



Activeworlds Europe

Presentation and meeting The Graal

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MANUAL FOR YOUR VISIT TO ACTIVEWORLDS EUROPE

1 Introduction

You are going to visit virtual environments in Activeworlds Europe. When entering the environment, you will be given a choice of standard virtual bodies, or you can make your own customisable Avatar. With this Avatar you will be able to walk through the environments, together with others.

The goal of this evening is to give you an overview of possibilities Activeworlds offers you, and together discuss what makes sense for your purposes.

This document gives you a quick overview of usage and technical aspects, like download and installation of the 8 Mb browser and certain settings you can change to make your visit a perfect experience.

2 Installation

Before you enter an Activeworlds environment, you will need to install the special browser (8 Mb) by clicking the big orange button on www.Hunts.nl, or GO 3D on www.aw-europe.com.

During the installation you will be shown a few screens asking for your input, like where to install the software and what kind of Internet connection you have. We advice you not to change the standard installation folder as it can make support and upgrades more difficult.

At the end of the installation, you are asked for a name and e-mail address, allowing you to enter as a "Tourist" (free user). Just enter a name and e-mail and wait until everything has loaded.

(If you install the software behind a proxy server or firewall, you will have to give full rights to the programme "aweuropa.exe" to be able to access the worlds and download the (safe) content. If you encounter any problems, please send an e-mail to business@aw-europe.com with details of your problem and reply information, or add "EmmanuelPG" on your Skype to contact me directly).

We advise you to install the software before the conference, so you can test it and get used to the controls.



3 Your first steps

The moment you log on, the browser is started with in the middle the 3D window, at the bottom the chat window and chat and whisper Lines, at the top you will find the menu's and command icons. You will start with a black 3D screen saying "Initialising 3D World" until your browser starts processing the 3D content. From that moment on, gravity will kick in and the environment will start showing.

The speed of download of course depends on your internet connection; the rendering depends on the speed of your pc and your video memory.

You will see signs appearing in front of you, and a small Dutch and English flag. Choose your favourite language and click on the panel for new users to quickly learn the basics.

After that you will be able to ask a robot to teleport you to the The Graal meeting place.

4 Your "Citizen" details

You have entered as a free user (a Tourist). This means you cannot use voice chat, contact list and telegram features.

For this conference we offer you an ID which will be given to you when you enter, or if you send an e-mail to emmanuelg@aw-europe.com before the conference!

To logon as a citizen, you choose LOGIN, CITIZEN in the top menu and fill in your credentials. To change your credentials and add your own information like web site, profile or other, choose OPTIONS, CITIEN in the top menu.

5 Entry to professional example worlds

During the meeting, you will be able to visit some professional educational worlds and test and try solutions for yourselves. These are only accessible for Citizens, so you will need to be given an ID, either via e-mail or via the chat after logging on.

To access other worlds, use your F9 key to open a TABS window on the left. It contains a WORLDS tab with a list of worlds. By clicking on a world you are immediately teleported there. Some worlds are private and will not allow you entry.

One of the worlds we will visit is NIJGH World, an economy city used by thousands of students each week, connected to schoolbooks. Teachers go online with students for explanations; students can do their homework online and together.

In this world, you will be able to do exercises the students do, although they are in Dutch.



6 Communication during the meeting

We will use normal typed chat, combined with voice chat in moderated mode and where needed in conference mode. Which means we will have 1 speaker who can give speaking rights to the others? Activeworlds allows several hundreds of users in one voice chat meeting and also has private voice chat possibilities.

7 Some tips and tricks

7.1 *When had someone finished speaking?*

If a speaker says several lines after each other, it can be difficult to see when someone has finished speaking. In Activeworlds we often use the word <END> at the end of a speech or answer, which shows one is ready.

7.2 *The chat window*

When larger numbers of people are chatting (50+) the chat can be too fast to read. Activeworlds allows you to change the number of nearest people you see the chat from via OPTIONS, SETTINGS and then the PERFORMANCE and CHAT tabs.

You can scroll in the chat screen with your mouse (scroll wheel) or with your arrow keys by clicking in the chat window. You can also copy chat and paste it in another programme. You can save your own chat via the Options, Settings, Chat menu.

7.3 *Private chat (Whispers)*

Underneath the normal chat line you will find a WHISPER line with a list of names of people present. If you do not see a Whisper line, press F8 key to activate it.

Whispers are private messages (recognisable by italic blue text) which only you and the sender/receiver see.

To send a whisper, choose the right person, enter your text and press ENTER, but only AFTER double checking it is the right person selected!

Keep in mind the one you whisper to can be busy with others, an answer is not always immediate and your question may even be overseen. In that case, point it out to the person after a little while.



7.4 The windows in the browser

The browser consists of different windows which you can customise yourself regarding size and placement:

- The Chat window
- The Tabs window
- The integrated web browser window

Every window has an X top right and a little thumb pick icon. The icon you can use to make the window floating and/or disappearing.

By selecting and holding the top of a window, you can move it and or resize it the way you want. A symbol will appear in the middle, allowing you to choose 4 fixed locations.

7.5 Technical aspects

You can change a multitude of settings via OPTIONS, SETTINGS in the top menu; most of the time changes are only needed if the rendering is slow. Find a short overview below:

- **Video:** Which rendering do you wish to use? DirectX 8 and higher is best if your PC allows that
- **Disk Usage:** Allow restricted amount of data or unrestricted with periodic cleanup. (*When your cache is full, you will not see Avatar movements and new content will not be loaded anymore*)
- **Downloads:** use Download ALL to always see all content, or restrict it to certain sizes (often used for students)
- **Performance:** Depending on the performance of your PC and Video memory, the rendering of the 3D will be fluid or on the contrary, very slow. These settings allow you to lower certain aspects and speed up your rendering.
- **Privacy:** Allows you to set what others are allowed to see of you and acknowledge join and invite requests.
- **Chat:** How to show the chat: as text balloons or only in the chat window, and how many people you wish to be rendered, based in your rendering speed
- **Advanced:** Choose different language sets and set certain technical messaging options



8 To end with and to start with

We are looking forward to seeing you in Activeworlds Europe and wish you an interesting, innovating and fun evening, together with us and other guests.

We also hope you will see possibilities you may use immediately and make new steps in virtual education.

For some of you, this may be your first visit in a virtual world, for others it is a normal daily work-environment. If you say to someone: please follow me, keep in mind that person may still have to learn how to walk.

I hope this document gives you enough information to make your first visit easy and worthwhile. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

With kind regards,
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