Unit 13.2 Virtual Reality on the Web

Virtual Reality (VR) technology allows you to interact with a computer-simulated environment, as if that you experiencing it is as the real one.

For instance, virtual shopping provides virtual sensory for you to experience stronger immersion in the 3D-mediated environment.

However, normally you still need a computer screen or a special stereoscopic display such as a head-mounted display or helmet-mounted display (HMD).

In computer science, VR is an area that seeks better method for implementing three-dimensional, immersive, and interactive worlds.

You have to understand that VR's technology intends to find a solution that allows you to experience situations that may be impossible in the real world. For example, in dangerous nuclear experiment.

But in the near future, we expect that online virtual reality will allow more productivity than working in the "real world". It means that you may work "virtually" home that working from your office.

In another example, you don't need to hold a map to find a direction. What you need is a pair of glasses.

As you walk down the street, the glasses lenses turn into a monitor that feed your eyes with the map information. It could also give you directions by a digital voice.

So, nowadays, three-dimensional virtual environments are here on the Web. Thanks to the latest Internet 3-D Graphics processor. Also thanks to Second Life, papervision3d within Flash, Flash, and Shockwave player technologies.

In addition, Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML) is designed to handle high-performance 3-D worlds on the web. It presents you with 3-D text, images, and textures.

As a result, the animation now is more dynamic with morphing, collision detection, and gravity logic. And you can watch it from multiple viewpoints. Hence, your browsing experience, never like before. Now you have more compelling, more informing and more engaging interaction.

One great news is that Google and Mozilla have updated their Chrome and Firefox browsers that support Web VR. This good news could soon engage you in the immersive 3-D worlds.

But remember, the basic technology here is vector graphics and animation. Advanced 3-D renderings, blended with creative worlds will present before your eyes the latest web-based multimedia technology.

In summary, Virtual Reality (VR) technology on the web allows you to interact with a computer-simulated environment right from your browser.

In the future more and more advanced technology like augmented reality will help your web browsing experience becomes better, like never before.