

#### A Programmer's Post-mortem

## CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER



## ABOUT CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER



#### Who am I?

#### What am I talking about?

•Hopefully things that will help you

#### What is Crysis 2?

- •First-person shooter
- •12 players on consoles, 16 players on PC
- •Entirely player vs. player
- •3 Platforms 360, PC, PS3



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER CRYSIS 2 DEV OVERVIEW



We developed the multiplayer at Crytek UK We started in February 2009 We shipped in March 2011 At peak, 36 programmers working on MP Single-player was developed in Frankfurt



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER CRYSIS 2 MP SCOPE



#### New tech

•We hadn't used CryEngine before as a team

#### New features

•Console network layer (+ lobbies)

Host migration

•Kill cam

#### Challenges

Bandwidth optimisations needed

•General performance/memory







#### C++ codebase, split into 20(ish) projects

#### ~100-150 commits every day to the code

about 130 different users committed code over the last year of the project



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER CRYSIS 2 DEV OVERVIEW



#### **Multiplayer Dev Phases**

- Prototyping
- Production
- Testing
- Post Release Support (not covered here!)





## PROTOTYPING

# **CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER**



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER PROTOTYPING CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER



#### What was the aim of our prototyping?

From the design side, find the gameplayFrom the code side, explore the technical risks

#### What did we do?

- •Prototypes of all game modes and maps
- •Produced one game mode, one level internal demo
- Internal demo also contained prototypes of risky tech



## WORK GROUPS



#### Small cross discipline groups

- •Were given an idea to explore
- •Worked on it together for two weeks
- •Presented to rest of team at end
- •Many features born out of this, many also thrown away



## NET TESTING



#### We started testing the game locally

- •Get a couple of servers running
- •Everyone joins in (where they can, anyhow)
- •Feedback discussion afterwards

#### Net Test Battleboard

- •We use a board to track tasks that are voted for
- •These are then prioritised (by design/popularity/severity)
- •Then we try to fix at least the top 5 (normally more)



## PROTOTYPING



#### To sum up our prototyping:

- •It was a great way to make the game fun
- •The net testing we did was really important
- •It gave us confidence that risky features could work
- •The team enjoyed it





## CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER PRODUCTION



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER MANAGING CODE



#### During production we had:

- Lots of people committing new code
- In progress features
- In progress optimisations (all the time!)
- Two studios

Lots of change led to blocking bugs in Perforce Blocking bugs have a very high productivity cost •Especially with artists and designers





#### We had an MP branch to work from

#### Every commit is built as quickly as possible

- But you can't go home until it's built
- So if you need to go home, don't commit

#### Still left us with broken code in Perforce



## CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER



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#### We setup a system to test shelved changes

•Shelved code isn't committed but can be seen from other machines

#### We use Buildbot.net

•It grabs the shelf and builds the files in lots of build configurations

#### Means code always compiles cross-platform

•There are some **very** rare exceptions

#### Creates executables that can be run





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Home - Waterfall Grid T-Grid Console Builders Recent Builds Buildslaves Changesources - About

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## AUTO TESTING



A call we dot through the code

- Only there in debug
- Shows where the code has been
- We combine them with input scripts
  - Input script throws a grenade
  - Then pass if we hit the explosion checkpoint

#### Can test for correctness

• However, you can't easily test for quality







#### Run tests on code before it's committed

• Using auto testing system

#### Can check important systems/constraints

- Memory Use
- Frame Rate
- Level heap







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## AND WE STILL HAVE BUGS



#### Yes, we still have bugs in our code

- •But significantly less than I'd have expected
- •...and often in areas that aren't yet being tested
- •...or they're bugs due to quality problems





#### Crysis 1 used a lot of memory

- At least by console standards
- However, we had to run on console
- It took months of work to reduce the memory use
  - Task was shared with Frankfurt
- We made a tool to help us out

Has the added benefit of being able to track leaks



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER MEMREPLAY



#### Now an important part of development

• The moment there's a memory problem, start MemReplay

#### We have lots of future ideas

- Looking into better Lua integration
- Analysing the executable sections
- Debugging features
- Simulations of different scenarios (can plan memory savings)







Performance was often 'spiky' Would run at an average of 30fps But some frames were taking 60ms+ Created a tool to help find them



## STATOSCOPE



### Really useful for us when helping others

#### Future plans

- •A "Dr Statoscope" feature
- Incorporate our bandwidth measurement tools
- •Gather other in-game telemetry into the tool





Designed to help find memory tramples The problem:

- Code often doesn't break immediately
- Finding these can be time consuming

Shows you the last million writes on all thread Currently only works on PS3





#### How does it work?

- It takes gcc output and alters every store
- Each store does it's work and writes to a global table
- You run the game, hit your crash...
- ...then save the table out to disk using ProDG
- You open it up in your favourite text editor...



#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER BLACKBOX



#### Where it looks like this:

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### It takes lots of memory... ...and runs somewhat slower (about 15-20fps)

But it does find memory tramples very easily





## CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER TESTING



## DUMMY PLAYERS



#### Dummy player input

Just takes over the input of the player

And randomly does things

Move, Fire, Jump, Melee, Switch Weapon, etc We tried to cover every action



## STRESS TESTING



- 1. Sync latest build
- 2. Start the game
- 3. Pick and load a level
- 4. Spawn lots of Dummy Players in
- 5. Leave them for a while (10 minutes or so)
- 6. If you've not run all levels yet, goto 3

As things go wrong, collect details Mail the details out to the team



## STRESS TESTING



#### Most useful for tracking down crashes

•It finds rare crashes regularly

It automatically checks whether things are fixed

#### It identifies cross-platform issues for you

•Because it runs on all platforms





Data is collected on a central web server Create a few web pages for browsing it

#### Two types of data

- Tech telemetry (dev only)
- Gameplay telemetry (also production)

#### We collect info on all sessions

•Including all the stress tests



### TECH TELEMETRY - FPS





#### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER

#### **TECH TELEMETRY – SESSION FPS**





## TESTING SUMMARY



#### Automatic testing is amazing!

- Especially systems like the stress tester
- Try to keep test maintenance down
- Best to keep tests like the real game
- Collect as much information from tests as you can
- But it's really important to create tools to analyze it
- And make sure you use them!







#### Be flexible and prepared to adapt

•Maybe the things that helped us won't help you...

•But change is the only constant, and you can't escape it!





Ask me questions on Twitter if you'd like : TalkyLemon

## CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER QUESTIONS?





### CRYSIS 2 MULTIPLAYER THANKYOU!

