

HIGHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

COMPUTER STUDIES COURSE

DIPLOMA PROJECT

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE INTO THE CYPRUS
CULTURE

CS/259

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SUMMARY

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE INTO THE CYPRUS CULTURE

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This project was created as an effort on developing a Web Site that would aid in the projection of Cyprus, towards the whole world, as a cultural center by exhibiting the rich background and current culture of the island through the centuries.

The effort applied by the project team, though significant, is not enough to result in the creation of a professional and complete Web representation of the Cyprus culture, mostly due to the existing time constraints (4 months time for the complete development, documentation, implementation and testing of the system). In addition to that, come the limitations and difficulties we faced during the collection of comprehensive and detailed information because of the little response we have encountered during our research. As a concluding observation, it should be noted that the members of the team were completely inexperienced in the field of multimedia development.

Having that in mind, the major concern of the team was to develop a package that would be comprehensive enough, so that it would cover all the major aspects of Cyprus culture, and given the chance, to project Cyprus in general as well as our long-lasting problem of Turkish military occupation. Additionally to provide substantial help to other organizations/institutions, which have undertaken this tremendously difficult, and important, task of projecting Cyprus to the rest of the world, by providing information about their activities and links to their relevant pages.

Obstacles during the project development, were encountered during the Investigation Phase, where the research part was to be carried

out involving all sorts of things from selecting the right development tools and gathering all the relevant information about Cyprus, moving on to the selection of the proper environment (Apple or PC) and ending with deciding on whether this project result should be genuinely multimedia based (on a CD-ROM) or Web based.

An additional, and of great significance, obstacle was the great difficulty that the project team encountered as towards the acquiring of the tool for the development of the panoramas (Quick Time VR Authoring Studio). Due to an unexpected and unjustified delay in the ordering and delivering of the tool, the project team was forced to use other alternatives, those being the use of other tools with more limited functionality and fewer capabilities. This is mostly the reason for the not so professional development of the panoramas.

In conclusion, despite the barriers encountered during the way, the development of this project was a real challenge for the team. Although there was a tremendous volume of work to be carried out by the project team, the educational benefits were priceless. Through this researching and developing experience, we have learned more about Cyprus than we've ever dreamed of plus we have gained experience in the multimedia and Web development field. But more importantly, this was a great opportunity to project our country as an island of great culture and tradition and, given the opportunity, to let the whole world know about the injustice imposed by the Turkish yoke.

It should be noted that for any copyrighted material used in the development of this project has been approved by its legal owners, with the assertion that this material was to be used in a non-profitable manner.

As a closing line, we would like dedicate this project to our beloved Cyprus and its people with the wish that this continual and brutal violation of the human rights of Cypriots will ultimately, and hopefully shortly, come to a end and Cyprus will be united and free once again.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iii
Summary	iv
Notification	vi
Introduction	vii
Preface	xii
1. Chapter 1 – Investigation Phase	
1.1 Initial Investigation – Activity 1	2
1.2 Feasibility Study – Activity 2	21
2. Chapter 2 – Analysis And General Design Phase	
2.1 Introduction	32
2.2 Existing System Review – Activity 3	33
2.3 New System Requirements – Activity 4	36
2.4 New System Design – Activity 5	44
2.5 Implementation And Installation Planning – Activity 6 ...	48
3. Chapter 3 – Detailed Design And Installation Phase	
3.1 Introduction	52
3.2 Technical Design – Activity 7	53
3.3 Test Specification And Planning – Activity 8	54
3.4 Programming And Testing – Activity 9	56
3.5 User Training – Activity 10	57
3.6 System Test – Activity 11	57
4. Chapter 4 – Installation Phase	
4.1 Introduction	60
4.2 File Conversion – Activity 12	62
4.3 System Installation – Activity 13	62
5. Chapter 5 – Review Phase	
5.1 Introduction	64
5.2 Development Recap	64
5.3 Post Implementation Review	65

Appendices