project: Circular Strife

paper prototype play-test presentation report

the setup

getting it together

- Setup included:
 - player's vehicle
 - cardboard structures
 - attachable bombs
 - bomb pickup spots



procedure

the rules

- 1. The player operates a remote controlled car.
- 2. The player must destroy 3 structures (cardboard cylinders.)
- 3. The player destroys structures by fully encircling them with 'bombs.' Bombs are represented by linked rubber balls.

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procedure/2

more rules

- 4. The player starts with no bombs, but one is added by stopping at a bomb pickup spot.
- 5. Players earn demerits by using more bombs than needed to destroy a structure.
- 6. Demerits are also given for head-on collisions and failed attempts to destroy structures.
- 7. Less demerits equals a better score.

procedure/3

testing roles

- Our duties:
 - attaching bombs manually
 - recording notes
 - judging bombing attempts
 - tracking player demerits



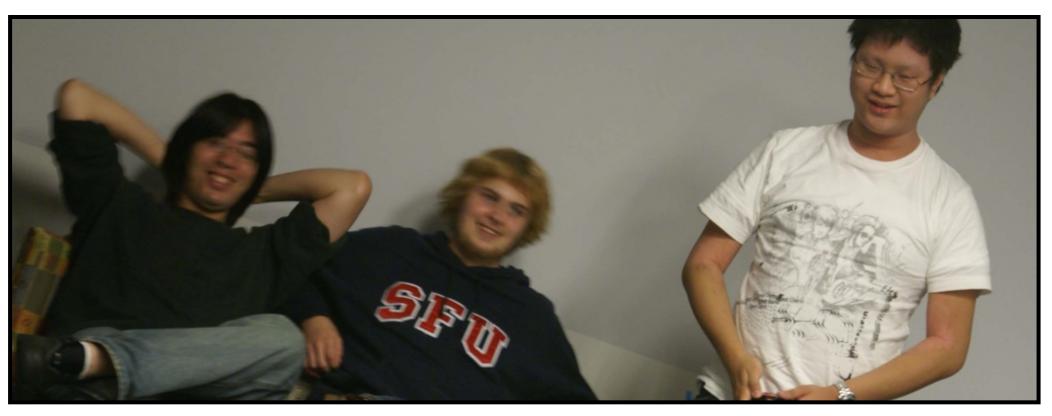
Sammpa, attaching another bomb to the RC car

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the testers

whoś



- We got 3 testers to assist us:
 - Andrew: New Media student, age 21
 - Zac: New Media major, age 19
 - Nathan: undeclared major, age 18

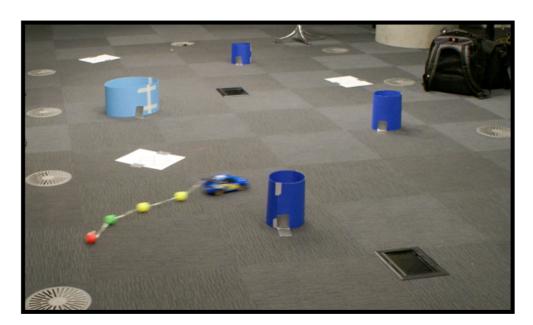
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testing sessions

how it went down

- We did 4 sessions:
 - the first 3 were standard runs through by each tester
 - the 4th was a time trial:
 each player was to destroy
 the lone medium-sized
 structure as fast as possible



the time trial in progress

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observations

the feedback

• Andrew:

- "easy to grasp," "gameplay stresses planning on the player's behalf"
- found that too many fast movements caused bombs to whip around
- precise required when encircling structures to destroy them

• Zac:

- "good foundation, good game concept to build on"
- used quick movements in attempt to 'whip' bombs around structures
- suggested to "create a hand-brake function to whip bombs around"

• Nathan:

- "easy to get caught in stuff," "good controls are important"
- thought the game was "pretty fun"
- wished for a way to go backwards in the final game

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reflections: the good

a pat on the back

- Strong points:
 - planning out the player's use of bombs was intuitive, needed no explanation
 - players responded very well to the time trial gameplay, which will be a standard mechanic in the game
 - they found the game easy to grasp and enjoyable

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reflections: the bad

needs improvement

- Weak points and possible additions:
 - controls will need to be finely-tuned to allow for more precise movement in the game
 - add the ability to 'whip' bombs around structures
 - adding a brake or reverse function in the final game
 - adding multiplayer mode so players can compete head-to-head in a race to blow everything up

that's all

done.