

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Objectives

To provide mental ray rendering software for use by digital media companies and independent animators over the National Grid Pilot Platform.

Project Investigator / Manager

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Period of Project

Dec 2005 - Current

Website

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Abstract

The effort started off with a proof-of-concept. Upon its successful completion, we purchased commercial licenses to be made available for digital media companies on a pay-per-use or subscription model.

PROJECT DETAILS

Description

One of the sectors that Grid Computing has been found beneficial is the Digital Media industry where animation, 2D & 3D rendering leverage off compute resources available on a Grid, beyond the resources that an individual entity owns. The conventional solution involves high-end graphics hardware dedicated rendering farms, often stretched to meet business critical deadlines. A Grid solution distributes the rendering task across thousands of under-utilized (or idle) nodes and transforms such resources to create a massive rendering farm.

Mental ray is one of the more popular high-quality commercial software used in animation rendering. The effort to provide mental ray on the Grid started as a proof-of-concept.

The Digital Media Rendering Grid Proof of Concept aims:

- To establish the need for such a facility;
- To understand the ways in which animation houses in Singapore would like to use this facility;

- To understand the workflow of digital media content creation; and
- To provision the rendering part in order to help companies improve their delivery time and ultimately bid for jobs of larger scale.

The proof-of-concept was followed up with the purchase of 64 licenses of mental ray with the provisioning of the licenses for use by other organizations. The intention is to provide these licenses on a pay per-use or subscription business model and help local digital media companies to fulfill their need of compute resources for rendering without the need of heavy upfront investment.

Collaborating organizations:

- Infocomm Development Authority
- Media Development Authority
- Mental Images GmbH