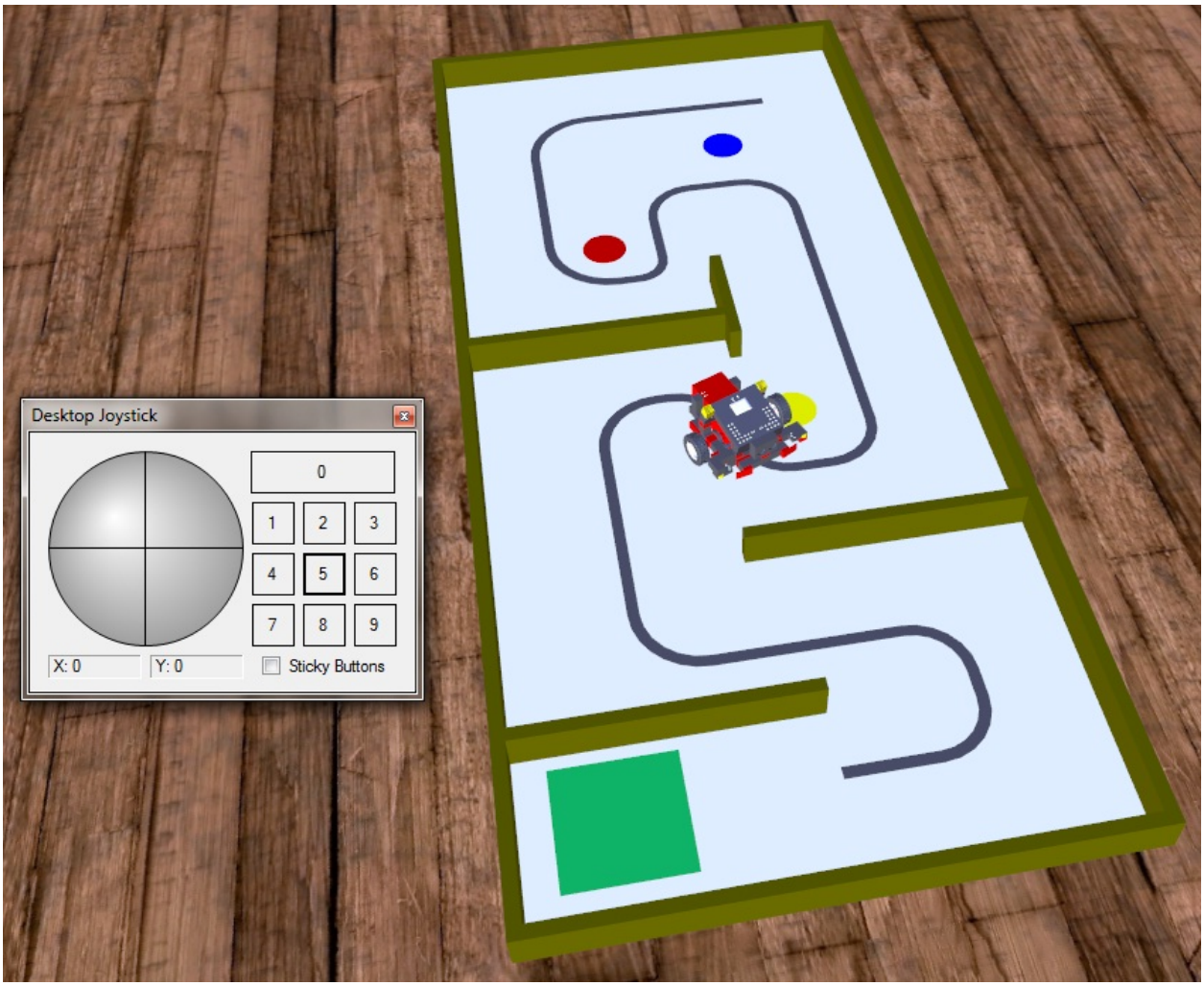
2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robot Competition Information Update



First, I wish to introduce and extend a substantial **THANK YOU** to **Carel Van Leeuwen of the Netherlands** who is creating the essential Microsoft Robotics Developer Studio Services we need to run the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robotics Competition.

Given the evolution in computer systems we have made the decision to move the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robotics Competition to the Windows 7 Platform using Microsoft Robotics Developer Studio 4 Beta 2 (MS-RDS) which is available at: http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=28352

Carel has also agreed to moderate a forum for participants in the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robotics Competition where he will make critical files available for download and answer questions from participants.

This forum is being run as part of the fischertechnik community at: http://forum.ftcommunity.de/index.php

NOTE: To use the forum, you need to subscribe to it.

NOTE: You **MUST have MSRS installed before** you install the FtTxBot_sim(2012-*-*) zipped file.

NOTE: The FtTxBot_sim(2012-*-*) zipped file contains an executable file.

This is a special installation package for MS-RDS 4 Beta 2 that will need to overwrite 150 plus items in your MSRS installation.

NOTE: VPL examples can be found in: Microsoft Robotics Dev Studio 4 Beta 2root\samples\Studica\SimulatedFxTxSolution\SimulatedFxTx\VPL

Before using a VPL example you need to make a copy to your work directory.

The original files will be overwritten during an update.

NOTE: Carel will also reply to questions sent to: ft.info@inter.nl.net
Please remember the difference in time with the Netherlands!

The 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robot Challenge has a 'Real Robot Component' and this Real 'Maze Robot' is a fischertechnik ROBO TX Training Lab kit with the addition of an Optical Colour Sensor and an Ultra Sonic Distance Sensor. The 2012 Maze Robot Kit is available through www.Studica.com .

The Complete 2012 Maze Bot Parts List is available as an html file at: http://www.skillsontario.com/index.php/en/teachers/scopes-secondary along with an html version of this message.

A series of Windows Media Files are available at: http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=TechOneh . These clips will put forward
On-Line Virtual Robot Challenges, and
Present the 2012 Maze Bot assembly processes.

Note: The Maze Bot is the 'Real Bot' component of the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robot Competition.

Note: The 'Real Model' is essential for competitors participating in the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robot Competition. Schools that participated in the 2011 Skills Ontario Virtual
Students and Teachers not involved in the 2012 Skills Ontario Virtual Robot Competition are welcome to use the FtTxBot Services for MS-RDS, the Virtual Robot / Court Models and the On-Line Challenges.

Note: The Robot Models can be driven in MS-RDS using X-Box Controllers, a Joystick or Keyboard Keys.

Note: The Colour Sensors and Ultra Sonic Distance Sensors are not working as yet but these services will be added in the future.

The FIRST On-Line Virtual Challenge is: **"Follow the Line"** (shown in the image at the top of this message). A Video clip of the complete solution file is available at: http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=TechOneh .

The sample Bot takes 2 Minutes and 46 Seconds to complete the task.

Can you make your Virtual Maze Bot do it faster?

Bob