# Powering Up Simulation in Environmental Training

By Dean MacKenzie, Ph.D, P.Ag.







#### The Value of Play – It Drives Innovation

- Play is a gateway to possibility
- Our brains are wired to pay attention when something surprises us
- Our thinking is transformed "things we already know
  → things we haven't figured out yet"







## Vertex Resource Group Ltd.

- Environmental services
  - Professional
  - Industrial
- Diversified
- 650 employees
- Growth orientated





#### **Environmental Consulting Challenges**

- There is a shortage of skilled labour in the environmental consulting industry
- Training new and existing staff new skills can be challenging
- Reducing operational costs without compromising safety and quality is paramount
  - Faster, better, cheaper



https://hrdailyadvisor.blr.com



# **Solution - Virtual Training**

- Training done in a virtual or simulated environment
- Participants virtually practice and experience real world situations, activities, and processes
- Many types of delivery systems and platforms
  - virtual and augmented reality
  - virtual classrooms, virtual environment (interact with data and images)



https://nkxgen.com/virtual-ilt



## **Virtual Training**

- Save time
- Reduces costs
- Enhance safety
- Remove accessibility barriers
- Improve employee performance
- Enhance engagement



http://www.bearsmart.com





## **Vertex Training Simulator**

Our objectives:

- Create a real-life immersive experience
- Drive value in our day to day operations
- Develop an effective collaborative tool
  - employees, clients,colleagues, and partners
- Make it fun





# **Choosing the Right Platform**

**ROBLOX:** 

- Free and popular (over 150,000,000 worldwide users)
- Widely accessible, portable, no high-end equipment
- Fun, safe and endless possibilities





# Game Development

- Focus on interactive e-learning
  - expert-led training
- Focus on environments in which we can build upon (oil sands, conventional)
- Drive collaboration
- Reinforce key elements of the job

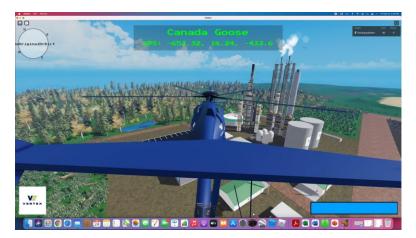




# **Bird Sweep**

- Oil sands mining theme
- 10 birds species including their nests and calls
- Variety of habitats
- Instructor led and selfpaced







# **Bird Sweep**

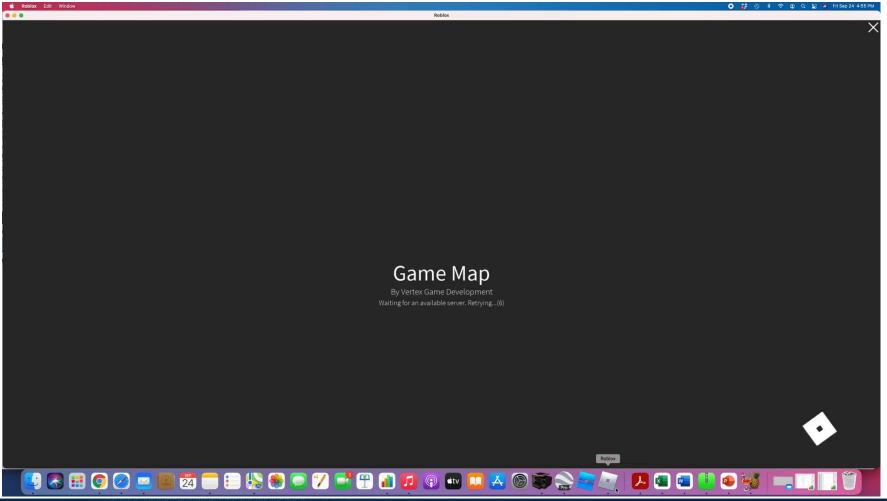
Reinforce key elements of the job:

- Mine driving
- Safety
- Field preparation
- Bird identification
- Data collection/app
- Wildlife awareness
- Teamwork





## **Bird Sweep**





#### DSA

- Conventional oil and gas theme
- Cultivated and forested end land use
- 4 reclaimed wellsites
- 1 active wellsite
- Instructor led





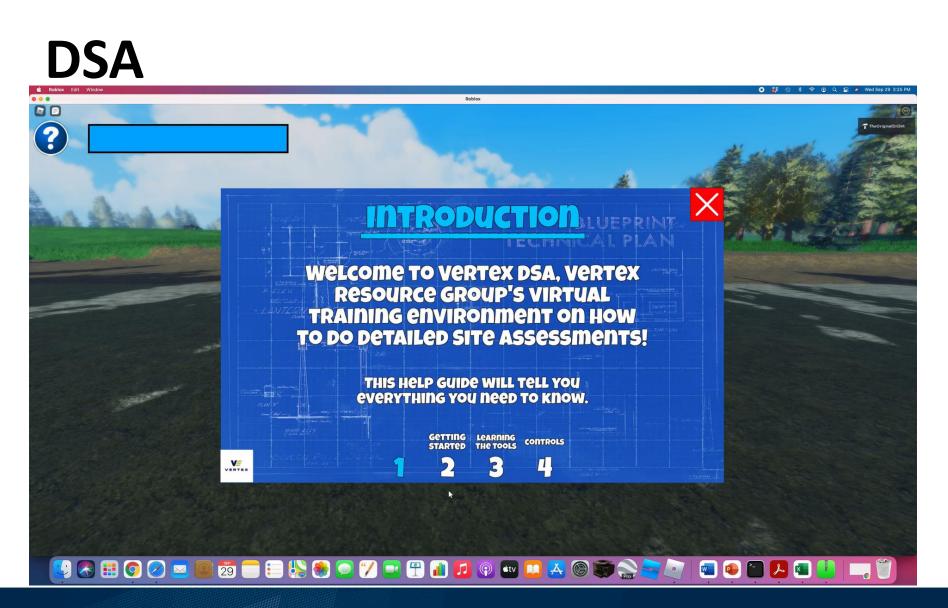
## DSA

Reinforce key elements of the job:

- Field preparation
- Driving and safety
- Technical components
- Data collection/app
- Communication







## **Beta Testing**





#### Outcomes

- 100% of users found it extremely useful
- Enhances collaboration and engagement
- Sparks creativity
- Reinforces safety, logistical, and technical components of the job







A team building machine

At least 60% of field activities can be taught right at my house Very

Cool

lt's too fun My cat is LOVING this game

Great to visualize the sites beforehand. Forgetting equipment --- Better to do that in a simulator than on the real day! It's amazing and reminds us of the importance of field safety, safety first

> My kids love doing DSAs!

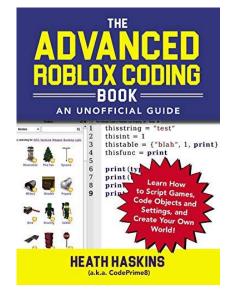
A big time and money saver

VERTEX

# Challenges

- Coding and scripting within confines of ROBLOX
- Platform banned technical words
  - Kill deer, A1, F7, weed, etc...
- Its almost too fun







## **Vertex Future Developments**

- Continue to Beta test
- Enhance learning experience
- Provide training opportunities with indigenous partners, students, universities, clients, etc...





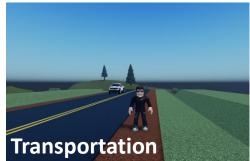
## **Vertex Future Developments**

- Expand environmental scopes
- Diversify industries















#### **Cut Scenes!**





## **Thank You**



