

A close-up portrait of Sam Fisher, the protagonist of Splinter Cell: Blacklist. He is wearing his signature tactical gear, including a head-mounted display (HMD) with two glowing green lenses. He has a serious expression and is holding a handgun in his right hand, which is visible in the lower right corner. The background is dark and textured, with a faint grid pattern.

MODELING AI PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS IN

SPLINTER CELL BLACKLIST



MARTIN WALSH

Why PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS?



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SPLINTER CELL
BLACKLIST

Three CHARACTERISTICS of PERCEPTION Models



FEEL FAIR



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CONSISTENT FEEDBACK

- Reaction Animations
- Barks
- HUD Elements



INTELLIGENCE

●●● Plausibility



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Four Perception and Awareness models



four PERCEPTION models

Visual



four PERCEPTION models

● Visual

● Environmental



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four PERCEPTION models



Visual



Environmental



Auditory



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four PERCEPTION models

- Visual
- Environmental
- Auditory
- Social and Contextual



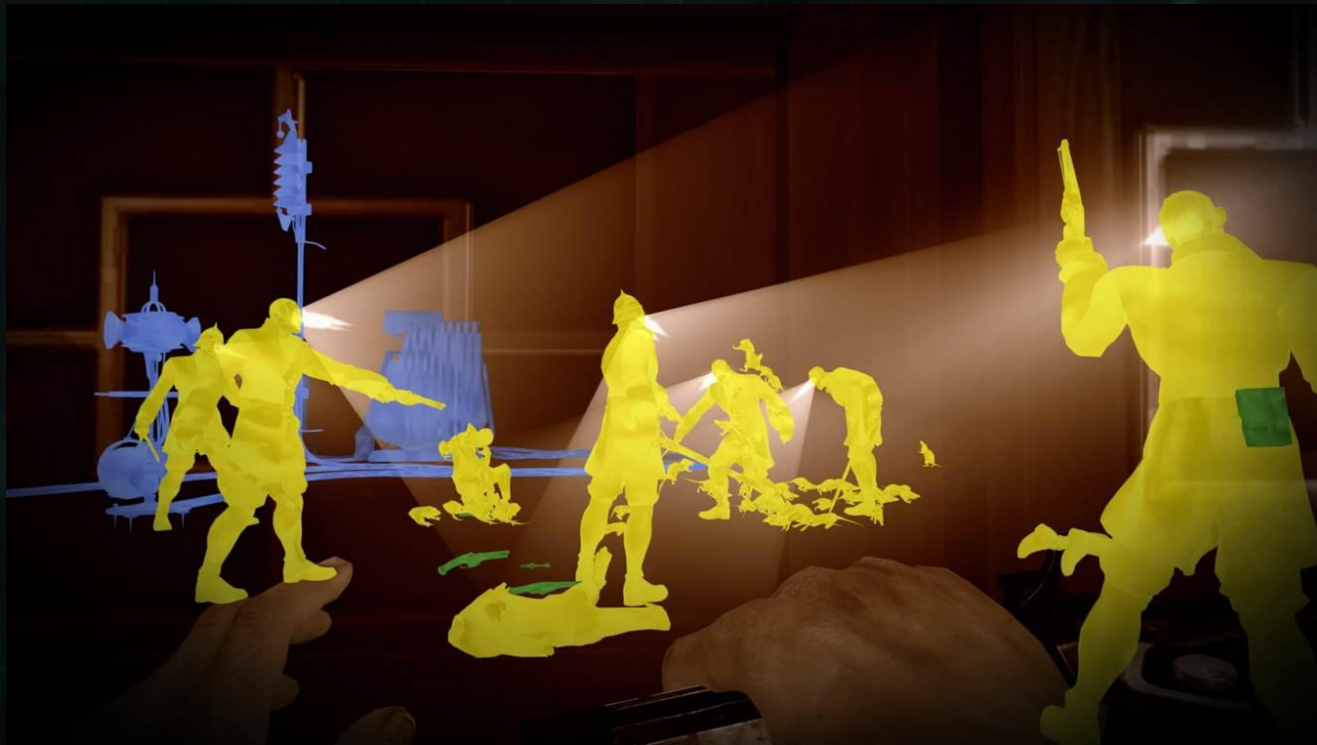
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VISUAL PERCEPTION



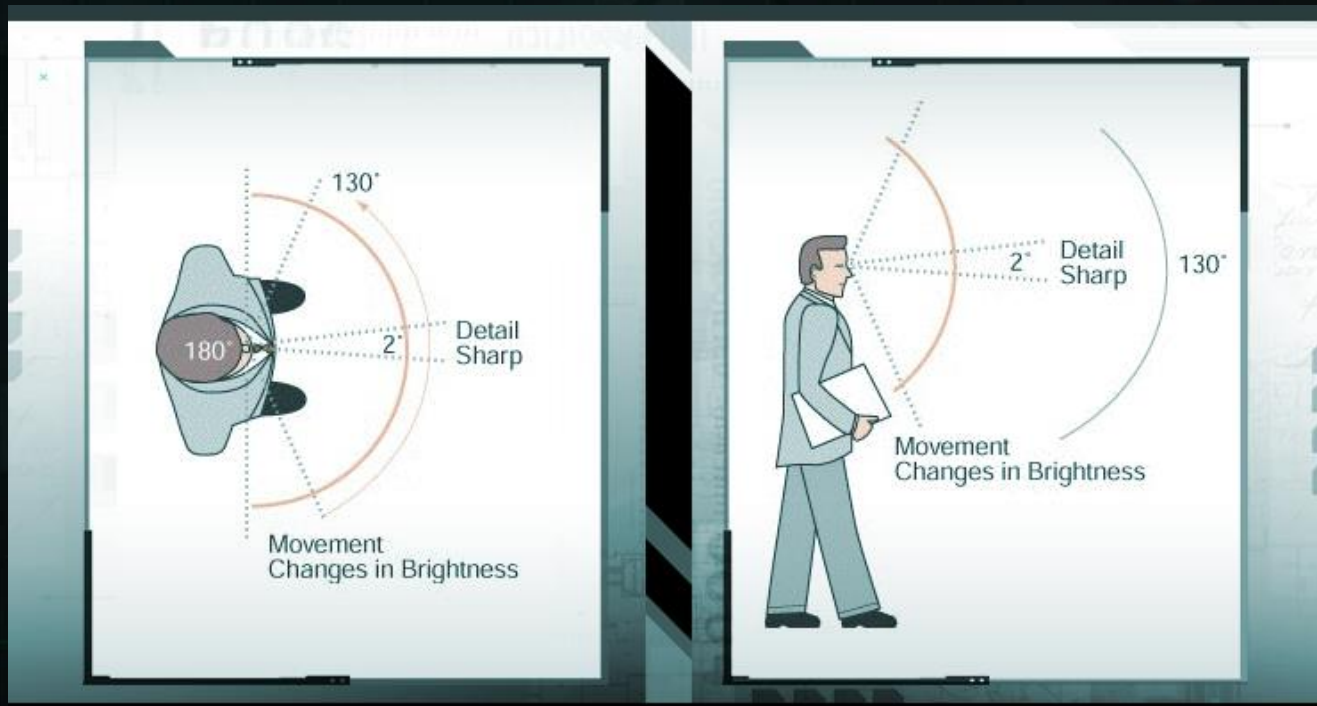
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VISION IN GAMES

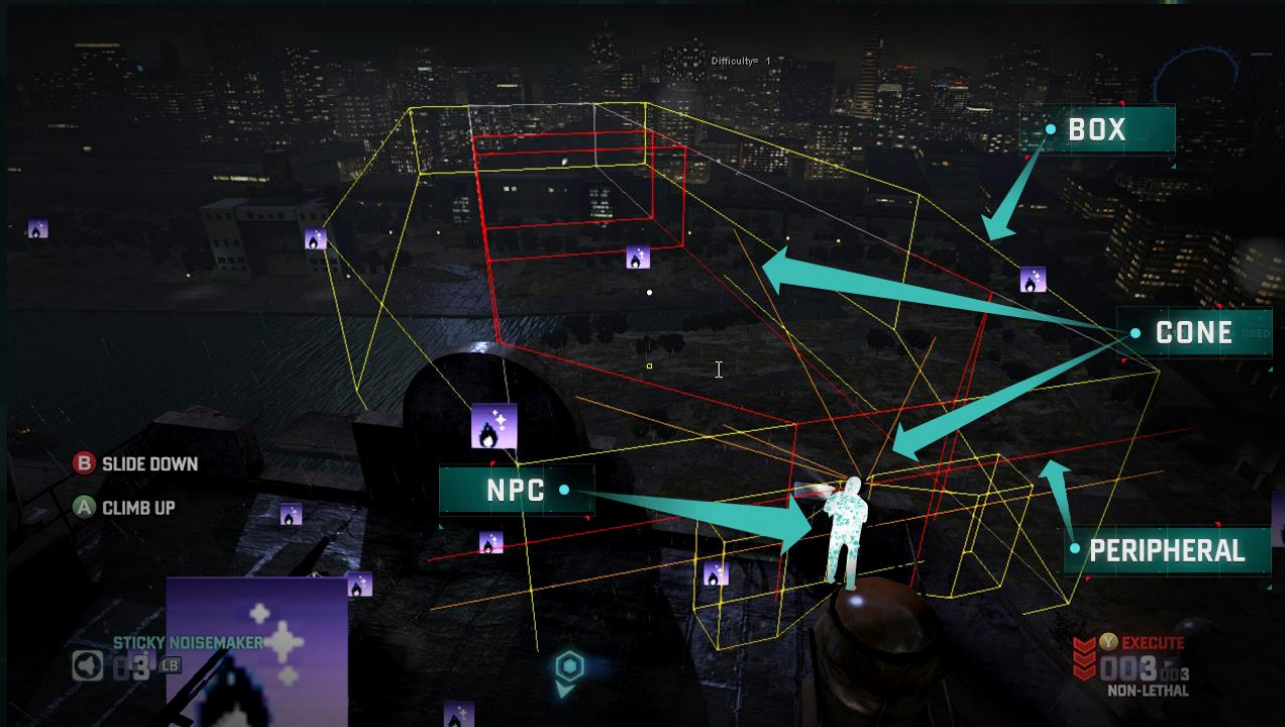


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VISION IN LIFE



VISION IN BLACKLIST



DETECTION



DETECTION FEEDBACK: HUD



TUNING WAS A NIGHTMARE

- Tweaked by Design
- Inconsistent playtest feedback



ISSUES WITH VISION TUNING

• Special case cover code

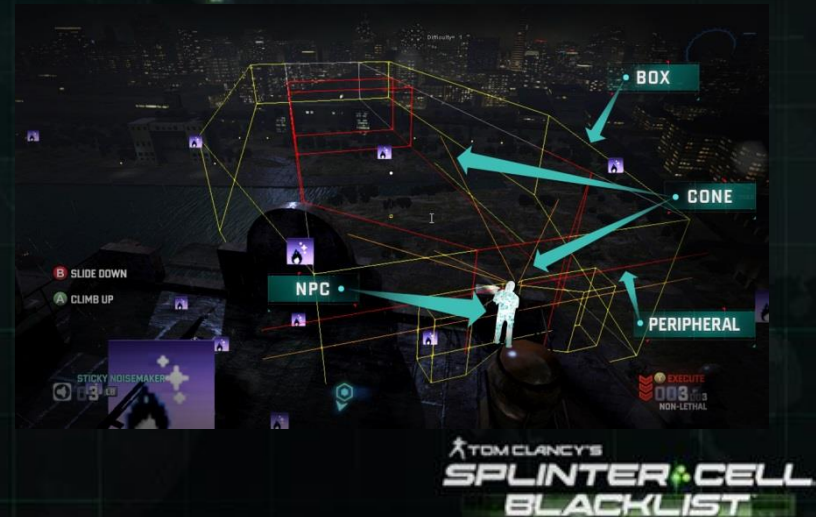
Solution: More special case code ☹

• Detected too easily at a distance

Solution: Switched to Coffin-shaped boxes

• Too easy overall

Solution: Keep tweaking



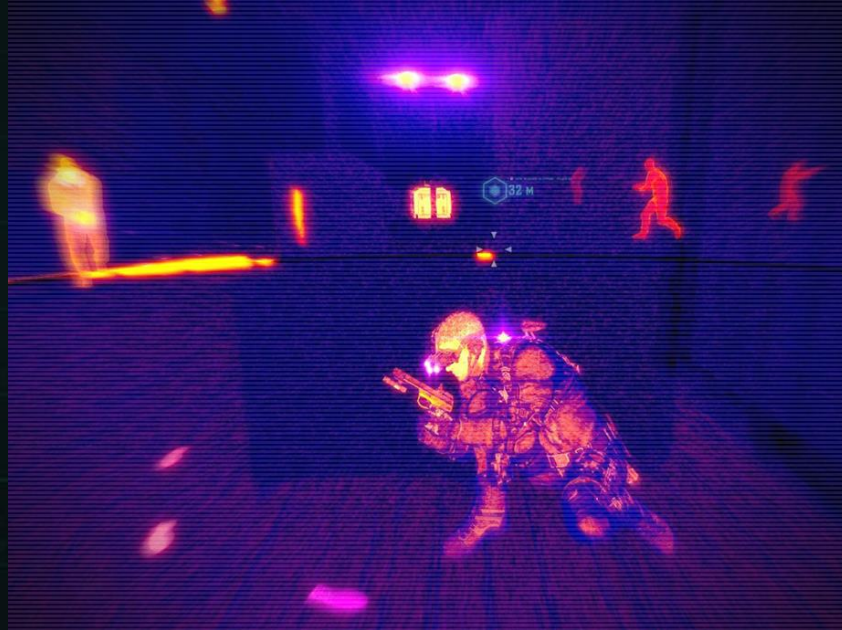
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Layout
- Environmental Objects



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- Layout
- Environmental Objects

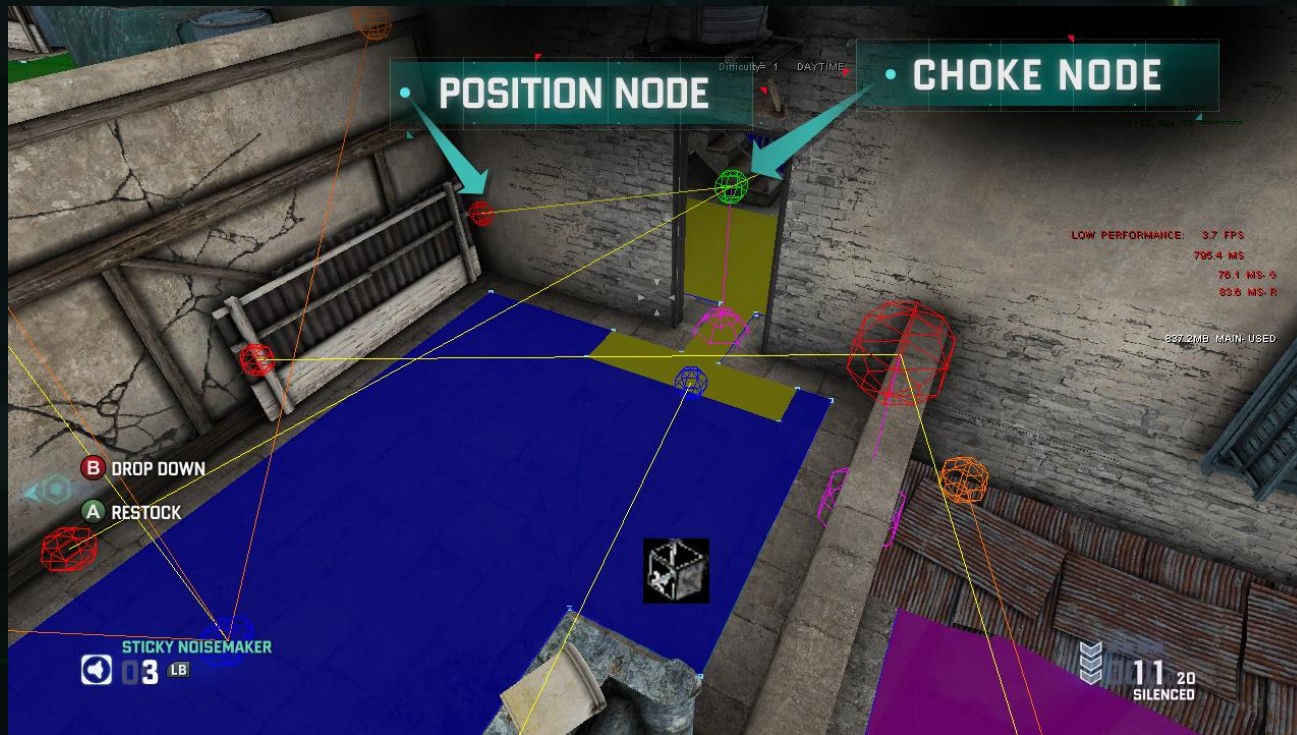


WHY IS AWARENESS OF LAYOUT IMPORTANT?

- Our encounters can start anywhere
- NPCs are already spawned
- What about NPCs that can't engage the player?



LAYOUT AND CONNECTIVITY: TEAS



ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTS

☘ "Did I leave that door open?"



AUDITORY PERCEPTION

- Every auditory event has a distance and priority
- If an NPC is in range he hears it
- Used the TEAS to calculate distance



AUDITORY PERCEPTION ISSUES

- You can't see who hears you
- You don't directly control the sounds you make



AUDITORY PERCEPTION SOLUTION

- NPCs off screen don't hear as well
- CD stopped complaining!



BETTER FEEDBACK: BARKS



"I think I heard footsteps"



"I think I heard someone over there"



"I think someone's over there"

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		PATROL	INVESTIGATE FROM PATROL	INVESTIGATE FROM SEARCH	PRE_COMBAT SEARCH	POST COMBAT SEARCH	
1	HEAR_NOISEMAKER Also Sticky Noisemaker Bolt	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA Level 1 Level 2 "Swear I heard something" INV_EXI_AUD Level 3 "must be nothing" INV_EXI	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA Level 1 Level 2 "Swear I heard something" INV_EXI_AUD Level 3 "must be nothing" INV_EXI	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA Level 1 Level 2 "Swear I heard something" INV_EXI_AUD Level 3 "must be nothing" INV_EXI	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA Level 1 Level 2 "Swear I heard something" INV_EXI_AUD Level 3 "must be nothing" INV_EXI	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA Level 1 Level 2 "Swear I heard something" INV_EXI_AUD Level 3 "must be nothing" INV_EXI	
2	GADGETS GRENADE_BUMP	ALKP (On Explosion) "Owl!" "Huh!" (Look at Oh nost)	ALKP (On Explosion) "Owl!" "Huh!" (Look at Oh nost)		ALKP (On Explosion) "Owl!" "Huh!" (Look at Oh nost)	ALKP (On Explosion) "Owl!" "Huh!" (Look at Oh nost)	
6	REMAINS AS IS IN CODE Hear Sticky Cam Whistle "We found a surveillance device. Spread out and search"	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA ***special bark before shooting cam*** "What's this thing?" REA_STI **Everyone spread out and search** SEA_ENT LKP ***Someone tripped the alarm** LKP_ENT_ALR	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA ***special bark before shooting cam*** "What's this thing?" REA_STI **Everyone spread out and search** SEA_ENT LKP ***Someone tripped the alarm** LKP_ENT_ALR	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA ***special bark before shooting cam*** "What's this thing?" REA_STI **Everyone spread out and search** SEA_ENT LKP ***Someone tripped the alarm** LKP_ENT_ALR	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA ***special bark before shooting cam*** "What's this thing?" REA_STI **Everyone spread out and search** SEA_ENT LKP ***Someone tripped the alarm** LKP_ENT_ALR	INVESTIGATE (TO SEARCH) "huh" REA ***special bark before shooting cam*** "What's this thing?" REA_STI **Everyone spread out and search** SEA_ENT LKP ***Someone tripped the alarm** LKP_ENT_ALR	

SOCIAL AND CONTEXTUAL AWARENESS

- Who am I talking to?
- What's happening around me?



CONTEXTUAL AWARENESS: CONVERSATION



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CONTEXTUAL AWARENESS: UNREACHABLE



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QUESTIONS?



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To be continued...

COME & MEET ME

at the



UBISOFT

2014

[GDC] LOUNGE

Today

from

3:30PM

to

4:30PM

TOM CLANCY'S
SPLINTER CELL
BLACKLIST



QUESTIONS?

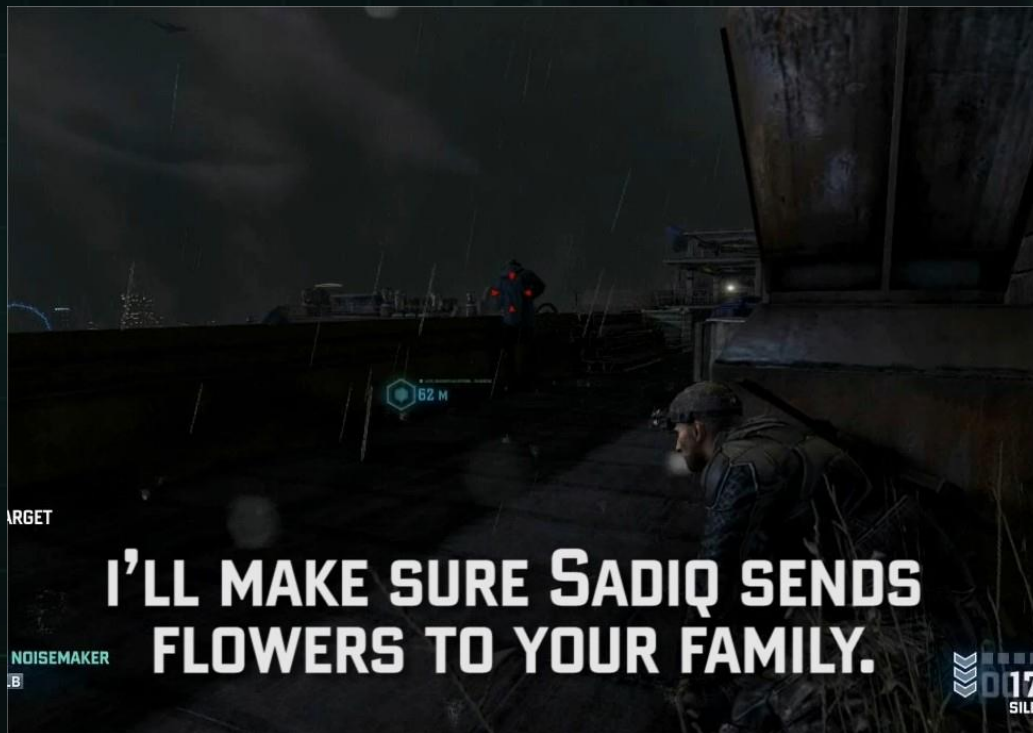


COMMON SOCIAL AND CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

- Disappearing NPC problem
- The dead body problem



CONTEXTUAL AWARENESS: **UNREACHABLE**



SOCIAL AWARENESS: CONVERSATIONS



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