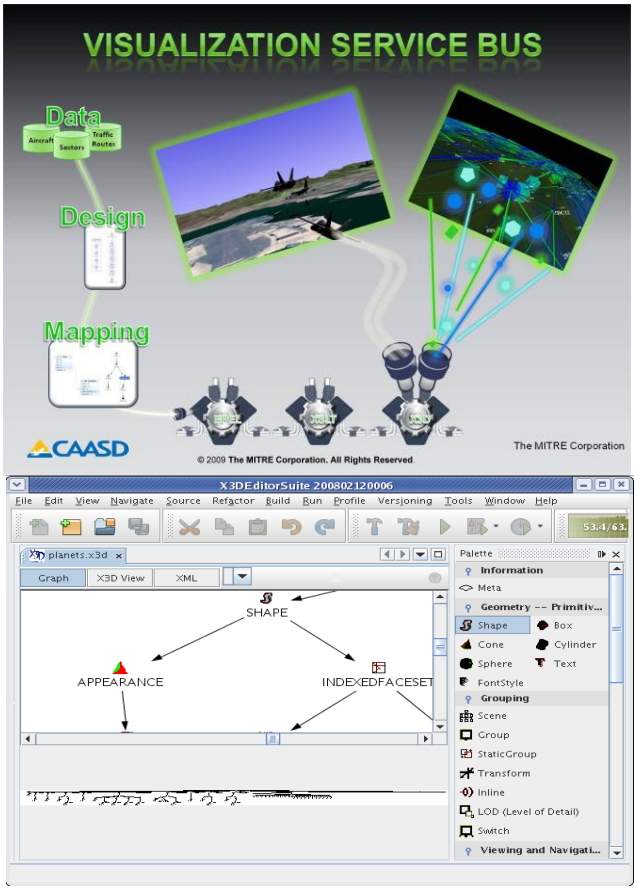
The MITRE Corporation joins Web3D Consortium

Menlo Park, California - The Web3D Consortium announces that The MITRE Corporation's Center for Advanced Aviation System Development (CAASD) has joined the Web3D Consortium as a Directing Member to assist in developing and maturing the X3D specification. MITRE works in the public interest by operating Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) for the U.S. Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, as well as the Internal Revenue System and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. FFRDCs address long-term problems of considerable complexity, analyze technical questions with a high degree of objectivity, and provide creative and cost-effective solutions to government problems.

By joining Web3D as a Directing Member, MITRE intends to take an active role in maturing X3D as the ISO standard that integrates delivery of real-time 3D graphics with the power of XML on the Web. Significant MITRE work includes creating dynamic data-driven 3D visualizations of the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS) to extend the situational awareness of air traffic analysts and improve flight safety, both in the air and on the ground. MITRE is researching and demonstrating ways to integrate X3D within a NAS-like infrastructure for use by analysts (non-programmers) to visually portray their inquiry and analysis results. The research specifically enables these capabilities via Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) technologies, specifically employing an Enterprise Service Bus (ESB).



The X3D ISO standard defines a runtime system and delivery mechanism for real time 3D content and applications running on a network. X3D supports several file format encodings and programming languages, providing unsurpassed interoperability for 3D data and significant flexibility in manipulating, communicating and displaying scenes interactively. X3D incorporates the latest advances in graphics hardware to provide the best performance and visual impact in an extensible architecture that supports ongoing evolution. X3D's XML-encoded scene graph enables 3D to be incorporated into web services architectures and distributed environments, facilitating the movement of 3D data between applications.

The MITRE team is contributing their current proof-of-capability demonstration to the Web3D Consortium's open-source X3D software and model archive on SourceForge.net. According to MITRE Senior Software Systems Engineer David Callner *"X3D provides excellent flexibility for web-based 3D graphics, and enables users to specify 3D programs in an XML file. MITRE is looking forward to working with the Consortium to help mold the X3D standard and increase its acceptance in the Web3D community."*

MITRE has already made key contributions to the evolution of the X3D specification. Directing member of the Consortium, Don Brutzman from Naval Postgraduate School observed "*The X3D Working Group is thrilled that MITRE is ready to take a more active role. These code contributions push the envelope, making continued progress even easier for other innovators*."

Alan Hudson, President of both Web3D Consortium and Yumetech Inc. stated, *"The Consortium warmly welcomes MITRE and is looking forward to working closely with them to further improve X3D's functionality and interoperability."*

Such contributions help X3D further accelerate the rate of cutting-edge graphics innovation in the annual ISO-specification updates. *"The Web3D Consortium has long recognized that government organizations are a key to driving worldwide industry adoption of Web3D standards. It is through close cooperation between the government organizations and the industry that X3D will become a reliable open platform for real-time 3D applications on the Web."* noted Anita Havele, Executive Director of Web3D Consortium.

MITRE is a non-profit corporation engaged in providing scientific and technical services to various government organizations. MITRE manages three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) for the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Taking on the nation's most critical challenge in defense, aviation, and enterprise modernization—and provide innovative, practical solutions. MITRE has corporate offices in Bedford, Massachusetts, and McLean, Virginia, as well as 60 sites around the world. More information on The MITRE Corporation can be found at http://www.mitre.org.

About the Web3D Consortium

The Web3D Consortium is a member-funded industry consortium committed to the creation and deployment of open, royalty-free standards that enable the communication of real-time 3D across applications, networks, and XML web services. The Consortium works closely with the ISO and W3C

standardization bodies to maximize market opportunities for its membership. All Consortium members are empowered to participate and vote in Consortium working groups and are able to accelerate the delivery of their cutting-edge 3D platforms and applications through access to specification drafts and conformance tests before public deployment. More information on the Consortium and Consortium membership is available at www.web3d.org

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