

Vista Royale Computer Club
Meeting Minutes March 1, 2018

Jurgen Schwanitz and Christopher Martinson of ACT Computers were our guest speakers this week and we were treated to a whole new facet of computing that we had never experienced before. According to Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_reality

“Virtual reality (VR) is a computer-generated scenario that simulates a realistic experience.”

Jurgen explained that Christopher is their resident expert at ACT Computer in regard to this new phenomenon in addition to his Apple expertise. He brought his own huge gaming Desktop set-up and headsets which he used with five member volunteers who were willing to try out this new experience while the rest of watched on the screen. His PC gaming computer was built by him, to his specifications and is equipped with 10 fans and 10 hard drives. He set up sensors in the room to define the space and made sure that members were comfortable during their experience. Jurgen explained that VR is about 3 years old and what their store usually recommends for an initial setup. The cost to get started is typically \$1500 to \$2000 and includes the computer, VIVE set-up, video board, sensors and headset. Christopher said it was easy to setup as there is an excellent tutorial to get you up and running quickly. Soon you will be able to have much smaller headsets which will run on a special radio frequency and your computer may be 'water cooled'; all innovations gamers are anxiously awaiting. Some of the games use a joystick, trac-ball or a steering wheel.

After getting set up with the headsets and 2 handheld controllers with triggers, each member in turn tried out a different type of software which included:

Nature: a undersea experience swimming with fish and sharks
Mountain top in Washington state with a robotic dog... don't fall off the mountain
NASA- walk on Mars surface with the Rover via actual NASA 3-D photos
IKEA-navigating around an IKEA designed kitchen and making pancakes
Human Biology-taking a look at your own MRI and visualizing your skeleton, etc.
Star Trek-play with Bridge Crew, Mr. Spock and all the characters
Solar System from outer space, watching all the planets rotate the our Sun
Google Earth- fly to about any spot in the world and actually go to ground level and see 110 degrees. Don Hromy cruised around Vero Beachlooking at Vista Royale and then headed over the 17th Street Bridge. There are VR tours you can purchase with narration of many tourist spots in the world with more being produced every day. There is even a local virtual reality 'Honor Flight' for WWII Veterans who are not physically able to actually go to Washington, DC, and see the memorials in person. Currently some car companies let you 'test drive' one of their new cars in Virtual-Reality.

Because our internet was not performing well as usual, Chris was not able to play any games with other online participants in the Rec Room, but they can include interactive online car racing, playing with paint balls, tennis, a multitude of other sports and even games for children. See some at Stream http://store.steampowered.com/app/471710/Rec_Room/

Apparently almost all VR games work with VIVE which is made by VALVE as they all use the same platform. This presentation from ACT Computers exceeded our expectations once again; gaining new knowledge with humor. What's not to like! Now we all have new ideas for ourselves or grandchildren in regard to up and coming innovations in the computer world. A big thank you to our member volunteers for your participation: Donna, Vicky, Linda, David, Don

Next week Abbie Walters from AARP will be our guest speaker and it will be a senior oriented presentation including Care-giving issues, Senior Finance and Losing your Medical ID; all subjects that are of interest and concern to those of us in a 55+ community. She seems to have a very dynamic personality and I am looking forward to her talk. Bring a friend, spouse, neighbor..... 9:30 Thursday morning March 8th in the Pine Arbor Kitchen.

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