

Assignment: Hypervideo Authoring

Due April 20 in class

Your assignment is to author a hypervideo on the topic of your choice. The resulting hypervideo will be presented in class on April 20. Ideas for topics are guides or walking tours of the TAMU campus, the HRBB building, the CS department, etc. Other ideas are simple how-to videos, user manuals, or project reports. If you want to be really creative, try your hand at creating a narrative or non-narrative video experience. It is recommended that you work in pairs but if you cannot find a partner you may work alone.

To create these hypervideos, students will check out DV cameras from the CSG help desk for 1-3 days to shoot up to one hour of video. A DV tape will come with the DV camera but if you want to keep the DV tape you should purchase one yourself (they cost about \$7 and can be found at retail stores like Target, Walmart, Circuit City and Best Buy. The video server is not set up to have private directories so do not digitize video you do not want others to watch.

Once filmed, your video will be captured to the video server using the Dells in HRBB 221 using the dvcap.exe program in the hitchcock/tools directory found on the desktop. To capture the video start the dvcap.exe program, use the firewire cable included in the check-out package with the camera to connect the DV camera with the DV tape already rewound to the back of the computer (via the sound card.) The dvcap program will ask you for a project name (your username) and a video name. When you turn the camera on the dvcap program will acknowledge the camera and the "start" button will become active. Pressing the start button will begin the capture of the video on the tape. The capture process happens at real time -- that is 1 hour of video will take 1 hour to capture. When the video you want to digitize has been captured press the "done" button. **DO NOT turn the camera off or close the application** -- it will now perform automatic segmentation of the video that takes approximately 1/3 real time. When this completes you can turn the camera off and close the dvcap application.

The captured video will be in the hitchcock/projects/<username> directory. This directory will need to be moved to the video1 server shared directory hitchcock/projects/<username>. Once there you are ready to begin authoring/editing your hypervideo.

HyperHitchcock is a JAVA applet found at:

<http://video1.cs.tamu.edu/hitchcock/html/remote-workspace-plugin.htm>

To load your video press the "add" source video button at the bottom left of the interface. Type in your <username> and press "set user". You can then select the video you captured and press "select".

Once your video is loaded into HyperHitchcock, you can press the "HyperSummary" button to get an automatically constructed multi-level summary of your video to explore. Doing so will give you a sense for the characteristics of the HyperHitchcock hypervideo player.

Once ready to begin editing, drag and drop video segments from the selection area in the upper left to the workspace below. The piles of clips in the selection area can be clicked on to view more elements in the pile. The timeline at the top of the HyperHitchcock interface indicates the length of the source video. The size of frames in the workspace reflects their length. Resizing the video frame in the workspace will cause the length to either increase or decrease. The timeline below the workspace appears when elements in the workspace are selected. It shows the lengths of the selected video segments and the portions of those segments currently included in the video to be played. Above the timeline is a graph of audio energy, which is quite useful for determining good in/out points in video with dialog. You may lock a video in/out point by clicking on the small squares in this timeline.

Clicking on a video in either the selection space or the workspace will cause the video to be played. If the video player is not appearing, make sure the Google popup blocker allows popups for this website.

To save, load, play or empty your workspace, press the appropriate buttons at the bottom. HyperHitchcock is research software, I strongly suggest saving your work relatively often during authoring. Keep a list of questions, problems, suggestions -- you are among the first users of this software and we welcome all forms of constructive feedback.