

Relying on Wireless Sensor Networks to Enhance the RC-Gaming Experience



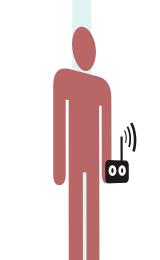
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Enabling Technologies for Electronic Commerce

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Context: Entertainment

- Physical world: remote controlled (RC) toys
- Many types (cars, trucks, airplanes, military, etc.)
- Different complexities (novice / ... / amateur) and prices
- Operated remotely by a player with a controller





- Fun... but playing mode is the same since its conception:
- Find a spot, play until no energy is left
- Digital world: multi-player computer games
- Evolution from single-player games, computer opponents
 Replaced with human players @ the other side of the network
- Increasing no. of gaming modes like deathmatch or cooperative



Goals

Computing:

· Wearable Comp.

MPRLG

RC Toys &

Robotics

Games

Single/Multi-player

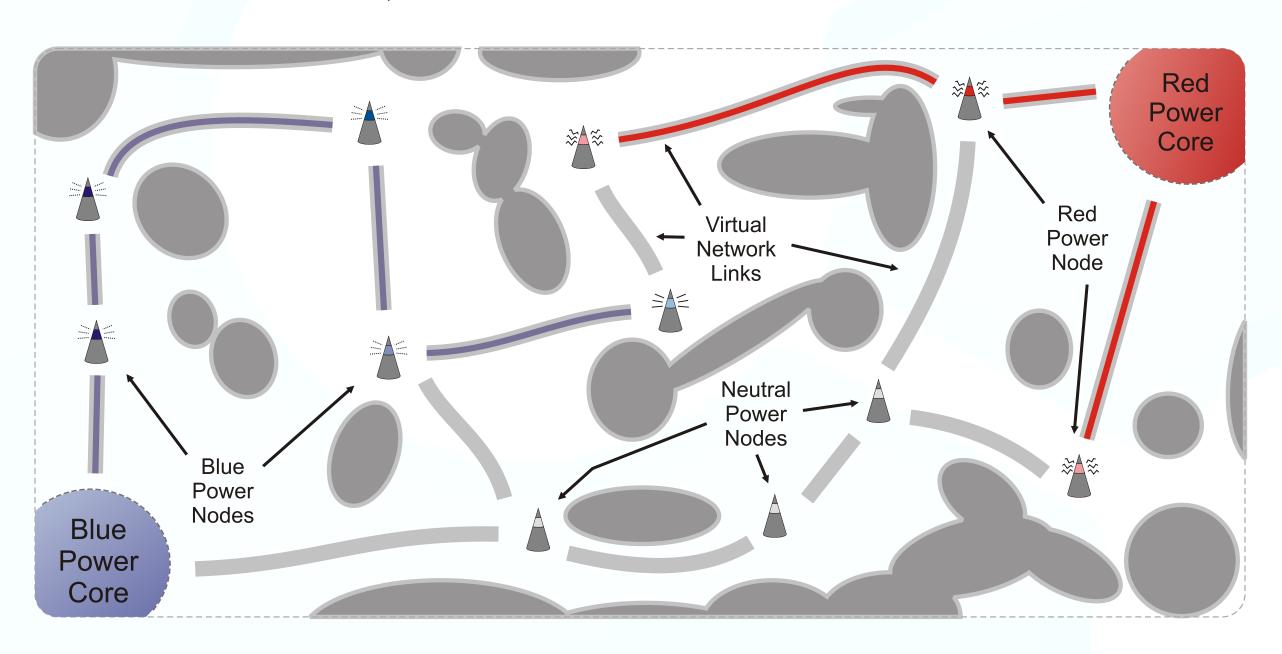
Outdoor/Indoor/Table

Physical/Virtual Interaction

- Enrich participants experience by combining multiplayer interaction with RC toys
- No platform exists that bridges these worlds!
- Glue: a wireless sensor network (WSN) infrastructure:
- Gaming framework for generic team-based, goal-oriented gameplay

Example: Onslaught

- Teams start pitted against each other
- Goal: conquer opponent's power core
- Capture and hold strategic points a.k.a. power nodes
- Power nodes are initially neutral
- Conquered by staying around them
- Power cores similar, but can't be healed back

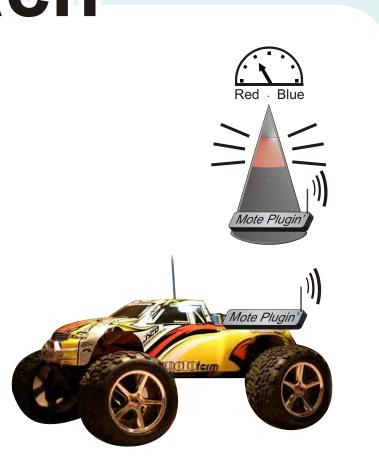


Application Requirements

- Deploy game gadgets in the gameyard
- Game components (RC toys, gadgets):
- Sense and compute data
- Signal different game occurrences
- React in consequence
- Need for a WSN infrastructure that provides:
- Model for specification and assignment of rules to components
- Placeholder for rules to be triggered and actions executed
- Means to disseminate across parties (e.g. controllers)

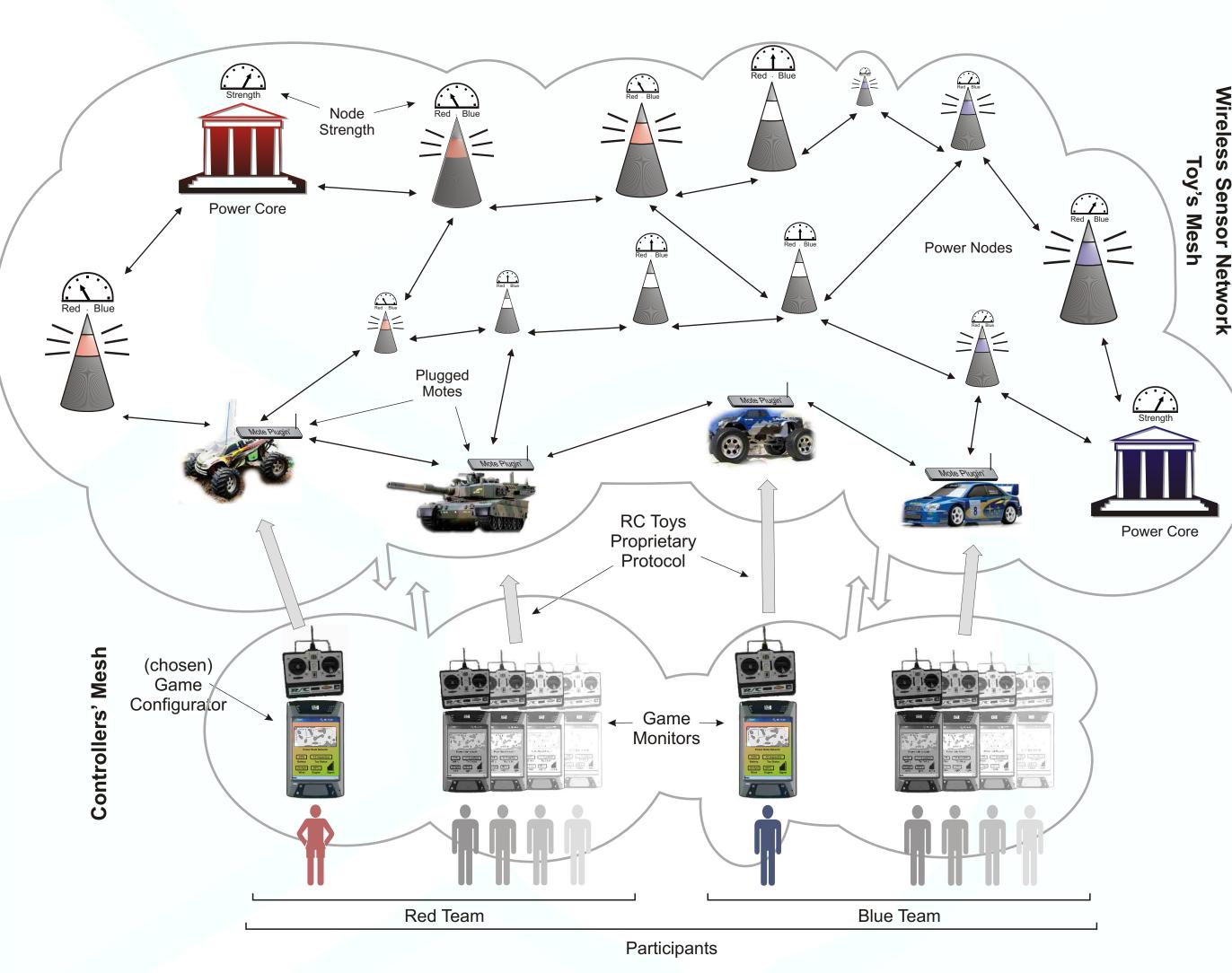
Pluggable Approach

- Enable game components to sense, compute and communicate
- Unidirectional channel between controller and RC toy
- Plug a sensor node into the toys to get feedback from them
- Game gadgets built with sensor node



Deployment Model

- Toys, gadgets and controllers form the WSN mesh
- Transports sensed and computed game-related information



- Gaming Infrastructure Technical challenges:
- Gaming modes specification
- Game-Player interaction

Action

Service

Local Game

Radio

Service

Service

Networked OS / VM

CPU & Memory

Publish/Subscribe Middleware

- Configuration and deployment
- Data dissemination

Infrastructure Design

Game Manager

ECA Manager

Sensor Board

- Game Manager provides game components' identification, coordination and calibration
- Gaming mode described with ECA Rules:
- Rule engine executes rules
- Sensors & neighbors feed service with events
- Local state provided for efficient condition evaluation and action execution
- Communication:
- Asynchronous, wireless, multi-hop and short range
- Publish/subscribe paradigm to distribute game-related events
- Allows different routing implementations, e.g., energy-savvy
- Networked OS / VM / Platform:
- Access to low-level sensor board, radio and CPU cycles
- Usage of more powerful devices (e.g., I-Mote 2, SunSPOTs)

Conclusions & Beyond

- Novel app. of pervasive technologies: RLMPGs & RC toys
- Delineated Architecture Relying on WSN
- Working on a prototype
- Explore other related areas with this infrastructure