Module 1: MotionBuilder Programming Introduction Assignment

A. Familiarizing Yourself

Spend some time familiarizing yourself with the documentation that comes with MotionBuilder, the location of the examples and the external resources that are available.

> *TIP:* I keep all my MotionBuilder web resources in one Favourite's folder in my web browser so I don't have to go looking all over the place when I need to use them. For ease of use I save Windows shortcuts to the ORSDK and Python umbrella documentation on my desktop.

B. Setting up Virtual Drives

Tired of always having to click the folders c:\Program Files\Autodesk\MotionBuilder 2013, just to find what you want? I find it time consuming to always have to be navigating there, so I set up a virtual drive that points to this location that runs on start up:

- By default all of MotionBuilder gets installed into this folder:

    C:\Program Files\Autodesk\MotionBuilder 2013

Follow these steps to set up a Virtual Drive:

1. Open a text editor (for example Notepad)
2. Name the file as "VirtualDrives.bat", (you can call it whatever you want as long as the file format is .bat)and save it to this location(windows 7): C:\Users\wengn\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup
   Note: If you want to know more information on this .bat definitely checkout the web, it is Windows functionality.
3. By putting the file in this location, it will be run on startup so that your virtual drives will always be setup.
4. Then copy the below code into the folder:

    @echo off

```
rem Mount Virtual Drives.


rem -------------------------
rem    Virtual Drives
rem -------------------------

subst /d R:
subst R: "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\MotionBuilder 2012"

subst /d S:
subst S: "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\MotionBuilder 2013"
```

5. You can add as many virtual drives as you want to as long as the drive letter is different, I have put the drive letters in bold below:

   subst /d **P**:
   subst **P:** "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\Maya2012"

   subst /d **Q**:
   subst **Q**: "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\Maya2013"

   subst /d **T**:
   subst **T**: "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\Mudbox2012"

   subst /d **U**:
   subst **U**: "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\FBX\FbxSdk\2012.2"

   Note: Make sure you look in your 'My Computer' to see what drives letters are already taken, generally C is taken, D, sometime, etc, it all depends how many hard drives and mapped drives you have set up already.

6. Save the file.
7. Go to Start > All Programs > Startup and click your .bat file
   Note: You won't normally have to do this but because we didn't restart to launch it, we want it to launch.
8. Open up My Computer, and you will see all these extra drives there.
9. At this point they all have a confusing name of 'Local Disk', right click on the drive and select 'Rename', choose something reflective of what it is, for example 'MoBu 2013'
   Note: For the lifetime (as many restarts as you want) that this location is on this drive it will always be named 'MoBu 2013' (ahhh the beauty of Windows).
10. Click on a new drive and vola…. you get taken right to the specific folder.

Another Option: Is to create a Windows shortcut on your desktop or in your browser or something like that, which also points to:

> C:\Users\wengn\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Startup

But, since you're all going to be fantastic programmers and progress to the OR SDK, virtual drives is more efficient when setting your plug-in paths in your Visual Studio Projects.