

Crackdown 3: Music And Sound

Finishing Move, Inc. & Kristofor Mellroth



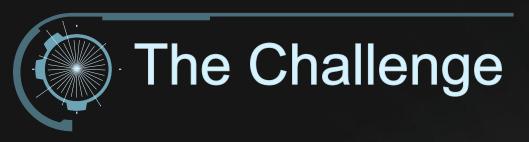


The Music of Crackdown 3

- Composing strategies for large open worlds
- Staying organized across thousands of assets
- Benefits of Composer Implementation







- Music in an Open World
 - Music in a large, nonlinear open world is hard
 - Where do we need/want music to support gameplay?
 - What is that music themed around, what story do we want to tell?
- Music Interactivity
 - What kind and how much interactivity do we need/want?
 - How can we achieve that within the framework/logic we have?
- Music Style
 - What do Crackdown and its characters sound like?
 - Licensed music vs. all original score







Nailing The "Neighborhood Sound"

- Cinematic Cyber Trap
 - Inspiration: Modern hip-hop/trap, film trailers, musical sound design.
 - Bosses each have a unique theme based on personality and style
 - Initial sketches were written as complete tracks before being digested into interactive assets.
- All original score
 - Achieve coherency within the world
 - Increase interactivity potential
 - Avoid music licensing risks



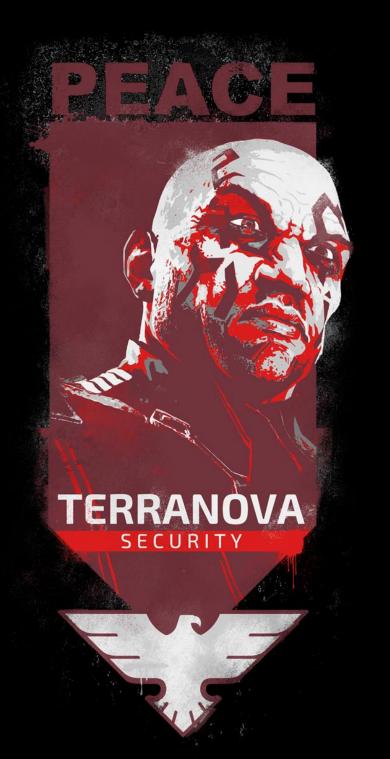
Open World Approach

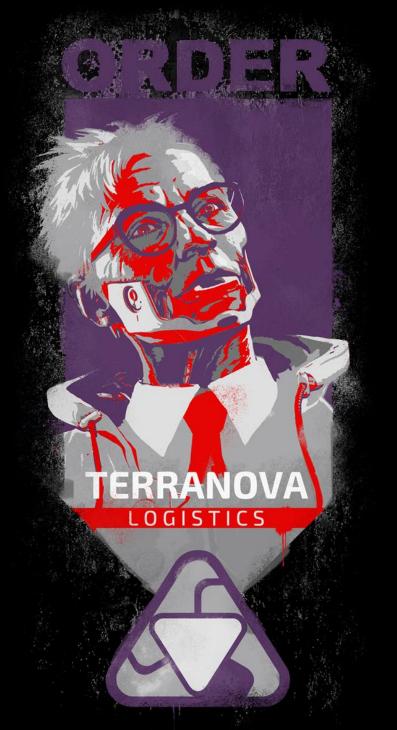
- One big map, completely non-linear story
- All about that (boss) base
 - Each boss controls certain assets/zones in the world
 - Each boss has a set of "missions" the player needs to complete to draw out the boss
 - 9 bosses total (1 Kingpin > 3 Captains > 5 Lieutenants)
- Music to Inform / Music to Reward "who won, who lost"
 - Music is NOT persistent in the world
 - Boss themed music informs player when they enter mission areas / scales up as you draw out/fight each boss
 - Agency themed music rewards player for accomplishments













Mission / Zone Music Breakdown

- 2 x Sets of Ambient Loops (high/low)
- 3 x Sets of Combat Loops (low/med/high)
- Low Health, Death, DBNO Loops/Stingers
- 10-15 Zone Notification Stingers (Area Enter, Objective Complete, "Eyes On")
- 3-8 x Final Boss Battle Loops (scripted by design)
- Boss Narrative Sequences Scored to Picture





Additional Interactive Systems

- Captain Reinforcement CPT music takes over
 - Interactive based on "Hate Meter"
- Kingpin Lockdown KP music takes over
 - Win or Die
- Propaganda Towers
 - Vertical interactivity
- Road/Rooftop Races



Diagetic World Music

- Shop and Businesses have short non-looping jingles
- Nightclubs/Boomboxes have themed ambient looping music
- Over 50+ unique jingles/loops fill the world adding color and humor









Music System Design/Organization

- Almost 4 hours of music across thousands of assets over 4+ years in development
- 3 Tier Approach to design and organization
 - Visio flow charts provide interactive design and flow
 - P4 Synced, color coded "tracker" spreadsheets provide consolidated asset/implementation/code tracking
 - Organization of Assets in Wwise









 The dramatic introduction signifying that the player has entered into a low health state during campaign game play

> A short transition between the

> > most intense

version of the

health and their

player's low

death

TRANSITION



Campaign
Gameplay to LTX
PLAYER Low
Health



LTX Zone Combat Low to Campaign Gameplay Transition Campaign Gameplay to LTX Zone Combat Transition

LTX PLAYER DEAD

A strong dramatic piece that represents the players death during normal gameplay. This does not loop.

LTX PLAYER Low

Health to LTX

Player Dead

TRANSITION

The looping music that

LTX ZONE COMBAT (low to high)



Campaign gameplay PLAYER Low Health to Campaign Gameplay Transition

The dramatic introduction signifying that the player has entered into a low health state during campaign game play

PAIGN EPLAY

Campaign
Gameplay to LTX
PLAYER Low
Health
TRANSITION

1 bar

The looping music that dramatically underscores the game while the player's health is below a certain threshold. It increases in intensity as the health decreases.

4 bar

A short transition between the

between the

most intense

LTX PLAYER

LOW HEALTH

Health to LTX

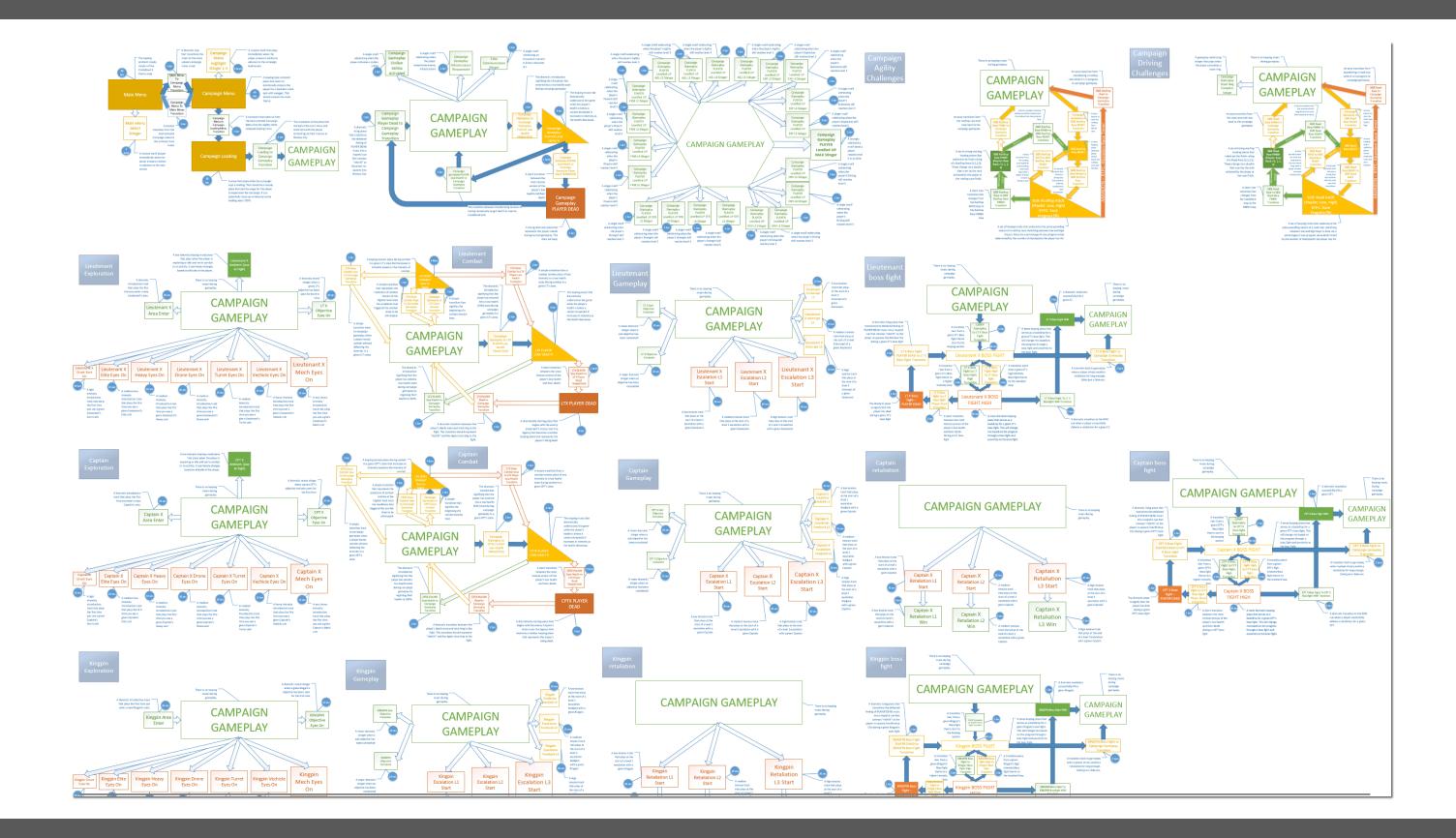
GAIMEPLAY

TRANSITIO

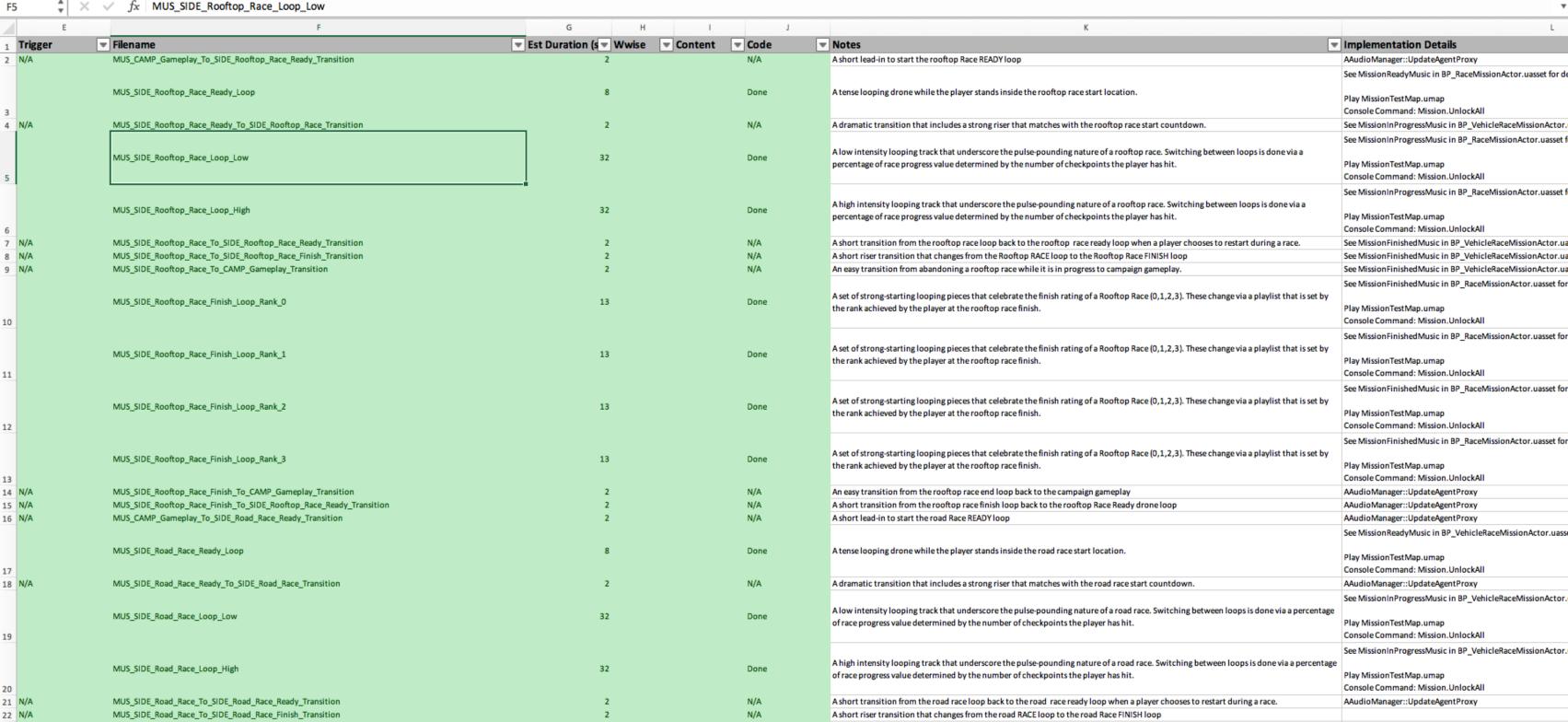
LTX Zone Combat High to Campaign Gameplay Transition LTX Zone Combat Low to Campaign Gameplay Transition

Campaign
Gameplay to
LTX Zone
Combat
Transition

LTX ZONE COMBAT (low to high)



An easy transition from abandoning a road race while it is in progress to campaign gamenlay.



MUSIC PARAMETERS

● OFF 📔 📅 😽 + U =

Copy

💞 Format

Paste

23 N/A

4 ▶ Ready SIDE MISSIONS

CINEMATICS

CEREMONIES

WORLD AMBIENT

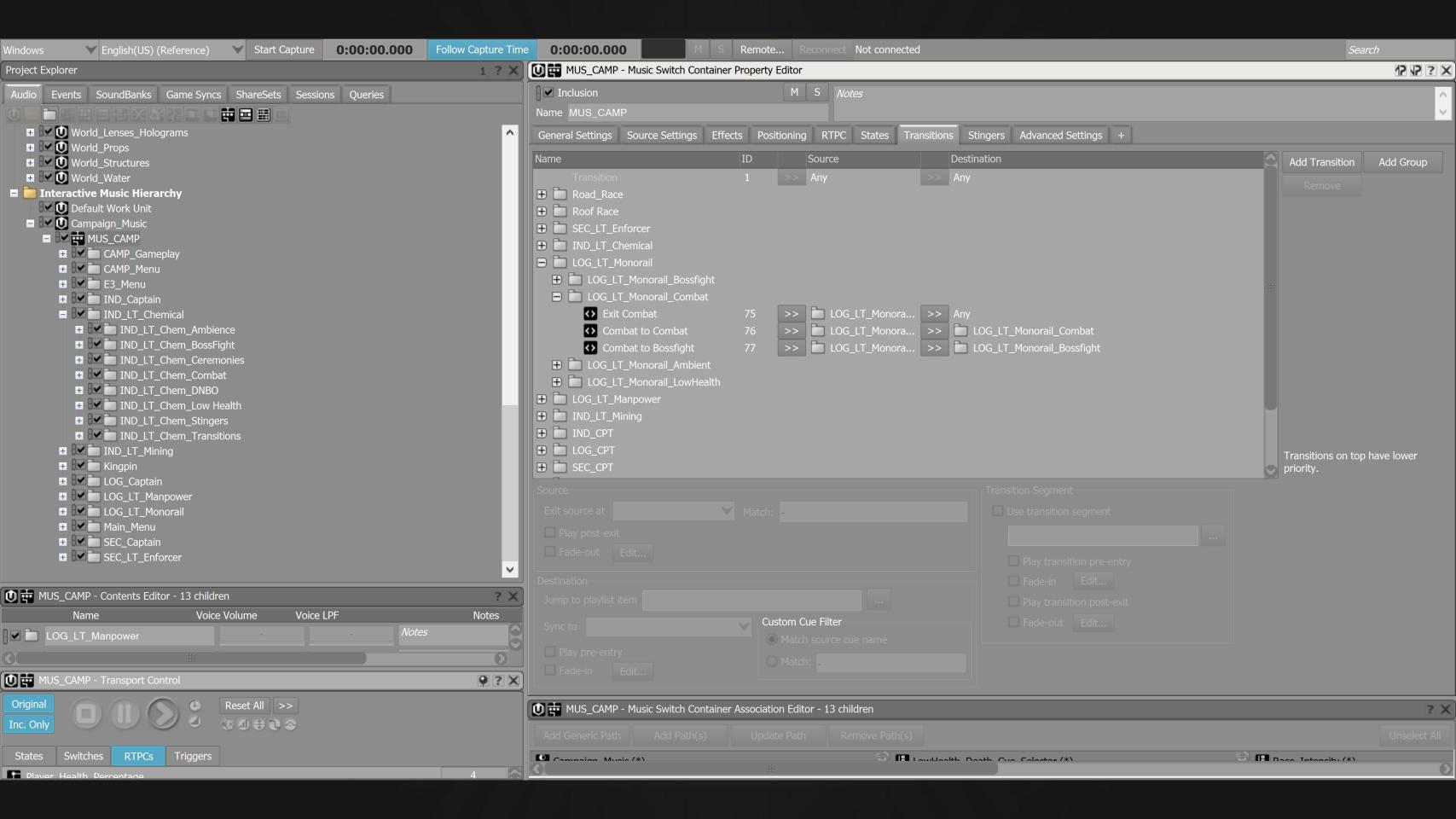
Calibri (Body) v 11

Page Layout Formulas Data Review

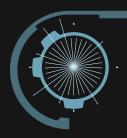
 $B \quad I \quad \underline{\cup} \quad \overline{} \quad$











Composers as Implementers

- Music system built in Wwise by Finishing Move
- Benefits
 - Gameplay/Soundcaster testing provides instant feedback and instructs composition process
 - Find and fix bugs quicker, react to design changes, etc.
 - Own the polish process completely
- Challenges
 - Syncing up with an international development pipeline can be complex
 - Tracking/keeping up with changes in design



Key Takeaways (MUSIC)

- Open world: Composing for a large open world campaign requires a unique approach to interactive music design.
- Organization: In addition to asset spreadsheets, detailed flow charts / visual graphs of interactive state flow and transition possibilities are critical for complex music systems, for both the music team as well as the audio programmers and level designers.
- Implementation: Composers implementing their own score has distinct value in game development.

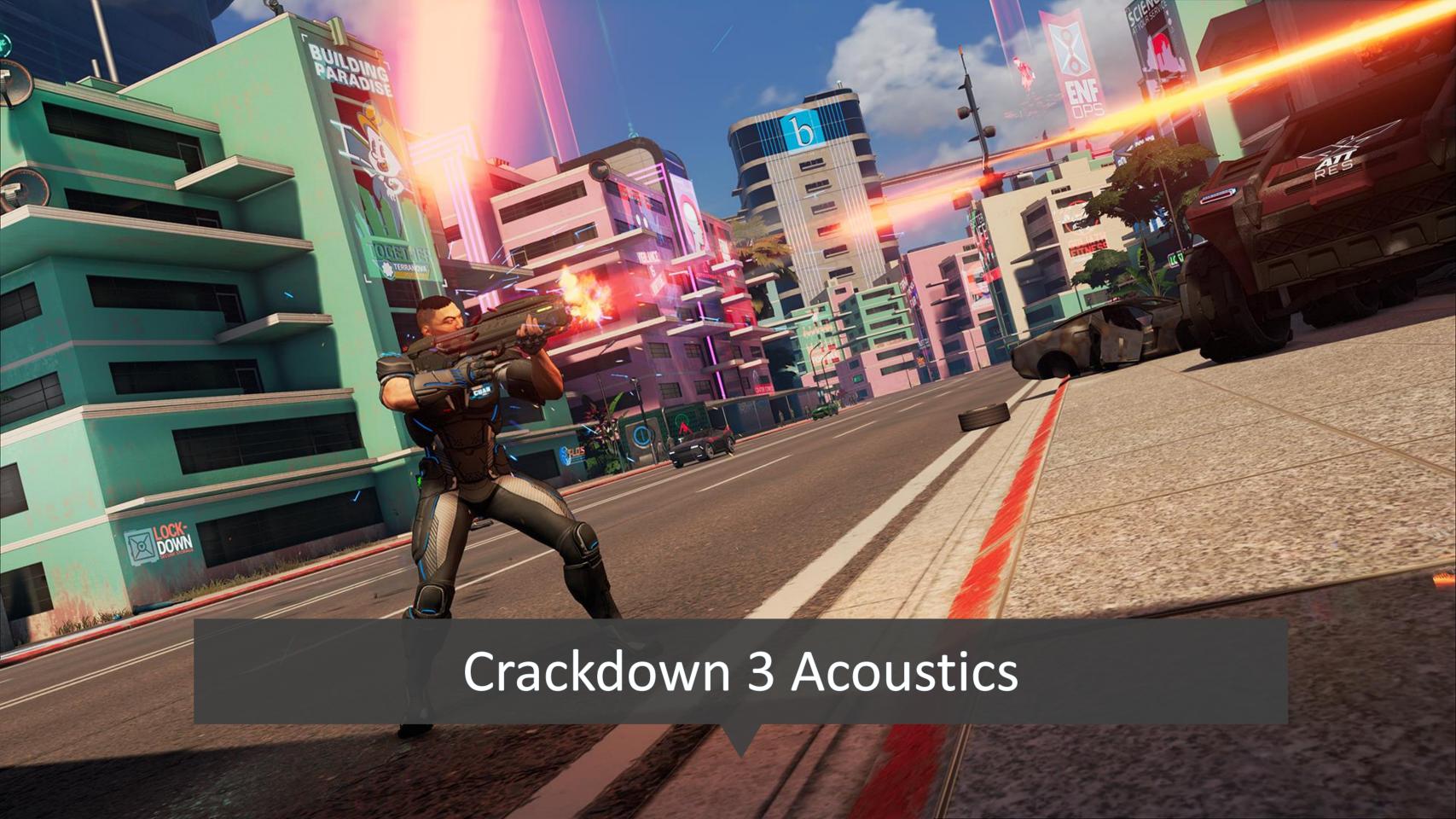




Sound and Mix Overview

- 5 more things we think are cool in Crackdown 3 that we would like to share with you here today.
 - 1. Acoustics
 - Cheap cost but sounds pretty good (nice!)
 - 2. Destruction
 - calculated on a server and rendered on a client (WTF?)
 - 3. Turbulence
 - How the system works (cool)
 - 4. LFE
 - Our philosophy on it (boring but useful)
 - 5. Mix
 - How we deal with so much chaos (interesting and useful)





- Improved spatial awareness
- Convey urban environment
- Fully dynamic
- No custom plug-in
- No manual markup
- Not too noisy



Acoustics Tech

- Raycasts get distance values
 - Listener-relative, jittered & smoothed
- Game-defined sends
 - Directions (FL, FR, LS, RS, OH)
 - Interpolate between delays (5m, 10m, 15m, 20m, 30m, 40m, 50m)
- Acoustics

 FrontLeft

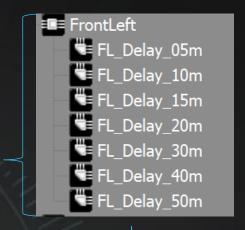
 FrontRight

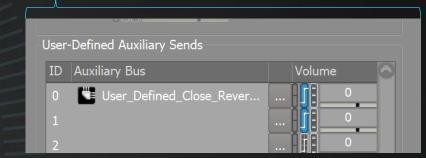
 Height

 RearLeft

 User_Defined_Close_Reverb_Send

 User_Defined_Distant_Reverb_Send

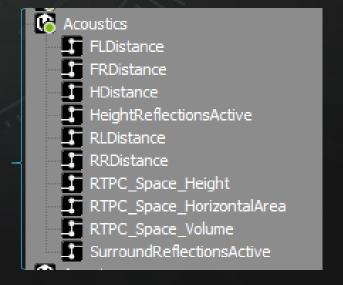




- User-Defined Sends...
 - Game-defined sends to "Close" convolution reverb
 - Actors-Mixers send to "Distant convolution reverb
- RTPCs

CRACKDOWN

[XDirection]_Distance, [Endpoint]_Active, Space_Volume





Acoustics Tuning

- Raycasts
 - Listener-relative (camera)
 - Jittered
 - 4 Rays per direction
 - up a bit, down a bit, left a bit, right a bit
 - Smoothed
 - Lerp between the previously sent value and the latest raycast value
 - we take 2/45ths of the current value and 43/45ths of the previous value each frame
 - Slow enough not to be jarring when you drive past a lamp post and fast enough to not be obviously lagging
 - Measure distance
 - Max 50m due to perf

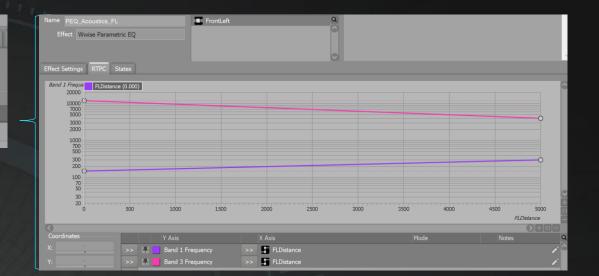


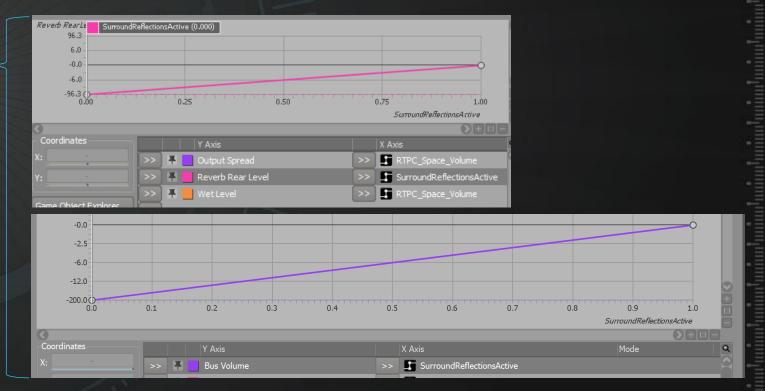




Acoustics Tuning

- RTPCs
 - [XDirection]_Distance
 - Used for attenuation, bandpass over distance
 - [Endpoint]_Active
 - Used to mute inactive sends so we don't get fold down issues
 - Space_Volume
 - Derived from raycasted distances
 - Rudimentary values up to 1,000,000 cubic M.

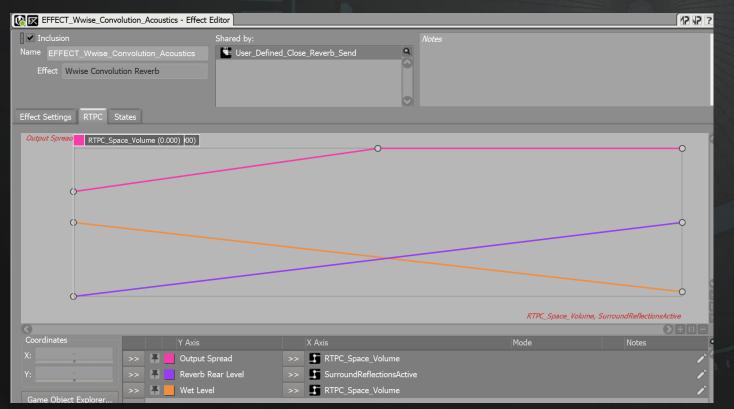


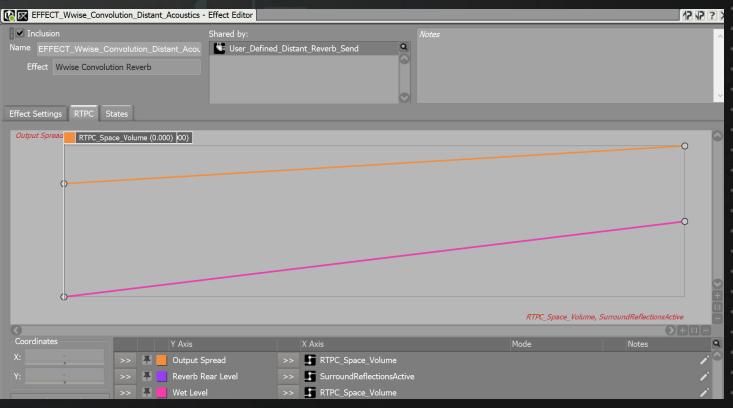






- Reverb
 - Key Close + Far Convolution Reverb tuning
 - Spread more based on "Space Volume"
 - Crossfade reverbs based on space volume
 - Disable reflections not active for current endpoint







No Acoustics









Distant Reverb Only





Acoustics Only





Full Acoustics







Acoustics on voices











Acoustics on Propaganda







Challenges – How do you make audio sense of this?

- Architecture
 - Cloud Server→ Local Server→ Local Client→CPU or GPU
 - Physics & Actors → CSP → Render (audio/visual)
 - VFX actors → Client → GPU → Render
- Behaviors
 - Moving, spinning, sliding, damaging, breaking, deleting/cleanup
- Scale
 - 1-10,000's of objects updating across network(s)
 - State / position / orientation
 - Huge range for object size
 - 50kg to 1000000kg



Key Terms

- Physics Chunks
 - Havok bodies with a full range of physics behaviors processed on the server.
- GPU Chunks
 - Particle effects of smaller objects.
 - Created and processed on the Client but only on the GPU.
 - Constrained to Impact and DeRez for a limited set of materials while on screen.
- Static Geometry
 - Collide-able but non damage-able or destroyable geometry (the ground)
- Impact
 - The collision of destruction objects with each other or static geometry.
- Destroy
 - The separation of a havok body into 2 or more child objects.
- Impulse
 - The intensity of a collision based on the masses and relative speed of the colliding objects.



Nested Switches

```
■ HMH PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark ← Mass
     ■ 8 PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Huge ← Impulse
       ■ 8 PHY_Impact_Sweetener_Carbon_Huge_Fast
       PHY_Impact_Sweetener_Carbon_Huge_Medium
       ■ 8 PHY_Resonance_Carbon_Dark_Huge_Fast

■ 日マ ## PHY_Resonance_Carbon_Dark_Huge_Medium

       ■ 8 PHY_Resonance_Carbon_Dark_Huge_Slow

    ∃✓+ PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Huge_Fast

       ■ 8 PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Huge_Slow
         PHY_Shared_Impact_Huge_Fast_LFE
         PHY_Shared_Impact_Huge_Medium_LFE
         PHY_Shared_Impact_Huge_Slow_LFE
    ■ BV Br PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Medium
     ■ B☑+#F PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Small
     ■ 8 PHY_Impact_Carbon_Dark_Tiny
```



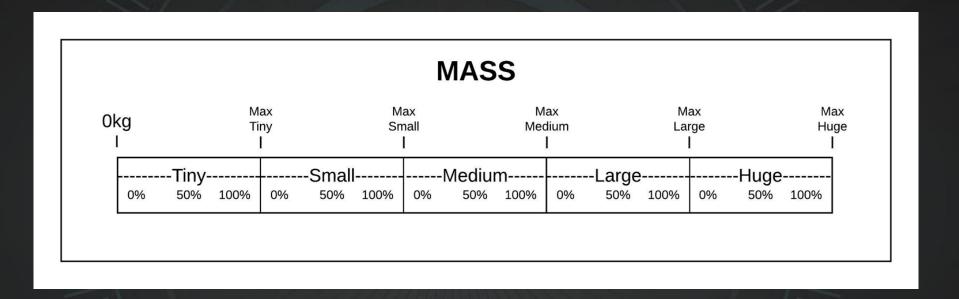
Material

- Concrete Thick, vertical cladding on all buildings.
- Carbon Dark Thinner floor and ceiling material on all buildings.
- Metal A variety of metal support structures and panels that make up elevated walkways.
- Steel Beams and girders that make up the superstructure for buildings.
- Glass Windows and glass panels. (GPU Objects only)



Mass

• Each material has a unique set of mass thresholds

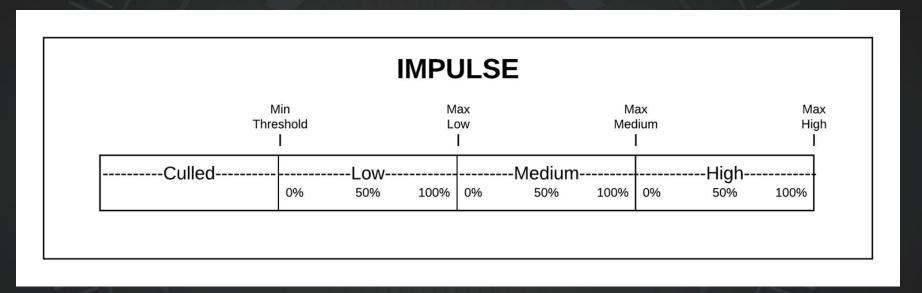


 PHY Impact Mass Percent RTPC = tracks the mass of each object as a percentage of the range of its particular mass category.



Impulse

• Each material also has a unique set of Impulse thresholds per mass category that determine the intensity of each collision.



 An RTPC called PHY Impact Impulse Percent tracks the impulse value of each object as a percentage of its Impulse range.



Destruction physics system behaviors:

- Damage (Ballistic)
- Destroyed
- Turbulence
- Impact
- Scrape
- . De-Rez



- Damage Ballistic
 - Ballistic Impacts by projectile weapons
 - Does not apply to prop based projectiles (rockets, grenades, etc)
 - GPU Chunks generated at the point of impact.





Destroyed

- Havok bodies fracturing into two or more smaller objects
- Content for material
 - Carbon Dark, Concrete, Metal, Steel, Glass
- Content for size
 - Small, Medium, Large, Huge, Enormous



Turbulence

- Havok Bodies moving through the air.
- Content sets for each material and size
- More details later...



Impact

- IF [Physics Chunk] is [Collides] with [Physics Chunk] or [Static Geometry]
- "Two hands clapping"
 - Exception: Impacts are disabled on static geometry
- Multiple layers for each material/size set
 - Impact, Resonance, Sweetener and LFE layers
 - Concrete and Carbon Dark impacts further divided into Single and Merged impacts. (More on that later...)

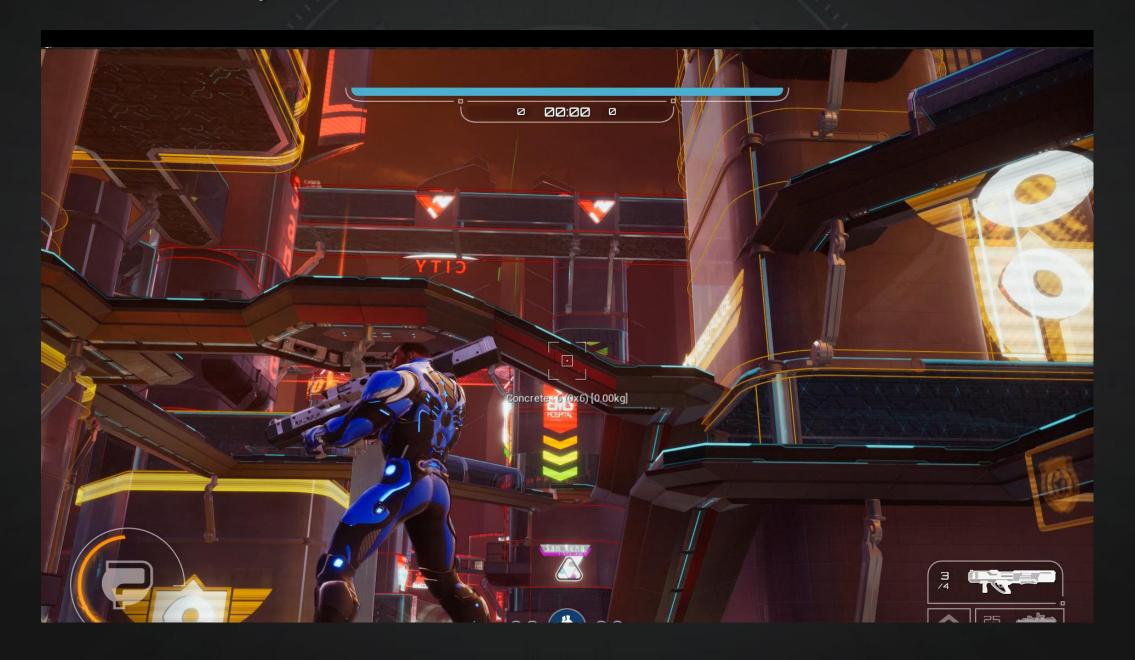


Scrape

- IF [Physics Chunks] are [in motion] AND contacting [Physics Chunk] or [Static Geometry] then [=scraping]
- · Content sets for each material and size
- Multiple layers for each material/size set
 - Scrape Loops (Fast/Medium/Slow), Scrape Resonance and LFE layers



Destruction audio only





• All together now! Our little miracle. <3





DeRez for cleanup

- "Combat Simulator" dematerializing objects
- This system doubles as object cleanup
- Content sets for each size, but not each material





Building Component Definitions

- Buildings
 - A building is a prefab collection of destruction materials attached to a superstructure of steel beams
 - What the player perceives as a building in the game is often made up of multiple "buildings"
- Attachments
 - Walkways that connect buildings to other buildings or static geometry



Building Damage States

- Buildings enter various damage states depending on their health compared to thresholds set for each building.
 - Damaged
 - Critical
 - Pre-Collapse
 - Collapse
 - Destroyed



PHY Building Damaged

- Building weakened by damage
 - Soft metal creaks and groans on a randomized delay
- Creak emitters on superstructure joints
 - Superstructure joints are merged within a 5m radius
- Attenuations and Azimuth used to help with directionality and overall mix.



PHY Building Critical

- Greatly weakened by major damage but not enough to collapse
- More frequent and severe creaks and groans
- Uses the same merged superstructure joints as PHY Building Damaged



PHY Building Pre-Collapse

- Pre-Collapse one shot signals that the building is now Queued for Collapse
 - · Design element emitting from the center point of the building
 - Wide attenuations to telegraph to all nearby players
- Pre-collapse loops support the story of an unstable building about to collapse
 - Rumble and LFE loops emitting from the base of the building.
 - Narrower attenuations



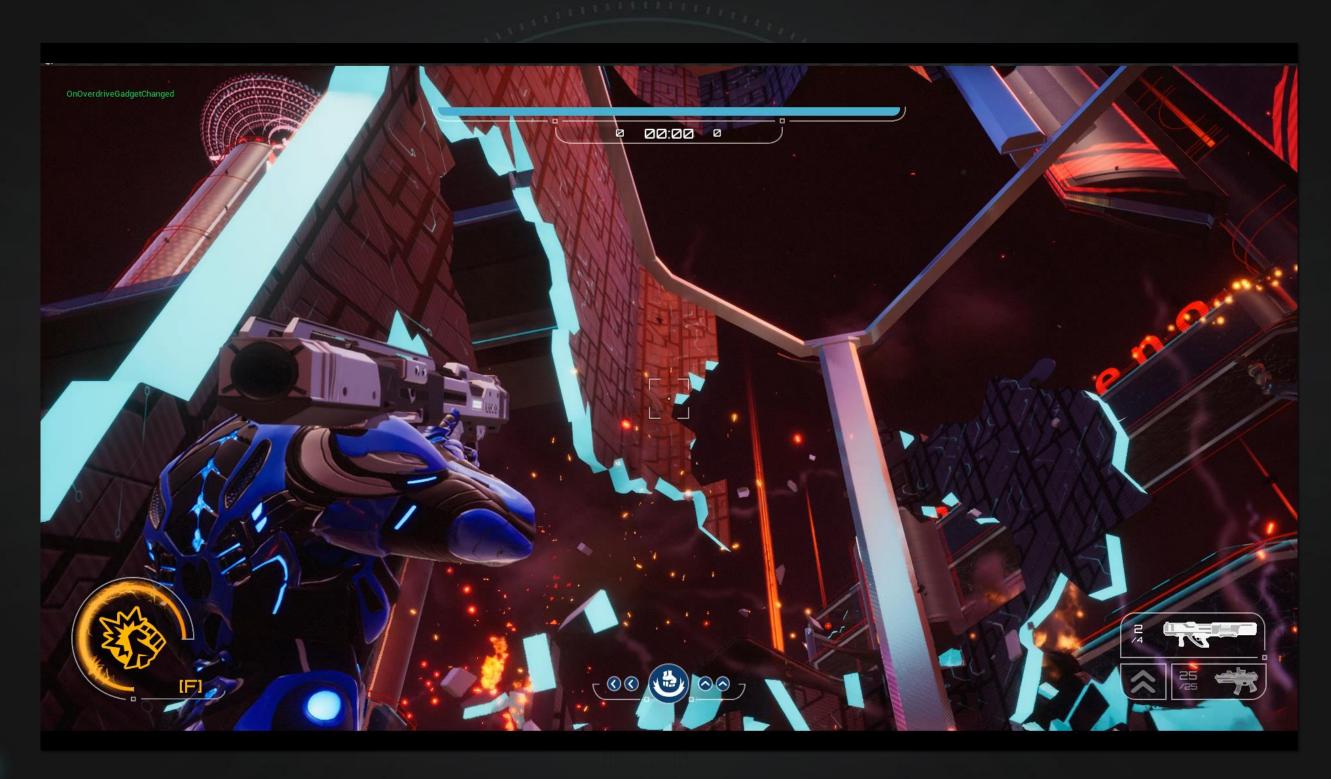
PHY Building Collapse

- Superstructure collapses and the building comes down
- Collapse one shot signals that the building is now Collapsing
 - Design element and additional LFE sweetener emitting from the center point of the building
 - Wide attenuations to telegraph to all nearby players
- Collapse loops create the rumble of the building collapsing
 - · Rumble and LFE loops emitting from the base of the building.
 - Narrower attenuations





Building Destruction Only







Building Destruction Partial Destruction







Building Destruction Full Simulation





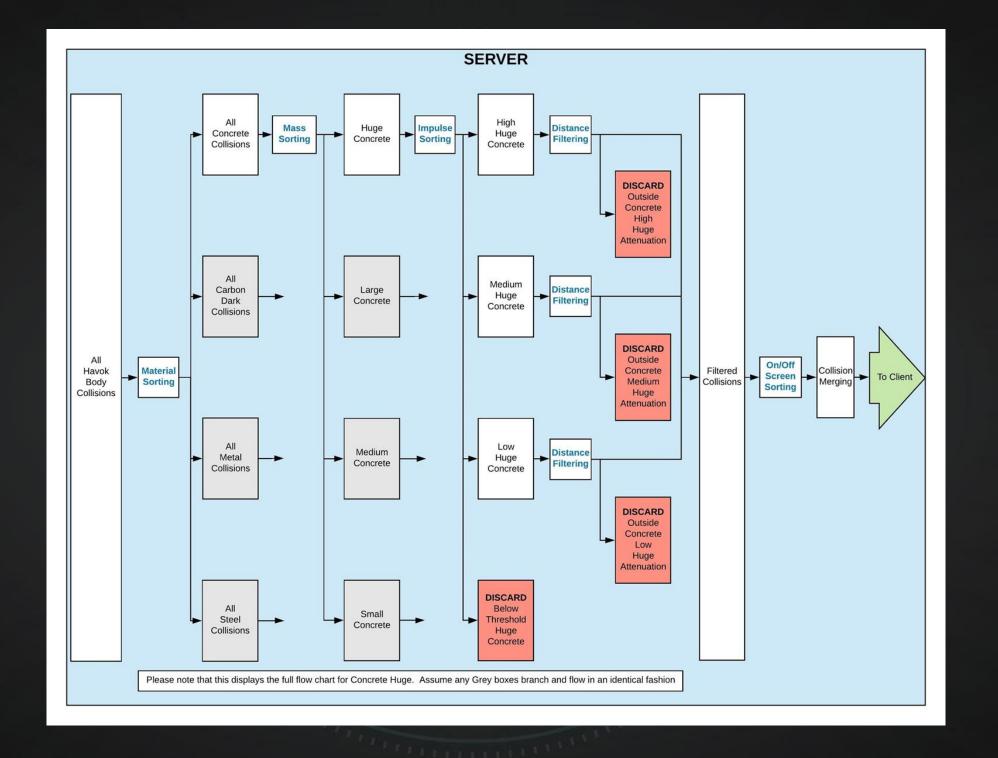
Destruction is processed on the server

- Exceptions are GPU "chunks"
 - glass, "tiny" sized concrete, and "carbon dark"
- Relevant events sent to each client
 - At peak, a 10 player match can generate 10,000+ collisions per frame on the server
 - The number of messages sent to the client needs to be limited for network traffic purpose as well as wwise optimizations and mixing



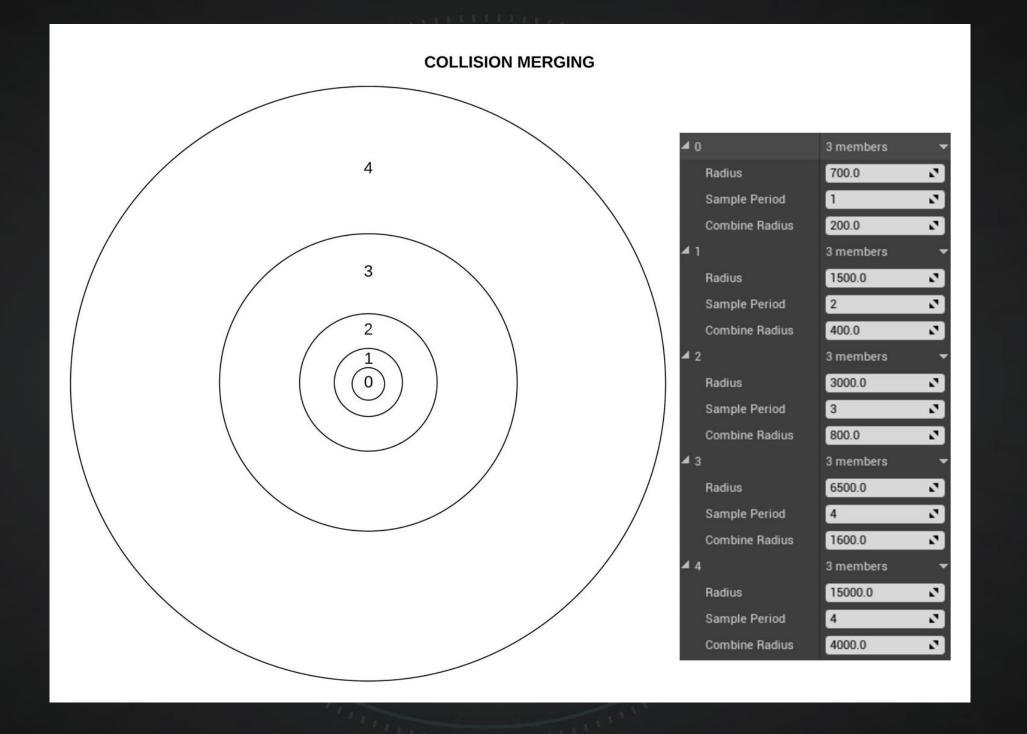


Server Side Impact Optimizations





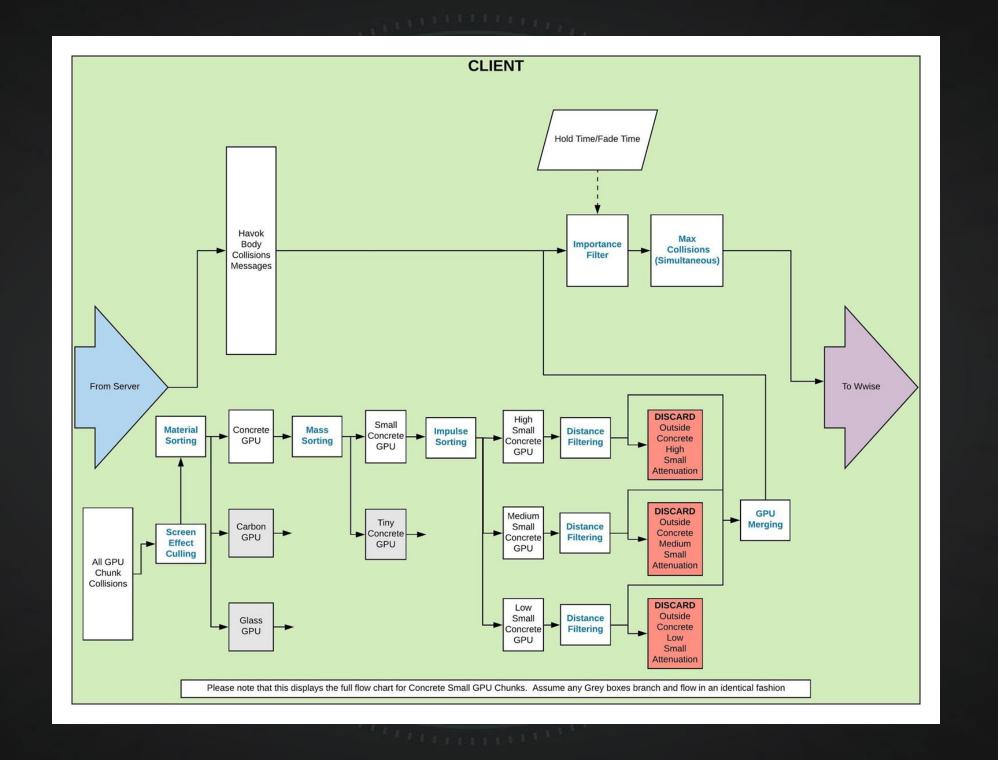
Server Side Impact Optimizations



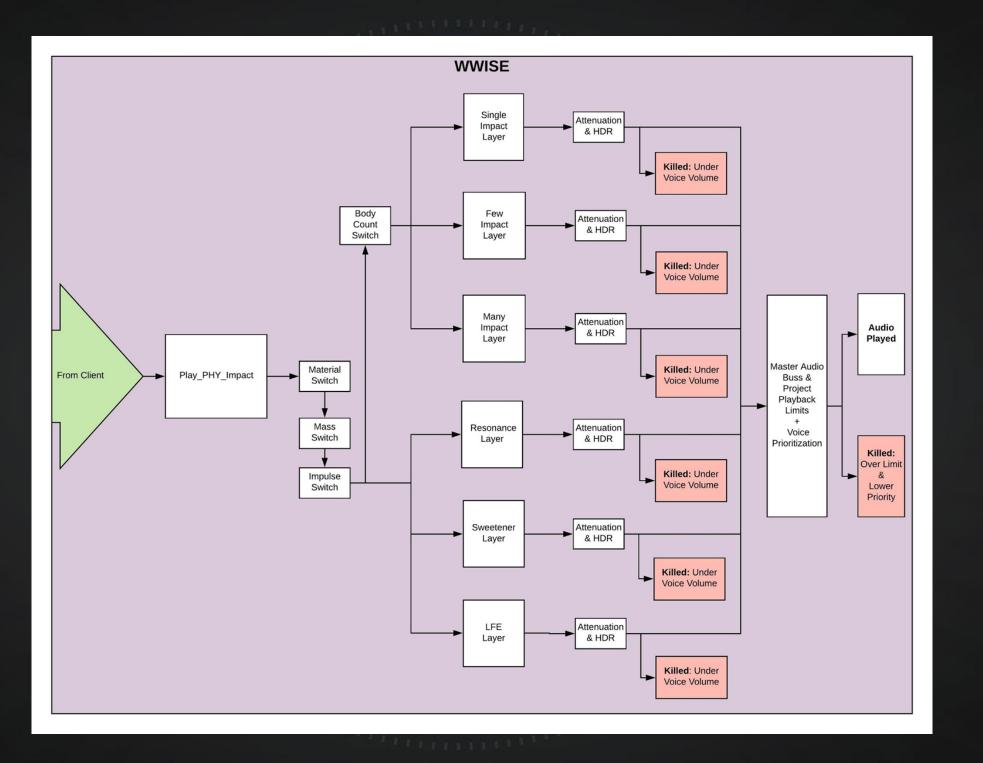




Client Side Impact Optimizations









Destruction Voice Priorities

Destroy	Huge	Large	Med	Small	Tiny	
Metal, Steel	55	50	45	40		
Concrete	45	35	30	25		
Carbon_Dark	45	35	30	25		
Glass		45	40	35		
Impact	Huge	Large	Med	Small	Tiny	
Metal, Steel	65	60	50	40		
Concrete	60	55	50	30	20	
Carbon	60	55	45	25	20	
Glass		40	35	30	25	
Turbulence	Huge	Large	Med	Small	Tiny	
Concrete	50	45	40	35		
Carbon_Dark	50	45	40	35		
Metal, Steel	50	45	40	35		
Scrape	Huge	Large	Med	Small	Tiny	
Concrete	35	30	25	20		
Metal	35	30	25	20		



PHY Destroyed Optimizations

✓ Fracturing		
Global Max New Fractures	2	2
Global Destroy Importance Distance Weighting	1.0	
Global Destroy Importance Mass Weighting	1.0	2
Per Parent Object Destroy Importance Distance Weighting	1.0	2
Per Parent Object Destroy Importance Mass Weighting	1.0	2
Per Parent Object Max New Fractures	1	2



PHY Turbulence Optimizations

⊿ Turbulence						
Max PHY Turbulence Playing	3					
Min PHY Turbulence Body Speed	300.0	2 5				
Max PHY Turbulence Body Speed	5000.0	2 5				
Max PHY Turbulence Body Range	6000.0	2 5				
Turbulence Fade Time	0.067	2 5				
Turbulence Importance Speed Weighting	0.8	2 5				
Turbulence Importance Mass Weighting	1.0	2				



PHY Scrape Optimizations

▲ Scraping		
Max Destruction Scrapes	2	2 5
■ Scrapes		
Max Scrape Radius	1000.0	
Min Scrape Speed	5.0	•



PHY DeRez Optimizations

⊿ DeRez		
Max De Rez Events Per Frame	30	2 5
Max De Rez Distance	6000.0	7 2
Min De Rez Mass	0.001	2
Max De Rez Mass	15000.0	1
De Rez Importance Distance Weighting	0.7	2 5
De Rez Importance Mass Weighting	1.0	2





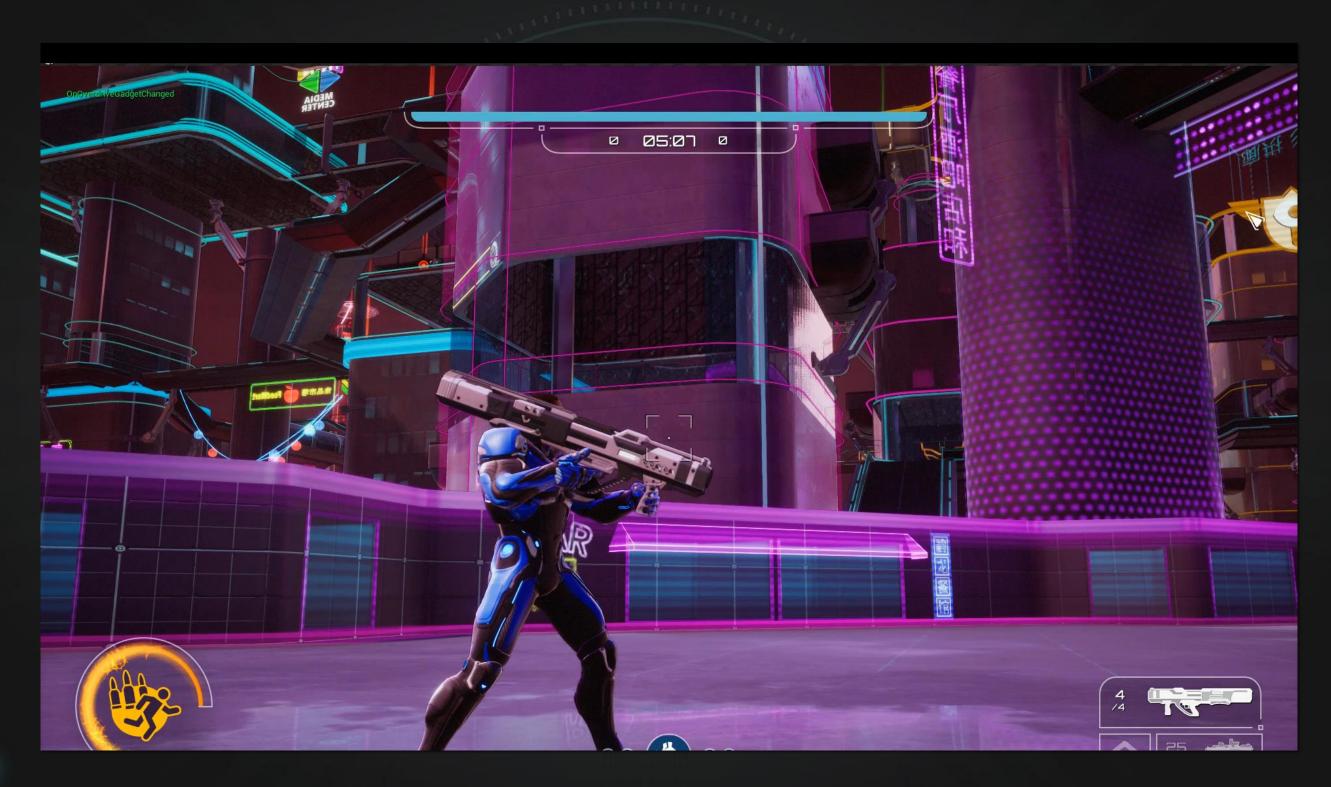
Cloud Destruction







Building Destruction Full Simulation







Turbulence Deep Dive

- If an object is moving through the air, it creates turbulence! (That's what a whoosh is.)
- Project demands it: lots-o-physics flying around
- Simple conditions:
 - If [in motion] and [not colliding] Play_OBJ_Turbulence
 - If [colliding] or [not moving] Stop_OBJ_Turbulence



- Multiple content layers for each object or material+size set
 - Looping sounds
 - Turbulence (SoundSeed Wind)
 - [Object] Resonance
 - [Object] Sweetener
 - LFE
- Parameters
 - Doppler, Azimuth and Elevation used to enhance the pass by
 - Rotational velocity to modulate audio during a spin
 - Speed to control volume and pitch







Auto	Save ●off 🖫 🍤 - 🗦 Nimbus_Props_Audio_Tr	racker.dsx - Read-Only - Excel					-	Kristofor Mellroth 🗷 —	0 ×
File	Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Add-ins	Help Team						🖒 Share 🗸 Comr	ments @
Paste	Calibri 11 · A^ A = = = ₩ · 25 Wrap Text Calibri 11 · A^ A Format Painter Clipboard 5			Note 2	Insert Delete Format	∑ AutoSum * A Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z			
A315	* : X \$\infty \text{PRP_UN_CoverKit_M_SmallCover_Low}\$	Tal Protection Number 1911 Styles			Cens 1	Editing 1 lideas 1			
1	A	В		С	D	E			
1	TDI MERGE	TDI	Status	▼	Pic	Prop Filepath (Campaign)		SoundBank(s) Refere	enced Ca
62	CHI_TN_Mech_SecurityCaptain	CHI_TN_Mech_SecurityCaptain							
63	GAD_AG_Agent_AmmoConservationField	GAD_AG_Agent_AmmoConservationField				/Game/CAMPAIGN/Equipment/C mmoField/AG_Agent_AmmoField	d_PropWeapon_NRB.AG_		
64	GAD_AG_Agent_AmmoConservationFieldPack	GAD_AG_Agent_AmmoConservationFieldPack				/Game/CAMPAIGN/Equipment/C mmoField/AG_Agent_AmmoField			
65	GAD_AG_Agent_DeployableBoostPad	GAD_AG_Agent_DeployableBoostPad							
66	GAD_AG_Agent_DeployableBoostPadPack	GAD_AG_Agent_DeployableBoostPadPack							
67	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_Limpet	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_Limpet							
68	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetPack	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetPack							
69	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetTroll	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetTroll							
70	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetTrollPack	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_LimpetTrollPack							
71	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_Singularity	GAD_AG_Agent_Grenade_Singularity				/Game/CAMPAIGN/Equipment/CrenadeSingularity/AG_Agent_Gre			
72	FAD AG Agent Gronado Singularity AOF	CAD AG Agent Gronade Singularity ADE				/Game/CAMPAIGN/Equipment/C			
4	Schedule CAMPAIGN CAMP REV MODA +	: 4					unt: 43 Sum: 4745920 S Display Settings		>



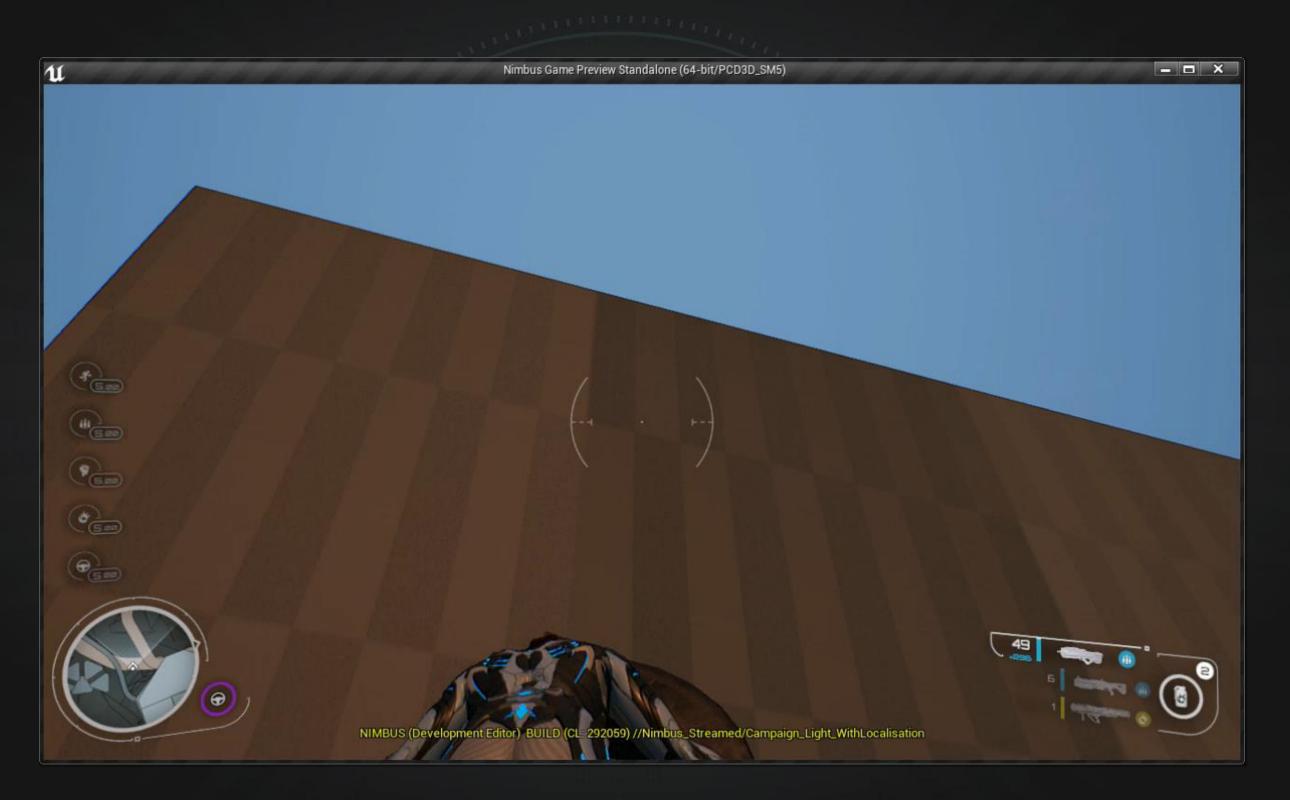












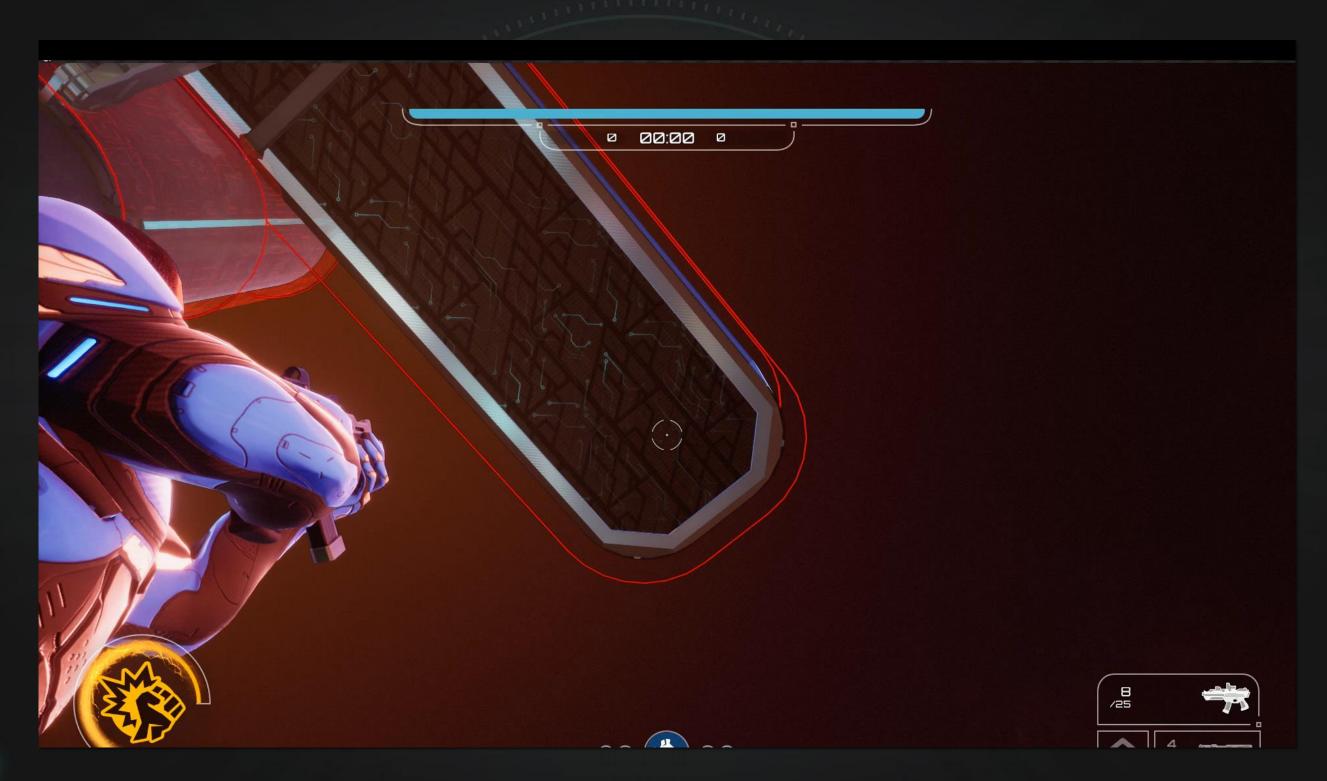








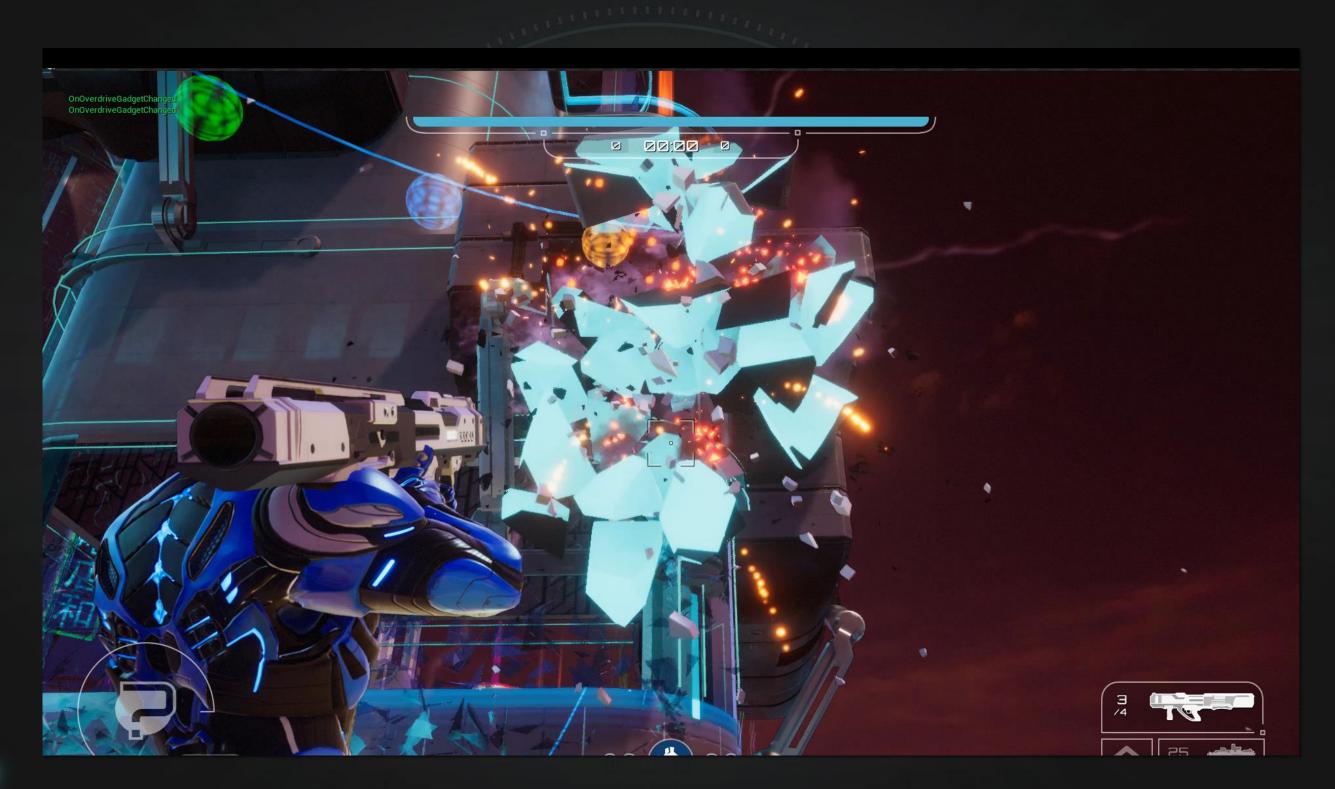
Destruction Object Turbulence (solo'd)







Destruction Object Turbulence (solo'd)





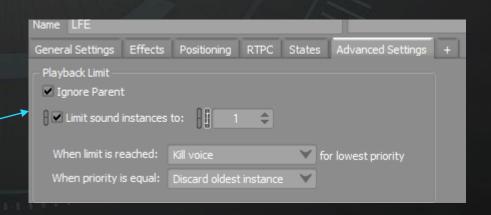
Wrecking Zone turbulence



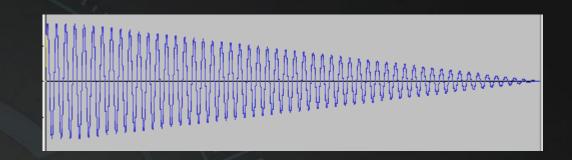


LFE philosophy

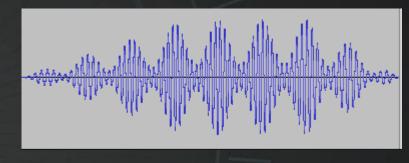
- LFE is awesome!
 - Convey weight and power.
- Light bulb moments
 - "puh" and the "wuh"
 - My home subwoofer sucks
 - Dolby cinema is so impactful
- Subwoofers
 - Speakers with <u>very</u> limited capability
 - Excursion rate, recovery, frequency range, crossover cutoff, etc
- Make it easy for them!
 - Dedicated content only
 - Special content only
 - Limit polyphony and noise



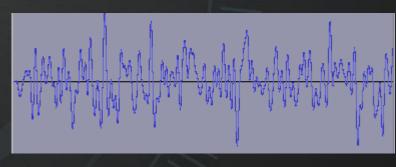
Puh – Generated sine waves



Wuh – Gen'd sine w/modulation



Rumbles – Recording-derived



- Reserve frequency ranges
 - Handgun to Nuke = 120hz to 40hz gradient





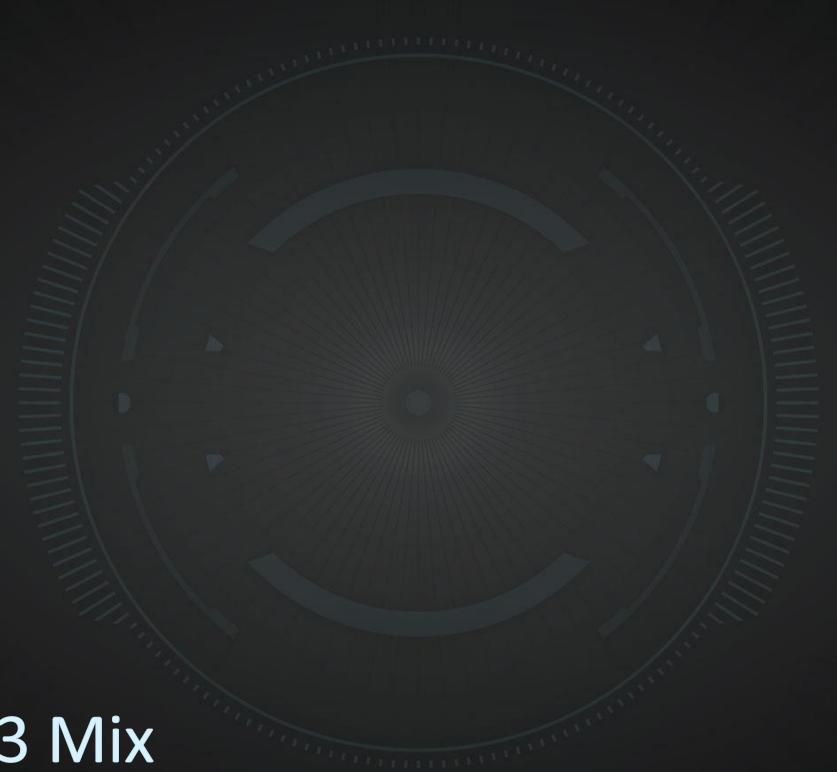








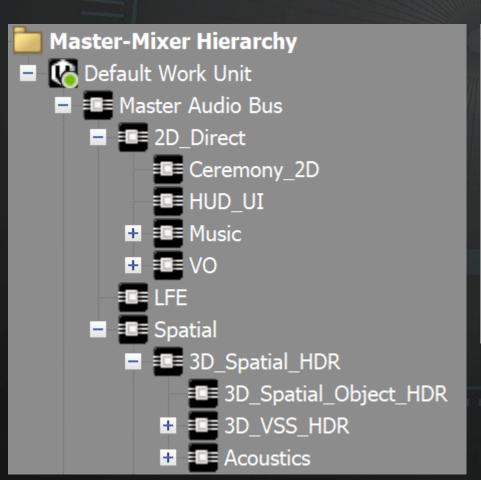


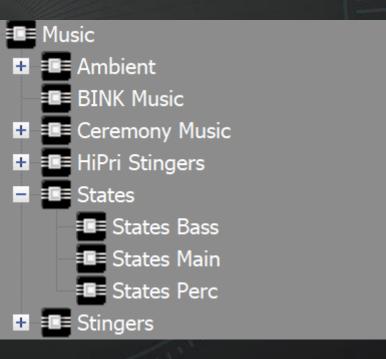


Crackdown 3 Mix

- Preserve player feedback
 - Player combat / health
 - Enemies
- Preserve music volume
 - No audible ducking of music
- Resolve frequency contentions
- Maintain audibility of dialog
- Reduce cacophony and noise

- Wwise HDR
- Meters
 - Music, Firearms, Explosives, 2D voice, 3D Boss voice
- Frequency Domain Processing
 - High pass / Low pass / Parametric EQ
- Mix Busses



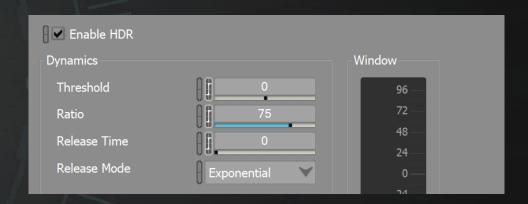


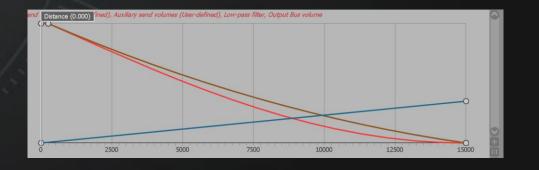


Mix Tuning

- Wwise HDR
 - Great for sandboxes with chaos
 - Loudest sound "wins" so data integrity is key
- Rules
 - All 3d audio is in HDR
 - All 2d audio is outside of HDR
 - Not-quite a brick wall limiting
 - Threshold of 0, then push things over for HDR
 - Real-ish attenuations for everything
 - Dynamic range
 - Odb baseline
 - +24db topline

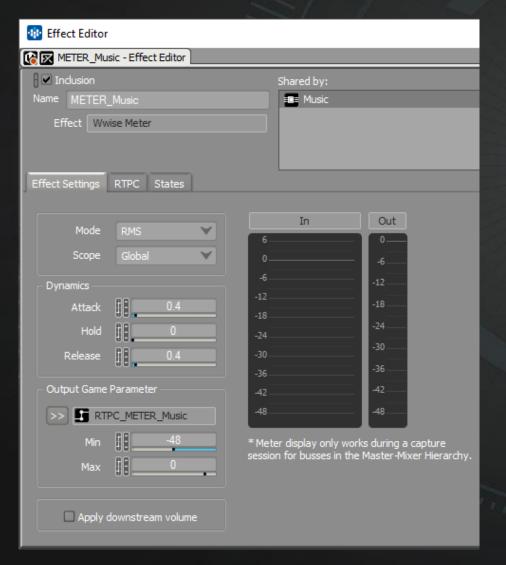


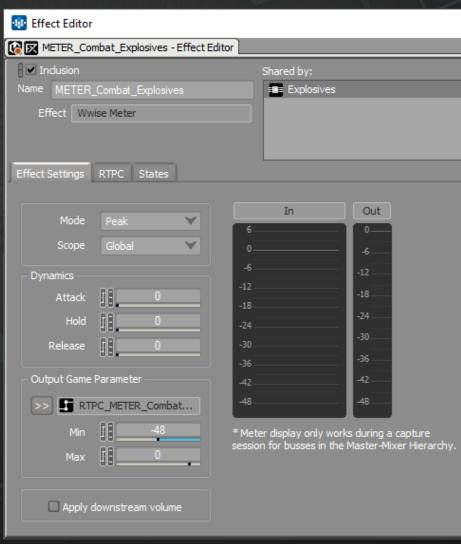






- Meters
 - Peak for SFX, RMS for voice & music, -48 range
 - Fast attack and release on SFX, slower on voice & music



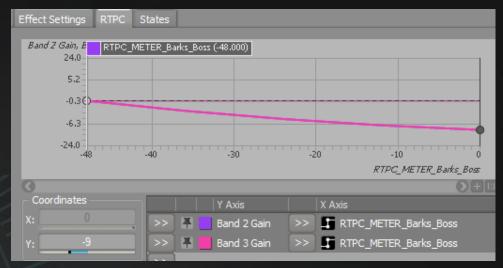




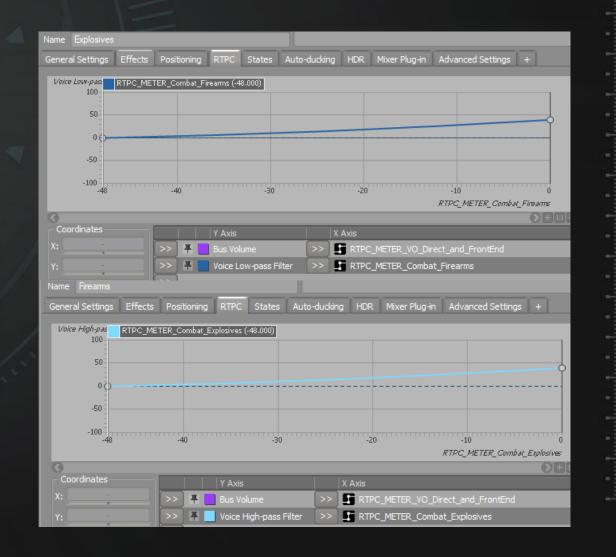


- Frequency contention
 - Voice Meter PEQ's busses
 - (EQ ducking)
 - Intelligibility (2k, 1 octave)
 - Sibilance (3.5k, 1/8th octave)
 - -9db gain
 - Bandpass (high and low)
 - Frequency contention resolution
 - Firearms → LowPass Explosives
 - Explosives → HighPass Firearms
 - Music → HighPass Ambient Loops
 - Explosives → HighPass Music Percussion
 - Firearms → LowPass Music Percussion





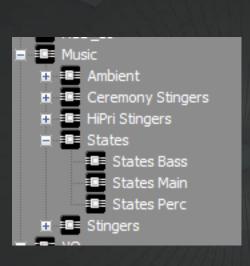


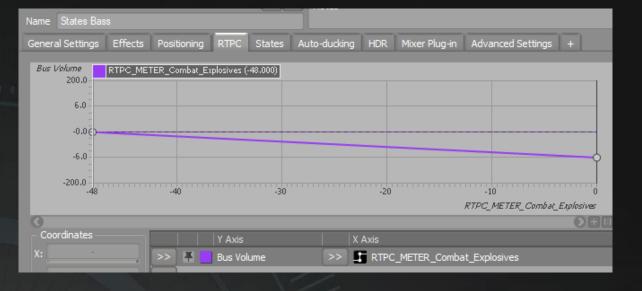


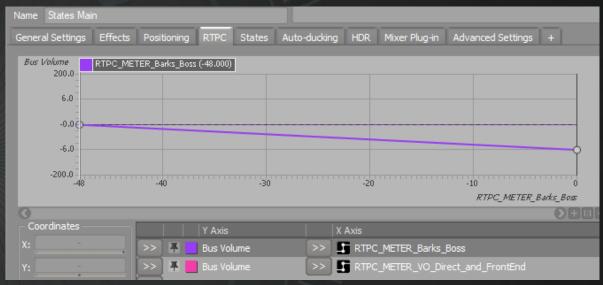
Mix Tuning

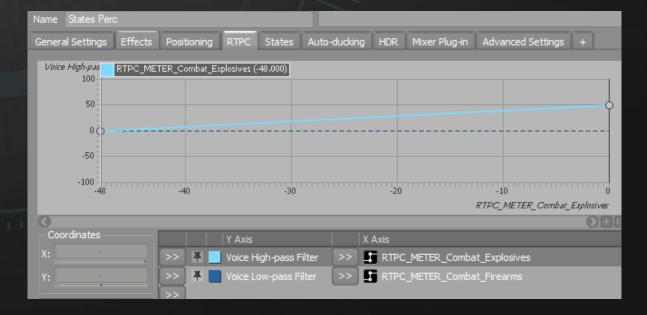
- Music -3db by voice
 - Bass
 - -6db by Explosives
 - Main
 - -6db by Voices
 - Perc
 - HighPass by Firearms
 - LowPass by Explosives
- Music ducks stuff too
 - Acoustics -3db
 - World loops -3db (and high pass 40)





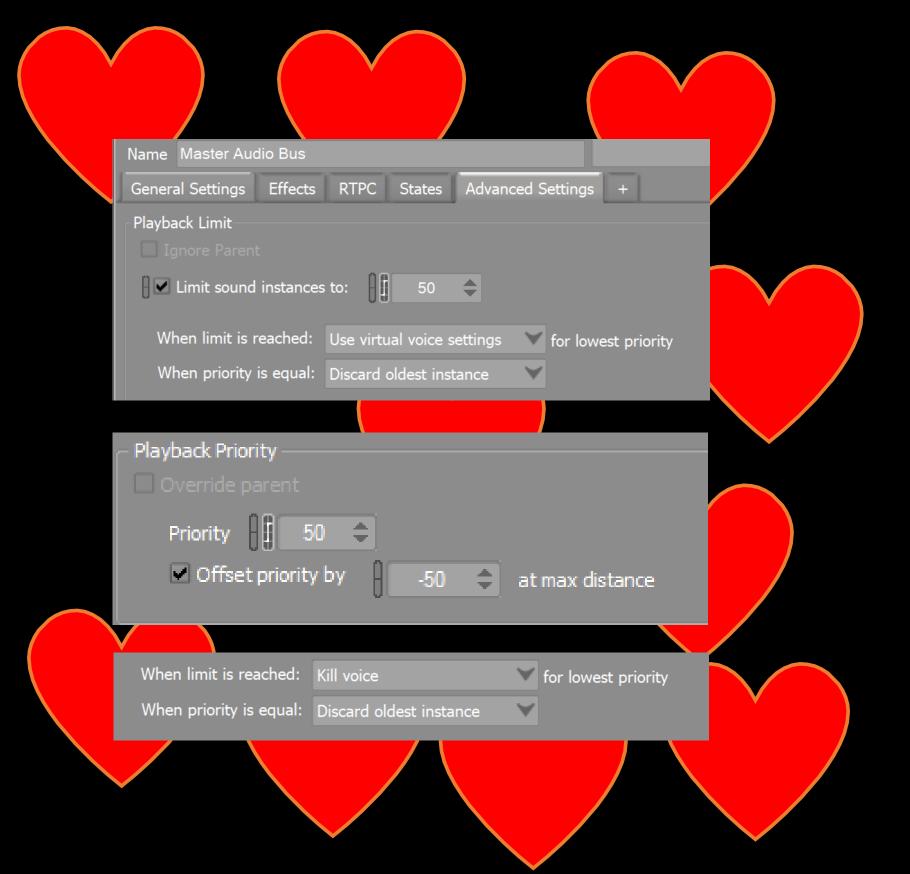






Managing perf

- No easy fix, sorry!
 - Very few voices allowed (50 max, average 35)
 - Aggressively make voices virtual or kill
 - HDR pushes down volume of less important sounds
 - De-pri to 0 over distance over distance
 - Lots of game object management
 - Limit events, cull events, event merging, etc.
 - Perf issues introduced via wwise data = nonstop auditing and fixing (even post-release, sorry)





Thank you to the Nimbus audio team





. Կումուս/սոմում-ամուս/սո







