

## Gaming at Algoma University

### The Challenge

Enabling students at Algoma University to join in earning the world's first Master's degree in computer gaming technology, in real-time collaboration with a world-leading institution across the ocean, in Scotland.

### Background

The world's multi billion-dollar computing gaming industry continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Graduates with specialized training are needed as popularity in gaming continues to expand, with an increasing recognition within Canada's academic community of the need for hands-on, comprehensive degree programs in computer gaming. Algoma University College, in Sault Ste. Marie, has carved a special niche for itself as a leader in computer gaming technology training, even hosting a globally recognized conference in computing gaming since 2003.



### ORION Makes a Difference

Connecting to ORION has enabled Algoma University College to plug into the global grid of advanced research and education networks and to leap ahead to become the first institution in North America to collaborate with the internationally renowned University of Abertay Dundee's (UAD) - the first in the world to offer a Master of Science degree in Computer Games Technology.

### Results

Algoma University College is able to participate fully in a cutting-edge collaborative program, allowing the innovative university to start to distinguish itself as Canada's leading institution offering advanced degree training in the field. Algoma students in Sault Ste. Marie now participate in classes taking place in Scotland over an advanced videoconferencing system, enabled by the school's connection over ORION, CANARIE and JANET, the UK national R&E backbone.

Algoma has established a new Game Technology Lab, equipped with the latest game technology, with cutting-edge development software including the Microsoft Visual C++ system, 3D modeling, photo editing, and music editing software with piano keyboards and supporting media libraries; several gaming platforms; console development kits; and a large format entertainment centre with the room wired for Dolby 5.1 Surround Sound.

### The Impact

*"We have been impressed by the high quality of the videoconference connections to Scotland over the R&E networks. It's as though we're interacting with people who are in the classroom next door."*

- Danny Reid, Divisional Director of Information Technology Services and Program Coordinator, MSc Computer Gaming Technology, Algoma University