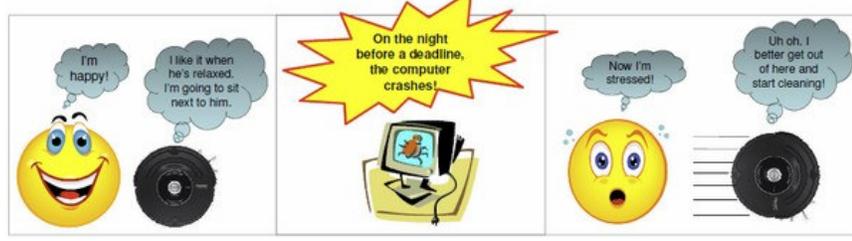


University of Calgary researchers teach little robots to be scared of angry humans

by [Tim Stevens](#), posted Mar 17th 2009 at 9:42AM



It's one thing to prepare for the future's inevitable [robot uprising](#) by building bigger and better weapons, but a pacifist might say the simpler approach would be to simply avoid conflict altogether -- by making our autonomous underlings cower in fear before us and our mighty emotions. That's the idea (sort of) behind some research taking place at the University of Calgary, which relies on an [OCZ Neural Impulse Actuator](#) to monitor the stress levels of a real, live, human being. That stress level is then communicated to a poor, defenseless [Roomba](#), which was taught get out of the way and look busy whenever the wearer got angry. It's a long way from the three laws and saving the human race as a whole and all that, but this could play a major part in preserving future human/robot relations -- at least in the living room. [Warning: PDF read link]

[Via [Technology Review](#)]

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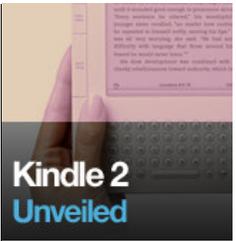
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[ellabiologia](#) @ Mar 17th 2009 9:49AM Neutral [+](#) [-](#) [!](#)

I can see myself doing faces just to see this thing running....I just need to know its reaction to 'laughing so hard that end up in the floor' emotion.

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John Stracke @ Mar 17th 2009 9:55AM

Highly Ranked + - !

Alternatively, this technology could be used to create Annoytron, the robot that seeks out people who are already annoyed and pushes them over the edge into a berserker rage. Of course, it would be accompanied by one or more Cambots to post the whole, er, interaction to YouTube.

Naturally, Annoytron would have to be somewhat sturdy.

[Reply](#)



Vicada @ Mar 17th 2009 10:57AM

Neutral + - !

I laughed so hard at this man... I just imagine the camera poking some angry guy's face and just repeating "what's up, grumpy?"



Andrew @ Mar 17th 2009 12:02PM

Highly Ranked + - !

My computers already have this skill, I think.



Ash @ Mar 18th 2009 9:38AM

Neutral + - !

Perhaps they could advance technology to a point where the computer doesn't crash and stress out the smiley face above in the first place!



themadscientist @ Mar 17th 2009 9:58AM

Neutral + - !

they should be afraid of me....i tend to be angry at small bastard robots anyway :|

[Reply](#)



irdepesca @ Mar 17th 2009 9:58AM

Neutral + - !

hilarious comic

[Reply](#)



sheikhness @ Mar 17th 2009 10:14AM

Neutral + - !

Wish they could teach my girlfriend to go cleaning each time I am stressed.

[Reply](#)



James @ Mar 17th 2009 10:17AM

Neutral + - !

"which relies on an OCZ Neural Impulse Actuator to monitor the stress levels of a real, live, human being"

Wouldn't it be more effective if it could monitor my facial expression / tone of voice and understand my stress level that way? I can't imagine you would always want to wear your OCZ Neural Impulse Actuator every time the robot is around..

[Reply](#)



dj-kenpo @ Mar 17th 2009 11:28AM

Neutral + - !

it's a first step.
what you're describing takes a whole other software layer that's unwarranted for a prototype.



OneLove @ Mar 17th 2009 10:19AM

Neutral + - !

Now I'm stressed!

[Reply](#)



John @ Mar 17th 2009 10:38AM

Neutral + - !

As always, people who get angry when they see roombas acting busy get left in the cold.

[Reply](#)



Lachupacabra @ Mar 17th 2009 10:40AM

Neutral + - !

Now then sense human emotion.

It's only a matter of time now...

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Patriks7 @ Mar 17th 2009 11:00AM

Neutral

Next they need to learn some self-defense and from there they can improvise I bet.



Vicada @ Mar 17th 2009 10:59AM

Neutral

I just think it would be so funny... Like imagine this huge automaton armed with chain guns and missiles and shit... And then a pathetic little nerd gets angry and the huge robot just skips off in horror...

[Reply](#)



Duke @ Mar 17th 2009 11:35AM

Neutral

This could be what makes the robots kill us in the future. A scared snake bites right? Lots of animals attack when they are threatened. Thus, if the robots are scared of us they might get defensive and the next thing we know grandma's got a roomba jumping on her face.

[Reply](#)



superhobo @ Mar 17th 2009 11:39AM

Neutral

Well...
...
...
...
...crap



kamikaZi @ Mar 17th 2009 11:42AM

Neutral

We are getting closer to being able to purchase a real Mouse Droid. EHHHHHHH!!!

[Reply](#)



Wes @ Mar 17th 2009 12:02PM

Neutral

I've got to admit, Chewie growling at the mouse droid was the first thing I thought of...



comments4cheap @ Mar 17th 2009 11:54AM

Neutral

Robots cower in fear. Scared robots calls for meeting. Communicates about how they should not take shit from fragile, bullet-scared humans. And, well you know...

[Reply](#)



Andrew @ Mar 17th 2009 12:03PM

Neutral

Maybe if they'd already done this my Roomba would still be in one piece. Oh well, haha.

[Reply](#)



Abbie Rosario @ Mar 17th 2009 12:42PM

Neutral

I was looking forward to extermination.

[Reply](#)



Leo @ Mar 17th 2009 1:43PM

Neutral

Humans are SO FREAKING ARROGANT. If we develop robots which are superior to us, they will almost certainly not take any of our sh*t - no matter what we think we've hardcoded into them.

We don't deserve to be the dominant species on Earth, and it wont be long before we aren't.

[Reply](#)



coldwave @ Mar 17th 2009 3:51PM

Neutral

See, you started out good, but then you went wrong after that. Try again later.



BigD145 @ Mar 17th 2009 1:55PM

Neutral

If the human is happy, work doesn't get done. If the human is angry, work doesn't get done. This will be a mild robot takeover.

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Ethan @ Mar 17th 2009 2:13PM

Neutral + - !

So I can get angry and Sylar-like the room with flash around me?

[Reply](#)



jack1701 @ Mar 17th 2009 7:22PM

Neutral + - !

Quick, put this in the modelling robot, I want to see what she does then...

[Reply](#)



Derek @ Mar 17th 2009 11:20PM

Neutral + - !

So they basically create a robot who will attack all of their professors? Nice!

[Reply](#)



shikhar @ Mar 18th 2009 2:36AM

Neutral + - !

GO FLAMES GO

[Reply](#)



NJN0000 @ Mar 18th 2009 1:21PM

Neutral + - !

I wonder what the robot's reaction would be if he caught you reaching climax during sex or masturbation.

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