# SCALING GREAT VR Nat Brown • natb@valvesoftware.com

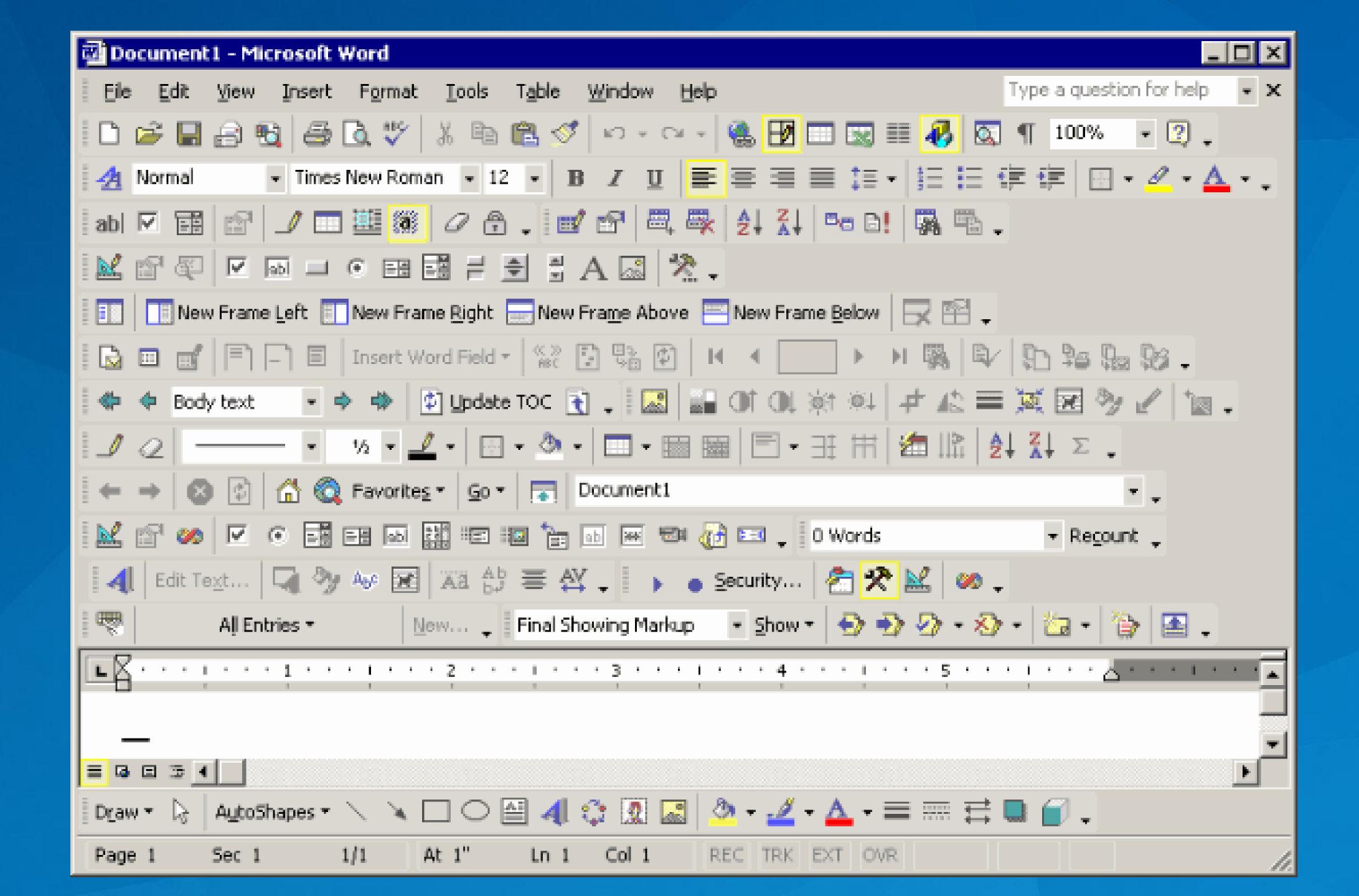


Scaling Great VR Roadmap What Is Scaling What's Different About VR Scaling Scaling Tools & Resources Why Bother Scaling "Great" VR Content Conclusions / Q&A



# WHAT IS SCALING?







# Scaling Great VR **Types of Scaling 1. Manual User Tuning**



Scaling Great VR Types of Scaling 1. Manual User Tuning 2. One-Time Auto-Tuning



Scaling Great VR Types of Scaling 1. Manual User Tuning 2. One-Time Auto-Tuning 3. Adaptive Scaling





### **Graphics Scaling**

樹	HOTKEYS / OP	TIONS / VIDEC	) / AUDIO	
	RESOLUTION			
	• Use my monitor's cu	irrent resolution		
	Use advanced settin	gs		
	Aspect Ratio • 4:3 • 16:9 •	16:10		
	Size	D	isplay Mode	
	1920x1200	$\sim$	Windowed	~
	APPLY	RESET TO DEFAUL	TS	

Fastest		Best Looking
Use advanced settings		
Animate Portrait	Anti-Aliasing	
Additive Light Pass	Specular [Specular]	
World Lighting	Specular and Light Blooms	
Ambient Occlusion	High Quality Water	
Normal Maps	Atmospheric Fog	
Ground Parallax	High Quality Dashboard	
Ambient Creatures	VSync	
Ambient Cloth Simulation	Tree Wind	
Grass		
Texture Quality O Low O I	vled 🔘 Hligh	

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### **Graphics Scaling**

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	1920x1200	$\sim$	Windowed	~
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#### RENDERING

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Ground Parallax	High Quality Dashboard	
Ambient Creatures	VSync	
Ambient Cloth Simulation	Tree Wind	
Grass		
Texture Quality 🔘 Low 🔘 M	ed 💽 High	
Shadow Quality 💿 Off 💿 M	ed 🔘 High 💽 Ultra	
Game Screen Render Quality		100%

Maximum frames per second allowed

ABOUT











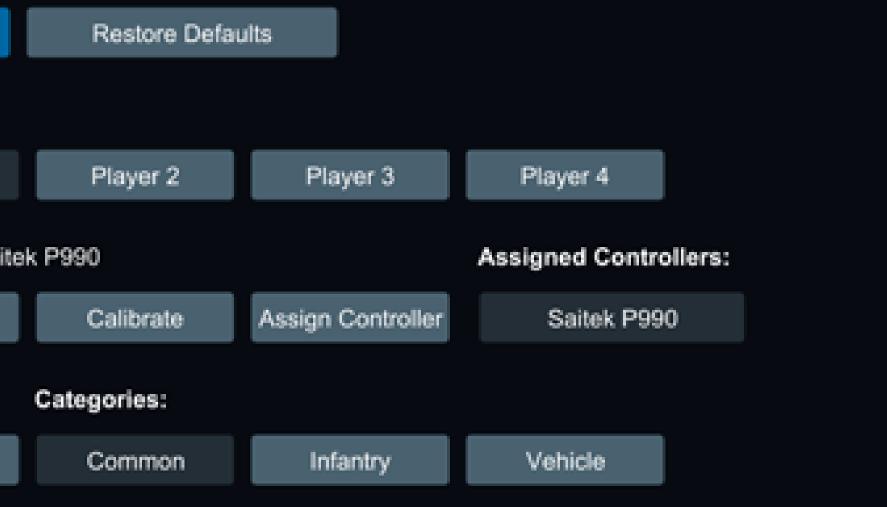
### Input Scaling

Done
Players:
Player 1
Controller: Sai
Remove
Settings:
Sensitivity
Actions
Move Vertical
Move Up
Move Down
Move Horizontal
Move Right
Move Left
Fire
Secondary Fire
Reload
Look Horizontal

Look Right

Look Left

Look Visitiaal

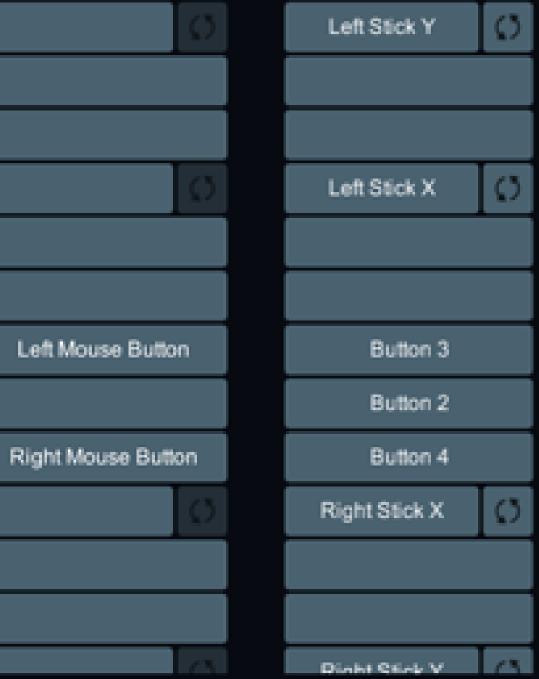


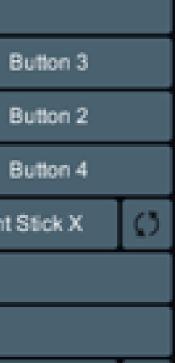
#### Keyboard

W. S D A Left Control Z R

#### Mouse

#### Controller







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#### **Desktop configuration**

#### **RIGHT MOUSE**

LEFT CONTROL

#### MOUSE BACK



#### SCROLLWHEEL



**UP ARROW** 1 LEFT ARROW **RIGHT ARROW DOWN ARROW** SHOW KEYBOARD

**BROWSE CONFIGS** 





**EXPORT CONFIG** DONE



#### LEFT TRIGGER

LEFT BUMPER





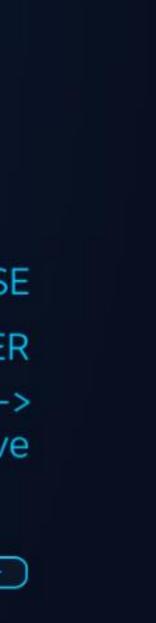






**X BUTTON**  $\bigcirc$ X A BUTTON

SELECT BROWSE CONFIGS A EXPORT CONFIG O DONE



# WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT VR SCALING?



- You must maintain 90Hz
- Reprojection techniques are a safety net for occaisional misses, not a crutch



- You must maintain 90Hz
- Players have extreme camera control



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- Reconfigurable worlds turn performance tuning on its head



- You must maintain 90Hz
- Players have extreme camera control
- Reconfigurable worlds make turn performance tuning on its head
- It's early days in VR



# SCALING TOOLS & RESOURCES



### Input Tools & Resources

Abstracting Input Through OpenVR

- Mapping Input Events
- Identifying Input Surfaces/Sources
- Great example from driver perspective: https://github.com/ValveSoftware/driver\_hydra
- Example from application perspective: SteamVR\_RenderModel.cs in the Unity plugin



#### IVRSystem

::GetControllerState ::GetControllerStateWithPose

#### VR controller button and axis IDs \*/ /\*\* EVRButtonId enum

k_EButton_System	= 0,
k_EButton_ApplicationMenu	= 1,
k_EButton_Grip	= 2,
k_EButton_DPad_Left	= 3,
k_EButton_DPad_Up	= 4,
k_EButton_DPad_Right	= 5,
k_EButton_DPad_Down	= 6,
k_EButton_A	= 7,
k_EButton_ProximitySensor	= 31,
k_EButton_Axis0	= 32
k_EButton_Axis1	= 33
k FButton Avis2	= 34

- K\_EBUTTON\_AX182 k\_EButton\_Axis3 k\_EButton\_Axis4
- // aliases for well known controllers k\_EButton\_SteamVR\_Touchpad = k\_EButton\_Axis0, k\_EButton\_SteamVR\_Trigger = k\_EButton\_Axis1,
- k\_EButton\_Dashboard\_Back
- k\_EButton\_Max

= 64

= 35,

= 36,



```
/** Identifies what kind of axis is on the controller at index n. Read this type
* with pVRSystem->Get( nControllerDeviceIndex, Prop_Axis0Type_Int32 + n );
*/
enum EVRControllerAxisType
{
    k_eControllerAxis_None = 0,
    k_eControllerAxis_TrackPad = 1,
    k_eControllerAxis_Joystick = 2,
    k_eControllerAxis_Trigger = 3, // Analog trigger data is in the X axis
};
/** contains information about one axis on the controller */
struct VRControllerAxis_t
float y; // Ranges from -1.0 to 1.0 for joysticks and track pads. Is always 0.0 for triggers.
};
/** the number of axes in the controller state */
static const uint32_t k_unControllerStateAxisCount = 5;
/** Holds all the state of a controller at one moment in time. */
struct VRControllerState001_t
   // If packet num matches that on your prior call, then the controller state hasn't been changed since
   // your last call and there is no need to process it
    uint32_t unPacketNum;
    // bit flags for each of the buttons. Use ButtonMaskFromId to turn an ID into a mask
    uint64_t ulButtonPressed;
    uint64_t ulButtonTouched;
    // Axis data for the controller's analog inputs
```

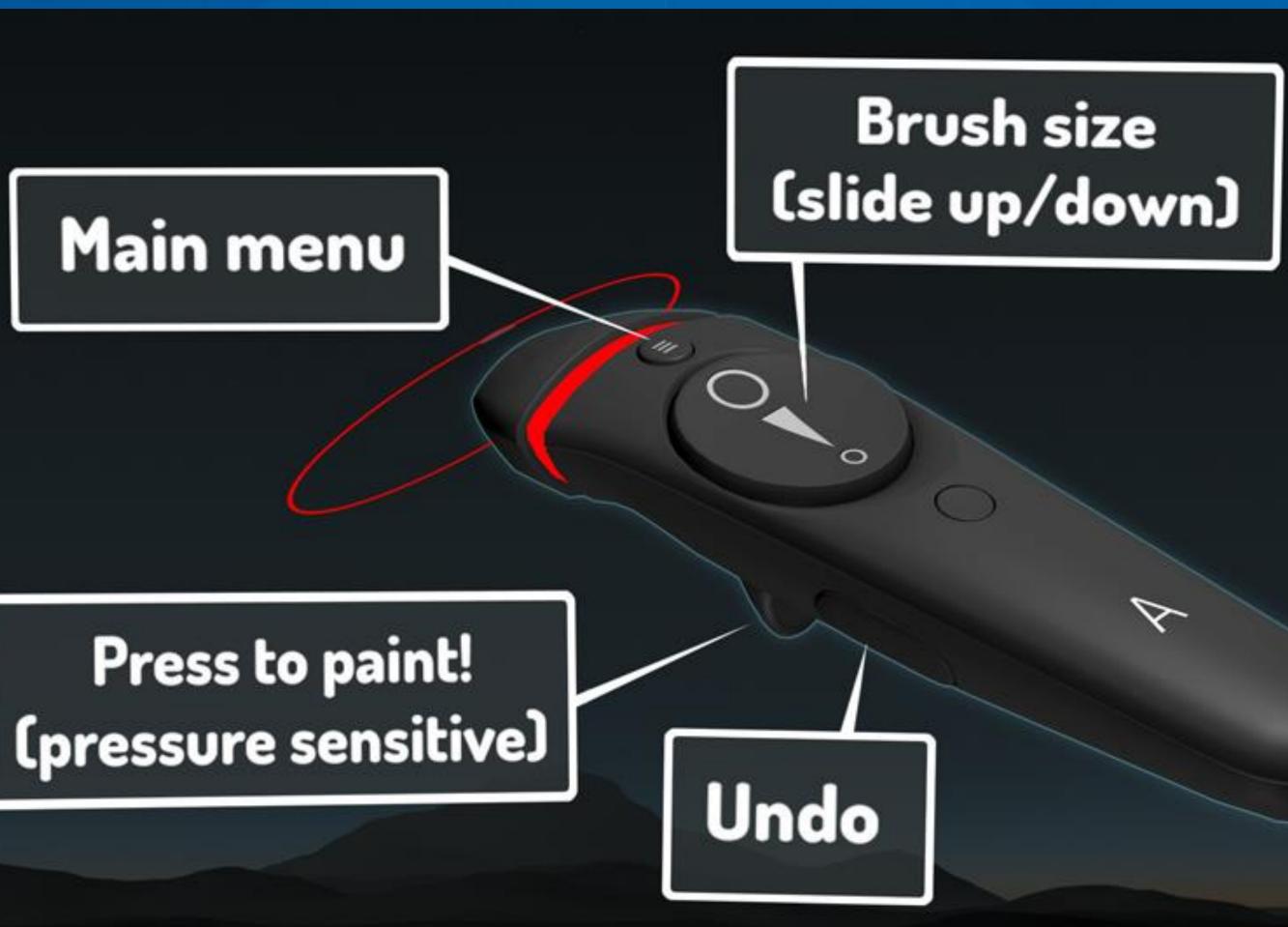
VRControllerAxis\_t rAxis[ k\_unControllerStateAxisCount ];

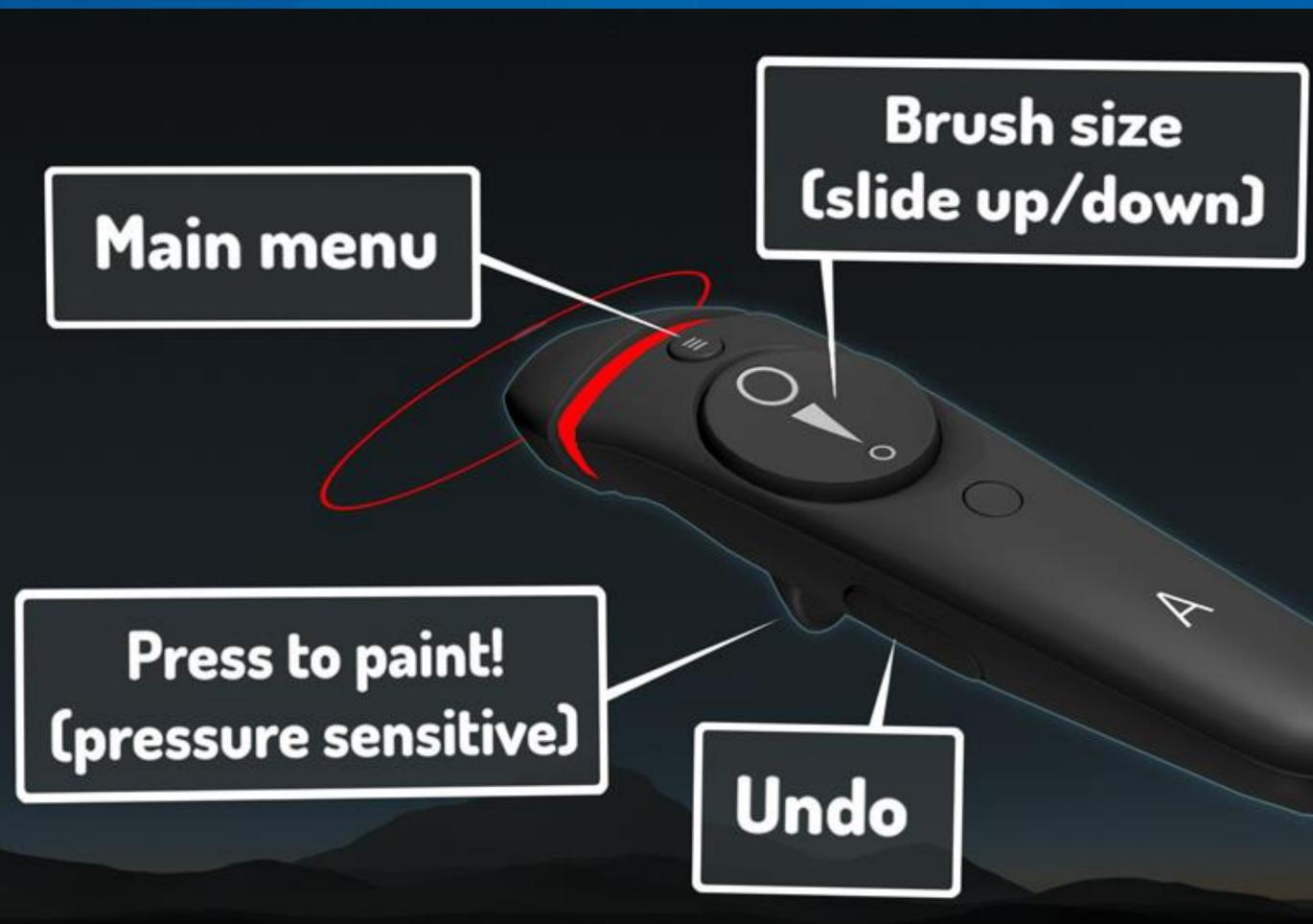
};

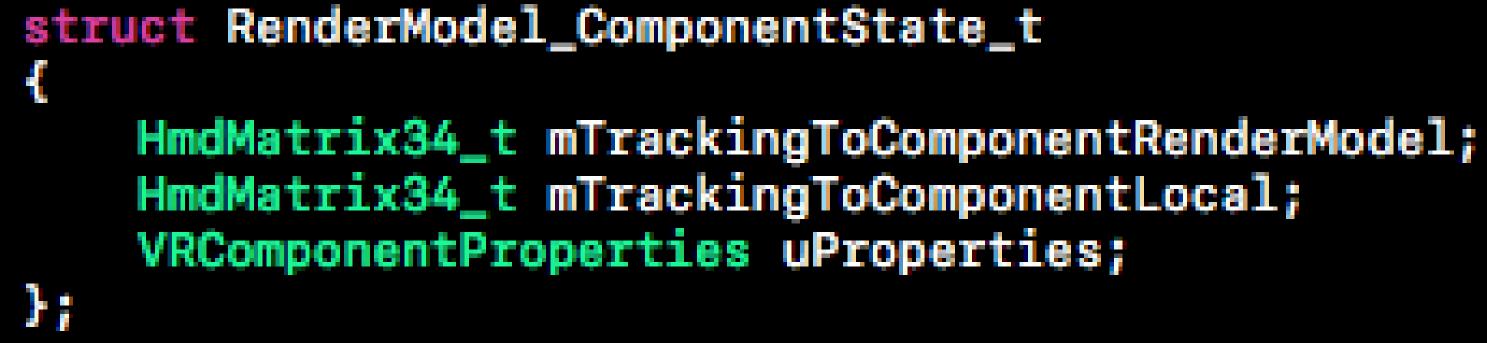
float x; // Ranges from -1.0 to 1.0 for joysticks and track pads. Ranges from 0.0 to 1.0 for triggers were 0 is fully released.

#### IVRRenderModel

::GetComponentCount ::GetComponentName ::GetComponentButtonMask ::GetComponentState









### Graphics Tools & Resources

Low-Level Background:

- http://www.gdcvault.com/play/1021771/Advanced-VR-2015 •
- http://www.gdcvault.com/play/1023522/Advanced-VR-2016 •
- Dynamic Resolution and dynamic MSAA •





### Adaptive Quality

Stated simply: "Adaptive Quality dynamically changes utilization"

# rendering settings to maintain framerate while maximizing GPU



### Adaptive Quality

Stated simply: "Adaptive Quality dynamically changes rendering settings to maintain framerate while maximizing GPU utilization"

- Goal #1: Reduce the chances of dropping frames and • reprojecting
- Goal #2: Increase quality when there are idle GPU cycles



### Adaptive Quality

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- Goal #2: Increase quality when there are idle GPU cycles

Example is the Aperture Robot Repair VR demo running at target framerate on an NVIDIA 680 using two different methods



### **Adaptive Quality Benefits**

- Lower GPU min spec for your application
- Increased art asset limits Artists can now make the tradeoff between slightly lower fidelity materials
- Don't need to rely on reprojection to maintain framerate
- Happy Fallout: Our apps look better on all hardware

# rendering for higher poly assets or more complex



### What Settings Are Changed?

What you can't adjust:

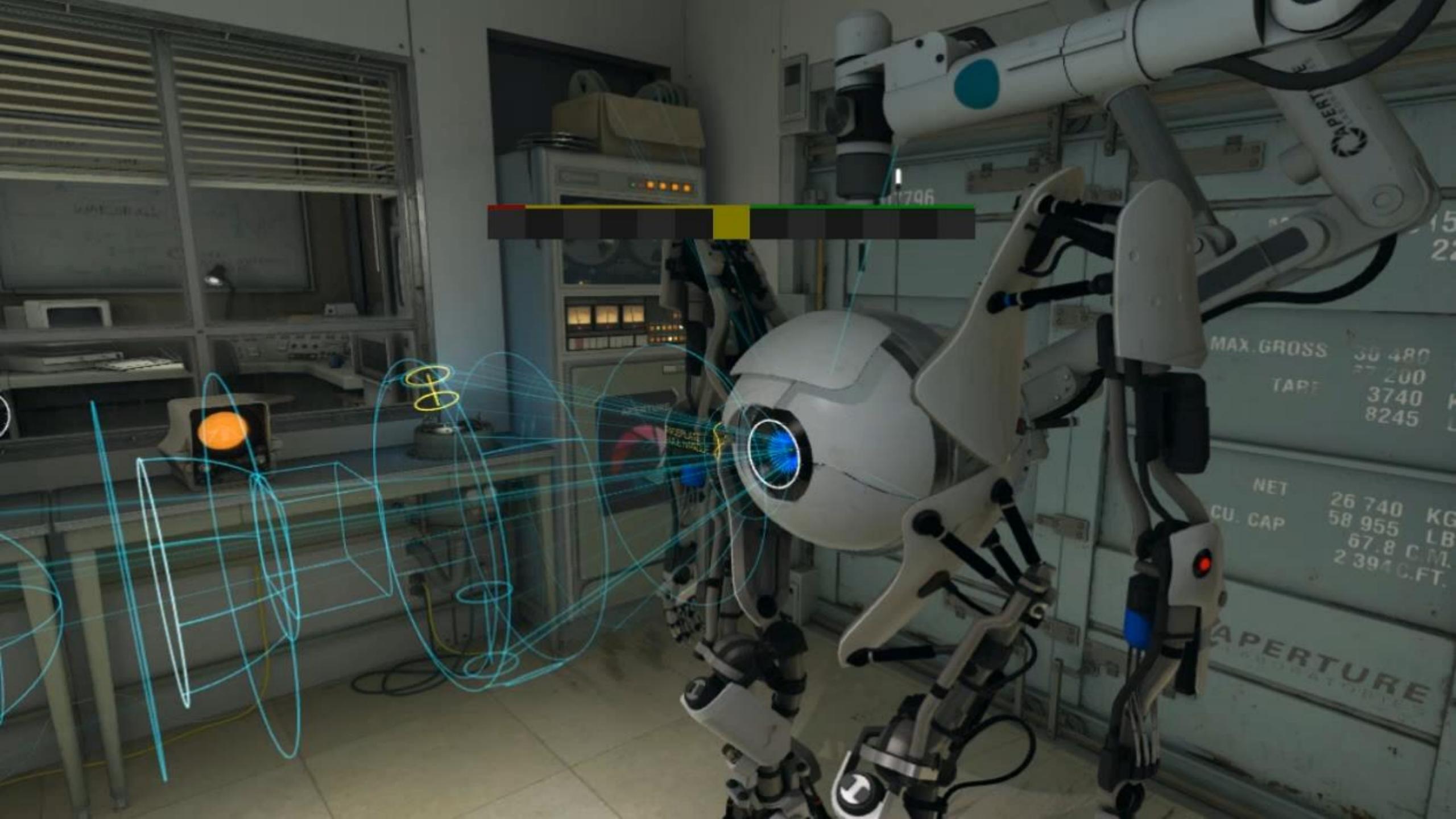
- Can't toggle visual features like specular
- Can't toggle shadows
- What you can adjust:
- Rendering resolution/viewport (aka Dynamic Resolution) •
- MSAA level or anti-aliasing algorithm
- Fixed Foveated Rendering
- Radial Density Masking
- etc.





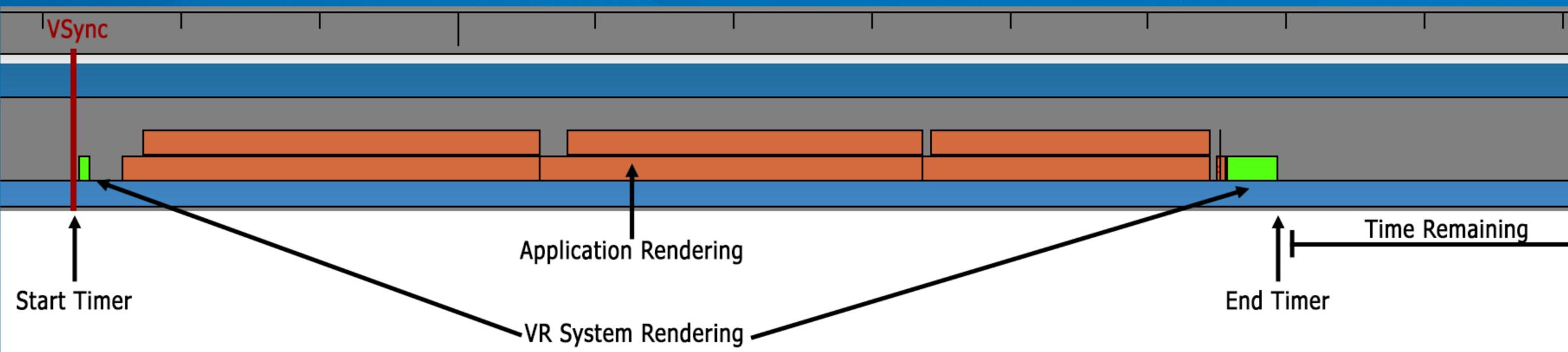
	Quality Level	MSAA	Resolutio n Scale	Radial Density Masking	Reprojection Hint	Render Resolution
	+6	<b>8</b> x	1.4	_	-	2116x2352
	+5	<b>8</b> x	1.3	_	-	1965x2184
	+4	<b>8</b> x	1.2	-	_	1814x2016
	+3	<b>8</b> x	1.1	_	-	1663x1848
	+2	<b>8</b> x	1.0	-	-	1512x1680
	+1	4x	1.1	_	-	1663x1848
Default	0	<b>4</b> x	1.0	-	_	1512x1680
	-1	4x	0.9	-	-	1360x1512
	-2	4x	0.81	-	-	1224x1360
<b>Text</b>	-3	4x	0.81	-	Yes	1224x1360
	-3	4x	0.73	-	-	1102x1224
No Text	-4	4x	0.65	On	-	992x1102





# Measuring GPU Workload

- You GPU workload isn't always solid, might have bubbles
- VR system GPU workload is variable: lens distortion, chromatic aberration, chaperone bounds, overlays, etc.
- Get timings from the VR system, not your application. OpenVR provides a total GPU timer that accounts for all GPU work

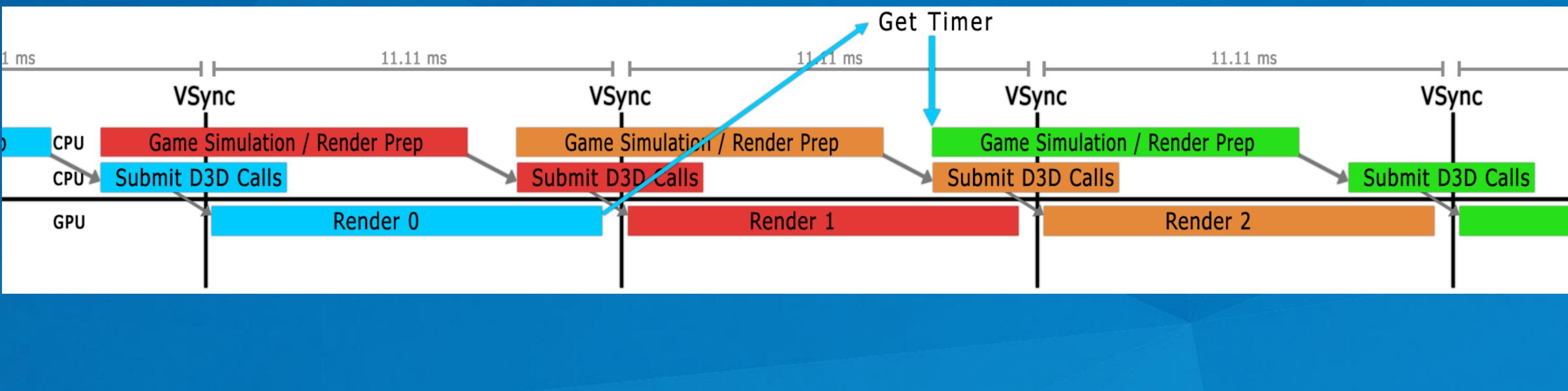




# **GPU Timers - Latency**

Your GPU queries are always going to be 1 frame old

• modified – you probably will, too





# In Source2 we also have 1 or 2 frames in the queue that can't be



# Implementation Details – 3 Rules

Goal: Maintain 70%-90% GPU utilization High = 90% of frame (10.0ms)

Decrease aggressively: If the last frame finished rendering after the • 90% threshold of the GPU frame, drop 2 levels, wait 2 frames



# Implementation Details – 3 Rules

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Low = 70% of frame (7.8ms)

Increase conservatively: If the last 3 frames finished below the 70% • threshold of the GPU frame, increase 1 level, wait 2 frames



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Low = 70% of frame (7.8ms)

 Increase conservatively: If the last 3 frames finished below the 70% threshold of the GPU frame, increase 1 level, wait 2 frames

Prediction = 85% of frame (9.4ms)

- Use linear extrapolation from last two frames to predict rapid increases

 If last frame is above the 85% threshold and the linearly extrapolated next frame is above the high threshold (90%) drop 2 levels wait 2



# 10% Idle Rule

• The high threshold of 90% leaves 10% of the GPU idle for other processes almost every frame. This is a good thing.

 You need to share the GPU with other processes, even Windows desktop needs a slice of the GPU every few VR frames.

Last year we recommended a GPU budget of 11.11ms but • never starve other processes of GPU cycles.

now we recommend less - 10.0ms per frame, so you almost

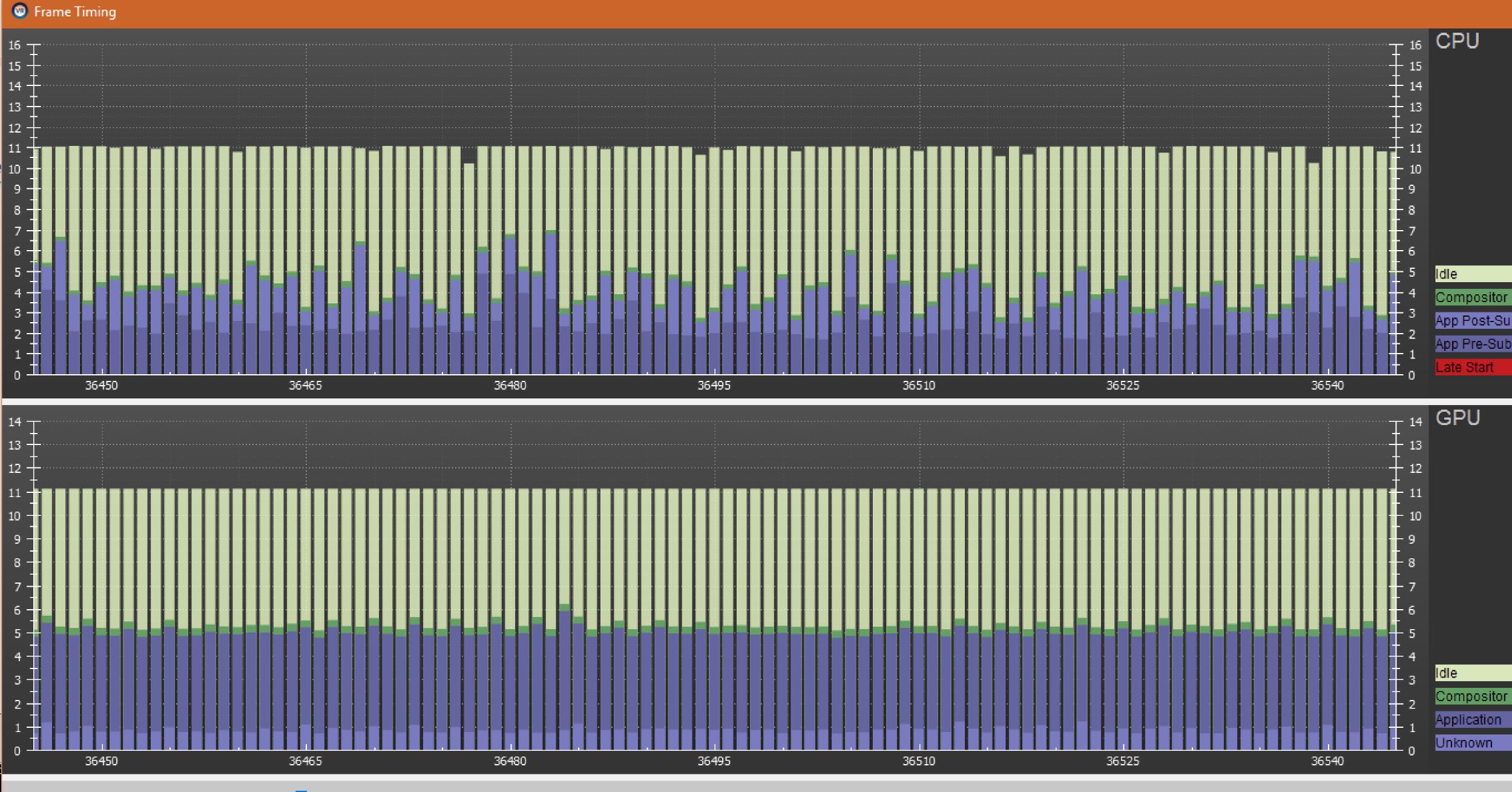


# Graphics Tools & Resources

Medium-Level Background:

- https://developer.valvesoftware.com/wiki/SteamVR/Frame\_Timing •
- https://developer.valvesoftware.com/wiki/SteamVR/Installing\_GPU View
- IVRCompositor::GetFrameTiming && ::GetFrameTimeRemaining •





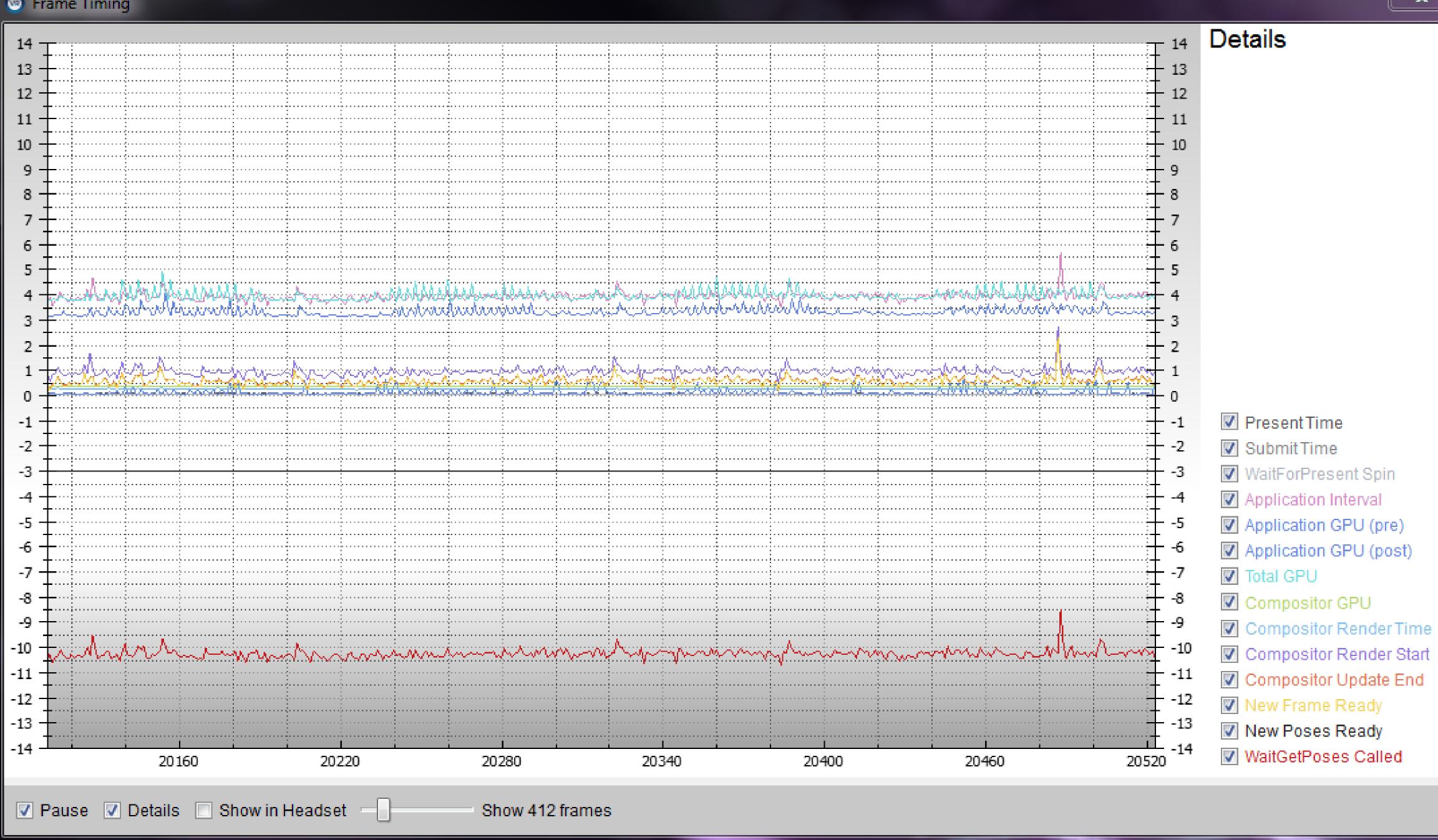
Pause 🗌 Details 🗌 Show in Headset

Show 100 frames

App Post-Submit App Pre-Submit Start

 $\times$ 

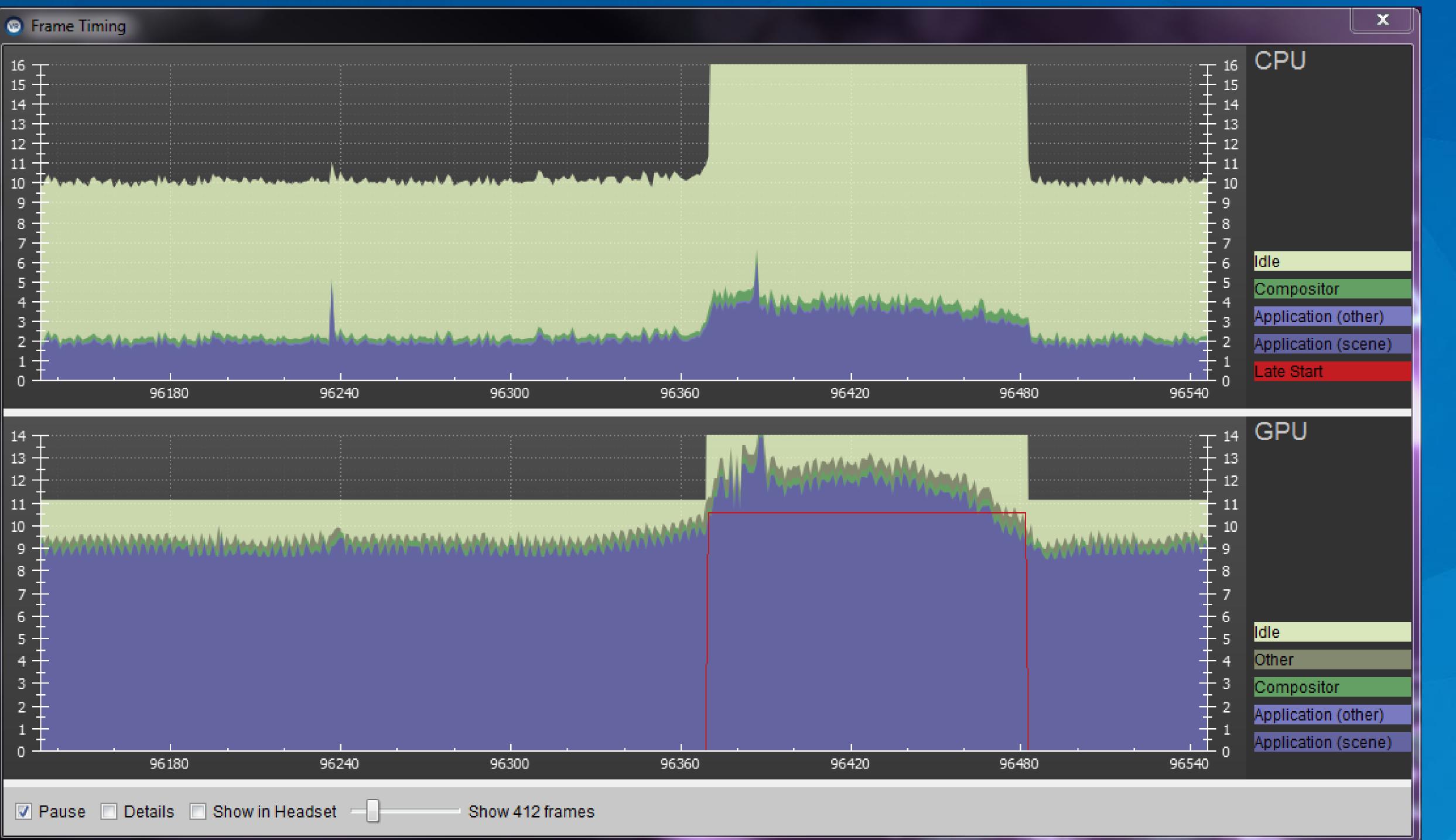
## Frame Timing











# Scaling Tools & Resources

## Graphics

- Unity The Lab Renderer https://www.assetstore.unity3d.com/en/#!/content/63141
- Implements a single-pass forward renderer with MSAA, dynamic resolution, custom shaders / materials for shadows, GPU flushing
- We've fixed a few bugs since it initially launched, please reach out if you hit • problems

# RENDERER



# WHY BOTHER SCALING



# Why Bother Scaling

Broaden Your Reach At Launch – You Choose Your Minimum Spec



# Why Bother Scaling

- Broaden Your Reach At Launch You Choose Your Minimum Spec •
- Longer Reach & Appeal Over Time



# Why Bother Scaling

- Broaden Your Reach At Launch You Choose Your Minimum Spec •
- Longer Reach & Appeal Over Time •
- **OpenVR Good For The Whole VR Ecosystem** •



# What Makes Great VR?







## 







Vanishing Realms is an immersive RPG designed exclusively for Virtual Reality. Grab your sword and fight life-sized monsters in epic face-to-face melee combat. Explore mystic domains, outwit magical wards, seek lost artifacts, wield sorcery and steel to take on denizens of the Undead Realm.

User reviews:

RECENT: Very Positive (98 reviews) OVERALL: Overwhelmingly Positive (1,063 reviews) Release Date: Apr 5, 2016

Popular user-defined tags for this product:

RPG

Early Access

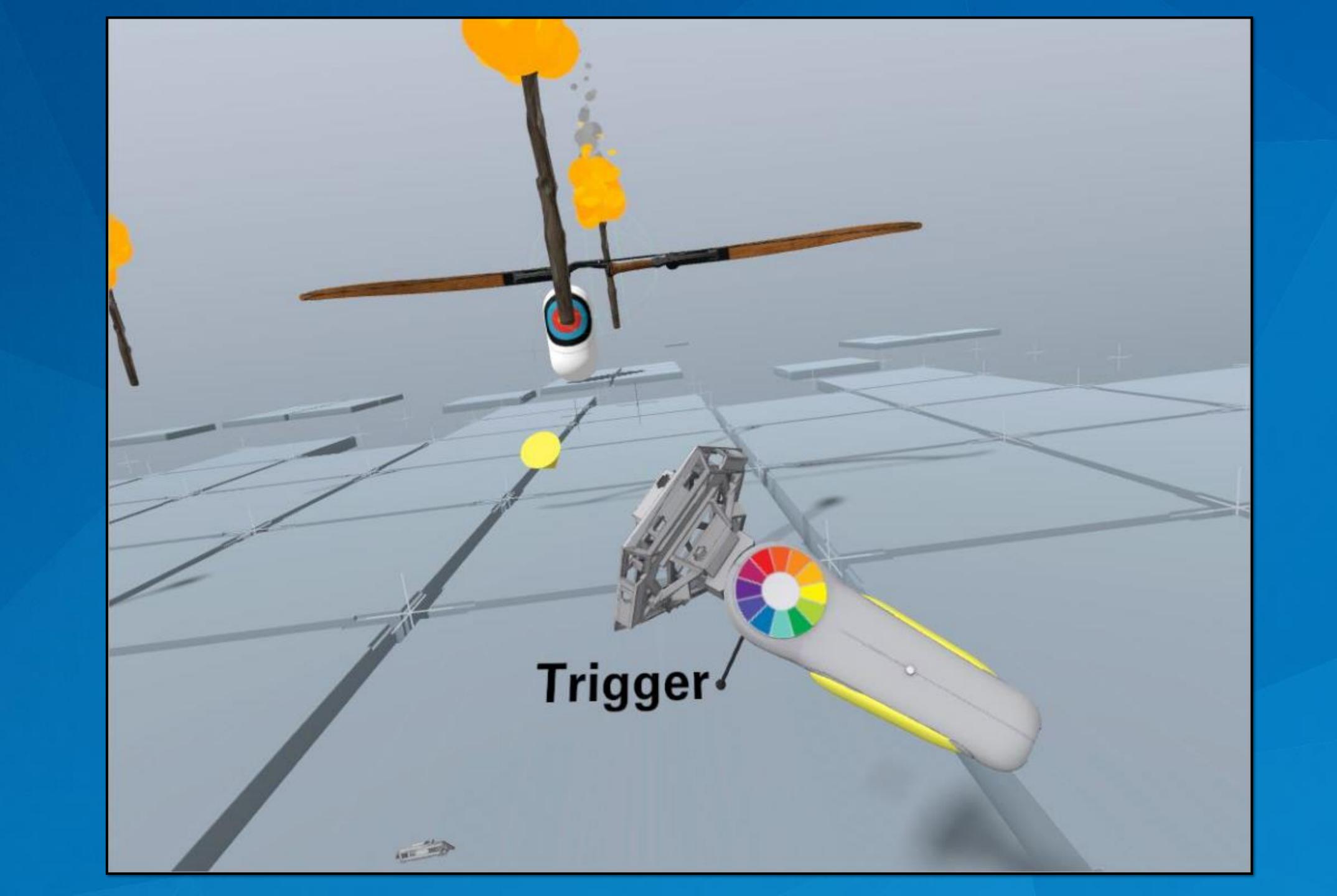
VR Adventure















Put this hand next to your head for an arrow.

(The second



0.0



Scaling Great VR Types of Scaling 1. Manual (User) Tuning 2. Automatic One-Time Tuning 3. Adaptive Scaling 4. Experience Scaling?



# Conclusions

Diverse hardware is good Embrace the medium – room-scale, tracked controllers Consistency of interaction trumps perfect graphics Use early-access to refine and polish Ask yourself: Is there polish I could automatically or adaptively scale?







