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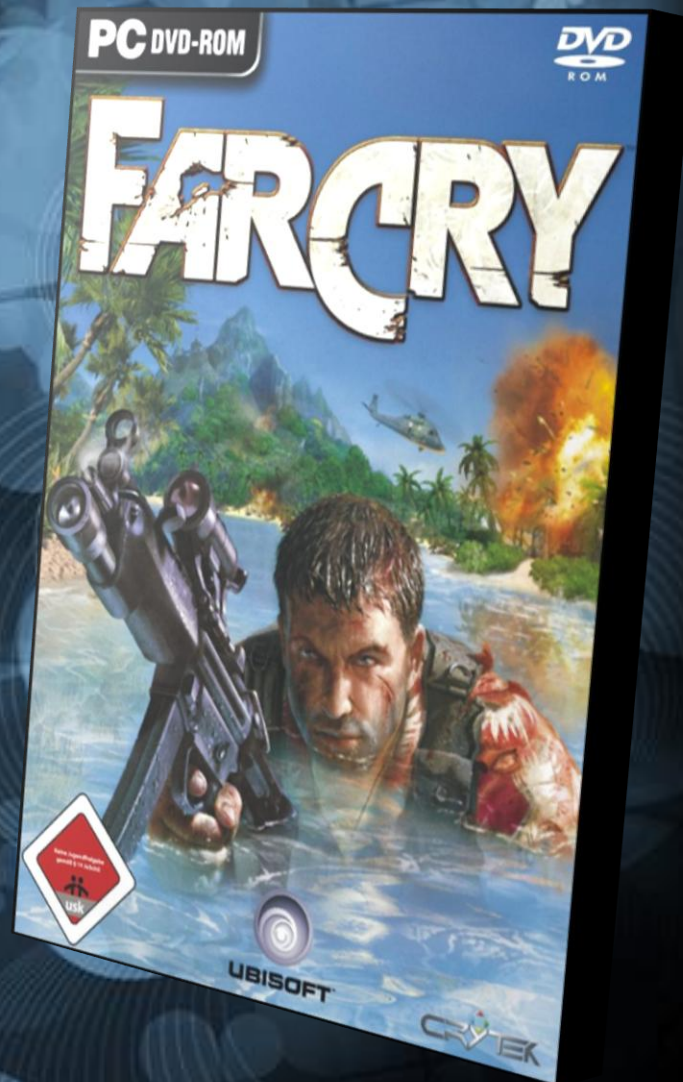
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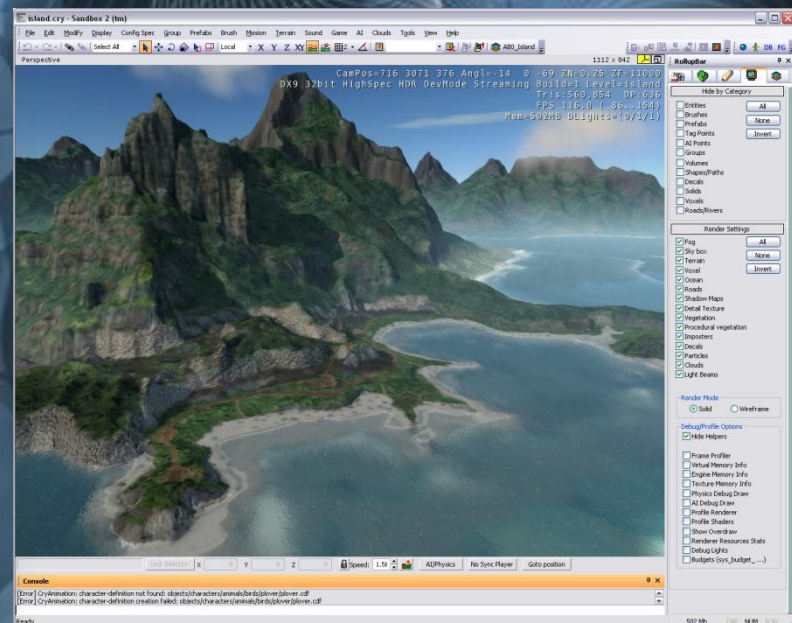
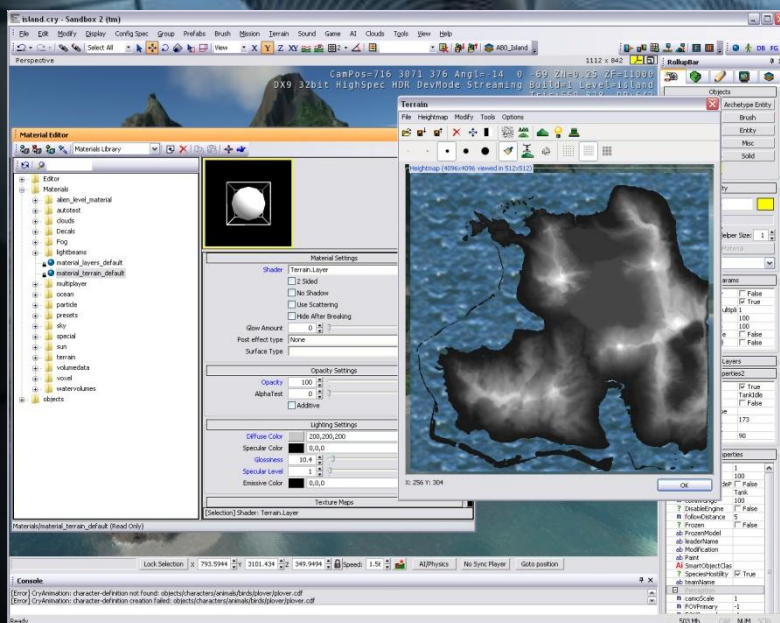
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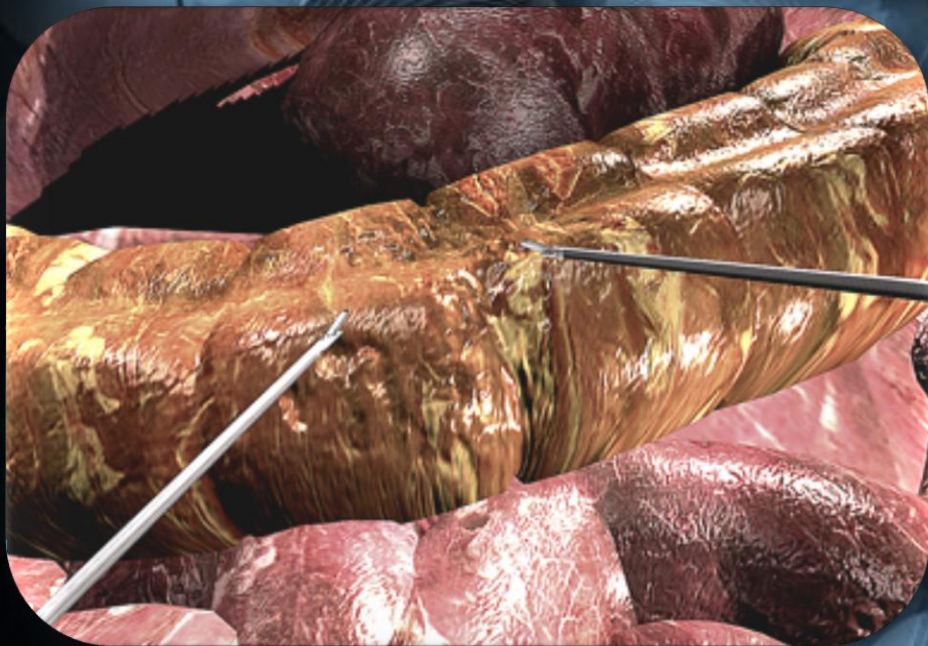
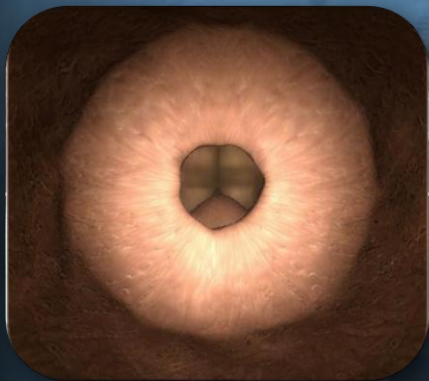


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12 NAVY NEWS, MAY 2004

Scylla scuttles to new life on seabed

OLD warship HMS Scylla has started her new career as a sunken reef off the southern coast of Cornwall.

The former Leander-class frigate, built in Devonport Dockyard in the 1960s, was bought by the National Marine Aquarium last year, and spent months in Devonport, being prepared for her last trip to sea.

DML were responsible for extensive work to strip out equipment and cut holes into her hull and superstructure to allow access by divers.

Her main and funnel were cut down to give safe clearance above her where she sits on the sea bed of Whitsand Bay, close to Plymouth.

She was towed round to her final resting place, watched by thousands of spectators, and after final safety checks, explosive charges opened her hull to the sea.

Scylla sank within four minutes and slowly slipped into the bay, where she will become an artificial playground for divers and a new home for marine creatures.

Some 60 specialists have put in more than 20,000 man-hours of work.

on the old frigate, which paid off in December 1993.

During her final weeks in dock, many ex-servicemen who served in her have taken a last look, including her final Commanding Officer, Capt Mike Bann, who said: "I'm very interested in the project and am delighted that she will be put to such good use."

Rarely an hour after Scylla went down, Lt Cdr Kim Godfrey, Commanding Officer of the Southern Diving Group, and his colleagues were diving on the wreck.

Divers from HMS Drake had been on hand to offer advice on the scuttling of ships, in particular the use of explosives.

The Navy divers' task was to ensure all 50 scuttling charges had gone off and to remove web cameras fixed to Scylla's hull which broadcast her demise on the Internet.

"With so many holes now in her, she is going to be great for divers to explore. For us it was brilliant to look at her, a really good experience," Lt Cdr Godfrey said.

Brave, Boxer out for count

TWO trusted friends of the Fleet will go out with a bang this summer as decommissioned frigates HMS Brave and Boxer are sunk.

Exercise High Sea Fling, lined up for August, will see the two decommissioned Type 22 warships attacked from the sea and air as the RN carries out live weapons tests.

The two ships have spent their post-RN careers in Portsmouth.

Sister HMS Rover was sold for breaking up, but the Fleet decided it needed Boxer and Brave as targets.

A target area in the Atlantic about

400 miles off the Irish coast has been earmarked for the live firings, including torpedoes and missiles.

If this firepower fails to send the duo to the seabed, a team from the Southern Diving Group based in Plymouth and Portsmouth will scuttle the ships so they do not present a hazard to other shipping.

For the divers, the exercise will bring back a few poignant memories - also being sunk is former diving tender Ironbridge, which many experienced divers in the Fleet will have operated from.

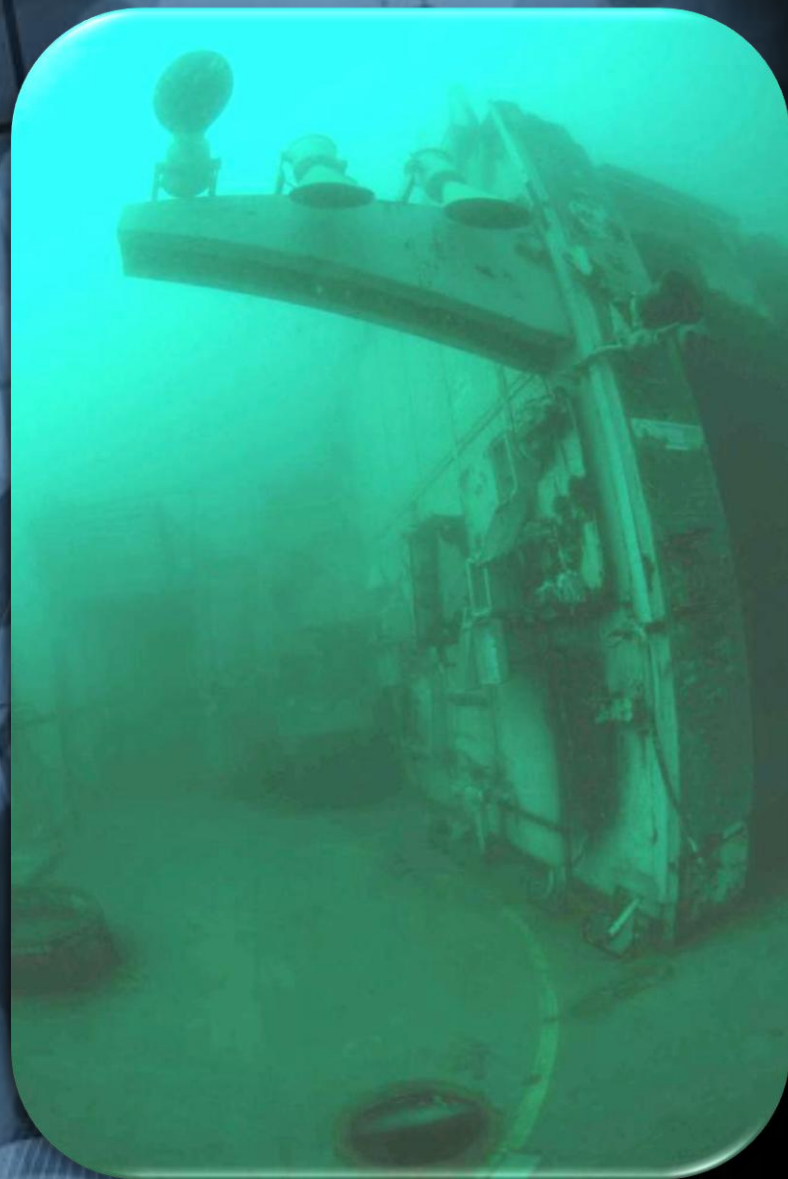


● Scylla in dock at Devonport awaiting her fate after equipment had been stripped out and access holes cut in her hull (left) and detonated and the old Leander-class frigate slips below the waves (above)

Sitting sequence: LA/PHOT, Jim Forewick

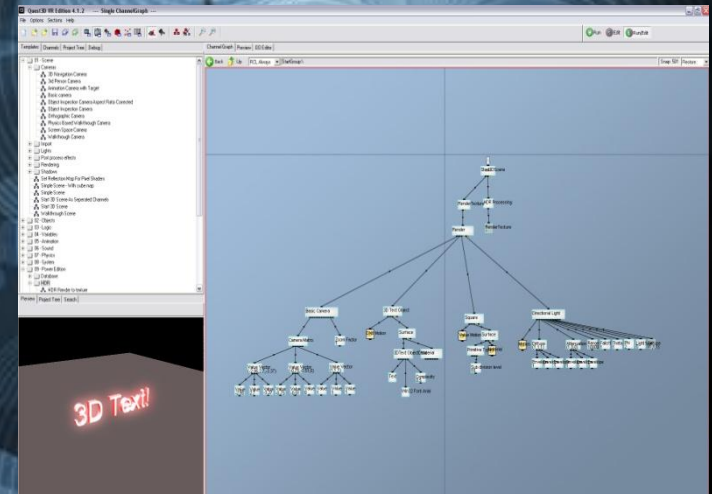
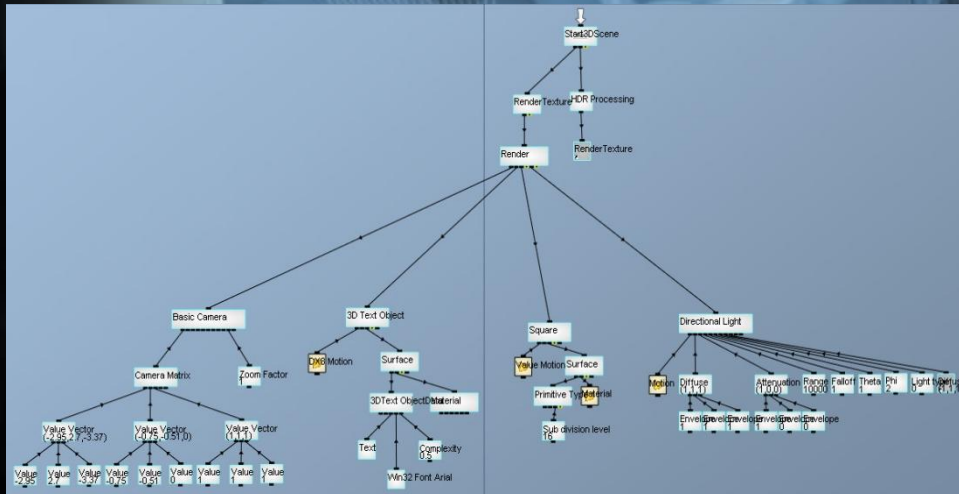
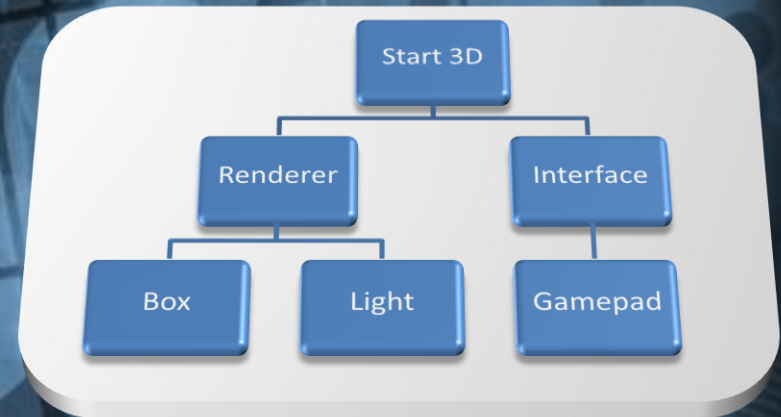


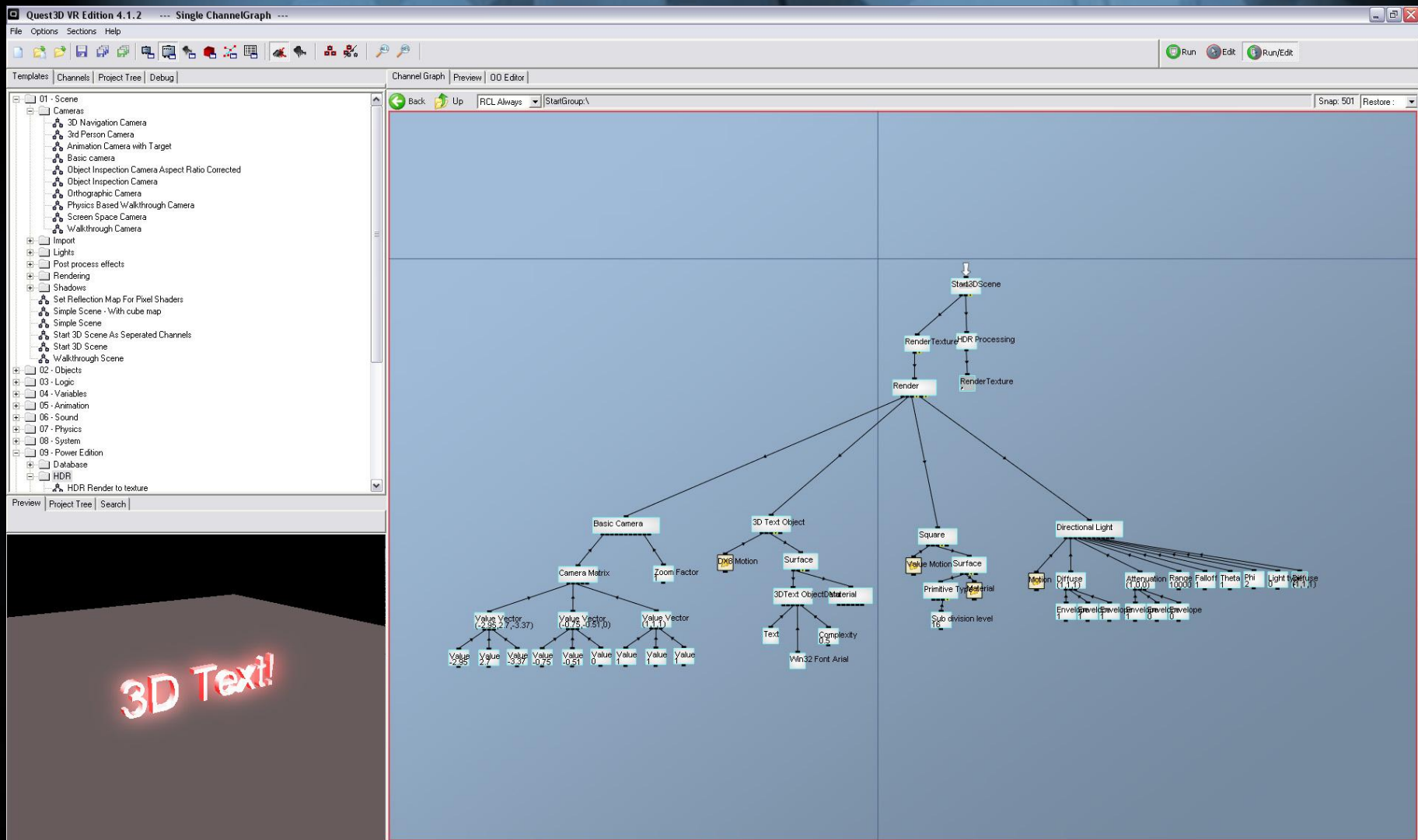
Picture: DML

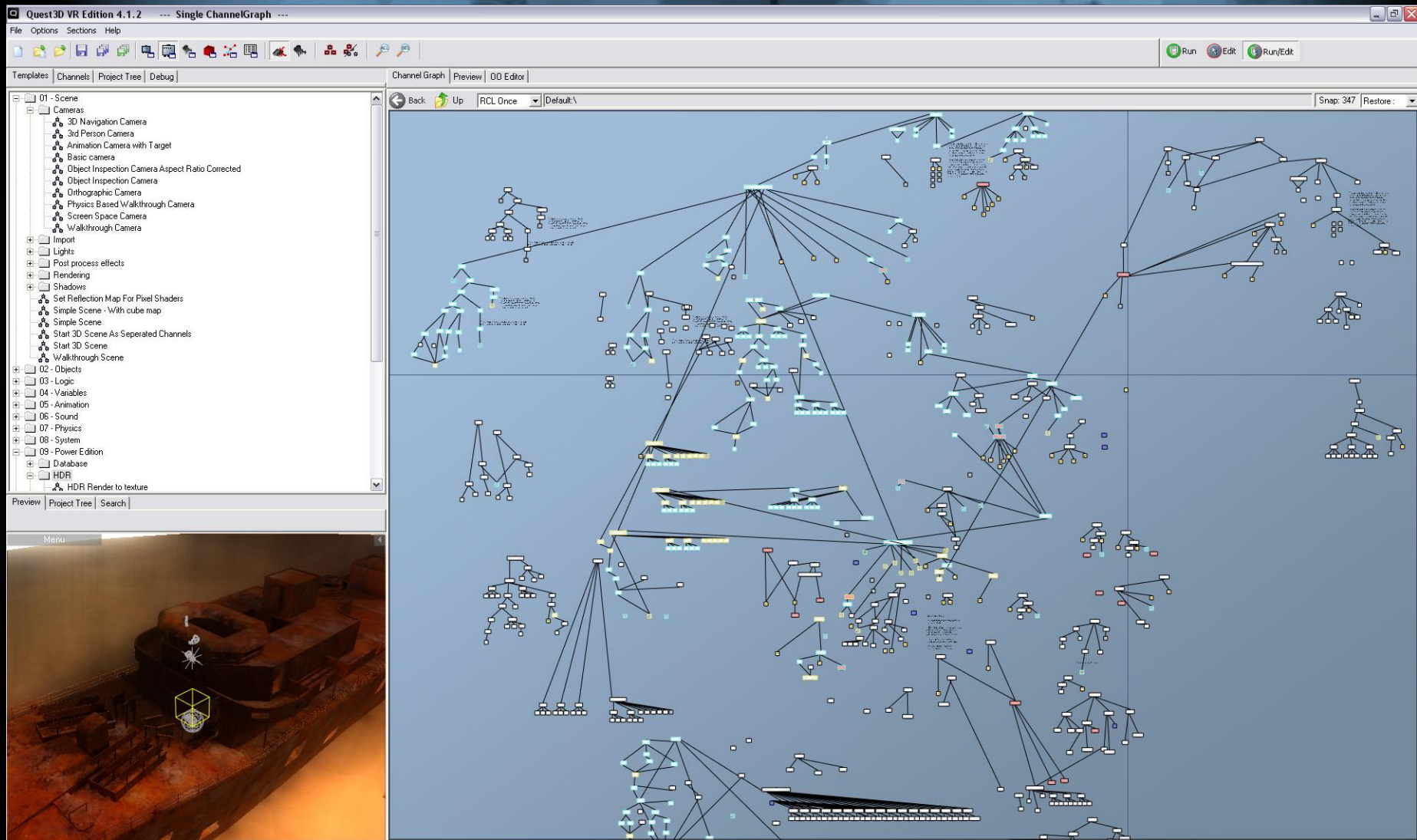




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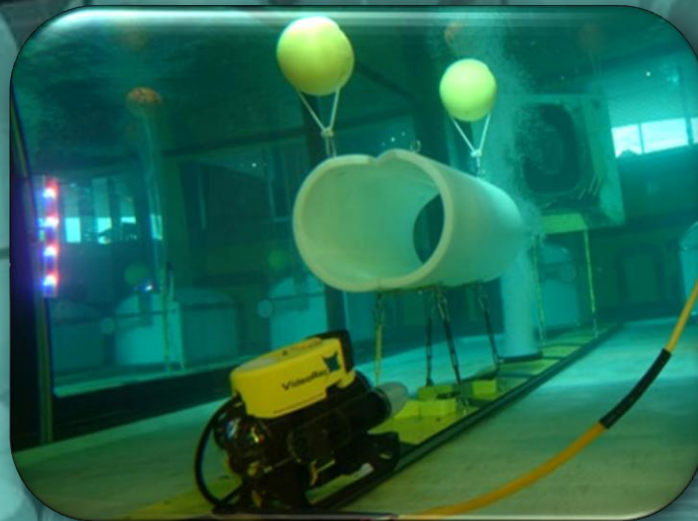




NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM



Aqua Theater





Virtual SubMission

Pilot Profile

Press  to
select answer

Male or Female

☒ Male

☐ Female

Press  to
confirm selection

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Virtual SubMission

Pilot Profile

Press  to
select answer

Select age group

☒ Under 5

☐ 5 to 10

☐ 11 to 16

☐ 17 to 25

☐ 26 and ab

Press  to
confirm selection

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Virtual SubMission

Pilot Profile

Press  to
select answer

How much time do you spend
playing computer games

☐ None

☒ Less than 1 hour a week

☐ 1 to 5 hours a week

☐ 6 to 10 hours a week

☐ 11 or more hours a week

Press  to
confirm selection

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