#### The Veripeditus AR Game Framework

Enabling everyone to freely create Augmented Reality Games

Eike Tim Jesinghaus, Dominik George FOSDEM 2017 • 2017-02-04



Lüttringhausen Rathaus Kreuzbergstraße L 81

Talk

Veripeditus
The Free
AR Game Framework
for Everyone

Who we are

About Veripeditus

How to create games

Framework development and design

State and future





#### Eike

- ► Eike Tim Jesinghaus
- ▶ 15 year-old student from Germany
- Python programmer since age 11
- Python tutor at Teckids e.V.



#### Nik

- Dominik George
- ▶ 26 years old
- Dayjob: Software developer at tarent solutions GmbH
- Head of Teckids e.V., the FOSS youth organisation in Germany

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#### What is Veripeditus?

- ▶ A free software AR game creation framework
- Allows easy creation of augmented reality games
- Run your own server with different worlds and different games in them
- Play the games using any mobile browser



#### How it got started

- ▶ We were looking for a new fun project
- AR gaming seemed to become popular (cf. that monster catching thingy)
- We wanted to create something like that without the privacy hassle
- Many different ideas why not make it a framework?



#### New goals after some time

- ▶ The framework got more and more powerful
- Developing games with it got much easier than expected
- So now:
  - Make it as accessible as possible
  - Enable use in various fields besides just-for-fun gaming
  - ▶ More about that later!

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Before we discuss more, let's look at how to make a game!





### Basic workflow for making a game

- 1. Plan any game objects and their features (position, names, images,...
- Creating a game is easy plan game objects and their features, the plot and other logic of the game and implement it in pure python class definitions.
- 3. Draft a game plot, activities, other logic
- Put everything together in object/class definitions in pure Python



### A first tiny game

```
from veripeditus import framework as f
   class Player(f.Player):
3
       pass
5
   class AnyChild(f.NPC):
6
       spawn osm = {"building": "school"}
       default image = "schoolkid"
8
9
       def on talk(self):
10
            return self.say("I can make AR games :)!")
11
```



Quiz time: What have we got here?





#### Quiz time: What have we got here?

#### Answers:

- A Player object with no special behaviour
- An NPC (non-player character) named AnyChild
  - Spawning at every building tagged a school on OpenStreetMap
  - Having the image of a schoolkid
  - Saying "I can make AR games :)!" when asked

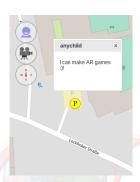
Isn't that cool?



#### First tiny game, in pictures









#### First tiny game, in pictures





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#### Framework development and design goals

- Make game creation as easy and accessible as possible
- Still allow adding arbitrarily complex code
  - No DSL game cartridges are plain and honest Python packages
  - Don't get in the way while still being helpful
- Provide all basic objects and functions to derive from
  - ▶ Player, Items, NPCs, Locations, . . .
  - Dialogues, item management, inventory management, interaction, . . .
- ► Tight and simple integration with OpenStreetMap



#### Technologies used

- Backend
  - Python 3
  - ► Flask web framework with Flask-Restless, and others
  - SQLAlchemy and OSMAlchemy
- Frontend
  - HTML 5, JavaScript, CSS 3
  - JQuery and JQuery-UI
  - Leaflet
- Simple RESTful HTTP API



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About Veripeditus

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### What's already there

- Framework features and objects
  - Items and NPCs
  - Spawning at lat/lon or OSM objects
  - Interaction (collecting items and talking to NPCs
- Backend technology with advanced API
- (Rudimentary) reference web application for gameplay
  - Map view
  - Camera / 3D view
- Advanced debugging/testing mode for easier development



### Current uses of Veripeditus

- ► Teckids e.V. school project at Ganztagsrealschule Odenthal
  - Public school in Germany
  - 20 students between 12 and 15 years
  - Weekly coding lessons
  - Drafting, describing and planning of AR games
  - Actively contributing feature and change requests



### Many different use fields

- Gaming, of course. . .
  - Create just-for-fun outdoor games with AR aspects
- Educational use
  - Coding lessons
    - Basic coding
    - Object-oriented modelling
    - Databases, APIs, and much more
  - Interdisciplinary use
    - Educational games for history, arts, . .
    - Fun at field trips
- Tourism and attractions
  - ▶ Interactive stories in open air museums, ...



## Spontaneous question: Any quick ideas here?





### Coming up / Roadmap

- Improvements to web application
- ▶ Interactive / live game code editor
- More detailed and diverse game object interactions
- WebGL 3D models
- Sound support
- HUD defined by games
- ▶ 3D interaction with game objects (aiming, etc.)

Scheduled date for public beta release: 2017-03-11!

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#### What we can do for you

- ► Make Veripeditus a framework for YOU to use
- ▶ Help you implement game ideas in your use fields





#### What you can do for us to help us help you

- Report your ideas, feature requests and bugs
- Help us if you are (or want to be) a JavaScript or CSS guru
- Test Veripeditus on many mobile devices
- ► Tell us stories from active usage in different fields

#### Where to find us

- GitHub: https://github.com/Veripeditus/veripeditus-server
  - ▶ Please find up-to-date contact and testing information there!
  - Go mad reporting ideas, questions, requests and bugs
- Twitter: @VeripeditusTeam
  - ▶ Please follow us to receive updates!
- E-mail: team@veripeditus.org

#### Some numbers

- ► Code size: >2 kloc (>3.5 kloc including comments)
- ► Commits: exactly 1000 ©!
- Age: First birthday was on 2017-01-19
- Active contributors: 3
- ► Tasks in issue tracker: 33 open, 48 closed



#### FOSDEM game

Go to https://nightly.veripeditus.org with any mobile browser.

- Small testing game on the campus
- ► Game may be slow and may not work on all devices
  - Camera view only works on Firefox on Android
  - Map view should work on most browsers
- Please ping us via e-mail or find us somewhere if you have bugs to look at
- ► Find the full code at: https://github.com/Veripeditus/game-fosdem17

Start by finding the guy at the entrance of building K and listen carefully ©!



# Thank you!

Time for questions and discussion...

We also want to thank...

Python • Flask • Flask-Restless • SQLAlchemy • jQuery • Leaflet • OpenStreetMap • mirabilos • Debian • and others we forgot to mention!

#### Invitation:

OSMAlchemy workshop • Tomorrow, 12:30 • Geospatial Devroom

Proudly made with LATEX beamer and without fancy office products • Sources at:

https://github.com/Veripeditus/veripeditus-server/tree/master/doc/presentations