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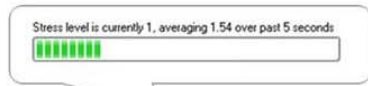
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Roomba robot detects stressed humans and avoids them

by Doug Osborne posted on March 18, 2009 4:01 am



Researchers from the University of Calgary have created a robot that detects human stress levels and actively keeps away from those people it finds that are feeling under pressure.

The empathetic robot that was created by the Canadian University was fashioned by modifying a Roomba room sweeper to read electrical signals from persons wearing special headbands.

The aim of the project was to prove that emotional interaction between machines and humans could be easily performed with today's technology and, "opens up many exciting possibilities that have yet to be explored entirely," according to the paper (PDF) filed by the researchers.

Read more at MIT Technology Review, found via Slippery Brick

Doug's Opinion

Having a robot that can detect your current mood could come in very handy. Let's say for example you are walking in the door after a hard day, feeling stressed, and the robot detects your somber mood.

Granted that kind of robotic servant technology may be decades away, but for now robots could at least be programmed to avoid us when we are in a bad mood - specifically from people who like to kick Roomba's across the room if they are having a spectacularly awful day.

Posted in: News

Tagged: Calgary, detects, emotions, researchers, Roomba

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