# Microsoft E3 2009 Conference

## Topics Discussed:

The conference discusses all the latest features , games and projects heading for XBOX in the near future.

* **Last.fm coming to XBOX LIVE**

A large variety of radio stations covering almost all genres which can be instantly accessed and listened to. This new feature will be free for XBOX Live gold members late 2009

* **The release of The Beatles RockBand**

An interactive band where in which you play as one of the members of The Beatles and play songs from their track list. The game ships with 10 of the tracks from the Beatles with an extra Album and the song “All you need is love” downloadable with the use of XBOX Live. This game is coming to XBOX on the 9th of September 2009.

* **Facebook and Twitter to hit XBOX Live**

Facebook and XBOX have made a partnership, allowing anyone to fully access and edit their facebook using an XBOX console with XBOX Live. There have also been some new integration features for Facebook on XBOX including the ability to pair XBOX Live ID’s with facebook accounts, and instantly upload in-game screenshots straight to your facebook instantly. Twitter will also be fully operational in XBOX Live.

* **The release of Tony Hawk: Ride**

The first game to use a virtual skateboard controller. The game fully utilises all of the basic tricks and manoeuvres to create a very realistic experience without the risk. Suitable for all levels of experience.

* **Final Fantasy for XBOX**

The first of the Final Fantasy Series to be released on XBOX 360 will be Final Fantasy XIII, which will be released in spring 2010.

* **NetFlix being revamped and Sky TV coming to XBOX Live**

NetFlix is a Movies store online directly accessible through XBOX Live. Sky TV helps to provide instant access to full HD movies (1080p) without having to wait for downloads. Sky also allows you to watch Live TV events including test cricket and premiere league football on the console, without the need for any extra hardware. Netflix is now being introduced into a further 10 countries from the existing 8 (totalling 18)

* **The Release of Joyride**

A race kart game which is free to purchase and free to play. You can customise the game by buying custom cars and race tracks. This game is set to be released winter 2009.

* **Project NATAL**

A new project underway by XBOX project teams to create a new 3D motion sensor capability and voice recognition system to allow for “Controller-less” gameplay, entertainment and more. The new technology will be fully compatible with any XBOX 360 console that has been released or will be released, and is mainly aimed to make the gaming experience more welcoming than the controller.

* **The Release of Forza Motorsport 3**

A game with fully customisable car tuning and painting / decal-work, and a large amount roster of performance vehicles. The game runs at 60 fps (frames per second) which makes the game appear very smooth and fluid like. The best graphics and physics engine for a racing game to date. This game is set to be released in October 2009.

**Other Games to be released on XBOX:**

* **Halo 3 ODST 22nd September 2009**
* **Halo Reach – Autumn 2010**
* **The Release of Alan Wake – Spring 2010**
* **Call of Duty: Modern warfare 2 – Coming 10th November 2009.**
* **Metal Gear Solid: Rising**

## My Thoughts on the conference:

I found the section on Project NATAL very interesting. I find the idea of 3D interaction with a console without the need for a controller very appealing. The conference showed a small simulator in which a person could fully interact with a simulator character called Milo. The character milo could recognise changes in you tone of voice and you facial expression and would react appropriately. This new age of technology excited me and made me eager for its release to the community.

One major part of the conference which I didn’t find that interesting was the section on the partnership with facebook. I don’t use facebook nor find it appealing and the topic did interest me in the slightest.

I learnt from this conference that one of the major barriers between users and games is about to be broken. With the new technology becoming available from the developers over at XBOX Project NATAL, the gaming experience will be much more inviting. Also due to there not being any need to learn the controls for a game, gaming will become a much less tedious activity, because the only control for future games, will be yourself.