Technical Animator

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Profile -

I write tools, build pipelines, prototype features, and create art assets to help teams get art into games. I love making games and making things work. I collaborate with artists and programmers to solve problems, eliminate communication barriers, and ship content to players.

Skills

Hard Skills:

Languages:

Python, PyMEL, OpenMaya API, PySide, PyQt, Mel, C#

Software:

Maya, Unreal Engine, Unity, Photoshop, Blender, 3ds Max

Version Control:

Perforce, Git, SVN

Soft Skills:

Tools Development:

Test Driven Development, R&D, UI, Documentation

3D Art:

Rigging, Skinning, Animation, Modeling, UV Layout

Interpersonal:

Leadership, Teamwork, Mentorship

Language Skills:

| English | Native | •••• |
|-----------|--------|------|
| German | A2-B1 | •••• |
| Icelandic | В1 | •••• |

Experience

Senior Technical Animator | Star Stable Online

Star Stable Entertainment | Stockholm, Sweden October 2020 – Present

Character production for an 11-year-old MMO developed in an in-house game engine.

- Key contributor in releasing a new, more-customizable, backwards-compatible Player Character.
- Developed Maya tools such as: animation retargeter, scene validator, clothing refitter, and exporters.
- Rigged, skinned, and implemented in-game a variety of biped and quadruped characters.
- Helped research and develop new game engine features and character rig features.
- Supported and mentored a 16-person character team and liaisoned with the engine team.
- Assisted with the hiring process of new team members: identifying project needs, interfacing with recruitment team, interviewing candidates, and onboarding new hires.
- Trained and mentored multiple teams on Perforce best practices and branch/merge strategies.

Art Lead / Senior Technical Artist | Warlords of Aternum

InnoGames | Hamburg, Germany July 2017 – April 2020

Supervised five artists on a 28-person development team on a mobile game project.

- Hired as a technical artist and promoted to art lead of the project a year later.
- Responsible for HR management of the art team, release planning, and art direction.
- Developed Maya tools and a shared art tools repo used by multiple InnoGames projects.
- Maintained existing and implemented new animation, character, and environment art assets.
- Trained artists on modeling best practices for deformation, rigging, skinning; as well as Maya and Unity.

Senior Technical Artist | Unannounced Title

MZ | Hamburg, Germany December 2015 – April 2017

Art tools and pipeline automation for an in-house mobile games engine.

- Designed, developed, unit tested, and documented a suite of Maya rigging, animation, and export tools.
- Modular auto-rigging system for body parts to be lego-bricked together to fit varied characters.
- Auto-rig templates that allow a user-defined biped or quadruped to be rigged within moments.
- Meta-rig system that rigging tools were built upon that made them versitile and resilient.

Tools and pipeline development for the graphics team on EVE Online.

- Built and maintained art tools for the graphics, character, marketing, and audio teams.
- Regularly performed code reviews and mentored other members of the team.
- Helped to maintain high code quality in our art pipeline by practicing test driven development.
- Provided live support for the art team by trouble-shooting software issues.

Senior Technical Artist | Wishingtooth World

TRC Family Entertainment | Msida, Malta February 2012 – November 2012

Prototyped and developed the art pipeline for a cancelled MMO project in Unity.

- Developed a modular character pipeline used to create customizable in-game characters.
- Rigged main playable character and several NPC characters.
- Wrote modelling, animation, skinning, and general utility tools to speed production.

Character Technical Artist | EVE Online™

CCP Games | Reykjavík, Iceland April 2010 – January 2012

Technical Artist on the character team responsible for delivering the EVE Online Character Creator.

- Developed and maintained art tools for both Maya and Jessica (CCP's game engine).
- Renovated automated skinning pipeline to be more flexible and resilient.
- Played a major role in planning and executing an unexpected character skeleton update.

Technical Artist | the Agency™

Sony Online Entertainment | Seattle, WA May 2007 – June 2009

Responsible for optimizing and preserving the visual quality of character art assets.

- Helped develop and document the character pipeline and renovated our skinning process.
- Wrote Maya tools for the character, animation, and environment teams.
- Skinned and built LOD meshes for over one hundred 3D assets for a modular character system.

3D Animation Instructor | Intro to Maya

International Academy for Design and Technology January 2009 – June 2009

Taught an introductory course in 3D modeling and animation to college students.

- I gave students their first exposure to 3D in IADT's curriculum.
- Curriculum included navigation, 3D modeling, texturing, rigging, and animation in Maya.

Education -

Associate of Applied Arts (AAA)
3D Computer Animation

Digipen Institute of Technology | Redmond, WA September 2005 – April 2007

Associate of Applied Sciences (AAS)

Umpqua Community College | Roseburg, OR September 2003 – June 2005

References available on request.