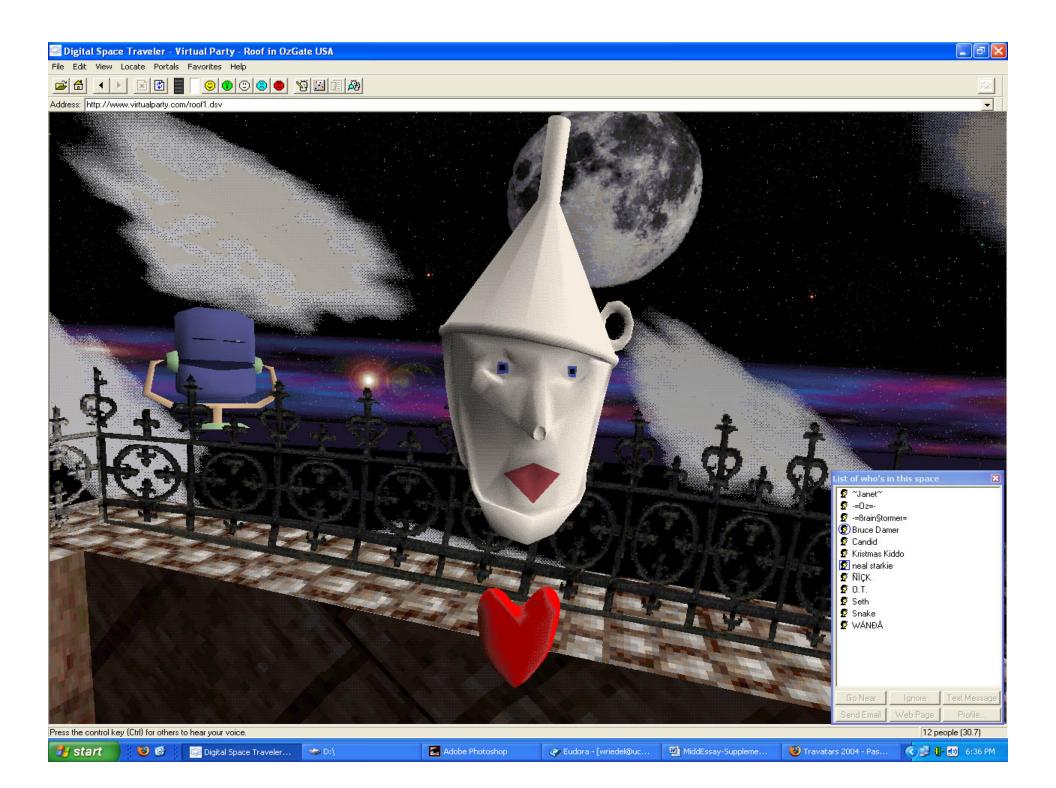


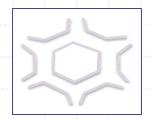


- Voice and lip-synch avatar "heads" intimate conversation
- Stereo, attenuated, blended
- Worlds and avs built by users, hand edited files
- Unique experience in cyberspace, prayer vigils
- Parent bankruptcy, acquired by DigitalSpace in 2001, offers free
- 200-300 regulars
- Attracts artists: Noel Paul Stookey "Virtual Party", MTV

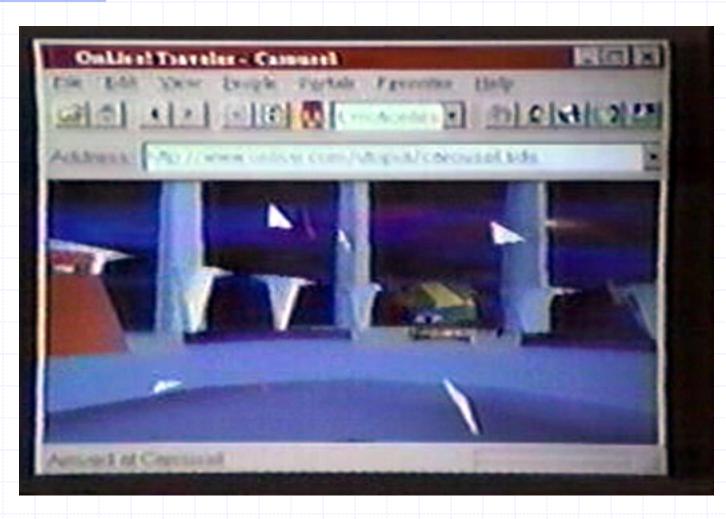
Traveler goes live Spring 1996...

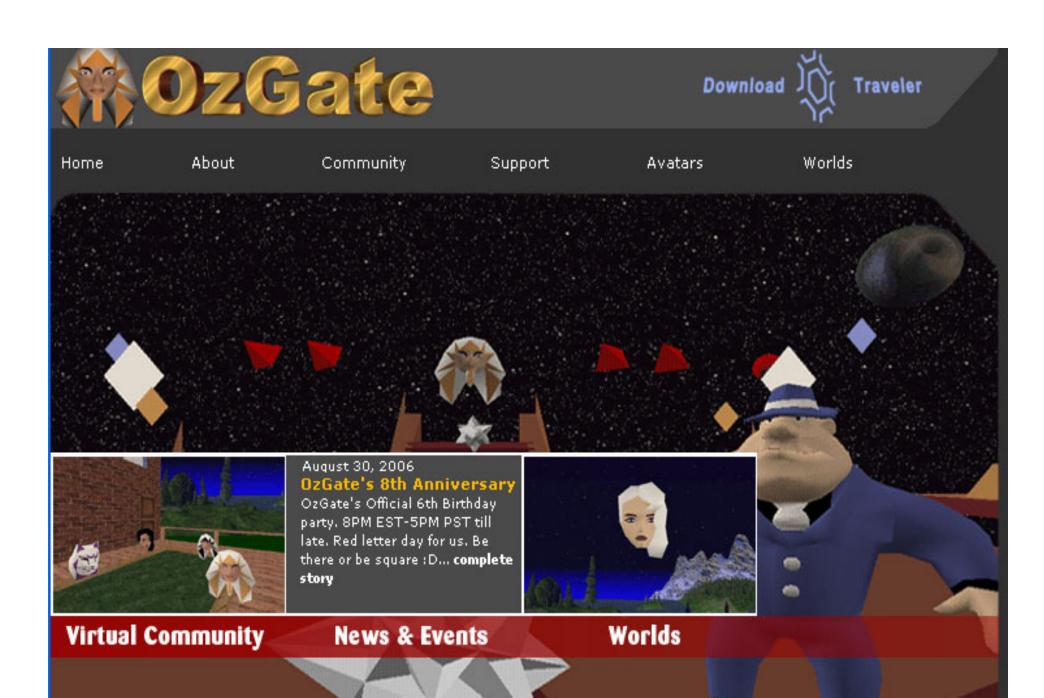


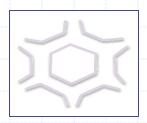




Traveler Film Clip (CNET TV)







Other worlds coming online in 1996





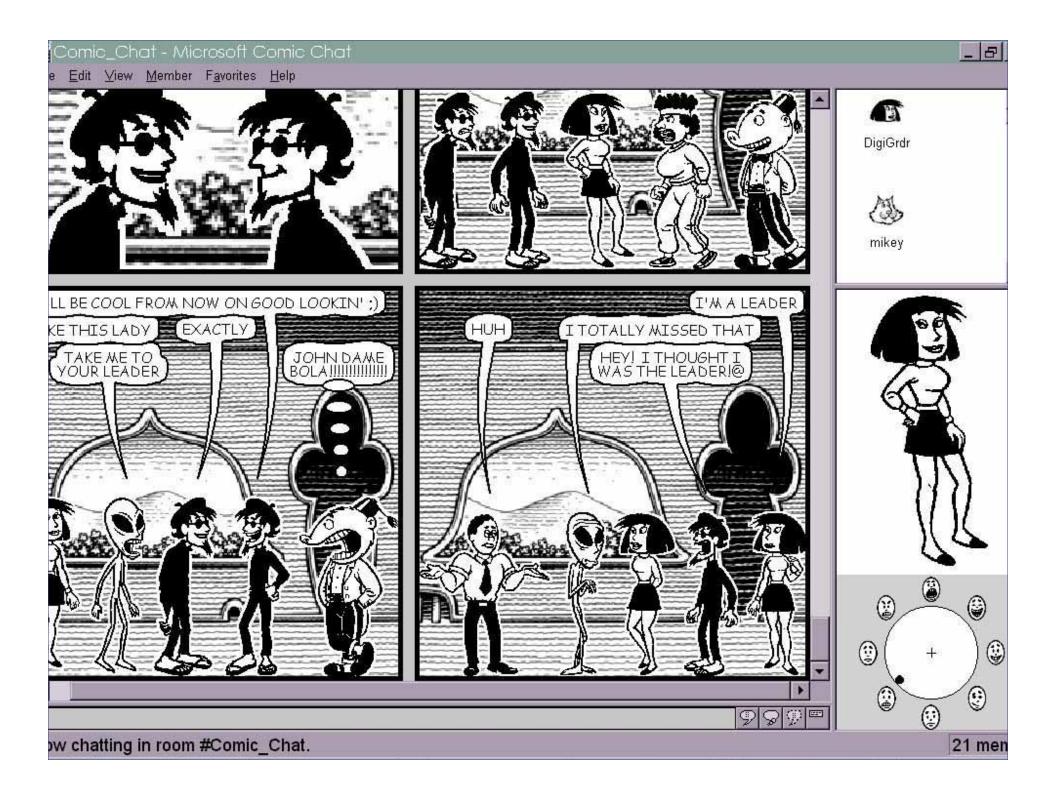


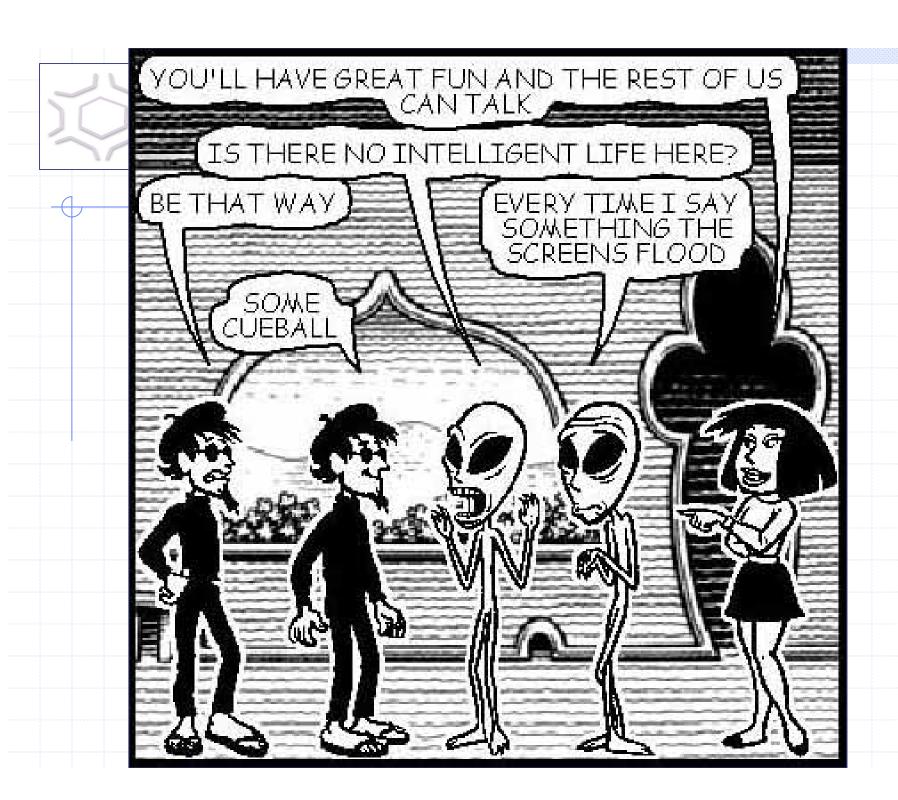


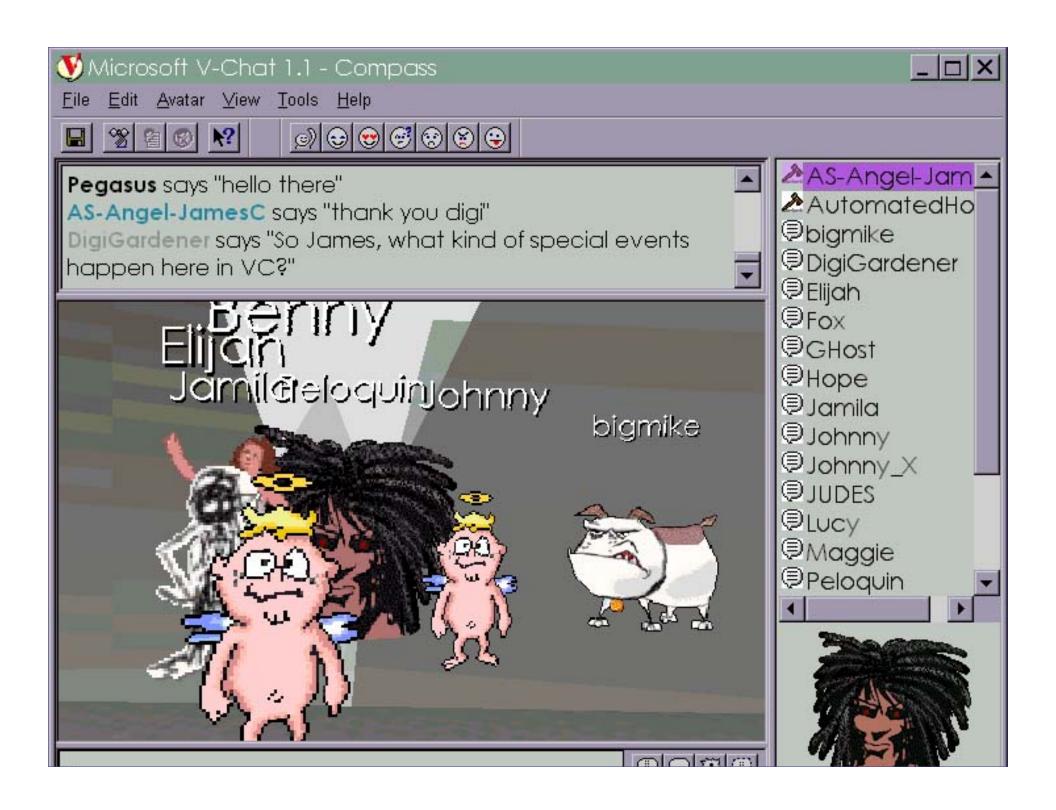




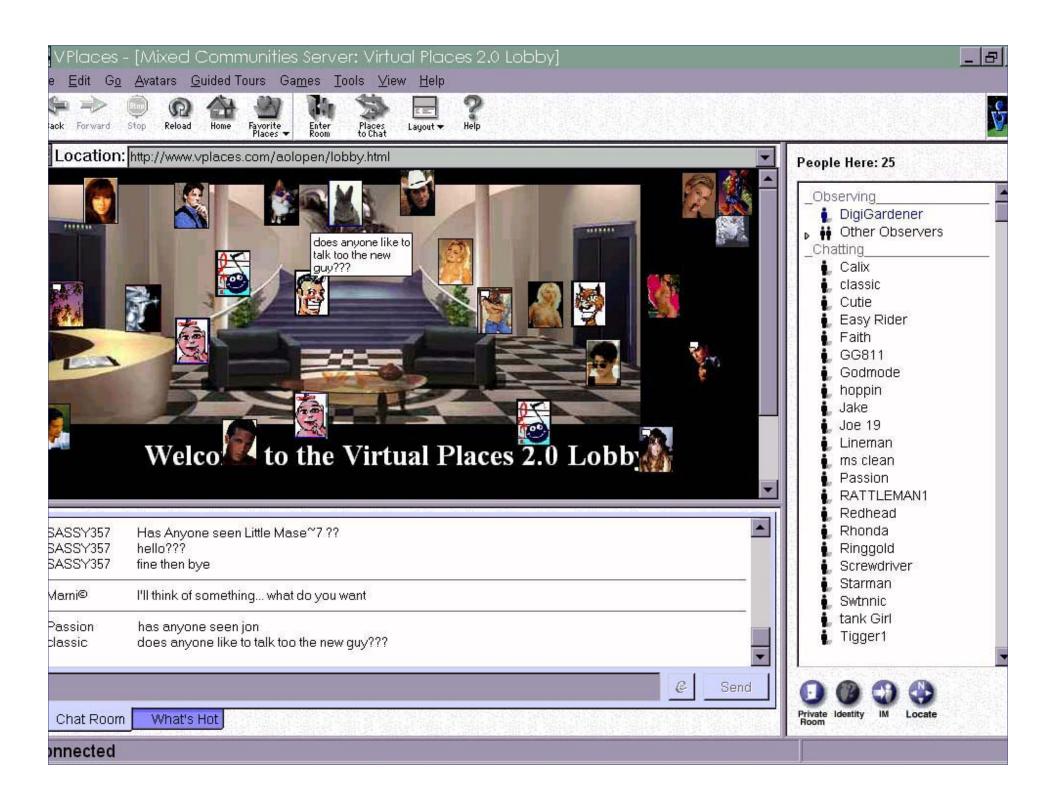
Various platforms, companies, university research efforts...









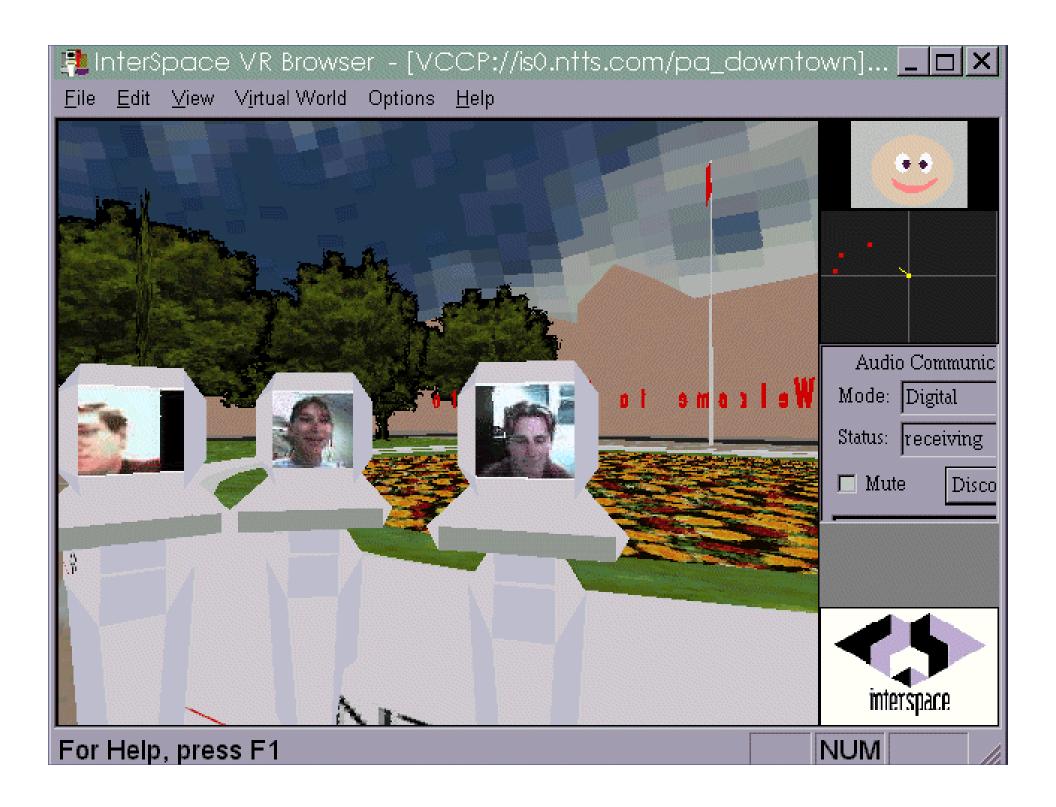




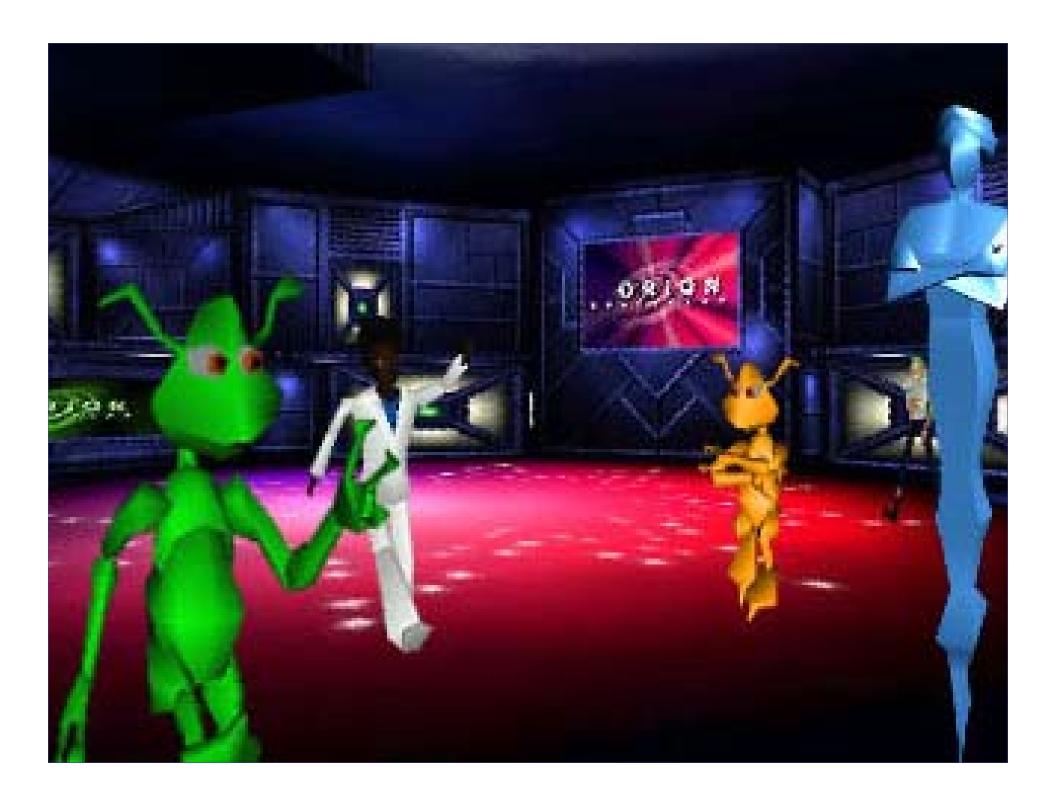




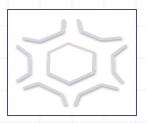








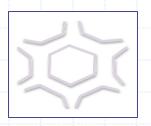




The Social Virtual Worlds Timeline Project



- Avatars book, version 2.0
- Enable the community to tell the history
- Simple web-based timeline, Wiki entry
- Scope from 1970s to present
- A place for SL history to be recorded, within the context of the movement it represents
- Several universities, companies and individuals being signed up
- You can be a part of it!



The Social Virtual Worlds Timeline Project

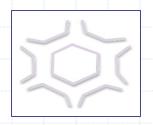


- Contact Consortium (1995) initial funder and organizer
- Prototype available now at:
 http://www.ccon.org/vw-timeline/index.html
- Project Contact: Bruce Damer, bdamer@digitalspace.com
- Call for funding support and volunteers, institutional support (academia, companies)





- The Contact Consortium organized and sponsored two in-person conferences in San Francisco in 1996 and 1997, and moved the conference "in-world" for another six events, Avatars98-Avatars2004.
- We are hoping that third generation platforms like SL will take up the model pioneered by the annual Avatars events.



Annual Conference Badges







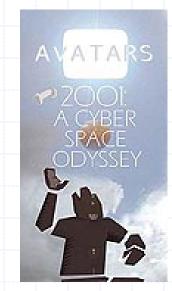












...2004



Earth to Avatars (E2A96)

Oct 26-27, 1996 (San Francisco)



Carth to Avatars!



Earth to Avatars (E2A96)

Oct 22-24, 1997 (San Francisco)





Avatars 96 (San Francisco)

Movie Clip















John Sculley

Bruce Damer



























Avatars 97 (San Francisco) **Movie Clip**



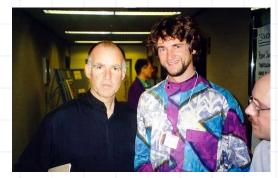






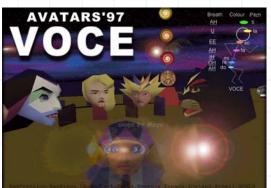
















- ◆ 1998: Needed a new venue, move into cyberspace? Yes!
- The "Burning Man of Bits", user-created event, lasts one day each year, months of prep
- Elements of conference: speakers, exhibits, art show, webcam wall, grand finale: Avvy Awards, party
- Carried out across multiple platforms: Active Worlds, Blaxxun, Traveler, Palace, WA, Atmosphere
- Live audio, video linked physical "nodes" worldwide
- Media coverage: CNN, Wired, Standard, BBC, etc.
- Organizational support, companies, universities
- Peak attendance: 4,000 unique entries
- ♦ Last major event, Avatars2002, held in January 2003
- Winding down of second generation platforms, companies removed userbase, motivation. Third generation rising.

Will show only the AW versions of the Cyberconferences next...



Avatars98 Inside Cyberspace & Everywhere Nov 21, 1998



This is a live clickable map first learn how to to Click and Teleport directly

NORTH



Exhibit Hall



To Avvys & Galleries



Ground Zero



To Teleport & Webcams



Pod1 - Pod2 - Pod3



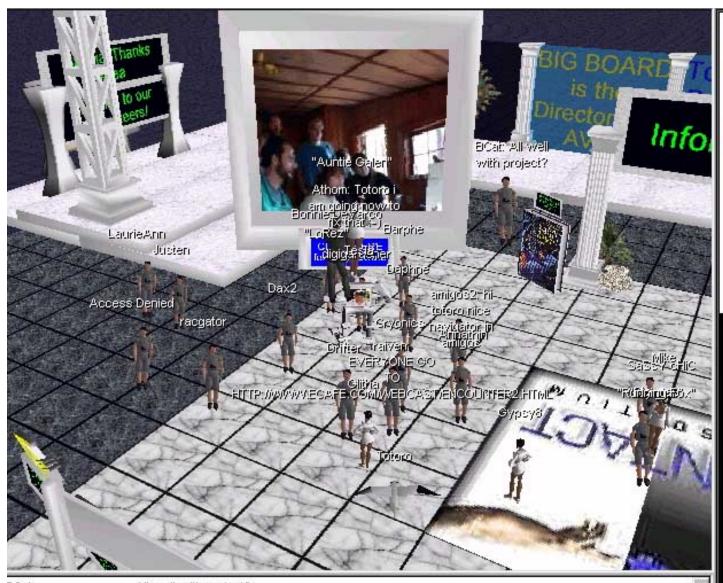
Big Board



Pod4 - Pod5 - Pod6

SOUTH







Our thanks
to all the people
around the globe who
worked so hard to
make this event
happen

BCat: All well with project?

Rhythm Dancer: god send me some memory Bonnie LOL

rypp: Lucio will be presenting a talk at the UN booth 29n 31 w now !!

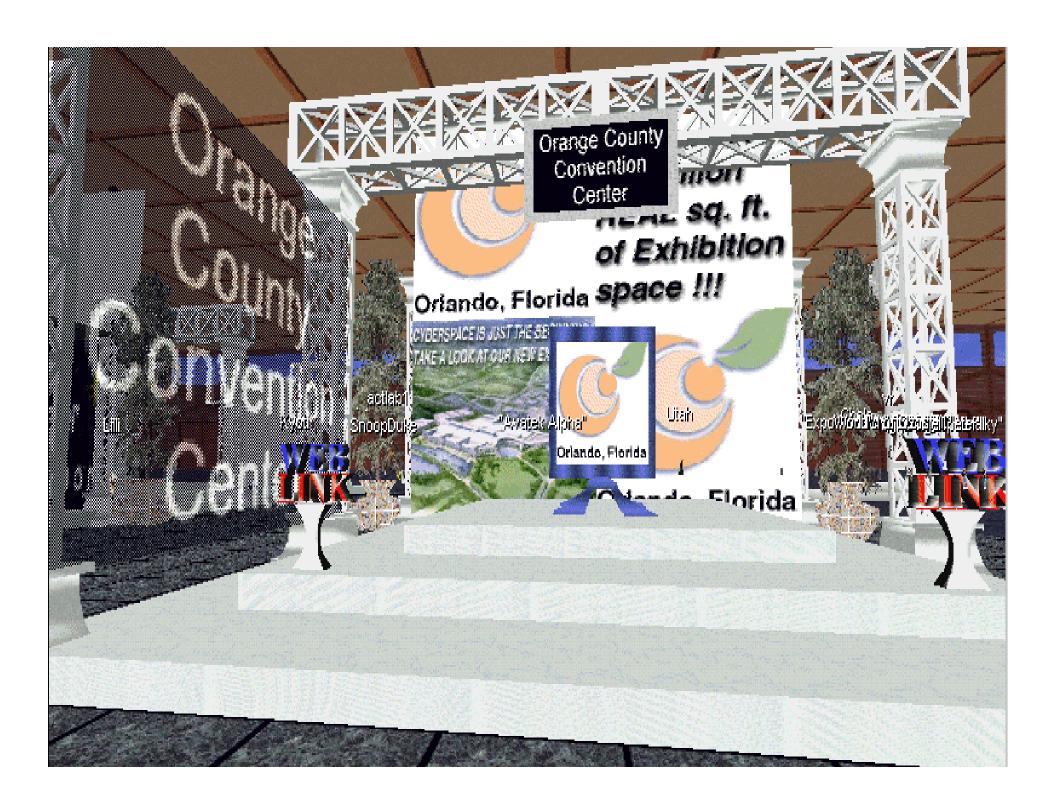
amigos2: hi totoro nice navigator in amigos

'Andy": Hi all

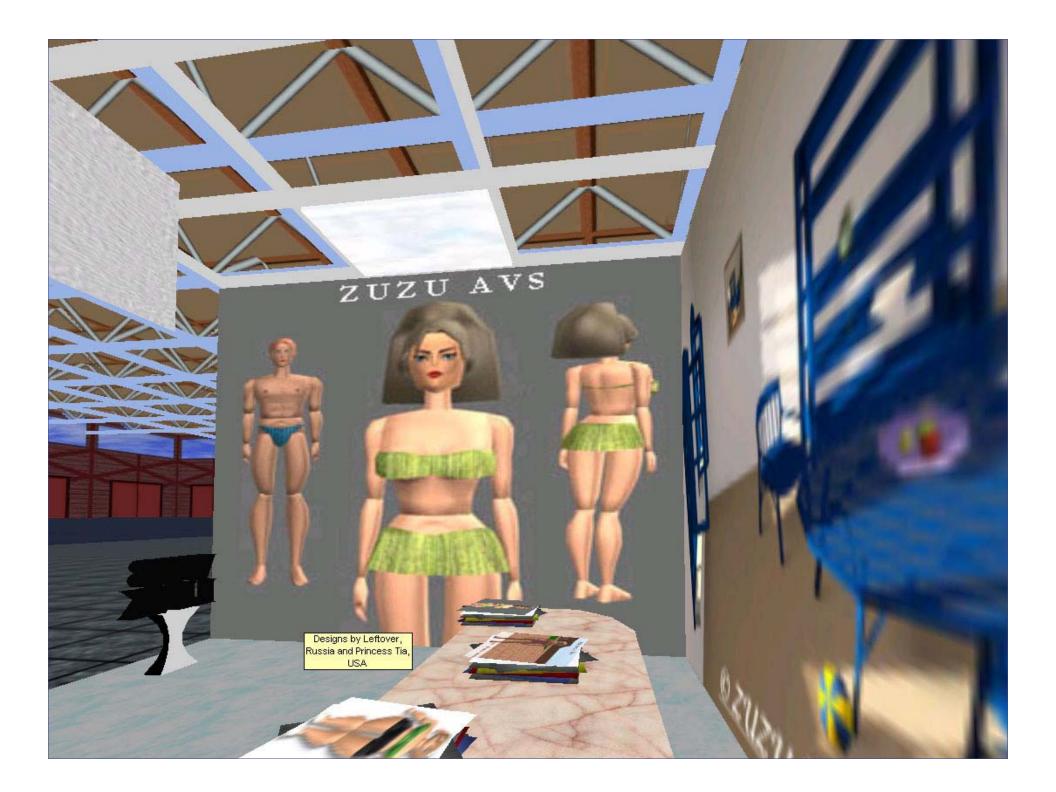
raiven: EVERYONE GO TO HTTP://WWW.ECAFE.COM/WEBCAST/ENCOUNTER2.HTML

Athom: Totoro i am going now to fix that :-)

ppppppp

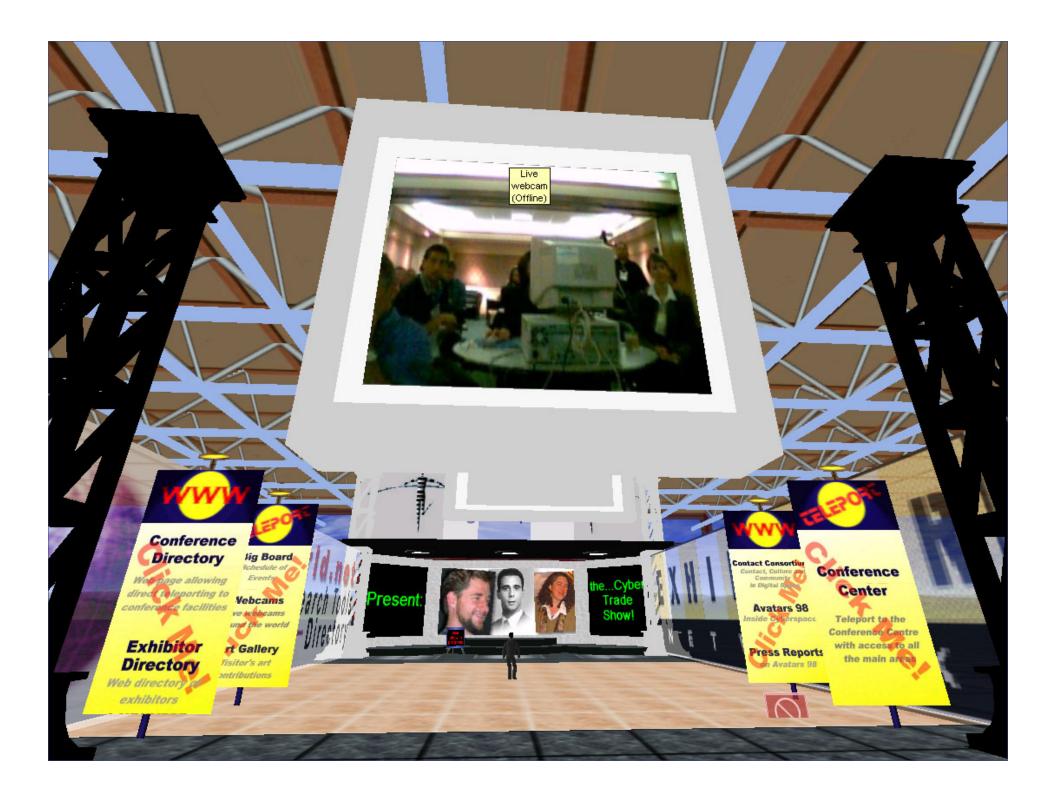










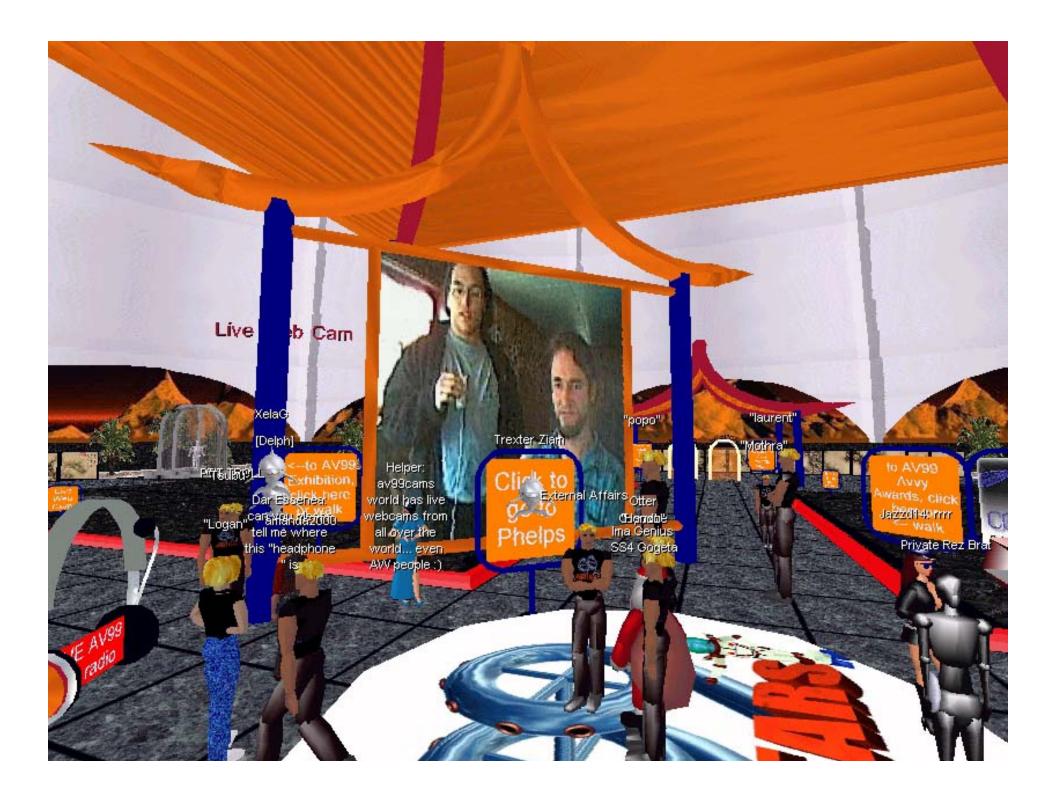


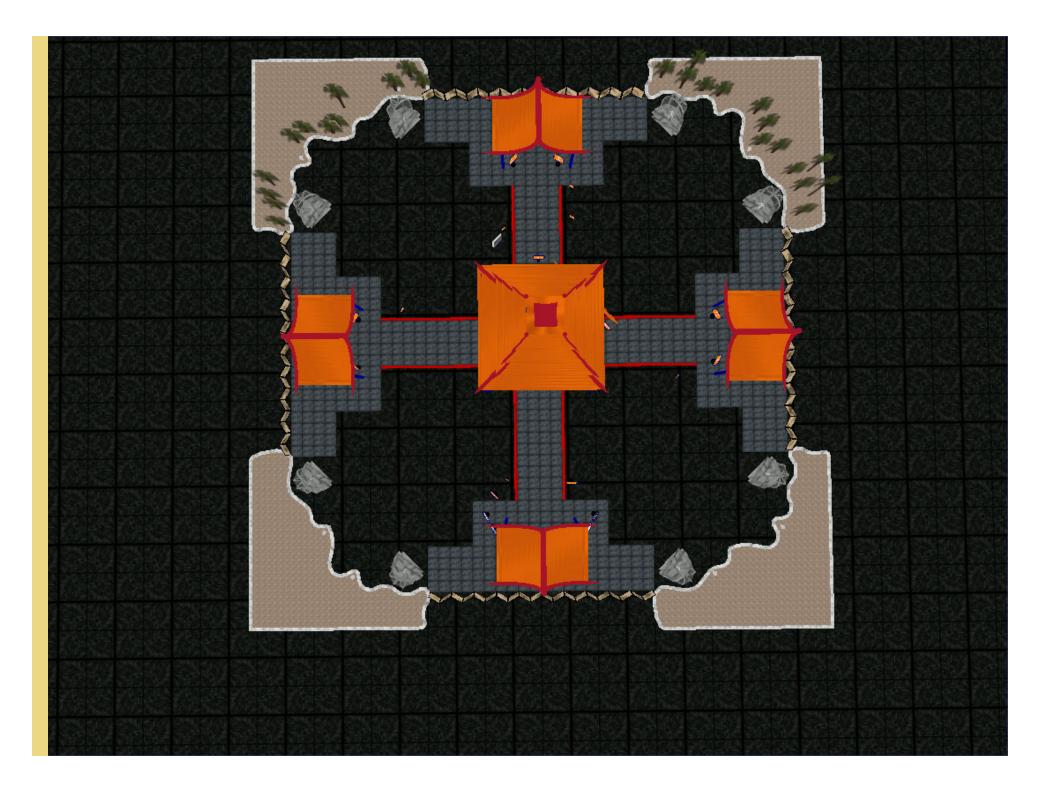


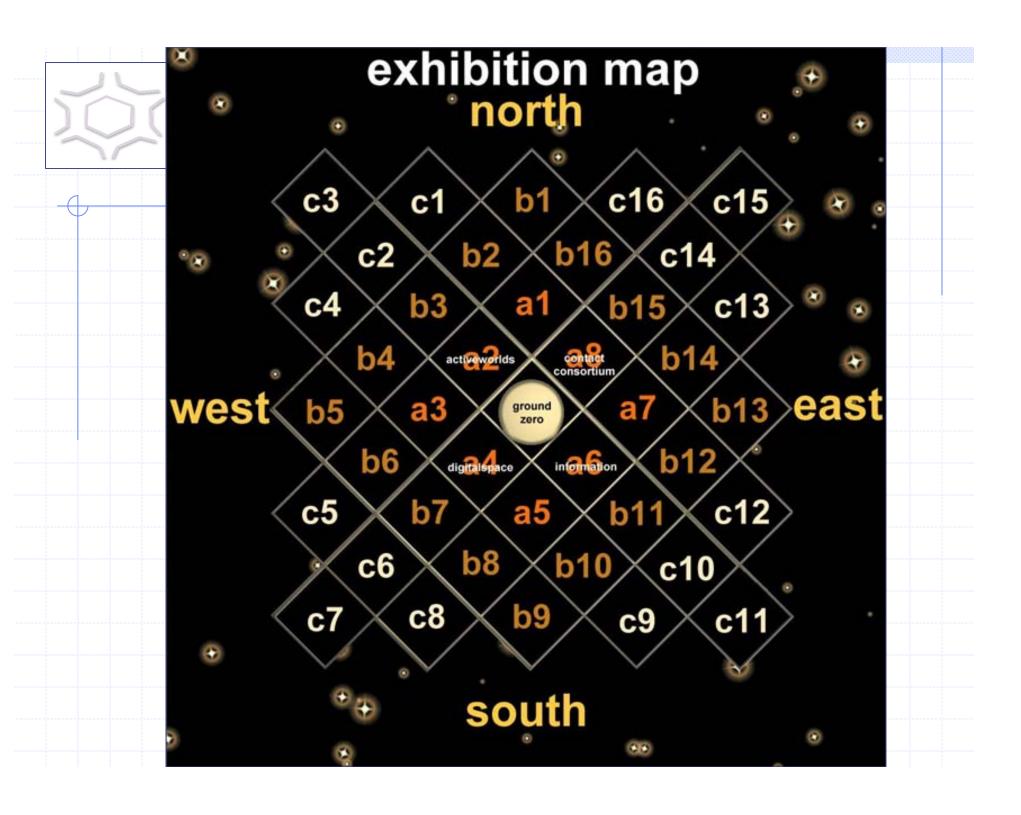


Avatars99 Colonizing Cyberspace Dec 4, 1999



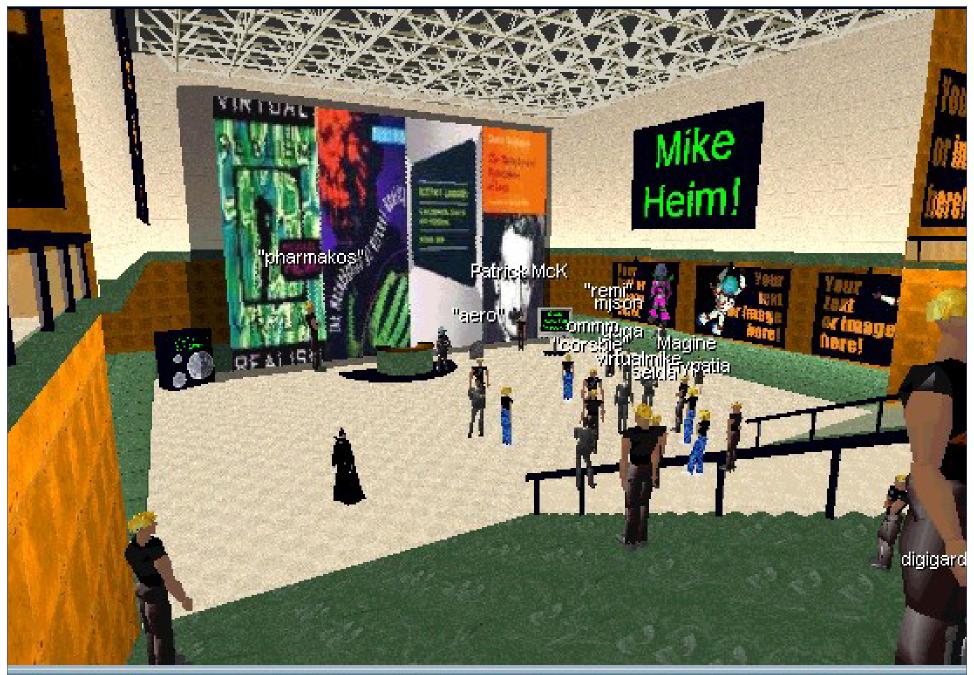






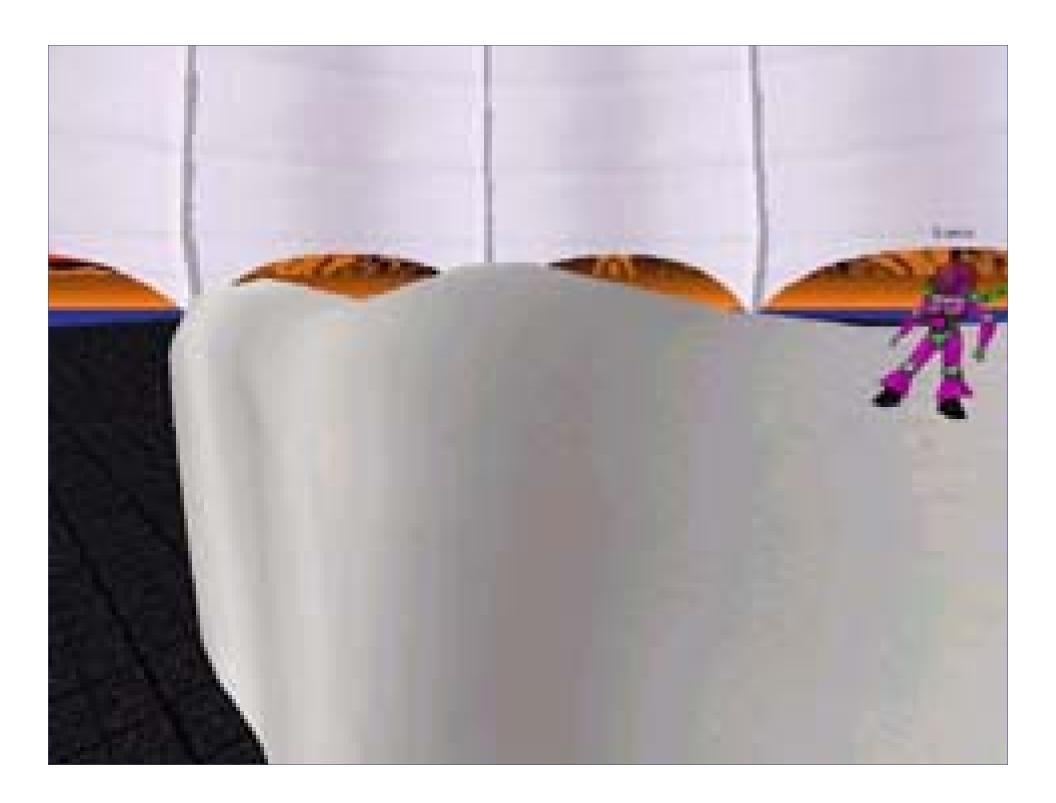




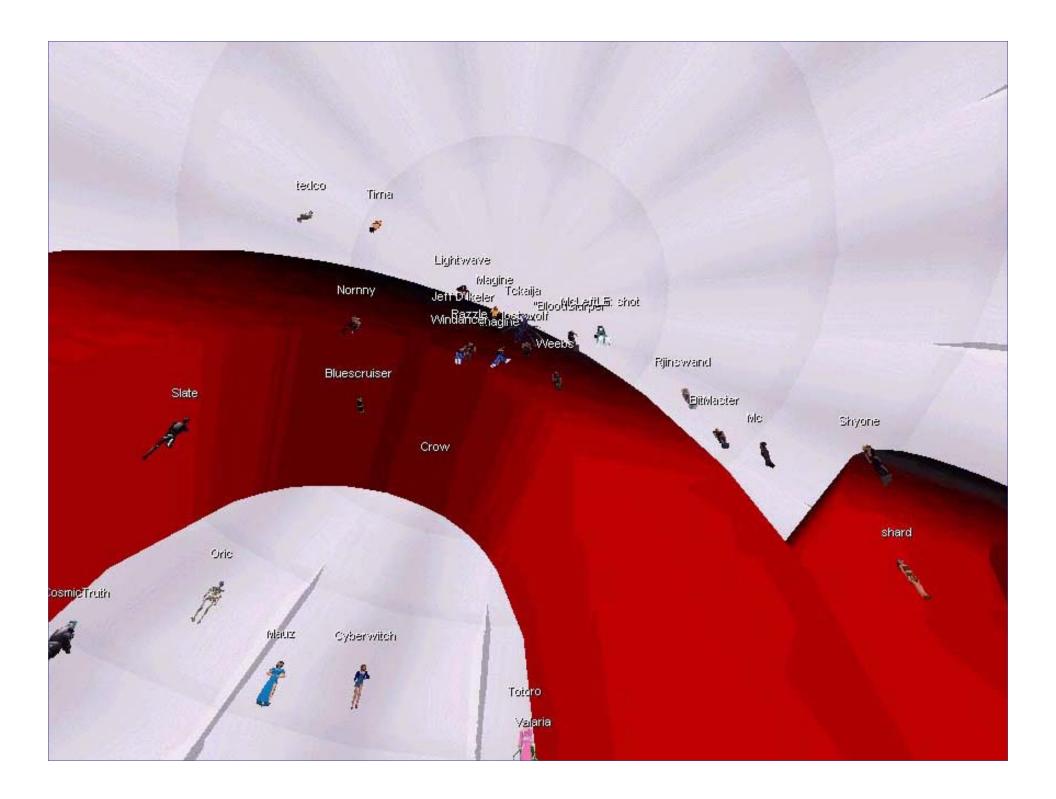


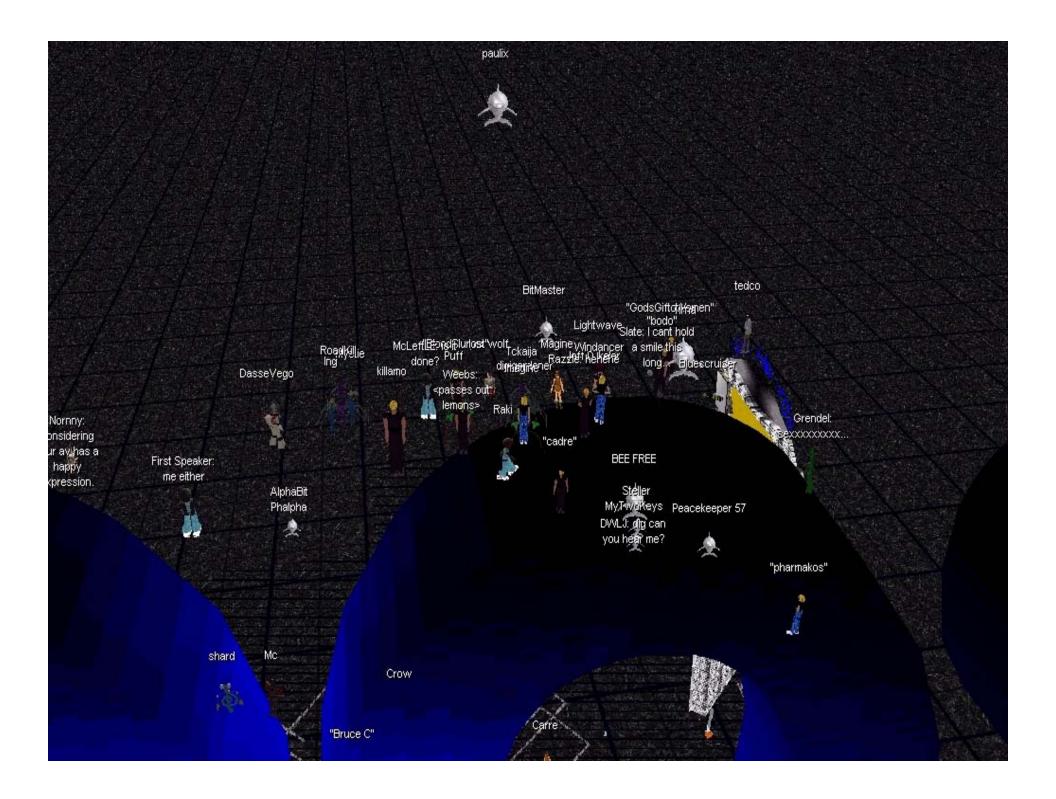
பாக says... adoption of avatars...VVIII these masks be shadow selves, wish-fulfillment











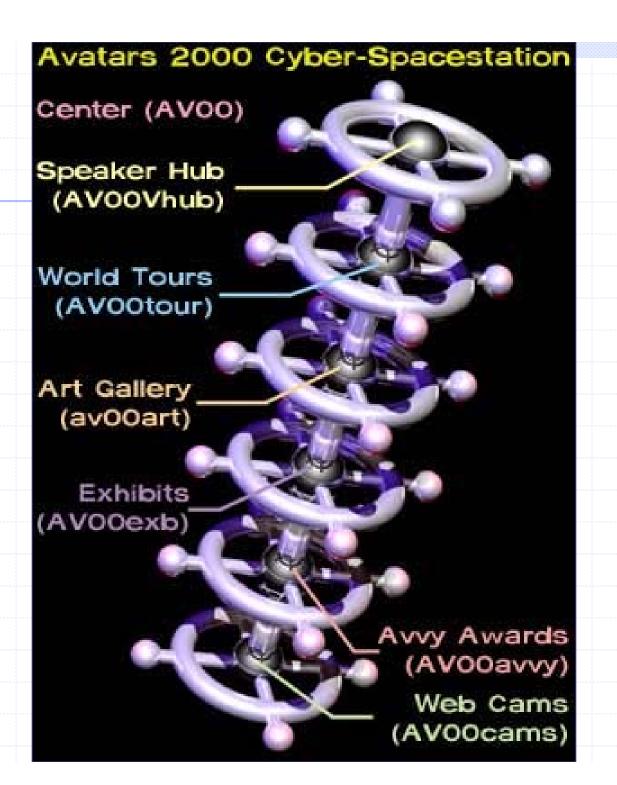


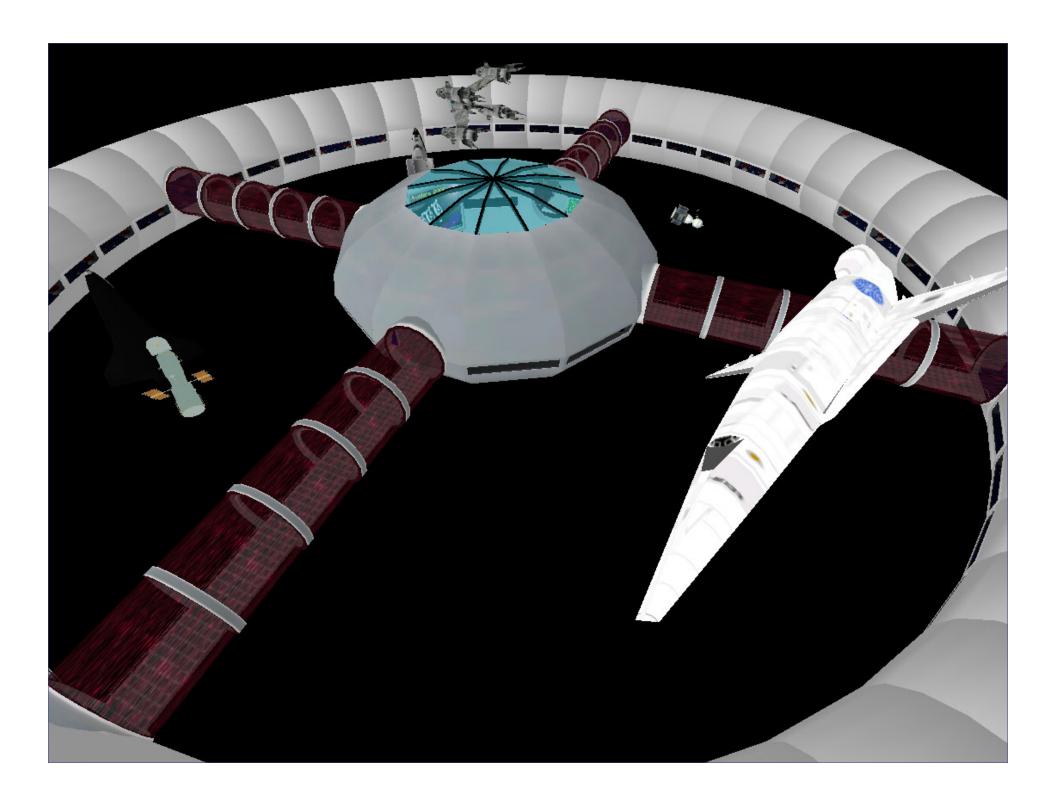
The Avatars Cyberconferences

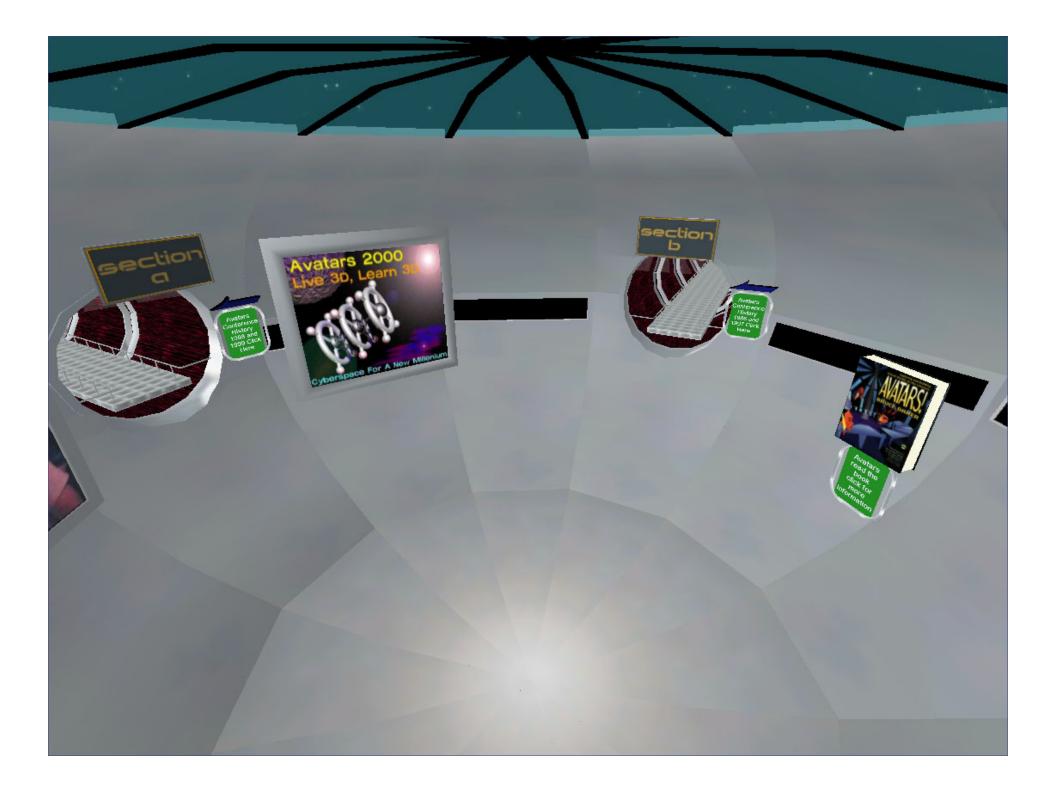
Avatars 2000 Cyberpace for a New Millennium Oct 15, 2000



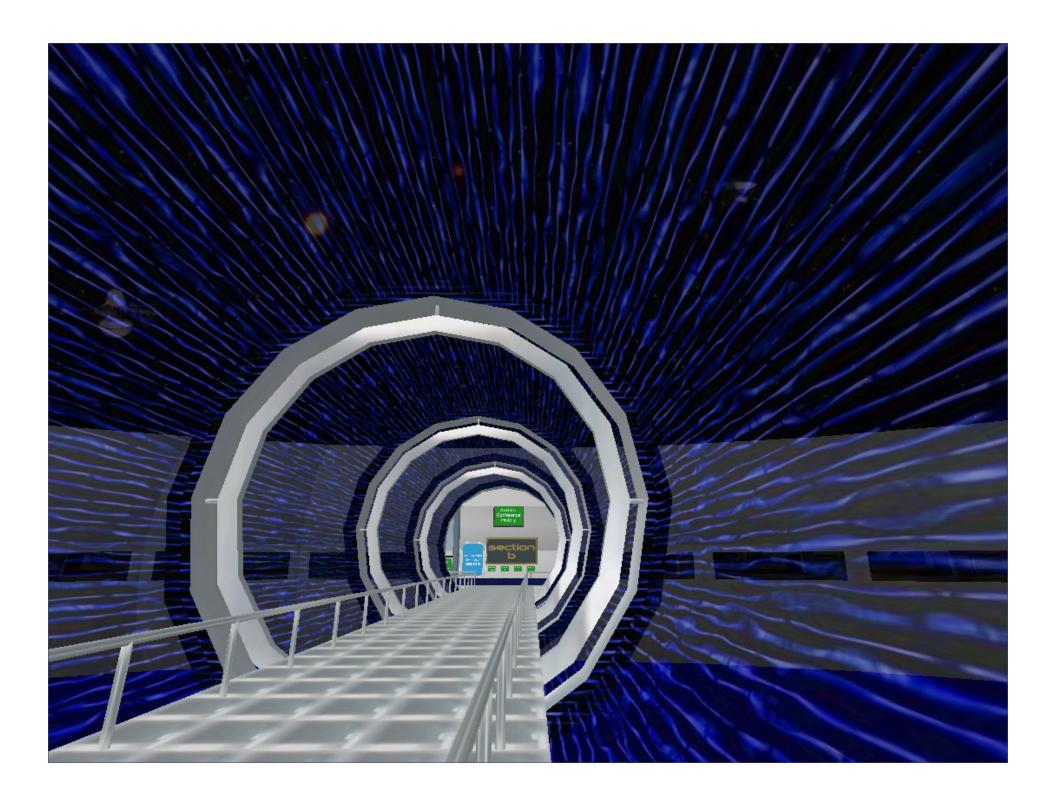


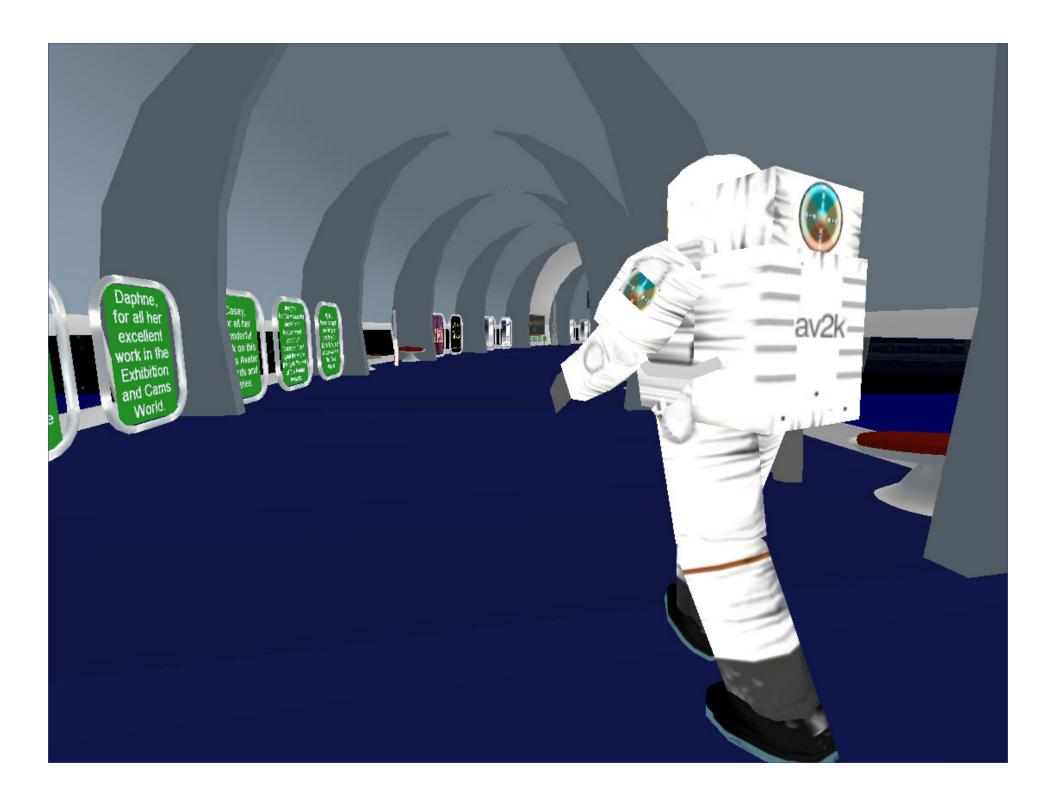






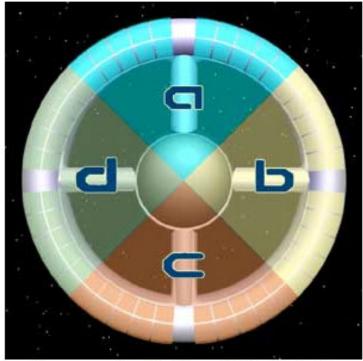








Exhibition Booth Plan

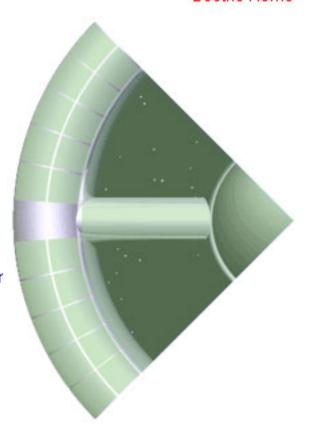


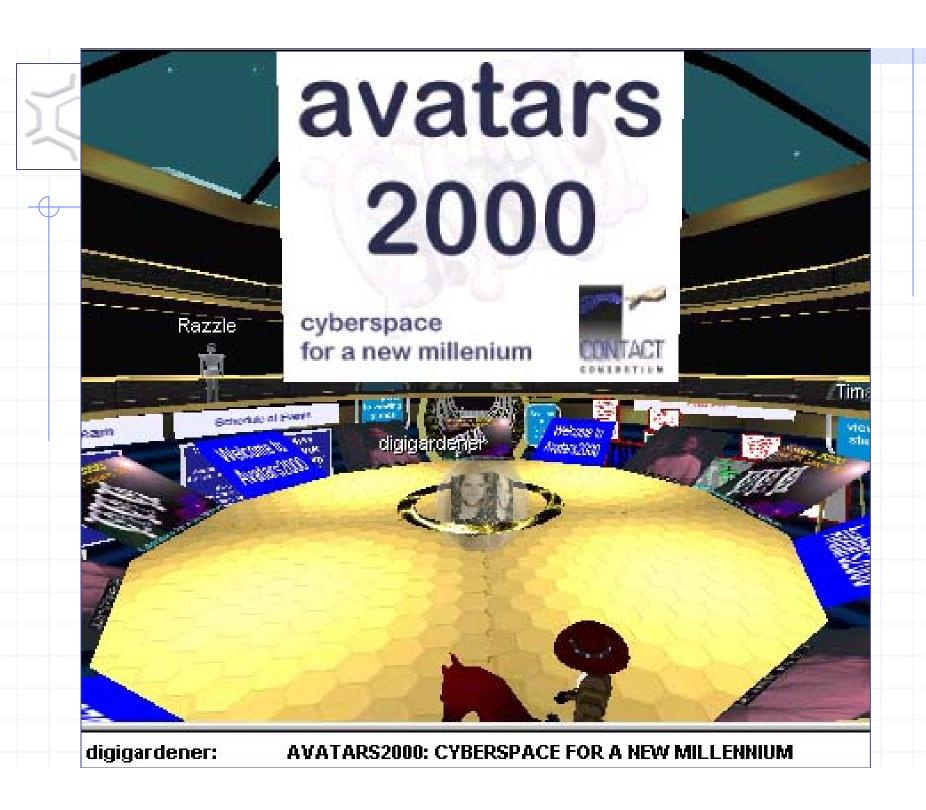
Choose a sector of the Space Station to view the exhibitions being hosted there!

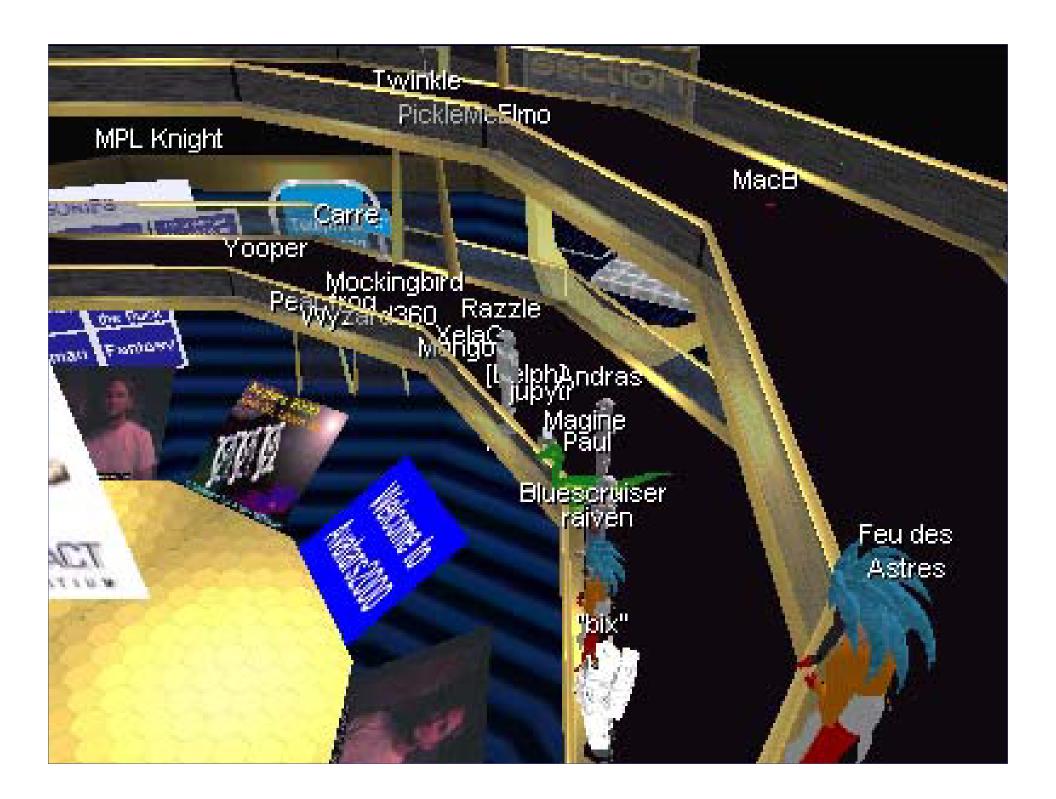
Sector D Exhibitions

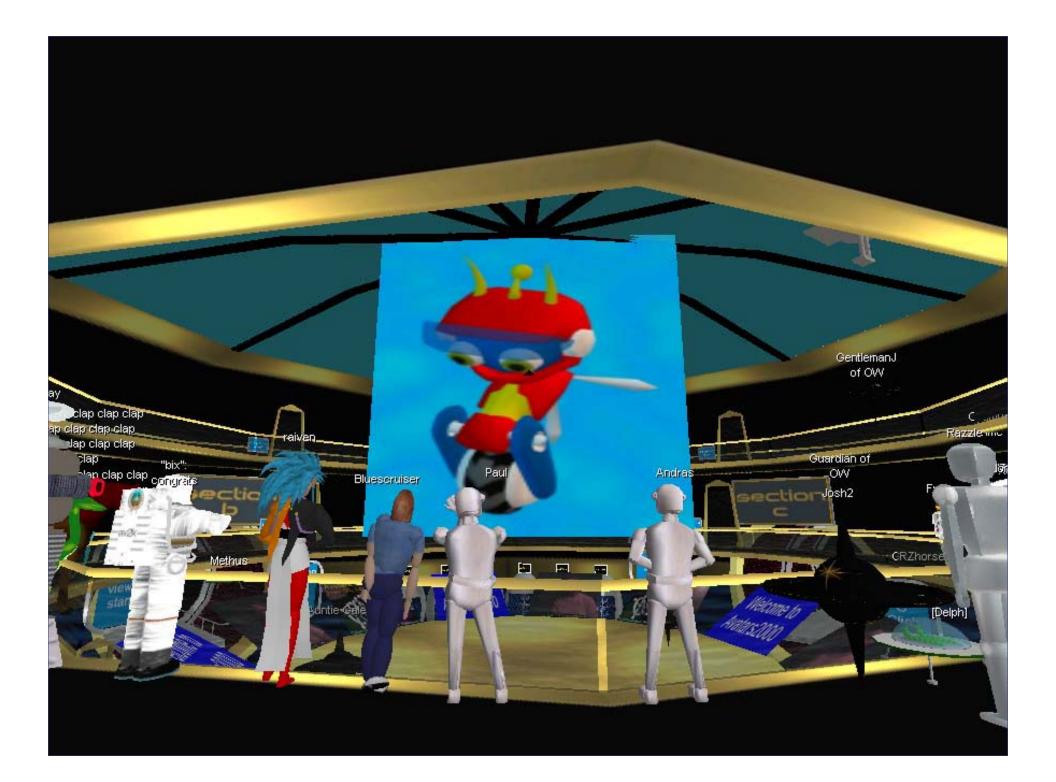
- 1. Raventhorne
- 2. Virtual World Alliance
- 3. Stuart Gold
- 4. SRT Enterprises
- 5. Justefyde Creations
- 6. U of C at Santa Cruz
- 7. Cornell University
- 8. Krex Direct
- 9. Holidays
- 10. AWTeen
- 11. Checkers / Chess
- 12. Spades / Trivia
- 13. Shapeshifter 3D
- 14. LadyBunny's AW Teleport Center
- 15. AW's Bingos
- 16. PRIDE
- 17. JKMT Builders
- 18. Matrix! World
- 19. Count Dracula
- 20. SW City

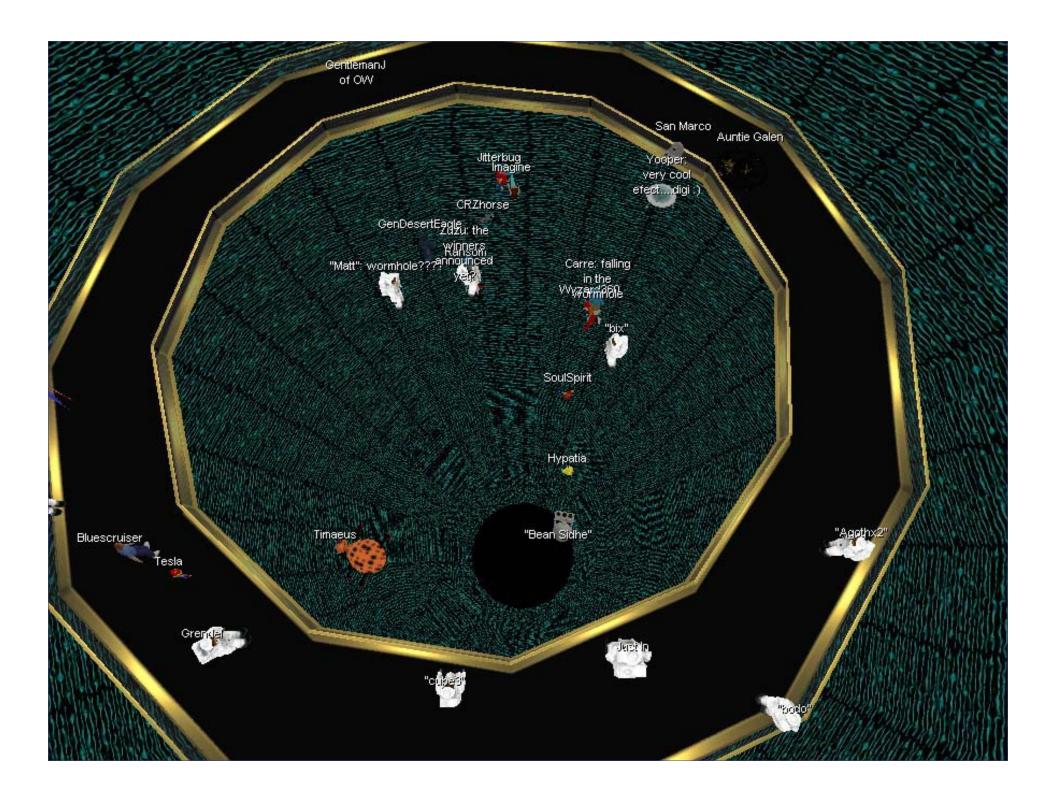
Booths Home

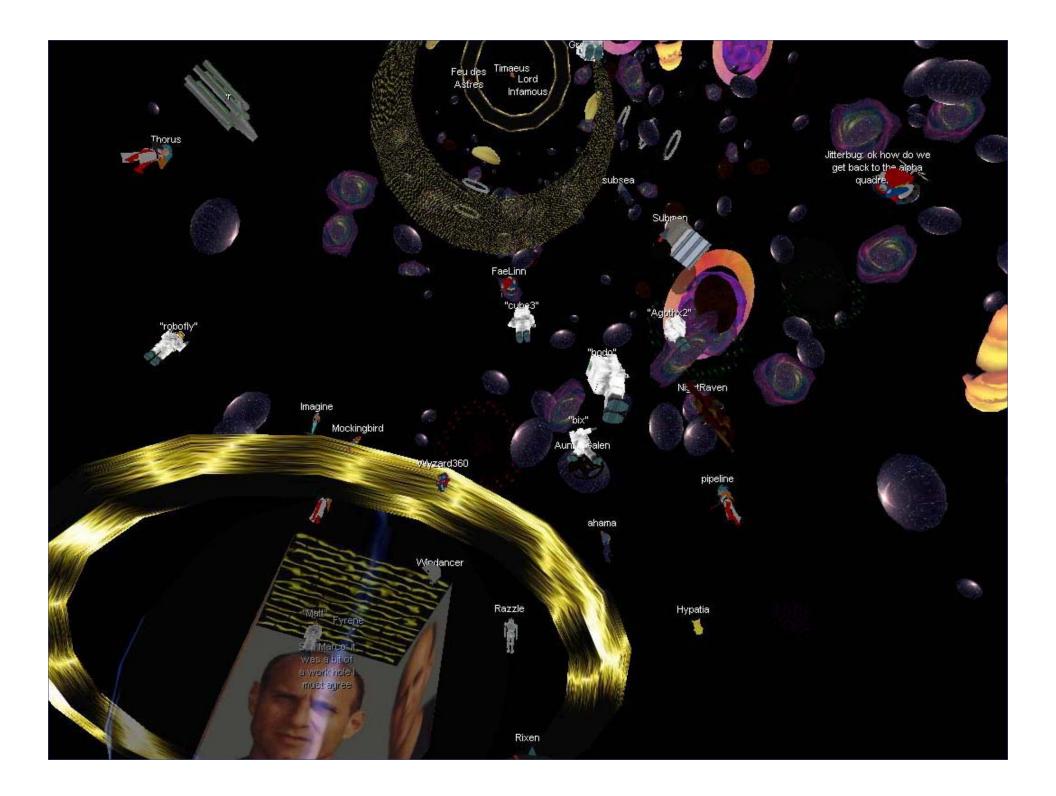












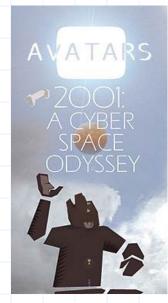


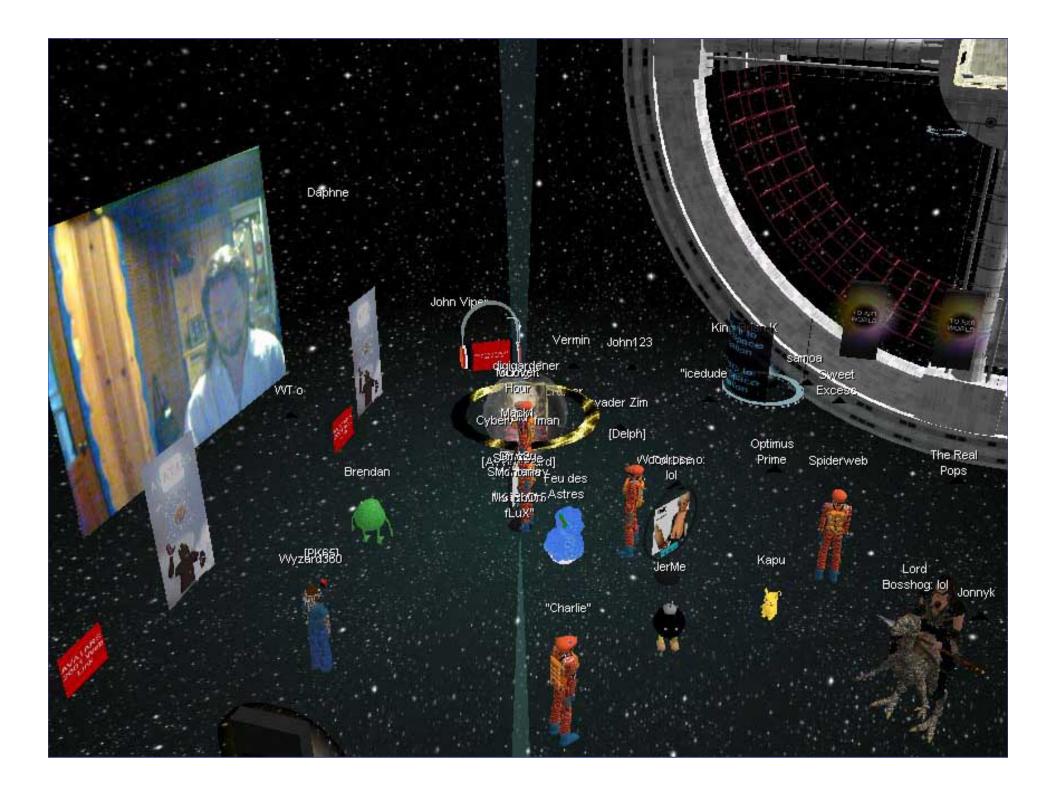


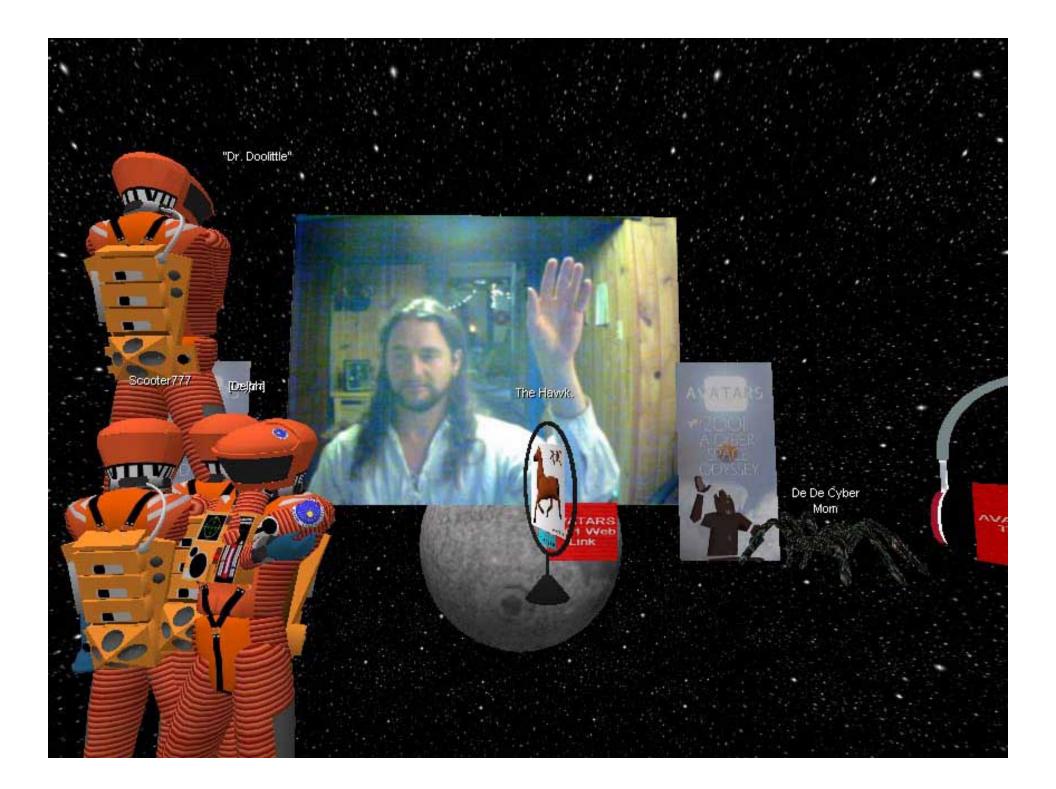


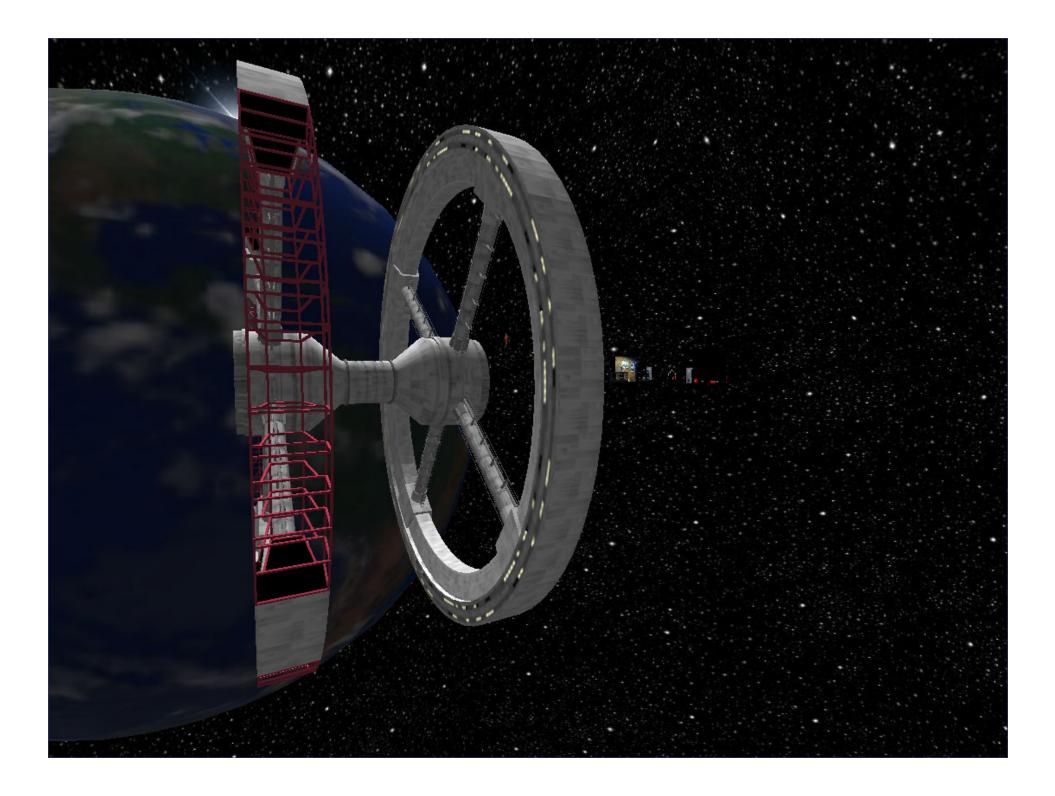
The Avatars Cyberconferences

Avatars 2001 An Avatar Cyberspace Odyssey
Dec 1-2, 2001



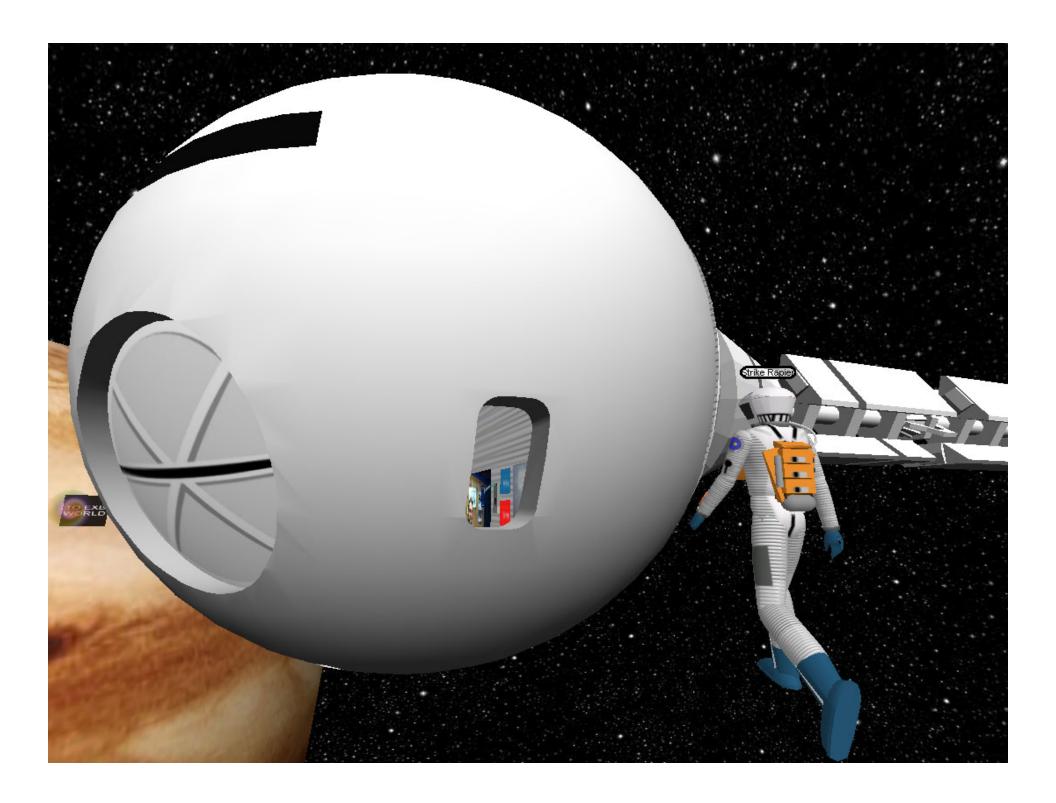


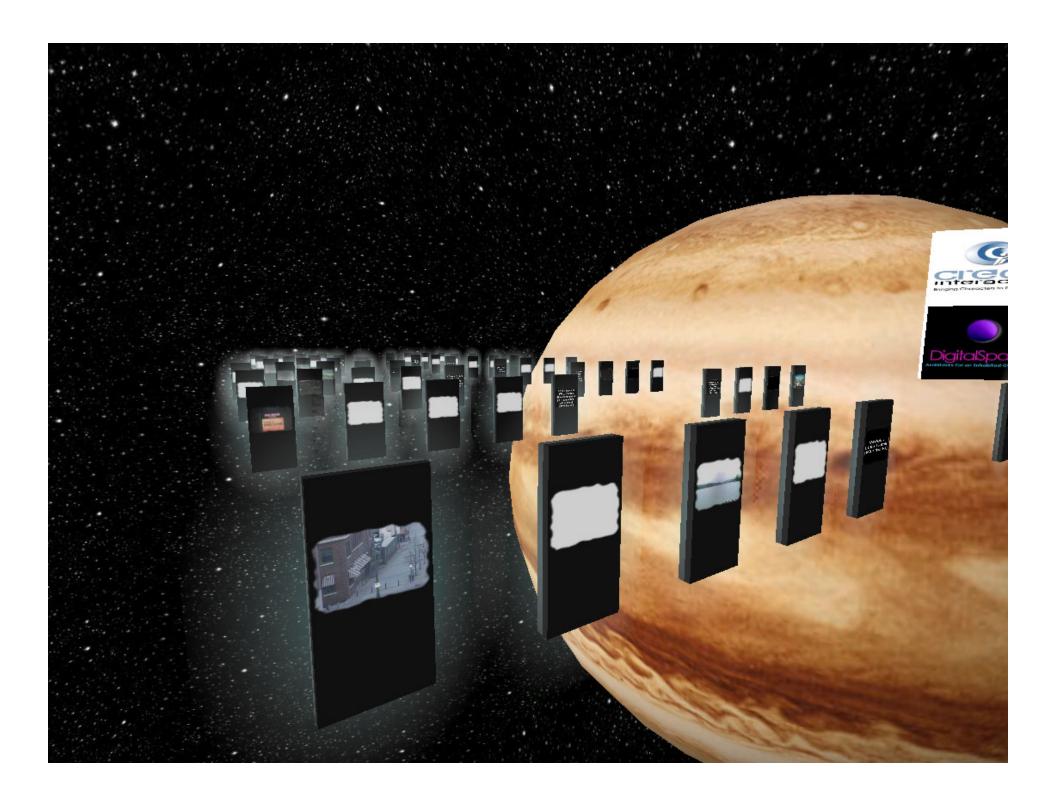


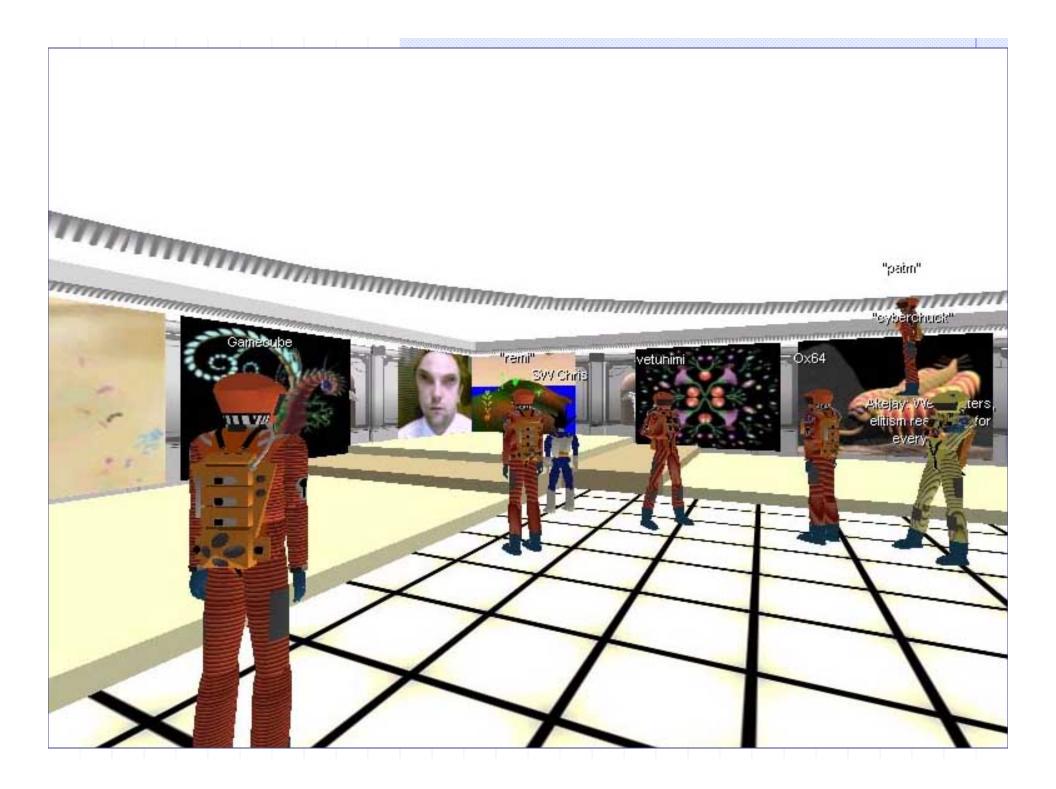


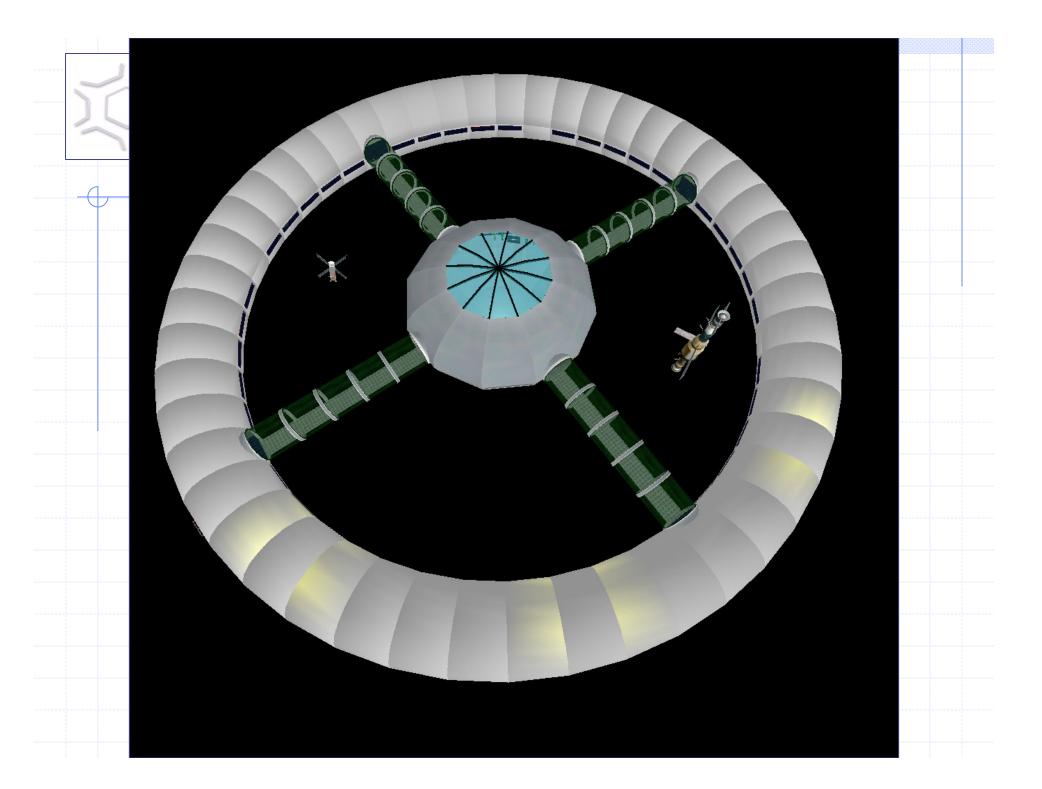


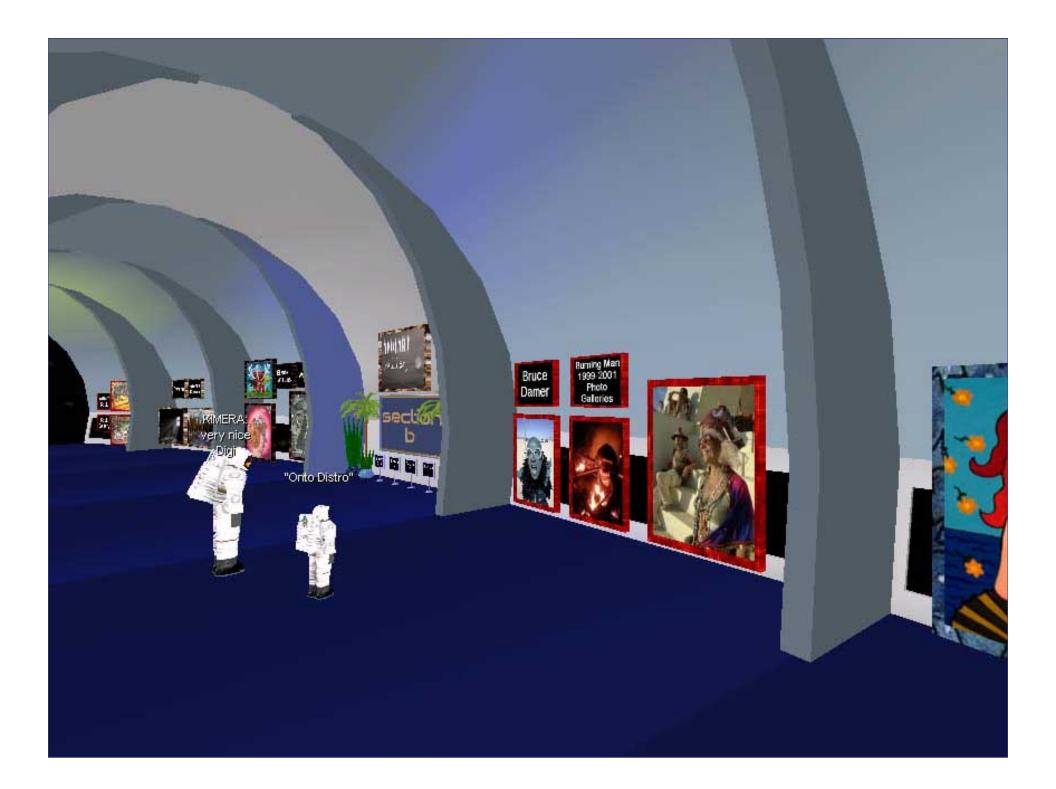


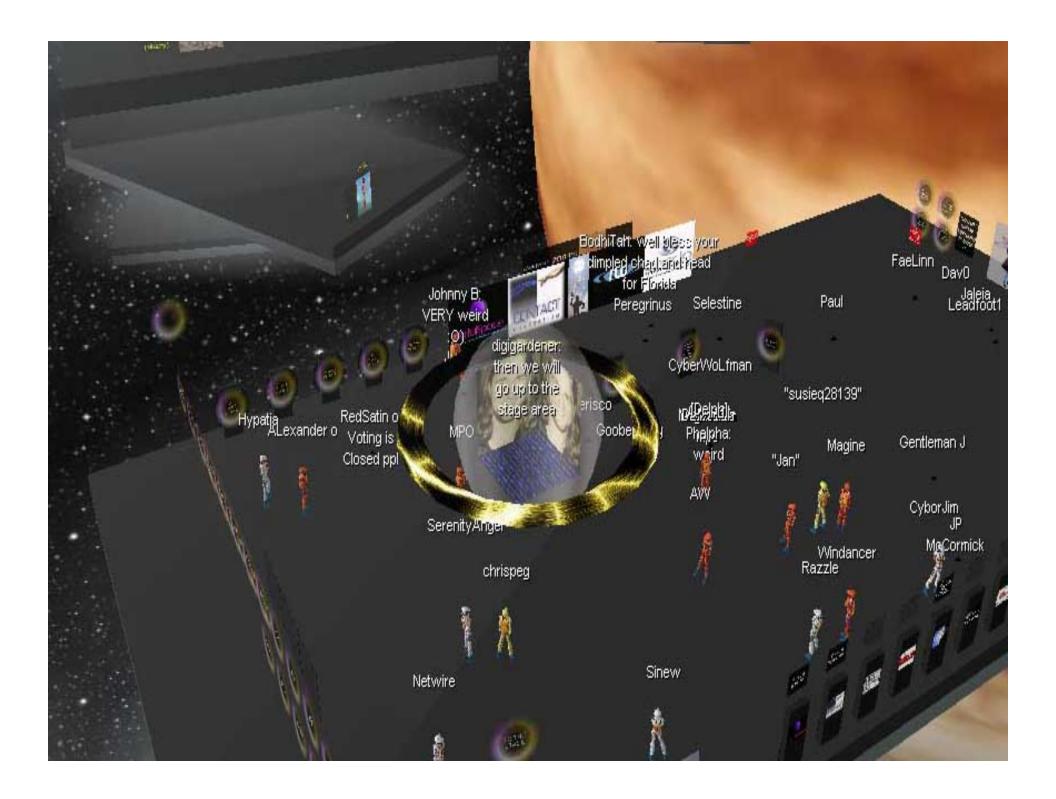


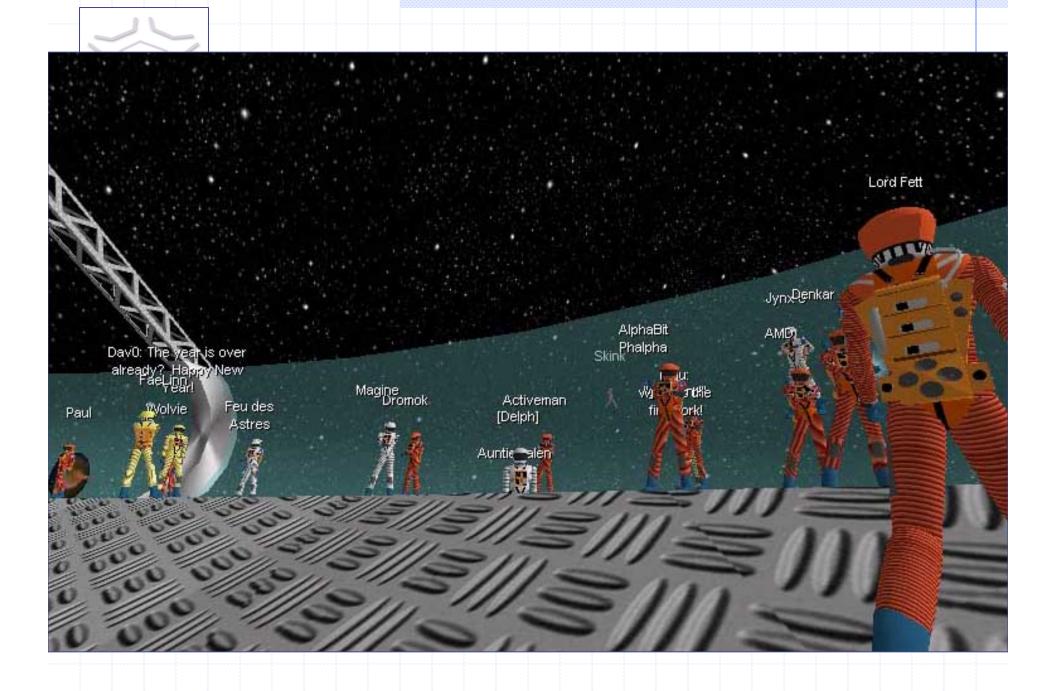


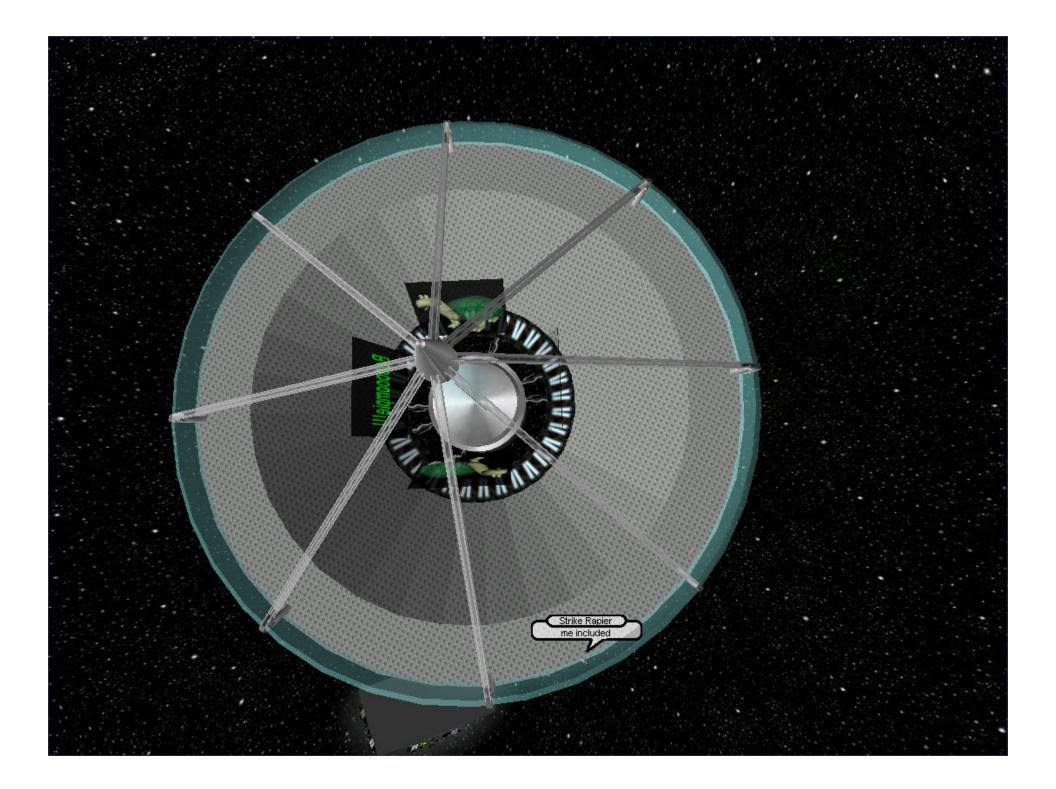


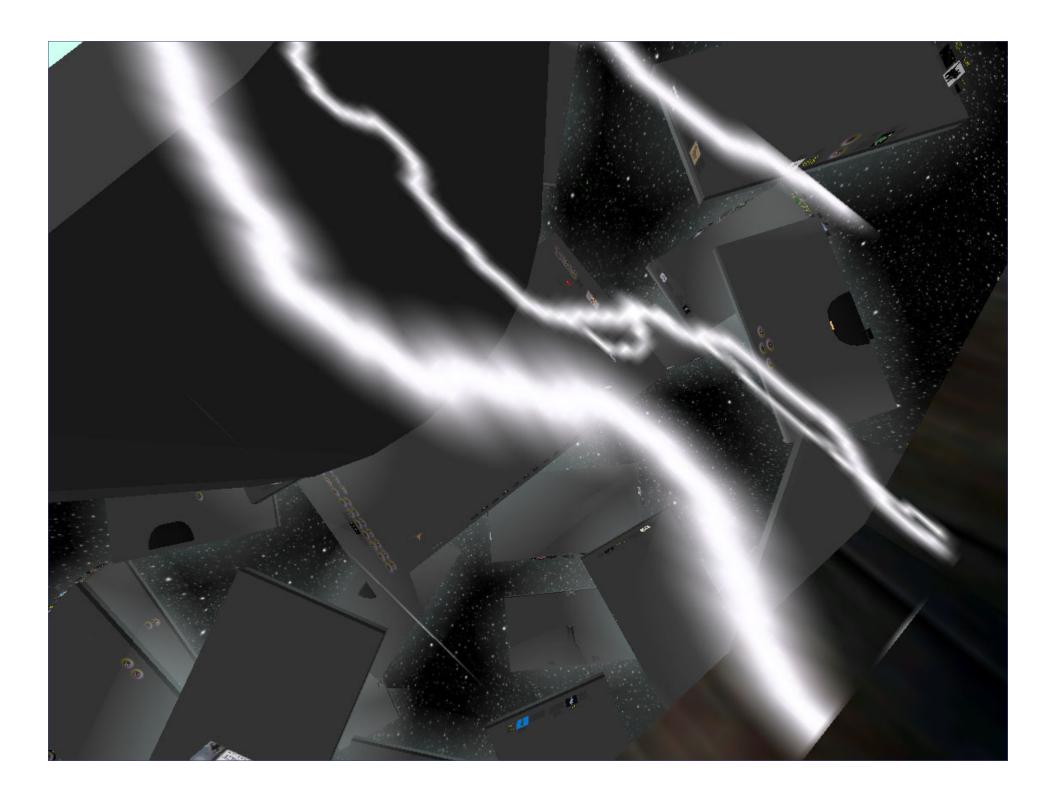


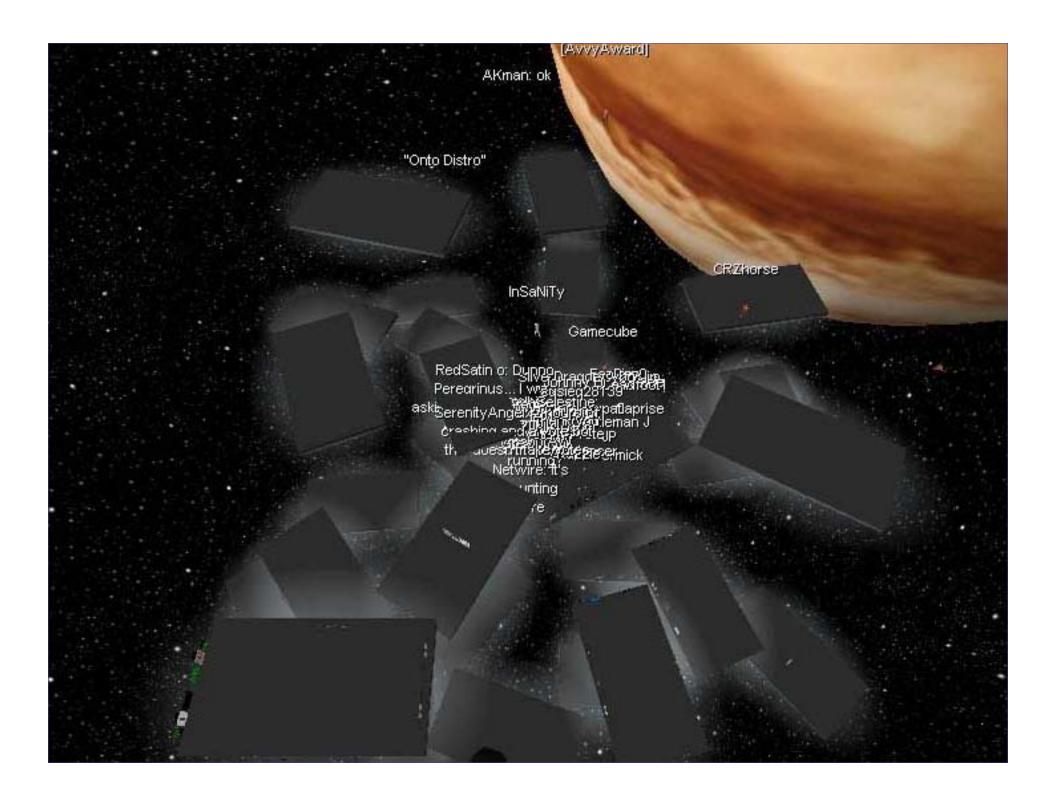














The Avatars Cyberconferences

Avatars 2002 A Merry Cyber Party Jan 3-5, 2003



2002 2003











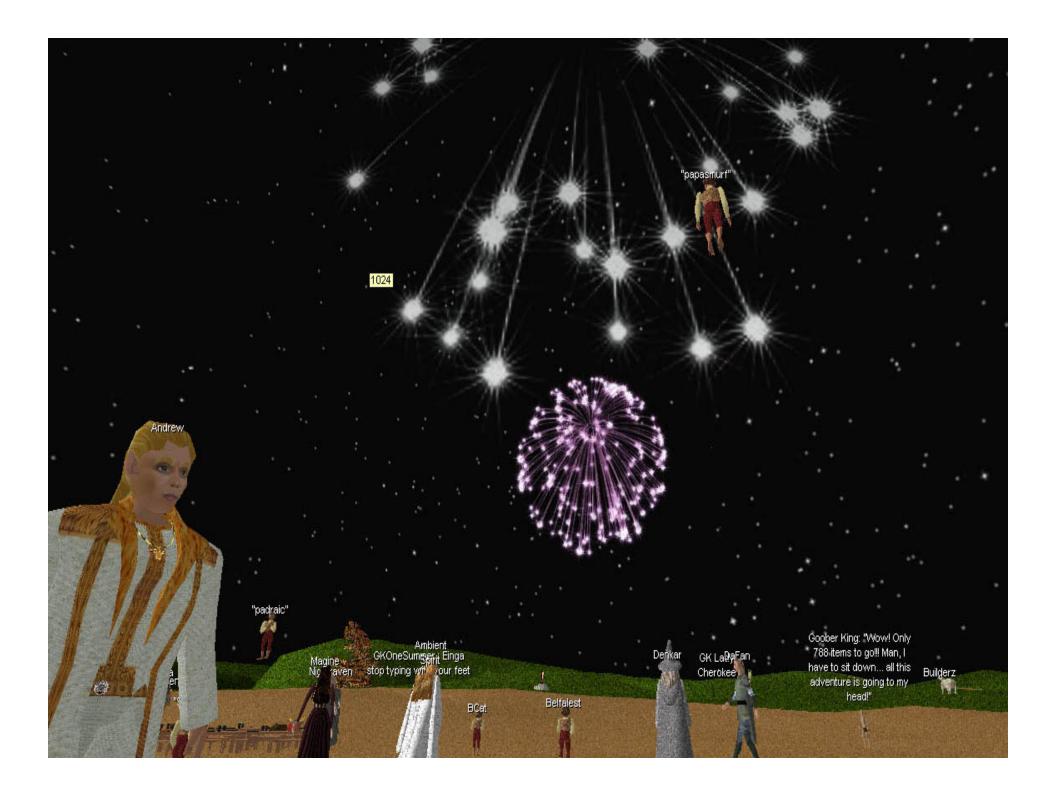


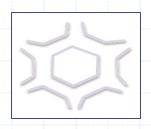








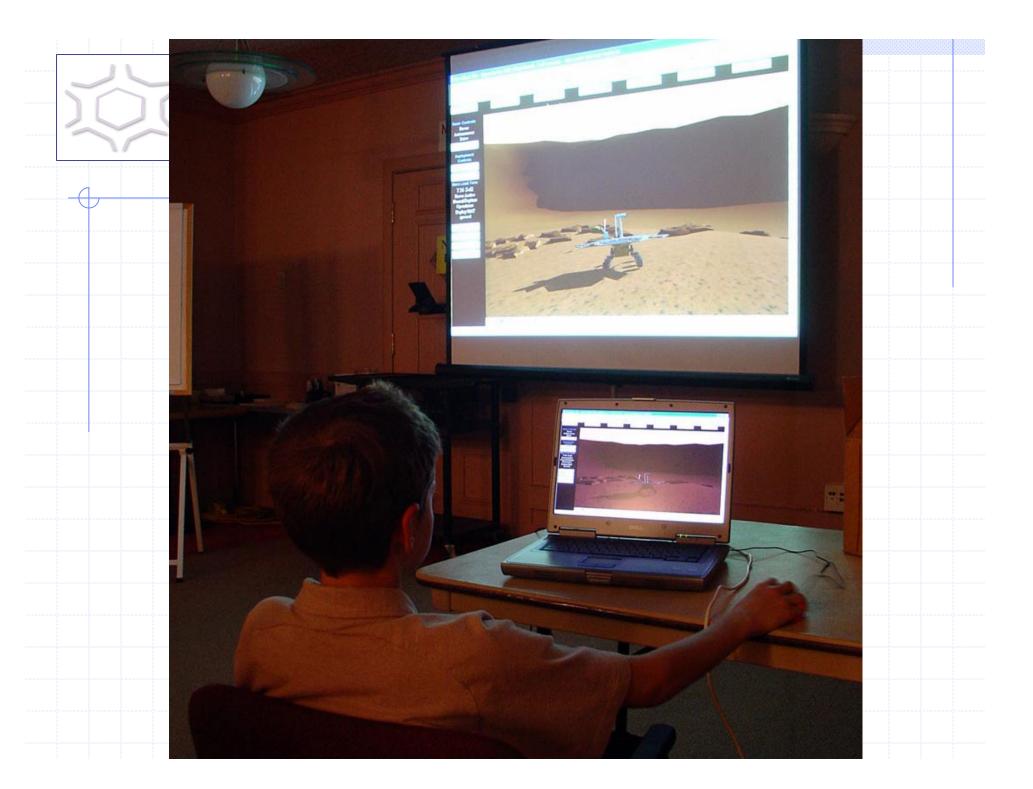




The Avatars Cyberconferences

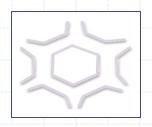
Avatars 2004 Avamars Mar 12-14, 2004





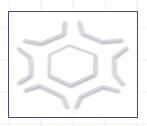






VIII. Acknowledgements and Resources

- Philip Rosedale, Robin Harper, Char, Jeska, Dustin and all the Lindens
- Contact Consortium
- DigitalSpace Corporation
- DigiBarn Computer Museum
- Virtual World Studios
- All the tireless providers and users of all the social virtual worlds platforms over the past thirty years.



Online Resources

- This presentation is at: www.ccon.org/vw-timeline/
- www.ccon.org Contact Consortium
- www.digitalspace.com The Digital Space Commons
- DigiBarn Computer Museum: www.digibarn.com
- Contact: Bruce Damer: <u>bdamer@digitalspace.com</u> 831 338 9400



Phase III: 2000s Third Generation bids for the Mainstream



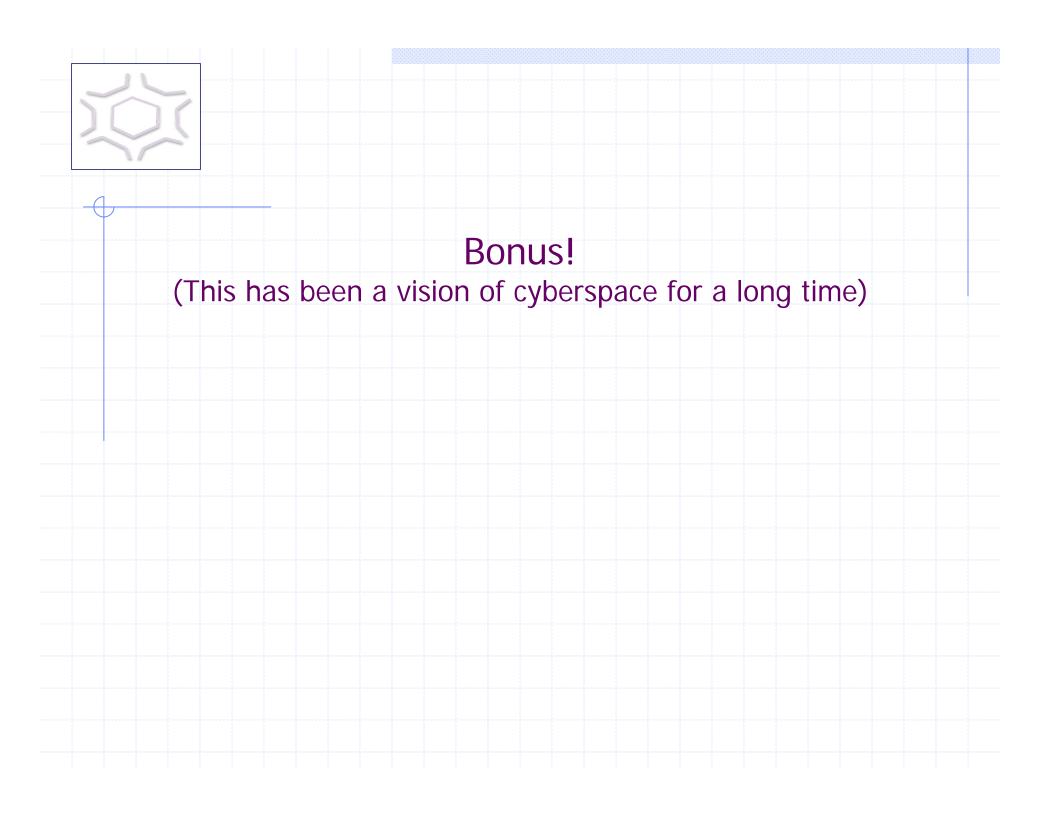
It's

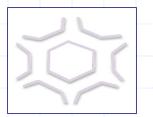
all in your

Good Hands!









"Escape" in Finite State Fantasies (1976) by Rich Didday





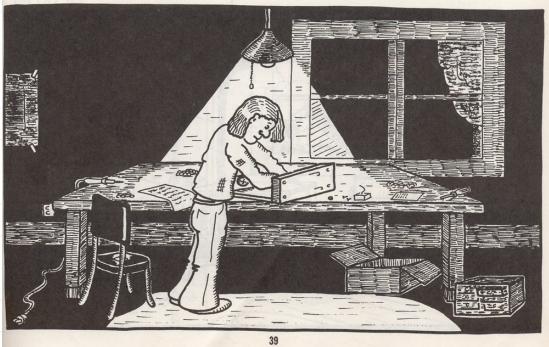






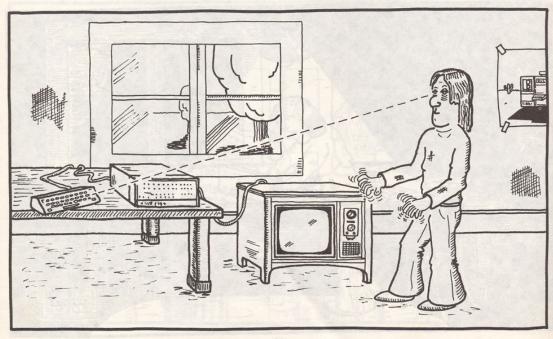


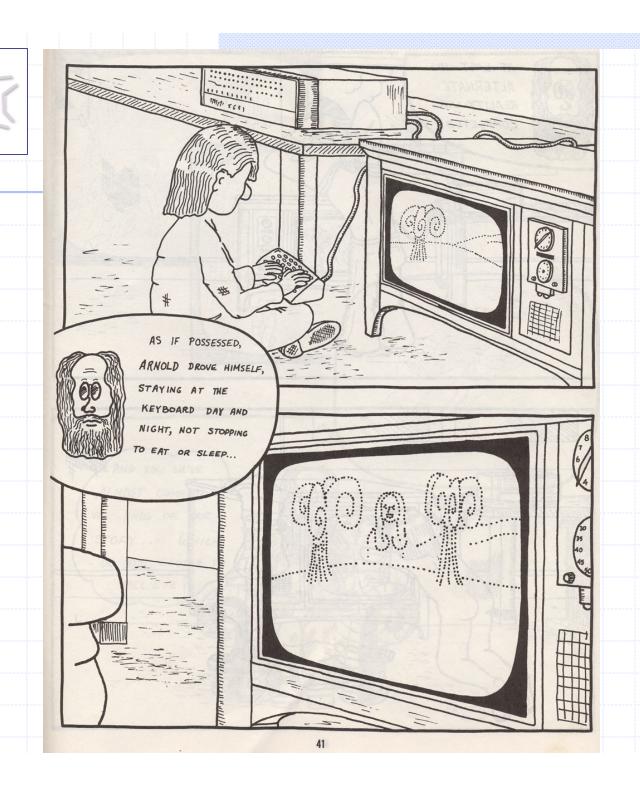


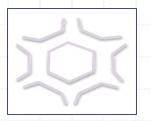




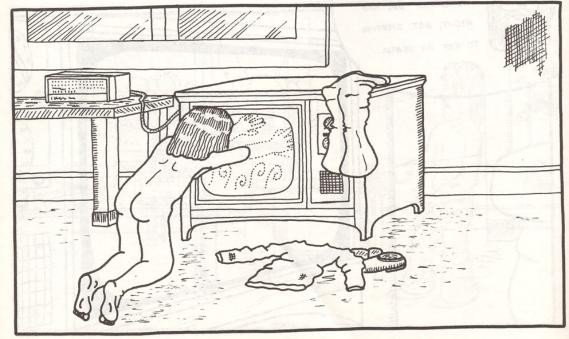


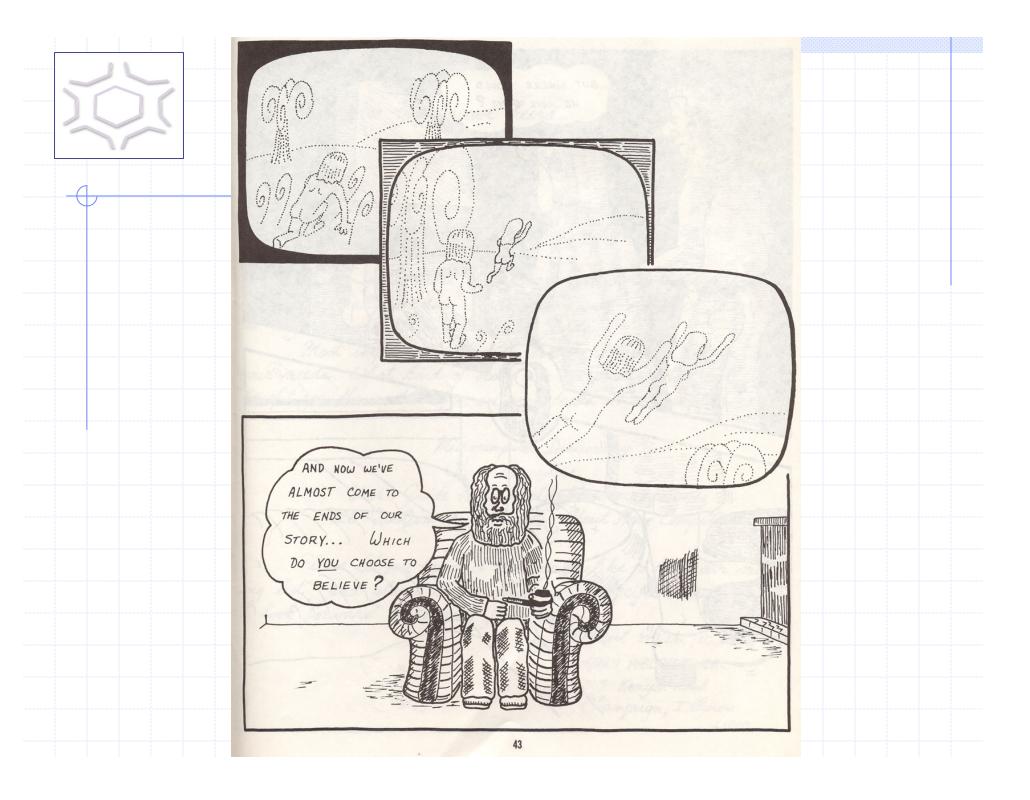


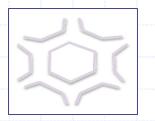


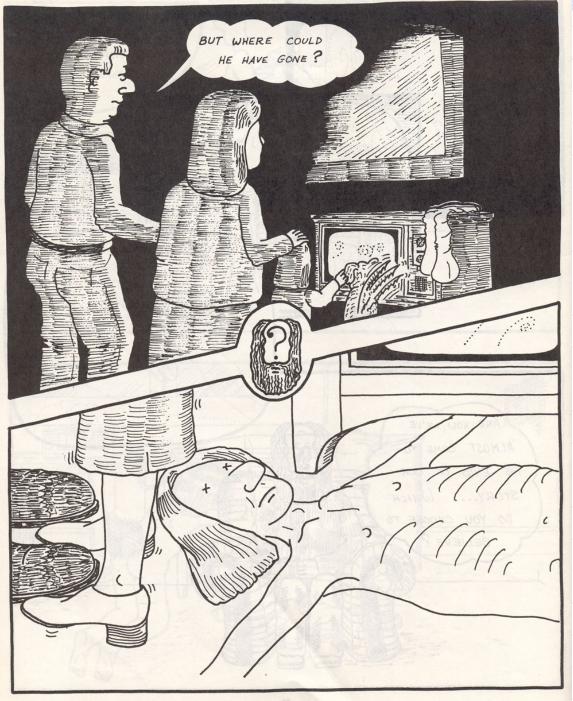


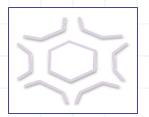




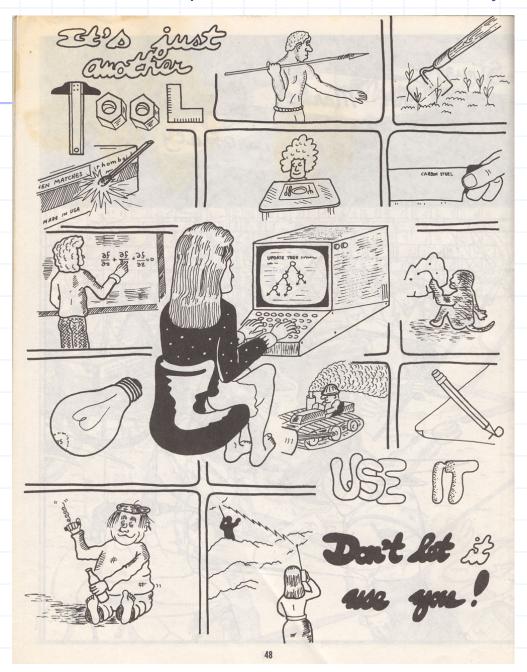








"The Personal Computer, Use it, Don't let it use you!





Future of Social Virtual Worlds discussion

- Make a buck, sustain high development and content creation costs
- Creating inclusive community experiences, sustainable companies
- Distributed vs centralized content
- Shared realities, political organization
- New medium of artistic expression
- Learning spaces, research environments
- Open source?
- Your thoughts?