

Newsletter #4. October 7, 2011

Welcome to another exciting WeTheme Newsletter. Last week we prepared for our 1/4 presentations and had some special guests visit us from Pittsburgh. It was very hectic and stressful but ultimately we had a lot of fun!

Visitors from Electric Owl Studios

On Monday, Patrick Mittereder and Phil Light from Electric Owl Studios came to visit. Electric Owl Studios was founded in 2007 which spun out of a student project from the Entertainment Technology Center. Their goal was to create kiosks that eased the fear and anxieties of children when visiting the doctor. From this they created Kids Interactive Creation Kiosks or K.I.C.K. to be placed in the emergency room waiting areas.

Don Marinelli, one of the founders of the ETC, graciously donated two kiosks: one for the hospital here in Funchal and the other for MET students to develop content for. During Patrick and Phil's one week stay, they gave workshops on how to develop content for the kiosks.



Preparing for 1/4 Presentations

Our preparation for 1/4 s began on Monday and carried on for the rest of the week. We first started preparing the PowerPoint presentation as well as adding the final touches on our poster, 1/2 sheets and website. We also finalized the schedule, setting dates for milestones and deliverables. With this schedule we took into consideration the arrival of our technology and when we will be able to start prototyping.

On Tuesday, however, we came to a breaking point. During this period, we realized that many of our concepts were too similar to one another and that our frustrations were blocking our creativity. So, we talked; we yelled; we even argued. But most importantly we communicated.

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Only by communicating as a team were we able to remove the mental barriers that kept us from moving forward. From that point on we were able to work together to vary our concepts.





The Presentation

Friday was ¼ presentation day. We presented to three very different groups that all gave great feedback. While many people had their favorites we were told by faculty and our guests to think about implementing the concepts that best utilized the four screens and that also utilized the least amount of technology since our team has more artists. Overall we felt our presentation was a success and would like to thank our guests for participating.

Next Week

This week we will narrow down our concepts to two: one interactive and one non-interactive experience.

