Espionage in Botball

Espionage

The act or practice of spying or of using spies to obtain secret information, as about another government or a business competitor

Why Spy?

Regionals

- Strategies used in other regionals are most likely to be implemented in one's own regional
- A rough estimate of scores can reflect how well a team will do in their regional

GCER

- Counter-strategies can be adapted to face the ones seen in the other 13 regional competitions
- Seeding scores can be used to determine how well a team ranks against the rest of the competition

Make Friends

Friends

$C_2 \overset{a}{\rightarrow} C_3O$

:-($\overset{\text{Friends}}{\longrightarrow}$:-) + Success

Friends

- Can help with providing information about their region
- Can help with programming jams
  - Example shut_down_in() MC and Nease
- Can help in solving the hundreds of CBC bugs

Social Networking

Twitter
YouTube
Flickr
Facebook

Twitter

- Some people post Botball updates such as their current progress
- Evergreen High School even broadcasts some of their meetings online

JeffChan Robotics meeting streaming live! #evhsrobotics http://bit.ly/1cjKjU

4 days ago from web

YouTube

- The most popular video site on the web obviously has videos from the regional competitions
- A quick search of “Botball” yields about 2 pages of seeding and double elimination rounds

YouTube

- Analysis of these videos provides rough insight on seeding scores
- Also, analysis reveals many different blocking and scoring strategies that can be utilized to prevent other teams from scoring

Flickr

- Since late in 2005 KIPR has used the image and video hosting website, Flickr
- Every year pictures from regional competitions taken by volunteers and KIPR staff are hosted following each competition

Flickr

- This year KIPR added videos to the mix, increasing the ease of figuring out other teams strategies
- These MPEGs added from a few of the competitions showed the double elimination rounds in depth

Facebook

- Facebook is by far the easiest way to find out about other regions
- Being Facebook friends with other teams across the country allows for the viewing of some of their photos as well as status updates about their team

Facebook

It's also a good idea to be friends with some KIPR Staff members

KIPR Staff members occasionally reveal key info about regionals

Elizabeth Whitewolf Hawaii Botball is awesome!

May 2 at 9:50pm · Comment · Unlike

You, Rohit Krishna and Nick Uebele like this.

Nick Uebele at 10:49pm May 2

luckyyyyy to go down there!!

Rohit Krishna at 3:53pm May 3

Was there the highest points scored?

Elizabeth Whitewolf at 9:38am May 8

Hmm... I think the highest score I saw in Hawaii was 218...?

Write a comment...

Facebook

In certain circumstances people have posted their robot in, or as, their profile picture

Noosa Fathalrahman

Add as Friend

Info

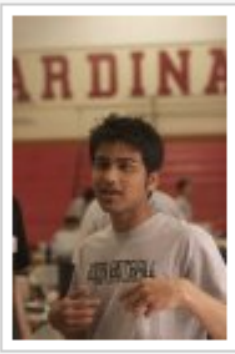
Noosa only shares certain information with everyone. To learn more about Noosa , add her as a friend.

Friends

See All (117)

Facebook

In other circumstances people post pictures from their regional which show not only their robots but also others from the competition



Applications
Chat (27)

Facebook

- Sometimes there are pictures I'm sure people regret even we're taken

Steve Goodgame, Executive Director of
KISS Institute for Practical Robotics

Facebook

- Other people post videos from pre-regional and the regional competitions
- One team posted a video of how the cups fly when hitting the surface connector

istory Bookmarks Tools Help
http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/video/video.php?v=1026668072390
me meebo.com YouTube - Music Course: 2009 GCE... Flickr: BOTGUY's ... 09-example-pape... 2009 GCER cbcjava
facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox Joe McCormick Settings Logout Search

Videos Posted by

Videos of

Advertise

Five-Star Basketball

44th Yr of Developing Great Players. Voted Best Basketball Camp in USA. Now Available in 30 Cities Take Your Game To Its Highest Level!

More Ads

Chat (37)

ENIAC - OpenOffice... Robotics Paper - Op... Windows Task Man... Facebook | Home - ... Untitled - Paint

Public Sites

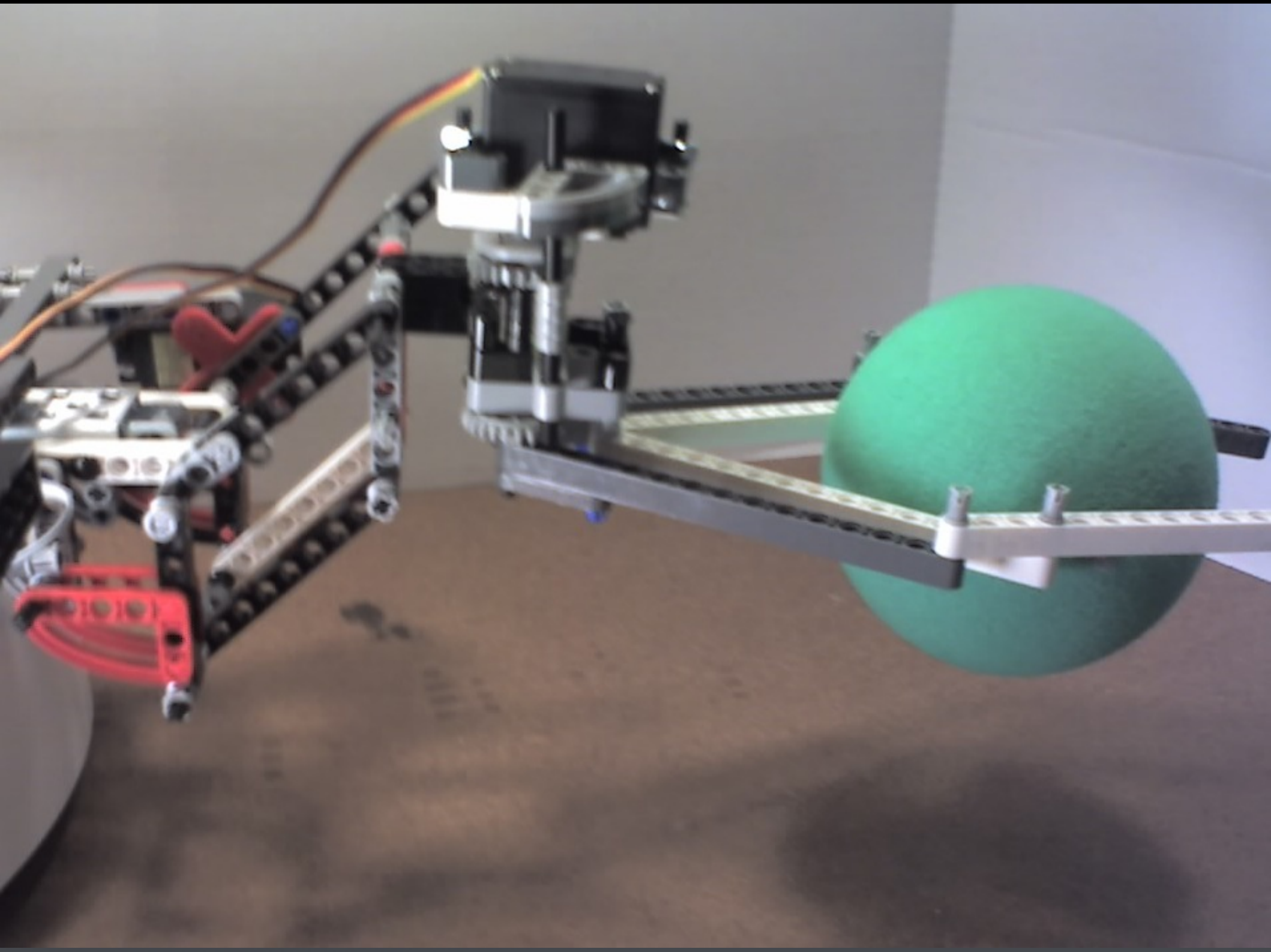
Public Sites

- In 2007 and 2008 KIPR allowed for the hosting of files and the hosting of public websites for teams
- What many people don't know is all the hosted documentation files went public after the season

Public Sites

- Hosted on many people's sites are documentation files, sample code, and mechanical designs
- The internationally renowned Cedar Brook Academy was kind enough to host pictures of their championship claw for the world to see

Mount
Mount



Public Sites

- All the files are accessible through
  - http://teams.kipr.org/2008
  - http://teams.kipr.org/2007
- Unfortunately the sites did not exist this year so there will be no new files released

Google

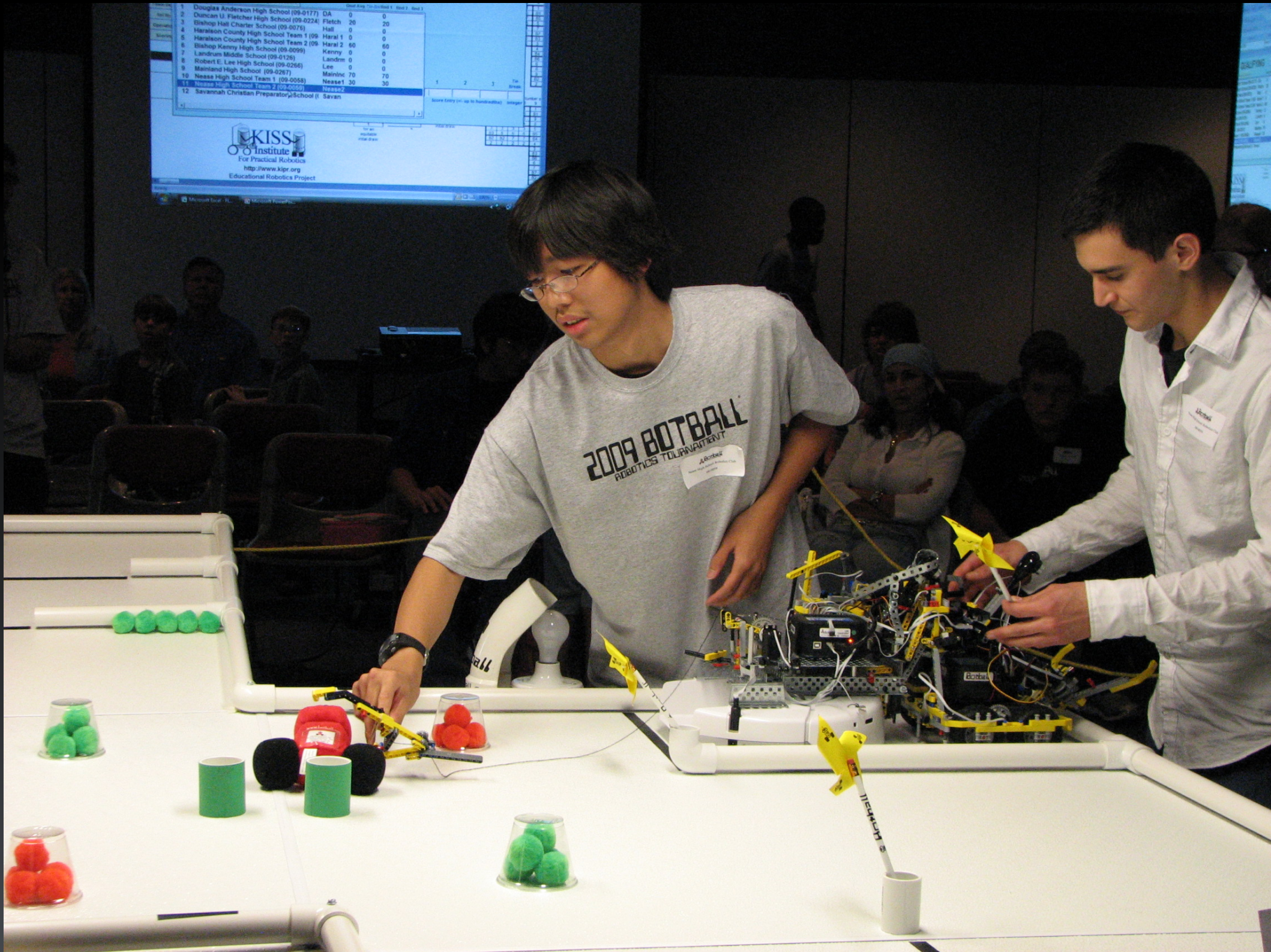
Google

- Google is a Botballer's best friend
- Google searches by date following regional competitions produce many pictures hosted in various locations

Florida Botball

Florida Botball

- At the last 2 regional competitions the University of North Florida took pictures as well as streamed the entire regional competition online
- The pictures showed crucial strategies that will be used in the double elimination rounds


KISS Institute
For Practical Robotics
http://www.kipr.org
Educational Robotics Project
2009 BOTBALL
ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT

Florida Botball

The streaming of the competition allows for every run to be recorded and analyzed to determine good counter-strategies for GCER

Seeding Scores

Seeding Scores

- The seeding scores for the first year were hosted on the Botball site
- These can not be taken as the most accurate of scores though
- These are the average scores, so a team could score much higher than what is reflected

Seeding Scores

For example, a team, like Malden Catholic, may average a 300 according to the Botball site, but may have actually scored a high of 360 in the regionals

Seeding Scores

These scores are also not an accurate reflection of what is to come at GCER due to various improvements made following the competition

A team can easily score 90 plus points more than they did in the regional competition

Seeding Scores

- However, the opposite effect can also occur.
- A team like Malden Catholic could average a score of 96.25 at GCER, even though they should be averaging a 150 based on the online regional scores

Public SVN

Public SVN

- One bad plan is to host code on a public SVN
- These are easily searchable and a team's libraries as well as code can be found
- However, this code may not actually be the code the team uses

Public SVN

- Some teams may host old code just to hinder teams searching for SVNs
- For example, Malden Catholic has old XBC code hosted that does not work on the new, buggier CBCs

Preventative Measures

Here are a few key guidelines to follow when trying to avoid being seen all over the internet

Preventative Methods

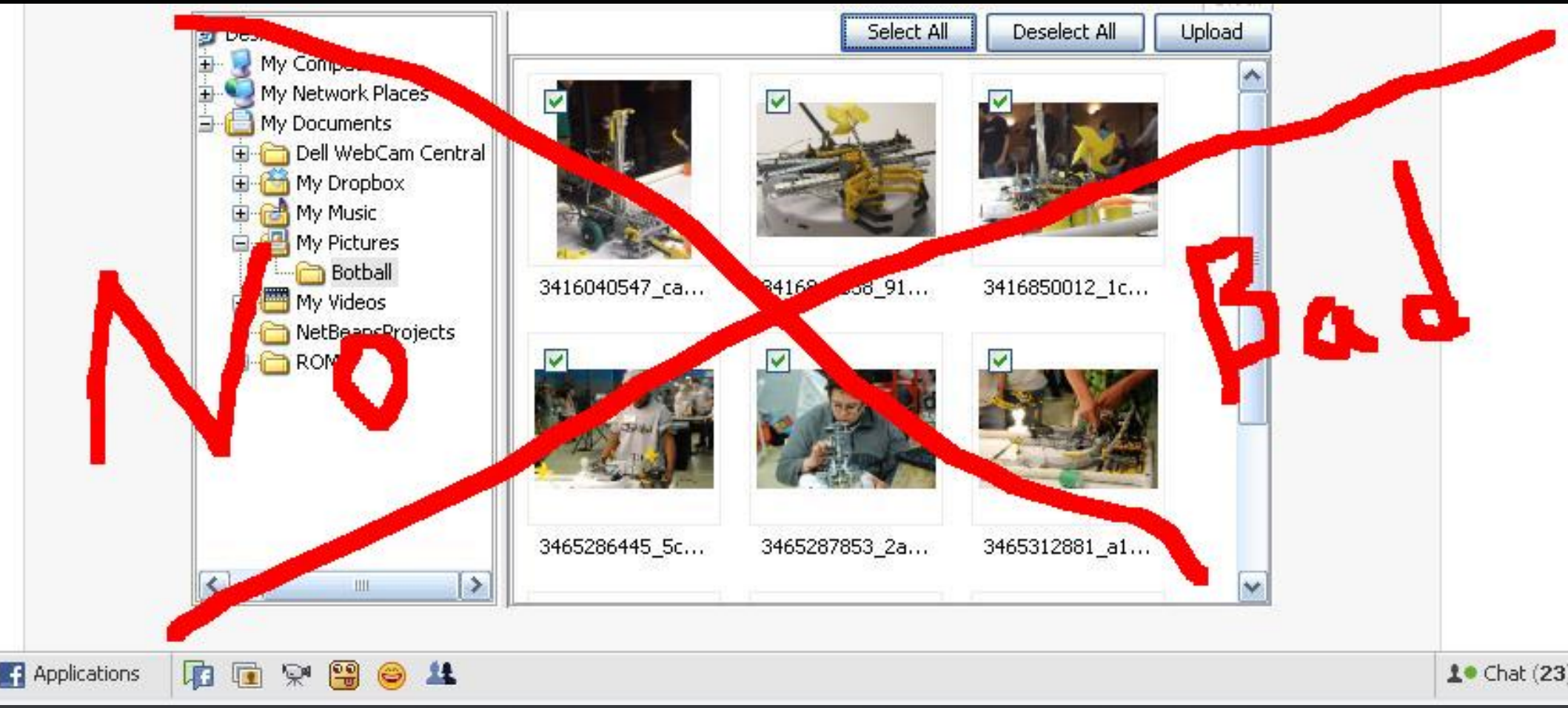
If you feel the need to stream your meeting live on a public server, don't then publish that fact on twitter

If it is necessary to show people your robot on Facebook, don't set it as your profile picture

Preventative Methods

If you feel the need to share your code, don't then publish it on a public SVN for anyone to see

Finally, if you don't want to have pictures of you posted online, don't wear a blonde wig


Select All
Deselect All
Upload
My Network Places
My Documents
Dell WebCam Central
My Dropbox
My Music
My Pictures
Botball
My Videos
3416040547_ca...
3416850012_1c...
3465286445_5c...
3465287853_2a...
3465312881_a1...
No
Bad
Applications
Chat (23