Travelling in the Metaverse
Defining Your Travel Outfit and Travel Pack

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OpenSimulator is an open source multi-platform, multi-user 3D application server. It can be used to create a virtual environment (or world) which can be accessed through a variety of clients, on multiple protocols. It also has an optional facility (the Hypergrid) to allow users to visit other OpenSimulator installations across the web from their ‘home’ OpenSimulator installation. In this way, it is the nascent distributed Metaverse.

Out of the box, OpenSimulator can be used to simulate environments similar to Second Life™, given that it supports SL’s messaging protocol. As such, these virtual worlds can be accessed with the regular SL viewers. However, OpenSimulator does not aim to become a clone of the Second Life server platform. Rather, the project aims to enable innovative feature development for virtual worlds and the Metaverse at large.
Vue – Virtual University of Edinburgh
OpenVCE – Virtual Collaboration Environment
I-Room – a Virtual Space for Intelligent Interaction

Social Web + Agents + Plans + Virtual Worlds

http://vue.ed.ac.uk
http://openvce.net
http://openvce.net/iroom
For the Metaverse I would like to see...

- Notion of a single Metaverse,
- With interconnected parts (grid of grids)
- With a single instance (shard) world
- With unique locations accepting duplication for scale.
- Where travel is possible with a common identity
- And avatar appearance via a “travel outfit”,
- Carrying a suitable “travel pack” or “suitcase” (intelligently filtered, permissions-based and adapted as needed between source and destination).
- Wallet with access to interchangeable currency.
- Where radically different (or newer) technologies and user interactivity modalities can be introduced alongside legacy facilities
- Which can gradually build strong communities and shared content.
Travel Pack…

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Sintel Avatar is CC-BY 3.0 Blender Foundation www.sintel.org and backpack is CC-BY 3.0 by JarrHead.
Travel Pack Might Contain…

- One initial outfit worn for the trip
- Other outfits for the destination (evening party wear, business meeting attire, space suit or scuba gear).
- Travel ID/credentials
- Travel wallet and funds, cryptocurrencies
- Other objects (gifts to use at the destination or space for souvenirs obtained there).
- The pack protocol might allow for appropriate export checks from the source location/platform, conversion requirements, and entry checks to the destination.
- We can even envisage a pre-travel pack checking service to advise on compatibility of the contents.
Things to Consider…

• Concept of a “Home Base” for the user.
• Form of user or avatar “presence” on home grid when travelling.
• Mitre CVW idea of IMPs (Intelligent Multimodal Participants) that could co-exist in virtual spaces to monitor activity, give assistance in the room, or relay information to users whose attention was elsewhere.
• “Travel Kit” specific to a type of destination could be intelligently managed to allow items to be obtained and used at destination, but packed safely for storage when returning home.

** 1994-97: Mitre Collaborative Virtual Workspace Intelligent Multimodal Participants**
Emergence of Standards…

- Standards need to allow for radical growth and should not ossify current ideas.
- Open and developing standards needed.
- Beware of industry driven limitations.

- VERY early stage for standards.
- Consider approach taken for other N <-> M interoperability scenarios (e.g. NIST Process Specification Language)…
- Use an Intermediate Interchange Format (see PIF)
- Allow for development by version numbers.
Emergence of Standards...

- **LibOMV – LibOpenMetaverse** – is a collection of .NET libraries written in c# for interacting with 3d virtual world simulators. The core library implements the protocol, networking and client functionality.
- **Open Grid Protocol** – Proposals 2008 (Linden Lab Wiki)
- **3D Web Think Tank** – Brainstorming – Kick Starting the Future of the Metaverse – Blog Post on May 5, 2013
- **Open Metaverse Interoperability Group** – [https://omigroup.org](https://omigroup.org) – Bridging virtual worlds by designing and promoting shared protocols.
- Consider **Ontology** of terms and concepts involved.
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Blog Posts of Simulation and Training Exercises

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http://vue.ed.ac.uk
http://openvce.net
http://openvce.net/iroom
http://blog.inf.ed.ac.uk/atate/
Venus’s Beach House
Space City, OSGrid
This presentation is available on-line at:
http://www.ai.ai.ed.ac.uk/~ai/

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