

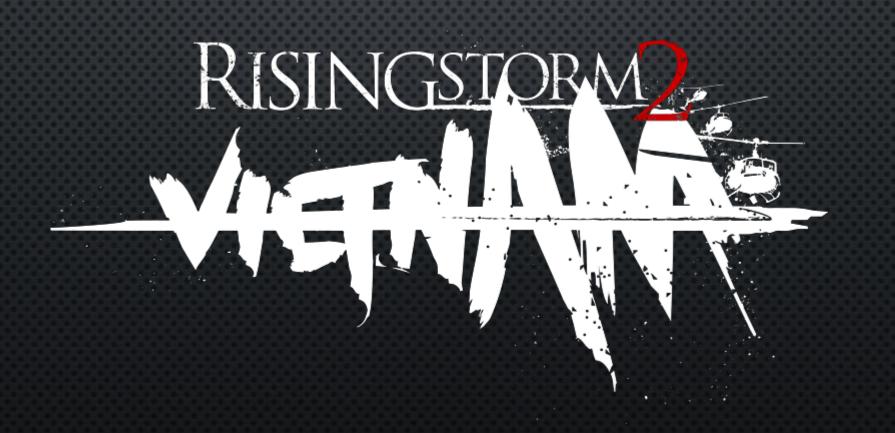
Add, Fix, and Mix

Audio for a Live Game (Killing Floor 2 and Rising Storm 2)

Mark Muraski
Audio Director Tripwire Interactive

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE MARCH 18-22, 2019 | #GDC19





KF2 LIVE UPDATES

New Maps

New Characters

New Weapons

Event Based Character Reskins

New Features / Modes

CHALLENGES

Features Outside of Original System Design

Voice Count / Performance

Memory

Rapid Turnaround

Community

VOICE COUNTS

New Features That Use Old Assets Can Cause Serious Trouble

REFACTORING

It's Probably Going to Happen

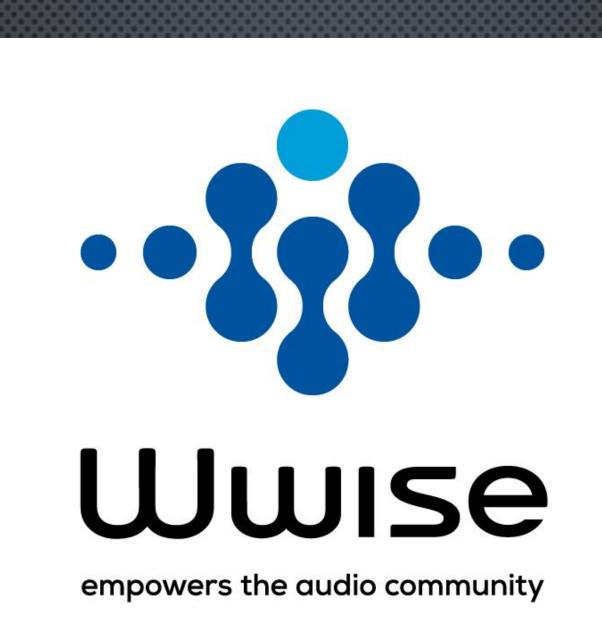
Improved Systems

Player Experience is the Same or Improves*

Memory / Performance

Scalability

LEVERAGE YOUR MIDDLEWARE



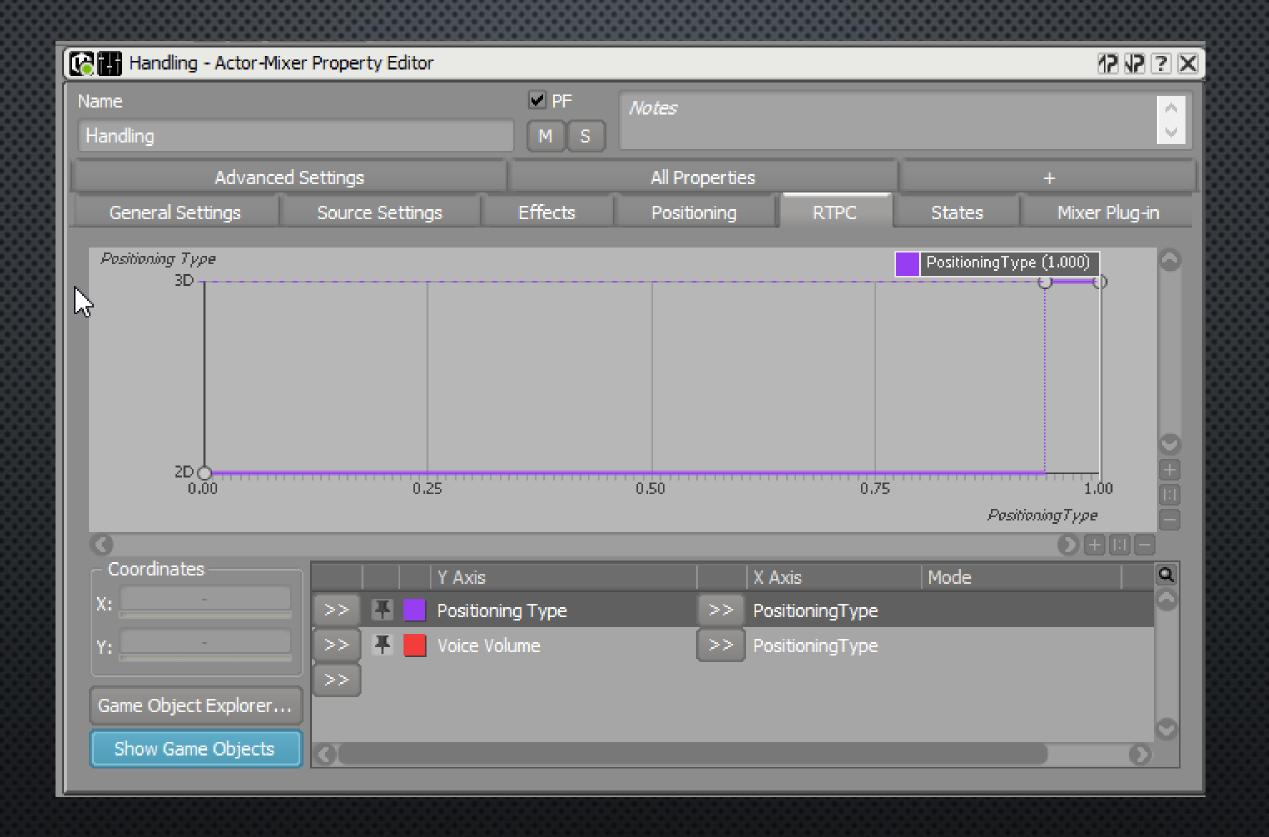
SHARING 1P AND 3P SOUNDS

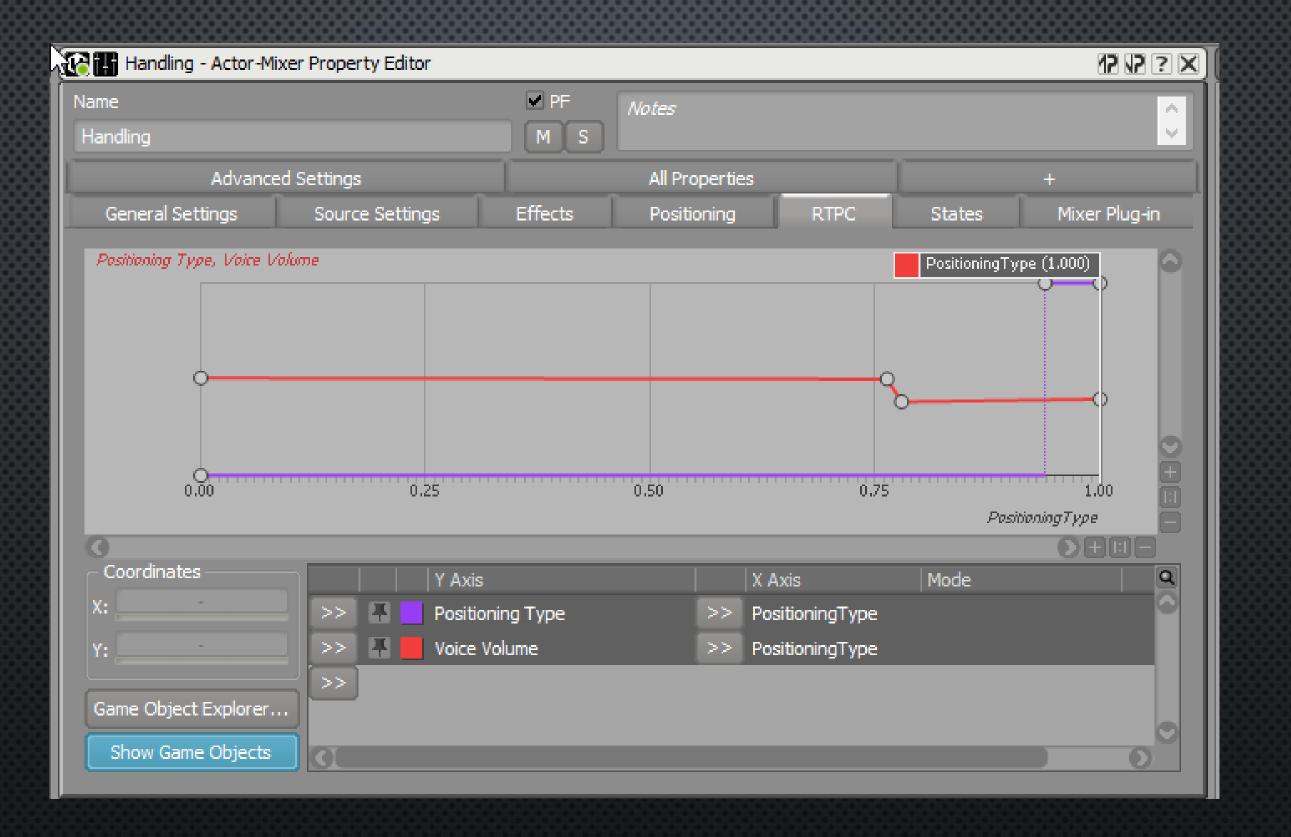
Create One Sound

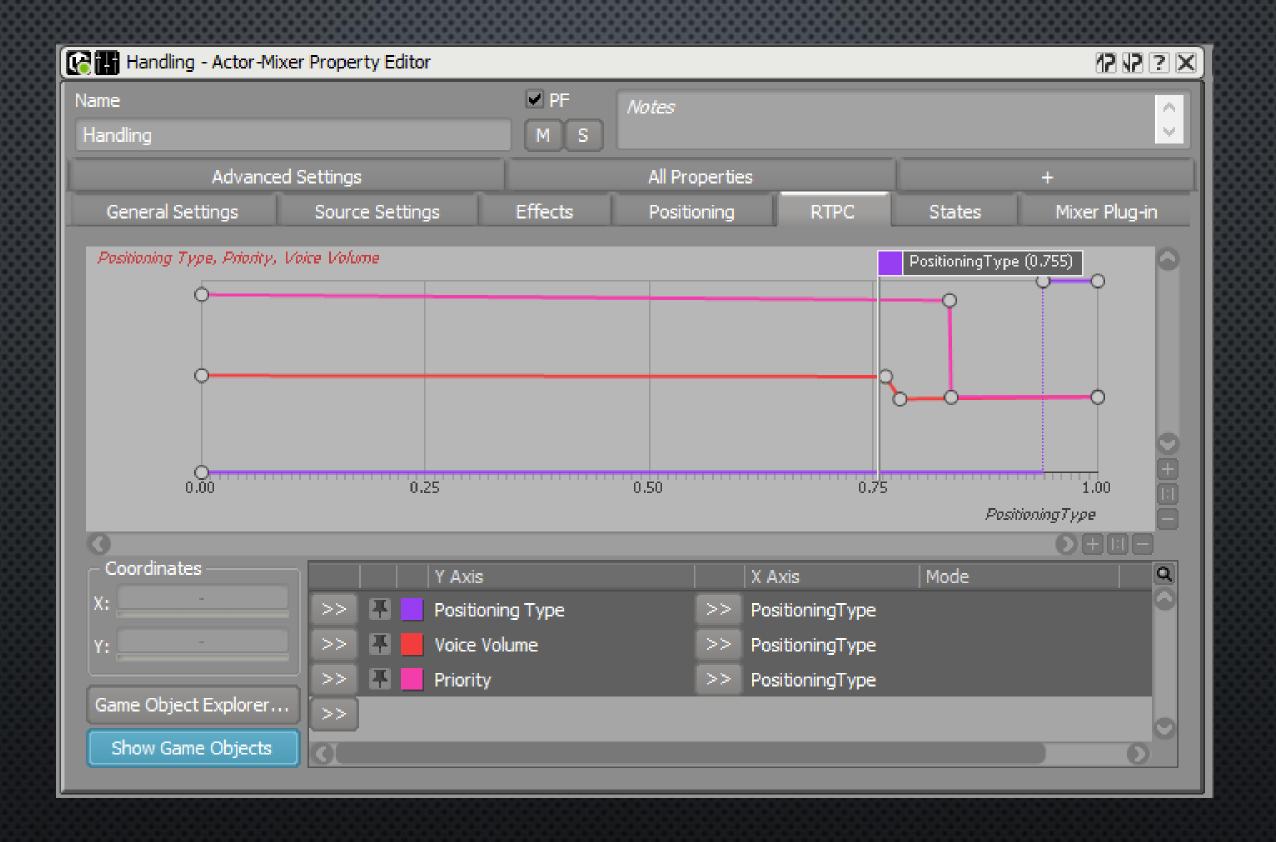
Create and Maintain One Animation Notify Set

Set Positioning Type with RTPC (Real Time Parameter Control)

Control Volume/Priority with RTPC







RENDERING WEAPON REVERBS IN MIDDLEWARE

Manual management of originals vs processed files is negated

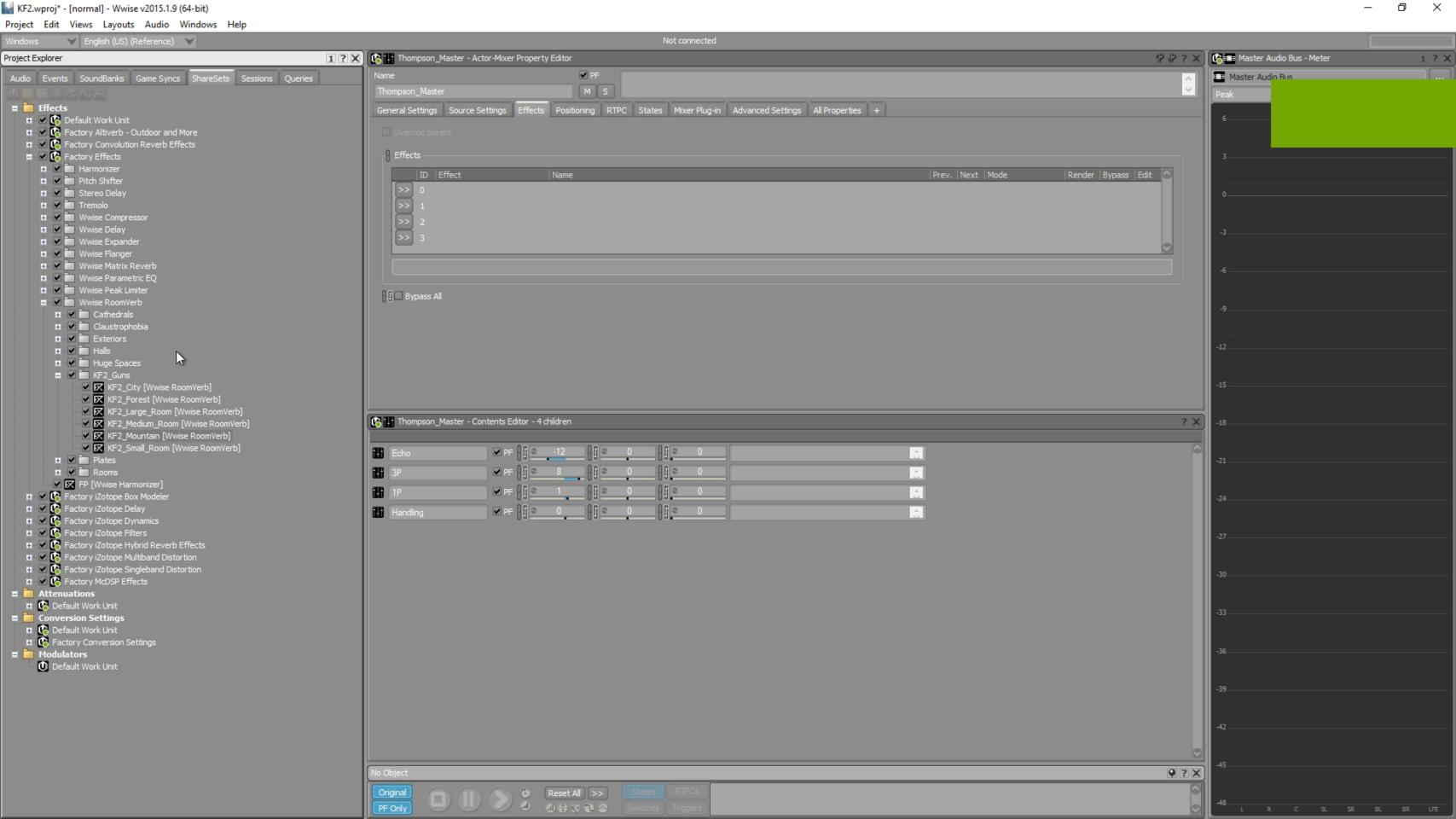
Adjustments to overall processing takes minutes instead of days or hours

Realtime tweaking (nonrendered) during design phase

Rendered effects have zero CPU cost



CREATING A NEW REVERB SET



SEASONAL EVENT RESKIN CHALLENGES

Complete Overhaul of Character Sounds

All Animations are Shared









SEASONAL EVENT RESKIN SOLUTION

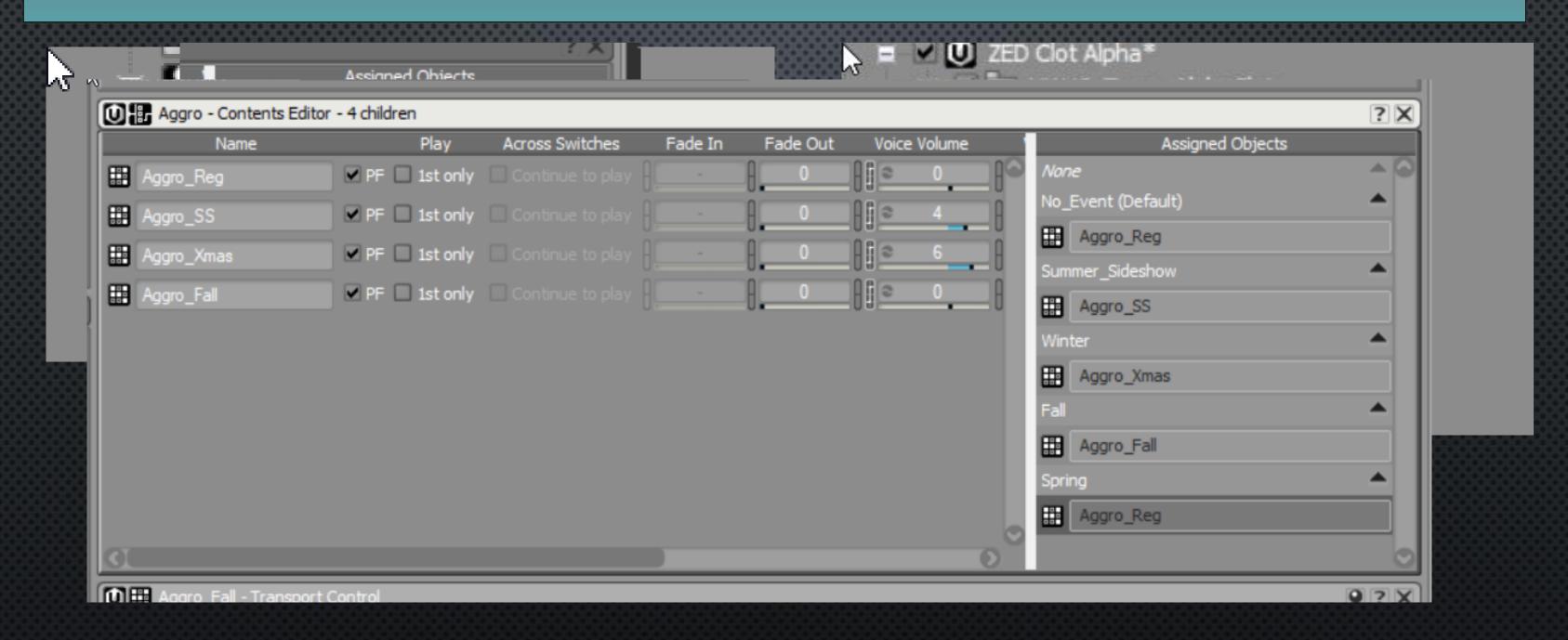
Minimal Code Requirements

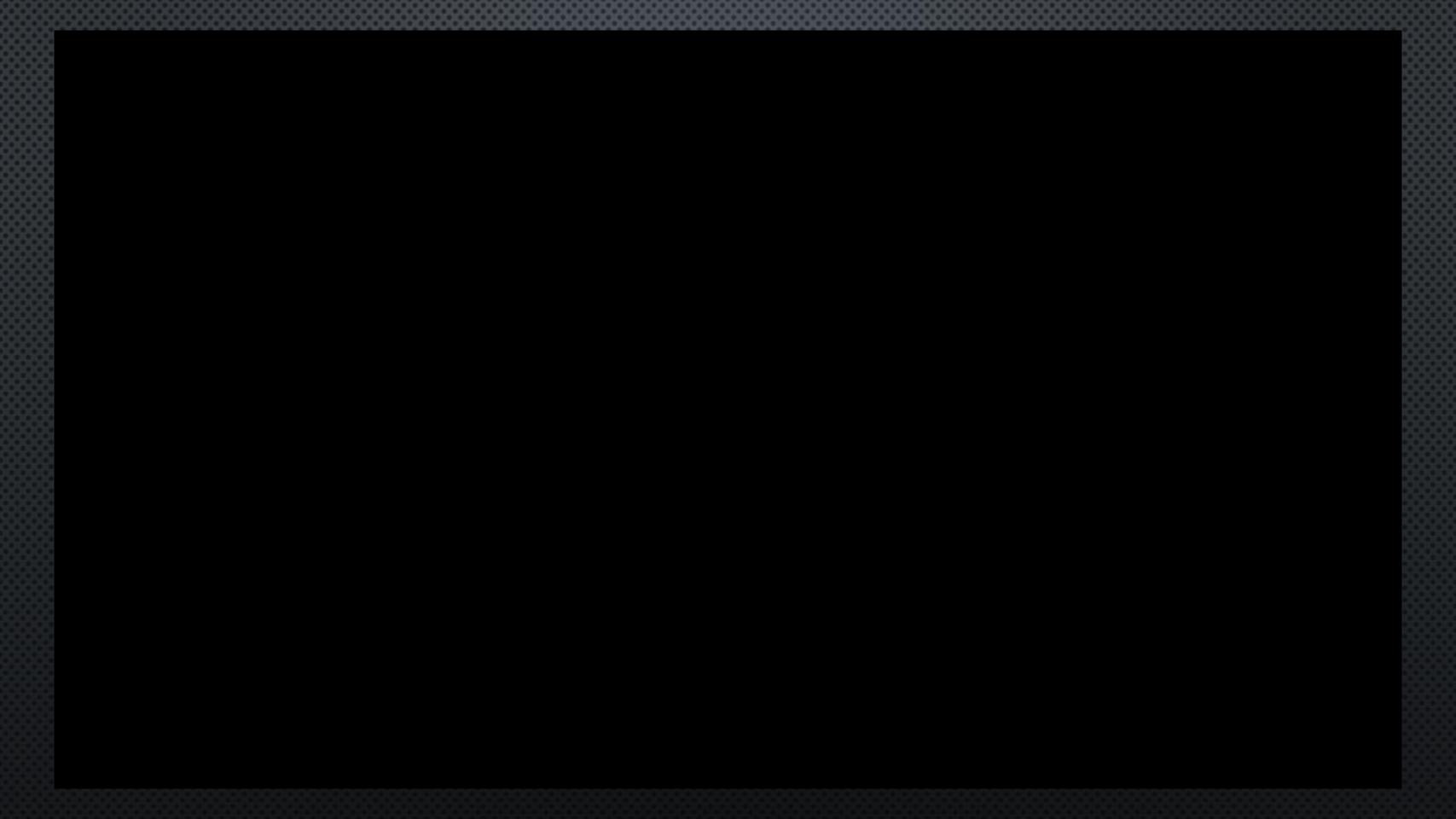
Driven by a Global Game State

Use Simple Switch Containers

Zero Dependencies

SEASONAL EVENT RESKIN SOLUTION





MIX EVALUATION IN REAL WORLD SITUATIONS

Updating the Mix on a 64 Player / Match Game is Ineffective without 64 Players

Getting 64 Players in House to QA a Mix is Impossible

MIX EVALUATION IN REAL WORLD SITUATIONS

Locally Replace the Audio Folder in the Live Steam Client in Order to Play Online in a Live Game While Hearing the Updated Mix

Allows Very Accurate Assessment of the New Mix in Completely Uncontrolled Situations

MEMORY MANAGEMENT

Compression Types (CPU vs size limitations)

Throwbacks to Early Console Techniques (sample rate assessment based on frequency response, silence hunting!)

Variation limiting (using multiple layer random containers to create large variation)

Latency choices when is pre-caching streaming files worth it?

COMMUNITY

The Best Source of Information

The Worst Source of Information

COMMUNITY

How to Assess Feedback

How to Action on Feedback

How to Ignore Feedback