



RoboCode-Ethicists

Privacy-friendly robots, an ethical responsibility of engineers?



ACM SIGCOMM Workshop 2015 (London)

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hitchBOT

@hitchBOT

Canadian hitchhiking robot.

📍 Toronto, ON

🔗 hitchbot.me



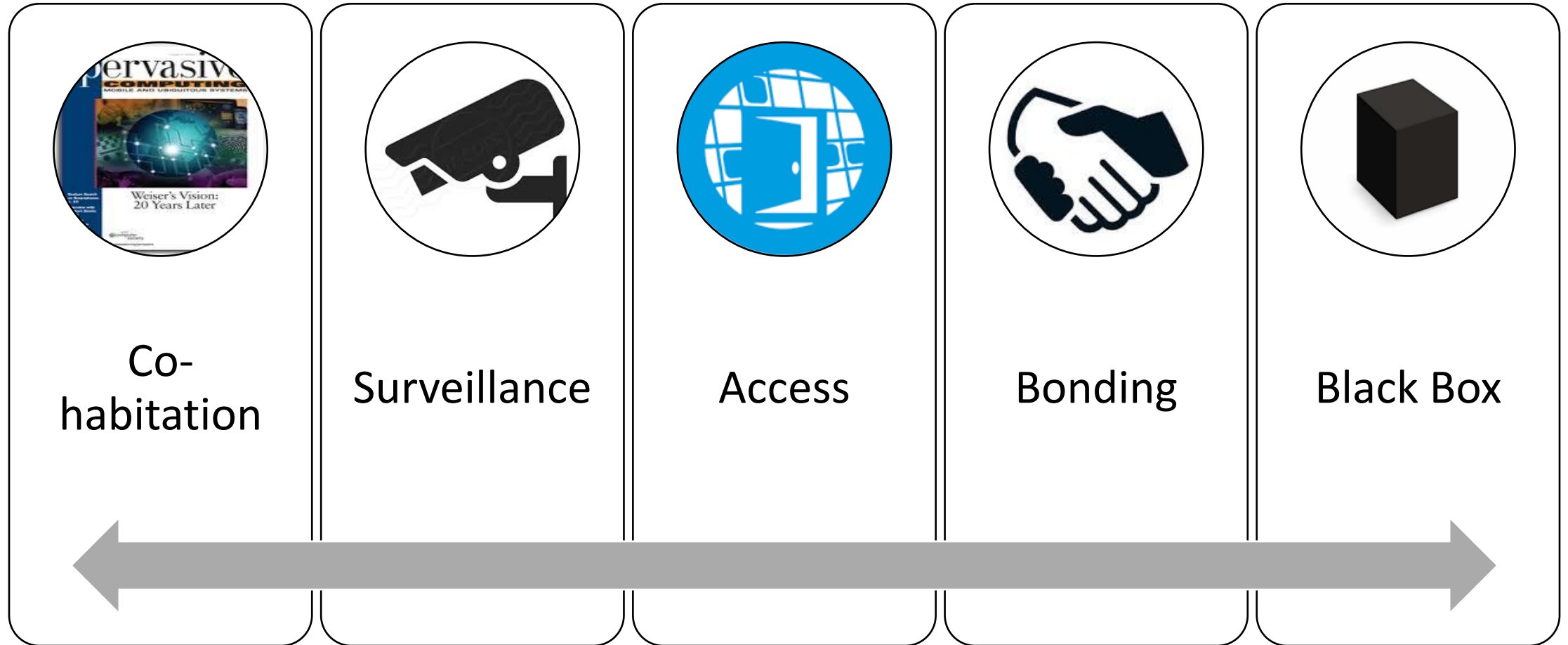
WIRED.CO.UK ROBOTS TECHNOLOGY ETHICS

What the death of hitchBOT teaches us about humans

ROBOTS / 20 AUGUST 15 / by KATIE COLLINS

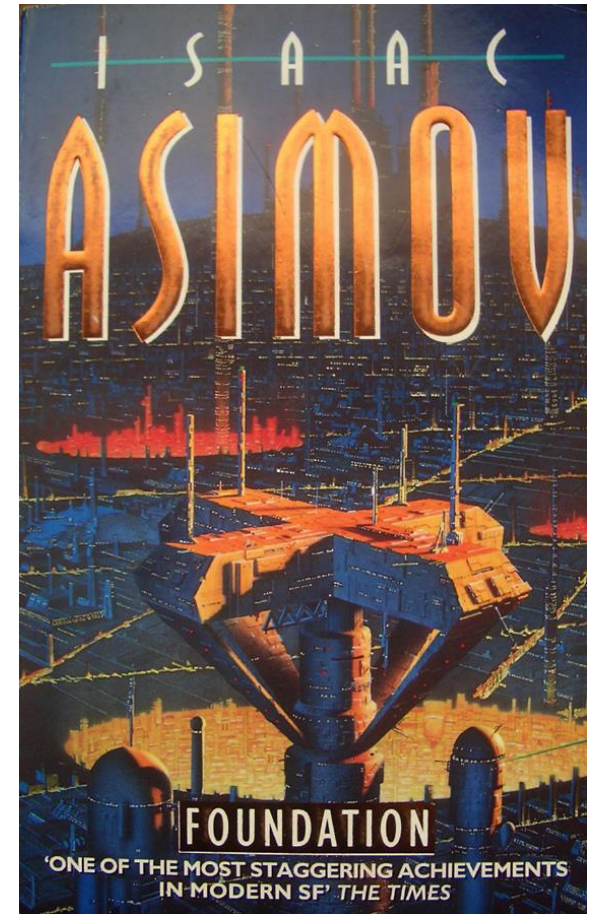
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Privacy implications of (social) robots



Robot ethics – Asimov's laws

1. A robot **may not injure a human being** or, through inactivity, allow a human being to come to harm.
2. A robot **must obey** the orders given to it by human beings, except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
3. A robot **must protect its own existence** as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.
4. A robot **may not injure humanity**, or, through inaction, allow humanity to come to harm.



Robot ethics – Applied ethics

Human Robot Interaction Code of Ethics

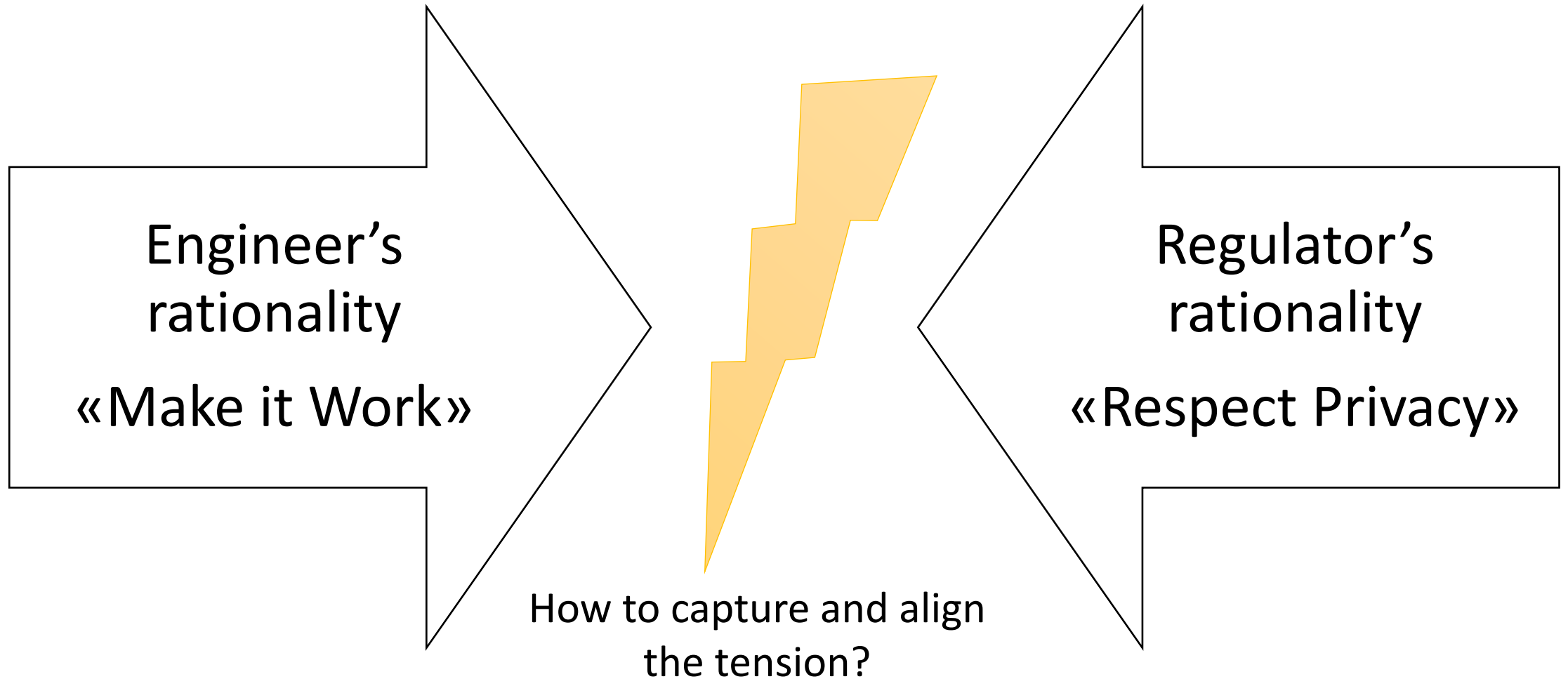
- The humans' **right to privacy** shall always be respected to the greatest extent consistent with reasonable design objectives.
- Maximal reasonable **transparency** in the programming of robotic systems is required.
- The tendency for humans to form attachments to and **anthropomorphize** robots should be carefully considered during design.

ACM Code of Ethics

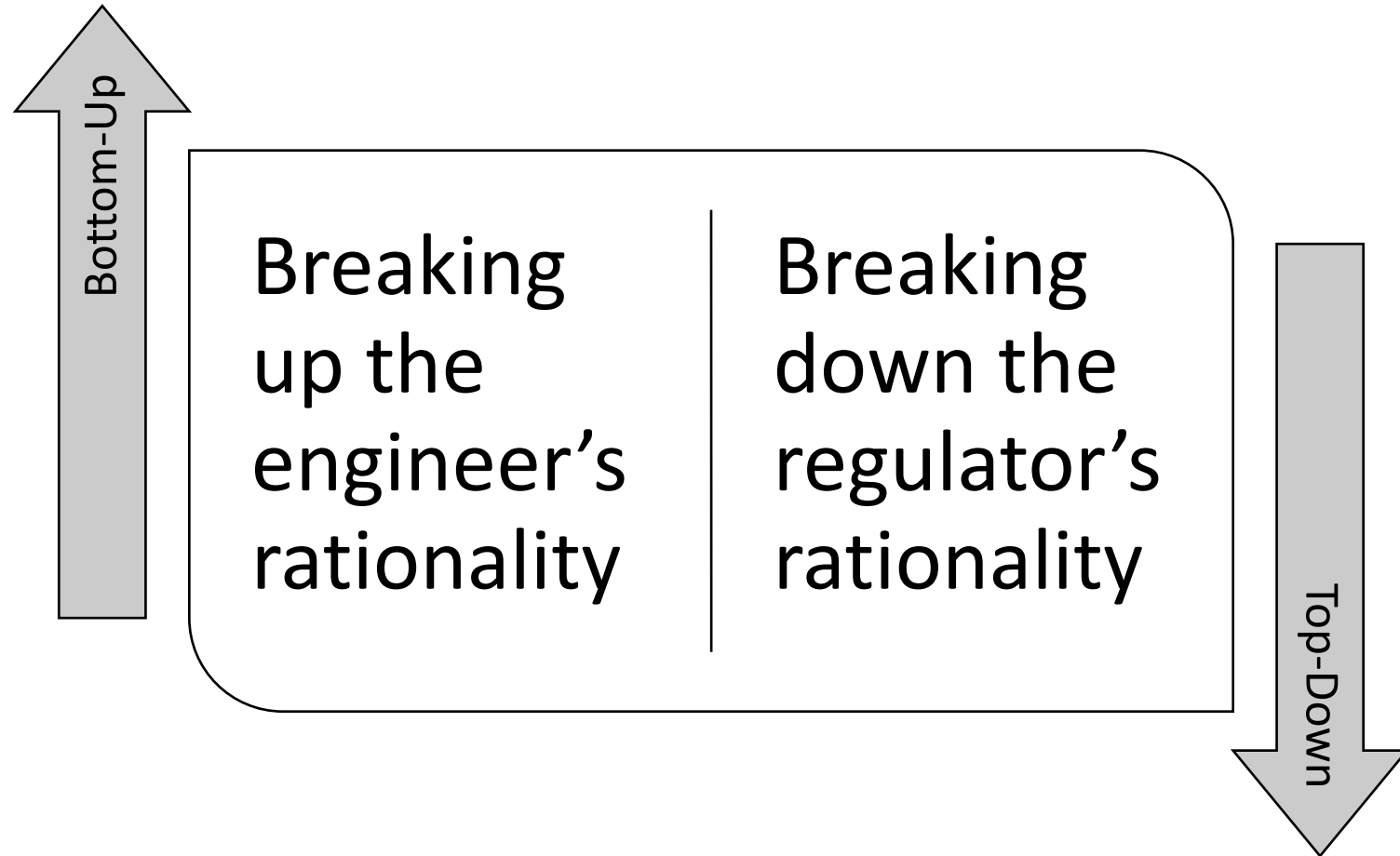
- The respect of the privacy of others *“implies that only the necessary amount of personal information be collected in a system, that retention and disposal periods for that information be clearly defined and enforced, and that personal information gathered for a specific purpose not be used for other purposes without consent of the individual”*.



Conflicting rationalities



Encoding privacy: Reconciling clashing rationalities

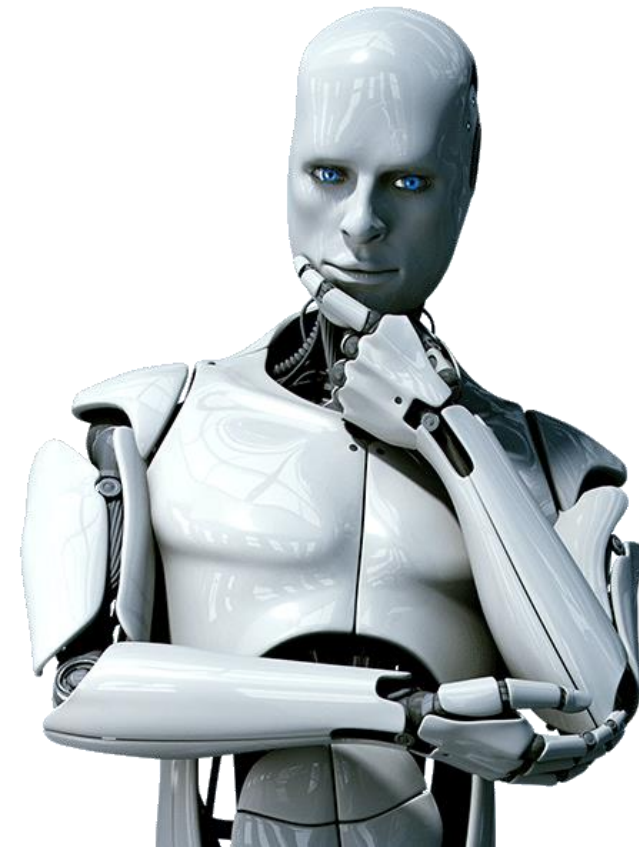


Call for RoboCode-Ethicists

Alignment of bottom-up and top-down approach

Tasks

- Deal with emerging value conflicts
- How to program for value conflicts?
- Consulting and expert function
- Balancing different rationalities (not limited to privacy)
- Elaborate recommendations



Thank you!

Questions for Discussion

- How are the privacy implications of connected robots different from the privacy implications of connected human beings (e.g., on social media) on the one end of the spectrum and lifeless objects (i.e., Internet of things) on the other end of the spectrum?
- What distinguishes ethical considerations for HRI research and robotics in general from networked systems research?
- What implications for research ethics does the real-life agency of robots have, for example in terms of informed consent and risk assessment?