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ASTRONOMY MULTIMEDIA

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Summary

Astronomy Multimedia

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This project was initiated as an effort on building an astronomy computers assisted learning package. As it is known, there are a lot of such packages in the market available which includes information considered interested for multiple skill level users. The four months of work time seemed rather inadequate to allow for "wishful thinking", due to the fact that the spectrum of astronomy is very wide.

What we have try to accomplish, is to incorporate in this package information that cover the most important parts of the astronomy, providing an intermediate level of education, so, to be accessible for multiple users regarding the level of knowledge about astronomy is concerned.

What seemed that would be a problem was the programming language, as well as, the platform to be used. We needed a language that would be Object Oriented; in other words a language that would be able to support efficiently simulation, sound and graphics in a high quality level. Visual C, Visual Basic, Borland Delphi was the three candidates, with Borland Delphi ver. 1.0 being our selection at last, since the coding that is being generated is based in Pascal language, something which is very helpful due to the fact that we had gained a lot of experience working with it. As far as, platform is concerned, the suggested ones were the Apple Macintosh and PC. Eventually, the Apple Macintosh rejected due to the lack of portability, or furthermore, the compatibility with PCs, as well as, and because of the fact that is a platform totally new to us.

Noteworthy, is that we started from scratch building our interface and collecting as much material as possible to understand how the system could be built. The difficulty, at this

point, was that we had to be very careful in the design and information provided, since the package referred to an intermediate level users.

Astronomy Multimedia package was definitely an extremely difficult task, since all multimedia packages require a lot of effort in the collection of information and in design/implementation; but, it was surely worth the effort.

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