# DΣSCΣΠD

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### Abstract

Descend is a cartoony, 2D, Greek mythology-based, semi-open world, action-adventure game that game focuses on exploration, real-time combat, and strategy. Players can play as a warrior or an archer to explore the 2 worlds (overworld and underworld), meet NPCs, and defeat enemies, all while helping Zeus prevent Hades from taking over the overworld. The players operate within a large map, using the arrow keys and WASD keys to meet NPCs to drive the story and lead the user to combat. In the combat stages, there are a variety of enemies that try to prevent the user from reaching the final boss, and a level boss in each level. Defeating a level boss would open a portal, allowing the player to exit combat, as well as move on to the next level. In order to descend into the underworld to fight hades, players need to defeat the level boss to unlock portals. To successfully beat the game, the player must be able to dodge enemy attacks and strategically plan when to use their special attack.

As Descend's Visual Lead, I am responsible for all things visual, including designing and creating all of the game's characters (playable characters, NPCs, enemies, and bosses). This involved the process of designing, hand drawing, rigging, and creating the prefabs for the characters. Additionally, I handled creating and organizing all the assets (bushes, trees, volcanos, backgrounds, etc) and animations (every character's idle, attack, walk, death, etc) for our world scenes and combat stages. Furthermore, I took on most of the user interface components (title, screen, game over screen, congratulations screen, main menu, lobby menu, pause menu, and player's special attack cooldown bar).

# Introduction

The entirety of Descend is created from scratch using the many features within Unity as well as additional tools. Although the game exists as a single entity, Descend can be broken up into several components. The visuals, game logic, and audio all work together to create one cohesive game. This report will discuss the different components of the game and how the project is developed, as well as my contributions and thoughts on the process of creating Descend over the semester.

### Wu 4

# Game Components: <u>Characters</u>

### Art:

All the characters were hand-drawn using Procreate on the iPad. The process includes each body limb (head, body, arms, legs, and weapon) being drawn separately as well as in separate layers. Having each limb separate would allow us to easily move each body part independently to animate the character with ease after we piece the body parts together. Utilizing the separate layers allow for more control of the art. Once the character is finished being drawn, it is saved as a PNG with a transparent background, and the file is sent to a computer.



### Rigging:

After the character is drawn, the character needs to be pieced back together through the rigging process. The rigging is done using the Skinning Editor within Unity's Sprite Editor. The rigging process includes adding a digital skeleton and weights to the character sprite. The combination of the skeleton and weights is what will allow us to animate the characters. The skeleton is what allows us to control how to move the character; however, the sprite will only follow if the weights are added. Then, for some of the characters, inverse kinematics is used for the arms and the weapon. Inverse kinematics is a component in the Unity Library, which makes animating easier and looks more natural. After the character is finished being rigged, it gets some basic components, such as a rigid body, added and then converted into a prefab to be used by the world and combat teams. The same process is done for every character.



## Animation:

After each character is rigged, animations can be created for each of the characters. Each animation for each character is created individually, even though many are similar and follow similar logic. The playable characters have an idle, walking, and attack animation, while the enemies have an idle, attack, and death animation. By default, all characters will be in their idle animations, which constantly loop.

For the playable characters, we have a function that toggles between the idle and walking animation states. In the FixedUpdate() method, we constantly check the player's movement to determine when to toggle the animation.

```
// Animation state changer
void ChangeAnimationstate(string newState)
{
    // Stop animation from interrupting itself
    if (currentAnimState == newState) return;
    // Play new animation
    animator.Play(newState);
    // Update current state
    currentAnimState = newState;
}
```

We have an Attack() function, which will trigger the Attack parameter that we set to the character's attack animation in the animator controller. In the Update() function, we check for when the player presses on the keys for the normal or special attack, as we want both attacks to trigger the attack animation, before calling the Attack() function.



All the enemies' attack animations are triggered using a similar method. However, instead of checking for user input, the attack is called every some set time, depending on the enemy. The most complex enemy to develop is Cerberus, as he has 3 sets of attacks (one for each head), which we handle the same as any other attack. His idle animation is particularly difficult to create due to the speed of the tail wag vs the speed of head movement requiring a change at such drastically different rates.



To trigger the death animation, we track hitpoints. And if the enemy's hitpoint reaches 0, the death animation is triggered.

# Game Components: Assets

Similar to the characters, the entirety of the game's assets, aside from the ground type dirt in world level 1, which is a tilemap from the asset store, and the ground in combat stage level 1, which is from a free to use image found online that we had to clean up using photoshop. Most of the assets, including all the scenery pieces (bushes, trees, rocks, fences, volcanos, etc) are hand-drawn using Procreate, the same way that is used to create the characters. Several pieces are drawn on the same sheet. After being drawn, they were exported to Unity. Within the Inspector window for the image, the Sprite Mode selected would be "Multiple," which would allow us to slice each entity automatically using Unity's Sprite Editor tool. Oftentimes, we have to clean up slices using Custom Outline.

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Some sprites were more complex because they were animated. To do this, the same piece would be drawn multiple times with some small differences. Then, the sprites would be sliced and added to an animation.



The background assets for the combat scenes were created using vector graphics in order to ensure clarity of these assets in-game and to accommodate being stretched and manipulated as needed to fit the scene.



# Game Components: Overworld

### Scene Development

The flooring of the scenes is created using the tilemap feature of Unity. Then, the scenery pieces are placed by dragging sprite assets onto the scene and arranged to our liking. Collisions are implemented using the Polygon Collider 2D component, which is attached to all the scenery pieces in the scene. Then, the NPC characters, which are prefabricated, get added the same way as the scenery pieces.



### **NPCs**

The story is driven by the NPCs in the world. The NPCs are prefabs that contain the rigged character and a canvas where the dialogue is displayed. The script includes a string array for each NPC, which we have populated with the lines that we want the character to say.

When the player collides with an NPC, the script attached to the



NPC triggers a button that the user must click on to initiate the dialogue, which will display the first string from the array. To continue the dialogue, the space bar needs to be pressed, which will trigger the next element to be displayed. After the last string is displayed, the SceneManager is invoked, loading the scene that is attached for that NPC. This is how users are taken to combat stages.

### Portals

Portals play a vital role in our game. Portals are used to transport the player between different world levels and between combat and world. By default, the portal will not be active. The portal has a script attached to it that checks if the level boss has been killed by checking that it is equal to null. If that condition is met, then the portal's visibility is enabled. When a user collides with the portal, a function is called to check for the current scene. Then, the scene manager is triggered and loads the next scene that we set.



# Game Components: Combat

The combat system is a vital component of the game. Players enter a different view that only allows x-axis movement, compared to the world view which can allow characters to move in the y-direction. In this world, the characters are now able to use their abilities and attack. There will be a UI for the enemies' health at the top of the gameplay, as well as a UI health bar for our characters. When players defeat the boss of the level, they will transition back into the World Map.



An important component that we have in our game is a tutorial stage, which aims to teach players how to navigate the combat stages and how to attack.



### Attacks

The game features 2 playable characters, a human warrior, who has a sword for striking (close range), and a satyr archer, who has a bow and arrow for shooting (far range). Each character has 2 attacks - a normal attack and a super attack.

Player attacks are triggered by user input. If the user presses the spacebar, that will trigger the character's normal attack. As part of the prefab, the characters have an "attack point" object attached. For the warrior, it is located at the end of the sword. If the attack point collides with an enemy, that invokes the TakeHit function on the enemy. For the archer's normal attack, the archer has a script component called "Archer Basic," which will instantiate an arrow, which is a prefab that we have, from the attack point. The arrow will travel in one direction on the horizontal axis until it collides with an enemy or until it hits the ground, as it is bound to gravity.



Both the warrior and archer's special attacks are created similar to the archer's normal attack of instantiating a prefab from the character's attack point, which will travel in one direction on the horizontal axis until it collides with an enemy, as it holds no gravity. The difference is that these special attack prefabs hold a higher number for attack damage. Additionally, there is a cooldown set in place in order to balance the character's strength and ability. The special attack can only be invoked once every 10 seconds. Both the normal and special attacks trigger the attack animation. If the "x" key is pressed, that will try to trigger the character's special attack. If the user attempts to use the special attack before the cooldown, we simply trigger the character's normal attack.



On the UI, there is a bar to indicate to the player when they are able to use their special attack. During the entire time of the charge up, the fill of the bar will be pink. When the special attack is ready, i.e. when the 10 seconds cooldown is over, the bar turns blue, as an indication to the player that they are now allowed to use their special attack.



Enemies only have a normal attack, which is triggered every some preset time. This interval is different for each enemy. Enemies that are considered grunts possess familiar attack styles. The cyclops and minotaur's attack is similar to that of the warrior's normal attack. When a user is colliding with an enemy, the enemy's attack is invoked, and the enemy will strike again the cooldown is over. Meanwhile, the harpy's attack is similar to that of the player's special attacks, as it instantiates prefabs that travel horizontally until a player is hit. The harpy does not require collision between the character but instead has a detector. A detector is a separate game object that is attached to the character. It is located before the character. The detector contains a script component that checks that a character has collided with it. If a player is colliding with the detector, the enemy's attack will be invoked.



Like the harpy, Apollo's attack also instantiates prefabs that travel horizontally to hit a player. The difference with Apollo is that Apollo bears two attack points that are vertically stacked - one at the player's standing height and the other at the character's jump height from the stage's ground. Both attack points invoke an attack at different speed rates, resulting in a unique pattern for Apollo's attack.



Cerberus's attack is also similar. However, Cerberus has three attack points, one for each of his heads. The additional attack point allows for an even more complex pattern of attack.



Amongst all the enemies in the game, the character that holds the most unique attack is Hades, who unleashes fireballs from the sky. The implementation is similar to the previous characters' attacks that involve shooting a prefab of some sort. However, Hades has 16 attack points that are located across the top of the scene within Hades' detector, and the prefabs of his attacks travel vertically.



### HP / Health Points

Health points reset at every stage. Each character has a unique number which is their amount of health points. In combat, all players and enemies have a hp bar attached to the prefab of the character, in which the visibility is toggled on upon being attacked. As previously stated, each attack is attributed with a number referred to as "attack damage." As a result of being collided with an attack, the TakeHit() function of the character is called, reducing the hp of the character equal to the number of "attack damage" from the attack. At the character's max hp, the hp bar will be green, then gradually becomes red as their hp number decreases. When a character's hp reached 0, the game object is destroyed. For enemies, the death animation is invoked. Whereas for the player, the "Game Over" scene will be loaded.



# Game Components: User Interface

### Screens and Menus

The game begins with the title screen, which consists of two panels on a canvas and a moving background. The first panel contains the title of the game and a "play" button. Selecting the play button will invoke a script that will activate the next panel and deactivate the current panel, which are both manually set. The following panel allows the user to indicate whether they want to play by themselves or with someone.



Selecting "solo" will call the scene manager to load the game's World: Level One. Selecting "Multiplayer" will load up a Lobby Screen, which allows the players to pair up.

The pause menu is a panel made into a prefab that is added to every game scene. By default, it is not active. When a player hits the esc key, the pause menu will be set active on the current scene, and the game's timescale will be set to 0f. Clicking on the continue button



 $\Sigma SC\Sigma$ 

SOLO

MULTIPLAYER



or hitting the esc key again will resume the game by deactivating the panel and setting the game's timescale to 1f.

The Game Over screen will be loaded if the user dies, which is the game's losing condition. The Congrats scene will be loaded if the player defeats Hades, which is the game's winning condition. Both scenes consist of the option to play again, which loads the title screen. The player's current progress in the world is stored. This means that if the player defeats the level one boss, the portal that is active on world level one will remain active; the player does not have to fight the level one boss again to activate the portal.



All of the game's audio (music, ambiance, sound effects, etc.) are produced by the audio team. The audio clips are loaded into an audio bank, which gets integrated with Unity through the FMOD tool. To add music to a scene, the components FMOD Studio Listener, FMOD Studio Bank Loader, and FMOD Studio Event Emitter are added to the camera. Selecting the camera as the source of music allows the music to be consistent everywhere throughout the scene.

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Most sound effects are dependent on game logic, and so, they are integrated within scripts. To invoke a sound effect, simply use the PlayOneShot() function of FMODUnity and insert the location of the desired audio file from the FMOD audio bank. For example, the following code is used to prompt the audio for the warrior's super attack. This line of code is embedded into game logic to determine when the warrior's super attack is used.

```
FMODUnity.RuntimeManager.PlayOneShot(
    "event:/SFX/Player/Big_Slash",
    GetComponent<Transform>().position
);
```

# My Contribution

As prior mentioned, I am the team's Visual Leading, making me responsible for all of the game's assets, animations, and UI components, as well as providing assistance wherever needed. I created the characters used in the game by hand drawing, rigging, and creating animations for all the characters. Details for the process can be found under "Game Components: Characters." Additionally, I also hand drew almost all of the game's assets, sliced them, and created animations for them as necessary. Details for the process can be found under "Game Components: Assets." Furthermore, I created many of the game's UI components, such as all the menus and the player special attack cooldown bar. Details for the process can be found under "Game Components: User Interface" and "Game Components: Combat" respectively. In creating the menus, I also created the flow of the game as I wired the scenes and panels.



**Git Commits** 

fix esc menu's exit button	
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make scenes for networking. login/reg and multiplayer lobby 🚯 Adele-Wu committed 4 days ago	96c3667
add countdown timer bar for user's special attacks. and did stuff to 📼	@ f791c85
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figure out bug that was causing the eso menu to not work properly in 📼 P Adele-Wa committed 9 days ago	C c27 ca4	
create cerberus death animation           Adele-Wa committed 9 days ago	<b>642e1</b>	
speed up fireball animation Adele-Wu committed 9 days ago	766624	
create cerberus attack animations, organize animations folder	D 835831	
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clean up () Adele-Wa committed 14 days ago	Ø				
create lobby menu. It is named main menu  Adele-Wa committed 14 days ago	Ø	3bc2b89			
made pause menu as prefab. working on lobby from hw4 provided code  Adele-Wa committed 14 days ago	Ø	63d16c3			
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fix merge conflict  Adele-Wa committed 14 days ago	Ø	232ba12			
Commits on Apr 28, 2022					
create congrats and game over screens  Adele-Wa committed 15 days ago	Ø	41e85fc			

o Commits on Apr 28, 2022			
add font and created font assets	Ø	fecb880	
clean up Madele-Wa committed 15 days ago	Ø	1888b5b	
connect "solo or multi" screen into game	Ø	3fe68fa	
create 'solo or multiplayer' screen and 'esc menu' screen	Ø	39ef276	
add background for hades combat Adeie-Wa committed 15 days ago	Ø	bdb7114	
made portal as prefab (© Adele-Wa committed 15 days ago	Ø	84381a9	
add asset: background for hades	Ø		
o Commits on Apr 27, 2022			
add sword slash  () Adele-Wa committed 16 days ago	Ø	18c92ef	
trying to switch to my branch, adding this file (2) Adele-Wa committed 16 days ago	Ø		
add words for keys  (2) Adele-Wa committed 16 days ago	₽	9987c9f	
add keys      Adeie-Wa committed 17 days ago	Ø		
o Commits on Apr 26, 2022			
fix bug      Adele-Wa committed 17 days ago	Ø		
fix bug  S Adele-Wa committed 17 days ago	Ø	c96d57e	
add title to menu	Ø	b21db1f	
create starting menu (P) Adele-Wa committed 18 days ago	Ø		
o Commits on Apr 25, 2022			
add dead plants  O Adele-Wa committed 19 days ago	Ø	4ced7ac	
add dark dirt ground for world	Ø	4da5a30	
o- Commits on Apr 21, 2022			
clean up      O Adele-Wa committed 22 days ago	Ø	f5892c6	
create cerebus and hades, made as prefabs Adele-Wa committed 22 days ago	Ø		
e- Commits on Apr 20, 2022			
add volcano + smoke + more sharp rocks	Ø		
create old man npo for story, make him as prefab	Ø	1bdabb7	
add feather for grunt-harpy's attack	Ø	a157886	
make exising characters as prefabs Adele-Wa committed 23 days ago	Ø		

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Merge branch 'main' of github.com:doomphd/Descend  (2) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 31	Ð	b382e1f	
Merge branch 'adele_branch'   Merge branch 'adele_branch'  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 31	Ø	d454eac	
add question mark emblem for tutorial stage Participation of the stage Addee-War committed on Mar 31	Ø	92a4c5e	
add question mark emblem for tutorial stage	Ð	85cdbe1	
Commits on Mar 24, 2022			
update and rig archer   Madele-Wu committed on Mar 24	Ø	4fa6ef1	
add archer files  Madele-Wu committed on Mar 24	Ø	0475631	
Commits on Mar 23, 2022			
rig minotaur  () Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23	Ø	b4cd5c8	
rig minotaur  () Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23	Ø	2075b2c	
rig harpy grunt  P Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23	Ø		
rig cyclops grunt  () Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23	Ø	ef17e86	
add grunt Images	Ð	0394498	
update warrior walking animation  (B) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23	Ð	f12d112	
Commits on Mar 23, 2022			
Commits on Mar 23, 2022  organized visuals directory  Addatawa committed on Mar 23	Ð	e3a9e64	
Commits on Mar 23, 2022   organized visuals directory    Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  rename background gameobjects for combat to make more easily understa   Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23   Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23	Ð	03a9054 d9a5416	
Commits on Mar 28, 2022  organized visuals directory  O Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  rename background gameobjects for combat to make more easily understa  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  add smaller ground, could be used as platform for combat scene  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23	0 0	e3a9854 d9a5416 c338834	
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Commits on Mar 28, 2022  organized visuals directory  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  rename background gameobjects for combat to make more easily understa  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  add smaller ground, could be used as platform for combat scene  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  add background to combat  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  add background to combat  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23  add background files  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 23	0 0 0	e3a9964 d9a5416 c339834 1644a3d a3d1526	
Committe on Mar 28, 2022  organized Visuals directory  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  rename background gameobjects for combat to make more easily understa  add smaller ground, could be used as platform for combat scene  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  add background to combat  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  add background to combat  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  add background files  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23  add package for svg  Adele-Wu committed on Mar 23	0 0 0 0	e3a9e64 d9a5416 c33e834 1644a3d a3d1526 e1d92ba	
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add grass for world  Adele-We committed on Mar 18	Ø	1f68b32	
redo bushes with outline (9) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 18	ø	Øfec818	
make new version of ground less long (2) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 18	Ø	588db17	
add ground  Adele-We committed on Mar 18	Ø	d63a844	
add bushes and 8th note  Adele-Wa committed on Mar 18	Ð	a67485b	
Commits on Mar 16, 2022			
add apollo P Adele-Wa committed on Mar 15	Ø	cf63ad9	
Commits on Mar 11, 2022			
centered warrior more	Ø		
Centered warrior more P Adele-Wa committed on Mar 11	Ø	4144518	
remove unused scene	Ø	b3882fa	
remove unused scene	Ø	1462e45	
removed unused scene to clean up (P) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 11	Ø	1dba836	
separated trees. trees are ready for use Adele-Wa committed on Mar 11	Ø	29c28c7	
Imported trees	Ø	8cba8a9	
made rocks individual (P) Adele-Wa committed on Mar 11	Ø	524d611	
added rock drawing	Ø		
Commits on Mar 10, 2022			
added version 1 of warrior, just incase we prefer that method later on	Ø	9ae9651	
cleaned up warrior rig	Ø	244a6df	
rigged warrior	Ø	acd5108	
Created warrior	Ø	6945d8d	
created adele branch	Ø	831968d	

# Challenges and Lessons Learned

The greatest challenge of working on this project, for both my team and me, is using Git. We would always get merge conflicts in addition to other errors whenever we pull, push, or merge. It was a process, but by the end of the semester, we were able to figure out the best solution to these errors. We initially tried to add some of these files to the gitignore page; however, that did not fix the problem. For a while, the git stash command was able to get us by. Then, upon approaching the TA, we were advised to simply delete the conflicting files before we pull. That came to be tedious and was not always effective. Our go-to method now is to simply add and commit those files. Through the process of dealing with endless git conflicts and errors, we better understand the different files that Unity creates and modifies.

A lesson that I learned is to not be over-optimistic. My team initially wanted to create 5 levels and 3 stages within each level, making 15 combat stages in total. We even devised a plan and set milestones that allowed us to believe it was a possible task. Upon every member having to spend an unexpected amount of time to create the first level and stages, we learned that it was not possible for us to create 5 levels and 15 stages that would be decent given the short amount of time, that is a single semester. As a result, we decided on quality over quantity, and we scaled down so that we would be able to create components that we would be proud of. This meant that some work and plans had to be scrapped entirely. However, I believe that this was the right decision.

# Second Chance

If given a second chance to develop this game from scratch, I would like to set up a more rigid working structure. I believe communication and ensuring that everyone is aware of the project's current state and trajectory is extremely important.

My team did not have consistent meetings; we simply arranged meetings whenever we feel that a meeting is needed. For the most part, that was fine for the majority of the team, as we were able to hold ourselves accountable for our tasks, even without the consistent meetings. However, I acknowledge that not everyone is like that, and I think having more consistent meetings would keep everyone on their toes and engaged with the project/team.

Additionally, I believe another method to ensure that all members are aware of their tasks is to have a place for the team to display each member's responsibilities and expected due dates, along with the progress of each task. This could be as simple as setting up a Discord channel that contains messages about each member's tasks and their respective due date. Additionally, the member could react or respond with a message to indicate that the task is completed as well as maintain an organized history of the project's progress. An alternative is using a resource like Trello to assign and track each member's tasks. Some of our members already inform the rest of the team of when they have pushed into the main branch and describe the changes that they have made. However, not everyone does this, so not everyone is always aware of the state of the project. To add, sometimes our general channel gets flooded with messages, so people would miss the message on project updates.