

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS HAVING ONE OF THOSE DAYS, SO I THOUGHT I MAY AS WELL WRITE DOWN SOME THOUGHTS

IN SOME WAYS, I'D STILL LIKE TO SEE MYSELF AS A VR EVANGELIST. I HAVE BECOME A BIT OF AN ONLINE RECLUSE, SO NOT AS ACTIVE AS I'D WANT TO BE. STILL, I PLAY WITH VR AT LEAST WEEKLY. WHILE I AM NOT ACTIVE PROFESSIONALLY ANYMORE, I HAVE RESUMED WORK ON A WEBXR PROJECT THAT I AM HOPING TO DEMO IN A TALK.

STILL, IN REAL LIFE, I RARELY MEET PEOPLE WITH A SIMILAR PASSION. ESPECIALLY WITH THE HYPE OF META DOWN-SIZING THEIR INVESTMENT IN THAT SPACE, IT IS REGARDED AS A FLOP. SOMETHING THAT IS ALL HYPE WITH NO VALUE.

YOU KNOW, LIKE IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I WAS TALKING WITH A COLLEAGUE ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE WITH INTO THE RADIUS 2, AND WHAT I LIKED ABOUT: THE CREEP FACTOR, THE CUSTOMIZATION WHEN IT COMES TO INVENTORY AND GEAR. HOW WELL IT PLAYS IN COOP WITH A BUDDY. HE MENTIONED WANTING TO TRY OUT HALF-LIFE: ALYX. GIVEN THAT I HAVE A FAIRLY MOBILE SETUP (LAPTOP, QUEST 3, D-LINK AIR BRIDGE), I PROMISED TO BRING MY GEAR TO THE OFFICE.

SO I INSTALLED EVERYTHING AND LET HIM PLAY. WHILE OTHERS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE GRAPHICS, I HEARD SOME FAMILIAR STORIES:

- SOME NEVER TRIED IT
- OTHERS FOR A FEW MINUTES DURING A SHORT DEMO.
- WERE WORRIED ABOUT GETTING SICK.

YOU KNOW, LIKE IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.

AS EXPECTED, PEOPLE WERE AMAZED. THE OPENING LEVEL OF ALYX FIRES OFF ALL CYLINDERS. THERE ARE TONS OF TOYS TO PLAY WITH. A COUPLE OF DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS. I WAS SURPRISED WITH HOW QUICKLY THEY TOOK UP THE GRAVITY GLOVES. BIG KUDOS TO VALVE THERE.

THE REPEATED FEEDBACK WAS HOW DIFFERENT IT IS FROM SEEING VR TO EXPERIENCING. THAT THEY COULD UNDERSTAND MY INTEREST AFTER GIVING IT A TRY.

YOU KNOW, LIKE IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.

I DO HOPE THE DEMO RESULTS IN A FEW MORE STEAM FRAME PRE-ORDERS.

I HAVE TO ADMIT I MAY HAVE MISSED THAT THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED VR. I WORK IN A TECH-HEAVY ENVIRONMENT AND ASSUME THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN IT A TRY AND WERE DISINTERESTED. BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR EXAMPLE, ALL IT TOOK WAS GIVING THEM A COUPLE OF MINUTES OF GAME TIME.

YOU KNOW, LIKE IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.