

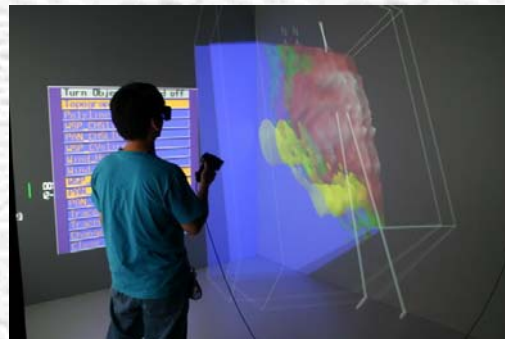


Center for Advanced Visualization, Computation, and Modeling (CAVCaM)

DRI just completed a new \$20-million Computational Research and Visualization Building (CRVB) at its Northern Nevada Science Center in Reno that will house the Center for Advanced Visualization, Computing, and Modeling (CAVCaM). This state-of-the-art center will feature the Western United States' first six-sided CAVE™. The CAVE is a virtual reality display that allows users to move physically into and interact with a simulated, recreated, imagined, or altered worlds.

This technology helps the user to explore and to learn about many subjects via a virtual world. Users may want to learn about an ancient culture, study weather patterns over the Western United States, test techniques for forest fire abatement, study the affects of increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, or teach helicopter pilots the peculiar issues of flying and landing in desert environments.

The new visualization facility at DRI helps scientists and others explore and utilize the vast amount of information collected by sensors measuring data from Earth, including a vast array of weather, climate, and biological data, as well as information generated by computer simulations of ecological phenomena. These visualization technologies have become increasingly critical for understanding complex interactions that occur in nature, explaining these interactions to the public, and preparing for a range of possible outcomes and options. In addition, they can be used for training soldiers, firefighters, and others to operate in dangerous or inaccessible environments.



DRI make its new facilities, equipment, and services available to other researchers and agencies. It is expected that many of those users will be small and mid-sized high-technology businesses that may not be able to afford the capital investment in such a facility, but can profit from contract/short-term access.

The new visualization facility is being established in two phases. Phase 1 included construction of a four-sided CAVE (screens on four sides of a cubical room—three walls and a floor) in September 2005. In Phase 2, a CAVE with all six sides of the cube is presently being built. This highly complex display required a new building, the CRVB, which was completed in early 2009.

For more information about DRI's Center for Advanced Visualization, Computation, and Modeling, contact Dr. Daniel Coming Ph.D., Principle Investigator, at dcoming@dri.edu, or Marie Delgrego, Administrative Assistant, at delgrego@dri.edu. or visit our website at www.cavcam.dri.edu.

