



**SDSU**  
presents  
a thesis defense for  
Master of Science  
degree in  
Computer Science

Tuesday,  
June 26, 2012  
  
2:00pm  
GMCS 418

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*Interactive World Map: Man Made Disasters*

## Abstract

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With the changing culture, one of the biggest challenges faced by school teachers is keeping students interested in reading books and keeping them mentally engaged in the subject. Teaching students in the current culture is more difficult, since that culture is now rooted in the web and they are used to multimedia interfaces. Making lessons more interactive and animated can help teachers motivate and interest today's internet addicted students.

The initiative behind the development of this tool is to develop a software program which provides high school teachers an easy and interactive way to represent Man Made Disasters of the last century. It can be used for describing data in a graphical fashion on a map, by linking the data to various geographical features. This tool hopefully will motivate students to learn information about the Man Made Disasters. It includes data in the form of text, pictures, and links to various related web information. It also incorporates games to provide students an opportunity to exercise what they have learned in a fun way. For self-analysis there are some practice quizzes and it also has the capability to create new practice/graded quizzes. The tool is easy to deploy, easy to use and can be configured manually by making changes to a configuration file.

By utilizing modern computer technology to present an important subject in an engaging and interesting fashion, this work could become an effective learning tool in the modern classroom not just for students, but also the instructors

## Thesis Committee

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Joseph Lewis, Thesis Chair, Department of Computer Science  
Carl Eckberg, Department of Computer Science  
Gary Girty, Department of Geological Sciences