



From the Offices of MineWare Consulting: May 2010

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There has been much debate lately, both in the media and in legislature regarding safety in mines. Much has been made of corporate accountability and the role played by training and preventative measures in keeping miners safe, and in fostering an environment in which safety is paramount.

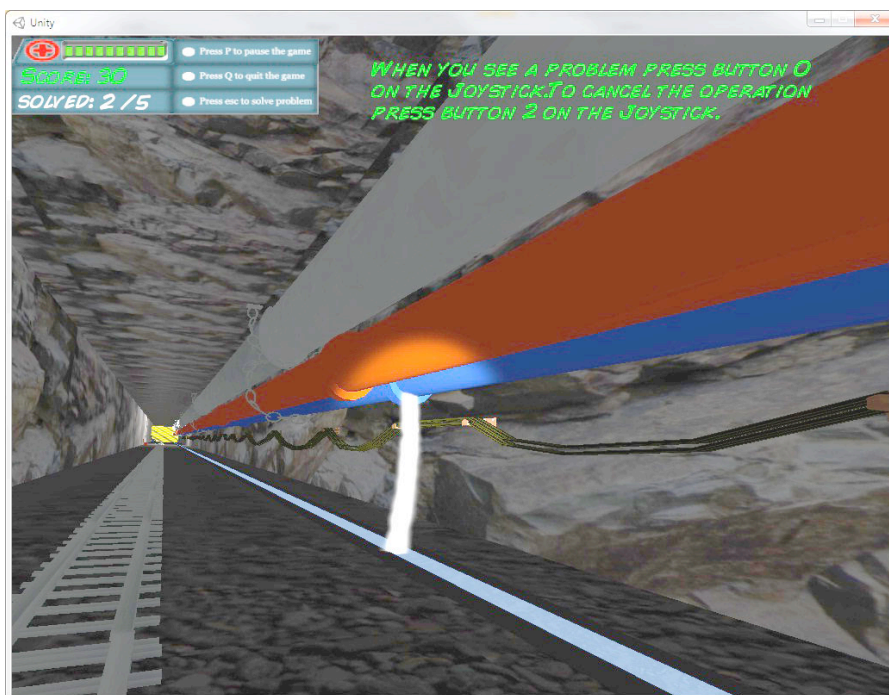
Paul Saker, MineWare M.D. says: "Safety is morally and financially good business. Unfortunately, in our media saturated environment, our heroes are risk-taking daredevils. Just about every adventure film has one of these characters as the star. Nobody wants to see a Batman that keeps to the suburban speed limits and slows down at the yield signs! Safety isn't fashionably cool. We decided to inject a bit of the whiz into our system to try bridging the "safety is boring" chasm. That gave us the basis for our safety game."

Many mines have extensive social upliftment and life skills training programmes in place for their workforce. Workplace safety is also of paramount importance, and mines ensure that capital and time resources are applied pro-actively in an effort to make mines a safer place.

In response to these perceived industry needs and concerns regarding safety on the mines, MineWare has developed a unique safety-awareness tool called the 'Safety Game'.

The safety game interface is similar to a normal desktop computer. Players play an interactive first person game, where they are presented with different safety scenarios. Once they identify an unsafe situation, they have to take corrective action. Standard or specific risk scenarios can be set up according to the mine's needs or changing safety environment.

The game is highly visual and easy to use, thus allowing players with no previous computer experience to step up and use it. Language preferences can be individually selected, accommodating a diverse workforce.



An individual user signs in, using a unique industry or employee number. There is also the possibility of using a fingerprint reader/scanner, in order to police usage and user compliance more effectively. Workers are graded according to their current safety rating, and their safety training requirements are analysed accordingly, they then play according to their 'level'. If a user does not keep up with the safety game, points are deducted and their level drops.

If a player reaches a more advanced level, they may get a new level rating. Each mine will be able to decide how to 'reward' these different levels. Tokens can be used as a reward, which are then endorsed by the mine, and redeemable at, for example, the canteen.

Management can then 'audit' these results and see where more training needs to be done, or which areas need attention, helping with accountability of the mine as a whole where safety is concerned. This system can be linked to MineWare's PEMS (Personnel Equity Management System) and CPM or any personnel management software system currently available. The game has the advantage of giving immediate feedback that is numerically quantifiable, allowing managers to audit player progress and filter information as needed, and suitably adapt their training initiatives, while keeping tabs on employee safety awareness.

This software was developed for potentially all clients in high-risk situations, where training and safety are of paramount importance. As the nature of the game is interactive and visual, it can be changed and adapted to suit many environments and even different industries. It is thus not limited to, although it currently is aimed at, the mining industry. The Safety Game software is customisable, making it a flexible tool that can immediately be used in any environment.

We pride ourselves on maintaining a good relationship with our clients, and believe that maintenance and after-sales support are one of the key components of good customer relations.

“ In an ever changing world, the only certainty is that requirements will change and grow on a day to day basis. It is our ability to change our systems continuously whilst maintaining their integrity that has allowed MineWare to grow and prosper” Says Paul Saker M.D.