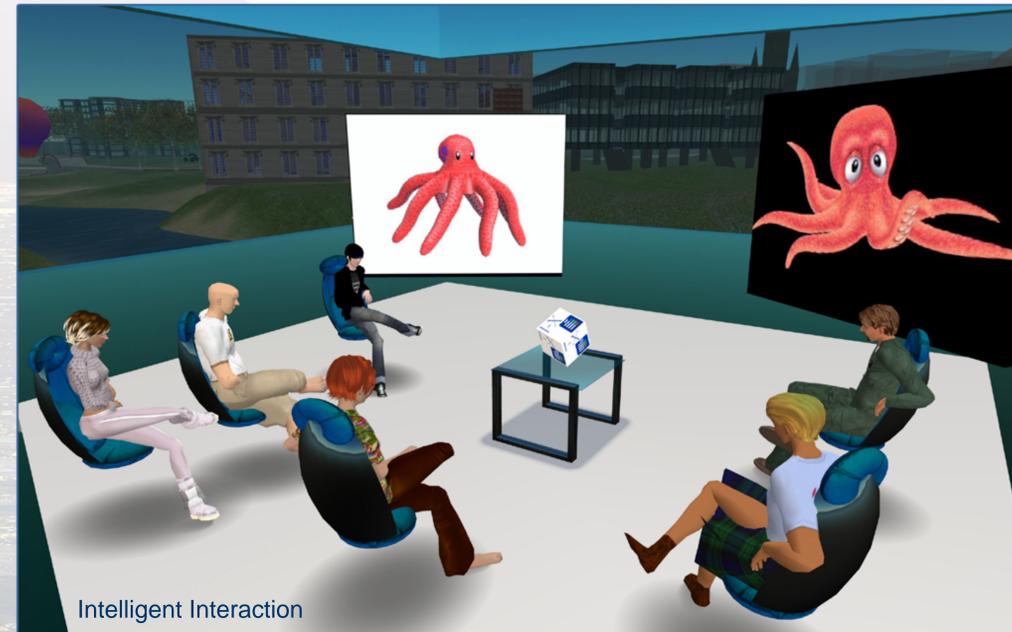




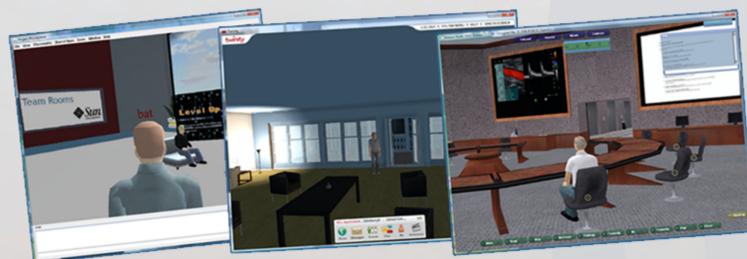
The **Intelligent Virtual Worlds (I-VW) Programme** is a new collaborative venture from the School of Informatics at the University of Edinburgh. The programme has been created for organisations that are developing or looking to deploy virtual worlds for practical use.

I-VW will examine a wide range of platforms, deploy prototype systems and explore the feasibility of using these systems for practical and commercial use. The programme is an excellent place for all types of organisation to understand and exploit the latest virtual world platforms and applications. Membership is available through subscription.



Platforms

I-VW adopts a platform agnostic approach and will examine a wide range of virtual worlds that are of interest to the programme and its membership.



The research team are experienced in a number of platforms such as Second Life, OpenSim, Twinity, Lively by Google, Project Wonderland and Forterra OLIVE.

Focus Areas

The research themes are to be refined and confirmed on a cyclic basis by the I-VW Steering Board appointed from the membership. Initial work is focused on:

• *Virtual Worlds Evaluation Methodology*

The programme will refine an evaluation methodology which will examine the suitability of virtual world platforms for different practical purposes, especially for the deployment of intelligent and collaborative systems.

• *Intelligent Environments*

(e.g. Sensor grids, augmented reality, monitoring and simulation)

• *Intelligent Avatars and Agents*

(e.g. Natural language generation, knowledge-base feeds, avatar control)

• *Virtual Collaboration*

(e.g. I-Room - room for intelligent interaction, business processes and standard operating procedures, knowledge capture and evaluation)

• *Deploying Virtual Worlds*

(e.g. Practical deployment issues, firewall and security, media streaming and delivery, thin vs thick client, mobility, open source, deploying grids)

Membership Benefits

- Twice yearly members' briefing
- Monthly in-world members meeting
- Voting rights and place on I-VW Steering Board
- Networking with other programme members
- Interaction and discussion with thought leaders in academia
- Short written summaries of I-VW research
- Access to new technology releases and related publications
- Opportunities for continued professional development
- Opportunity to commission further company specific research



Potential Applications

- Business teleconferencing
- Team meetings for projects, products or reviews
- Help desks
- Customer feedback centres
- Health and safety at work, disability awareness
- Intelligent greeters and guides
- Active demonstration pavilions