Virtual Daily Times

Issue 8, Thursday June 4 2009
virtual news that’s fit to print

Meet Beat
Eighth Meeting: CVE

The eighth meeting of the summer virtual computer science camp will be held at 5pm MDT (4pm PDT). The session will be held in the Idaho server of CVE.

CVE: What’s in it for You?
CVE is intended to have some educational value for you, too. What can you learn from this virtual environment? Well, it is your opportunity to ask some developers how virtual environments are put together. And, its your chance to invent or propose what should be in an educational virtual world.

Seventh Meeting: Harpies
Our seventh session was action-packed. With four participants, the goal was to explore the differences between individual and group-oriented combat. First new players were taken to the main throne room of the Horde to meet Thrall, the wisest and most powerful orc of our age and leader of the Horde. Then we went out into Durotar, fought harpies and evil burning blade cultists. We were able to overcome enemies far higher level when we played with group-smarts, and we were able to get one of our team killed when we weren’t careful enough about how many enemies we took on at once.

Since world of Warcraft has a lot of combat, one of the interesting topics is how different team members play different roles on the team: there is the puller, the crowd manager, the tank, the healer, and so on. If you are unfamiliar with some of these roles, you can learn about them in a future WoW session.

CVE Update
Thanks to much hard work, CVE is now running on XP and is much more friendly to machines with lower-end capabilities. Dr. J is testing on an old XP Home machine with a 64MB NVIDIA FX5200 graphics card, about the low end of what it might hope to run CVE.

Quest Suggestions
Here is a list of CVE quests you can try out.
• Find as many of the Non-Player Characters mentioned on Dr. J's NPC catalog as you can (3 per NPC). Not all of them will be available all the time.
• Try the NMSU server, not just the Idaho server (10). What are the differences?
• Attend the meet (60).
• Do a Linux quest (10). Is it possible to do Linux quests without installing Linux?
• Do a Java quest (10). Is it possible to do Java quests without installing Java?
• Do an IDE quest (10). What is the purpose of bundling an IDE into a virtual environment?
• Invite someone into a text editing session (10). Why would you want someone to see as you type?
• Write your own NPC (20). Copy an existing NPC, and edit it to make up a new personality. Make a sample image.
• Write your own quest activities (Varies, 5-20 each for relevant quests, more if we use them).