CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Method of controlling of a robot comprising:

evaluating whether a requestor has a privilege; and

if said evaluating is true, then recognizing an authority of the requestor to transfer control of the robot from a first controller to a second controller.

2. Method of claim 1 wherein said evaluating comprises determining whether the privilege comprises authority to control the robot.

3. Method of claim 1 wherein said evaluating comprises determining whether the privilege is superior to another privilege.

4. Method of claim 1 further comprising ignoring an authority that is associated with only a lesser privilege.

5. Method of claim 1 further comprising, if said evaluating is true, then recognizing a message from the second controller for instructing the robot.

6. Method of claim 1 further comprising, if said evaluating is true, then notifying the first controller of said recognizing.

7. Method of claim 1 further comprising second evaluating whether the requestor has a second privilege that relates to an attribute of the robot.

8. Method of claim 7 wherein the attribute is selected from: a mobility capability; an operational capability; an instrument availability; and combinations thereof

9. Method of claim 7 further comprising, if said second evaluating is true, then recognizing a second authority regarding the attribute.

10. Method of claim 1 further comprising, if said evaluating is false, then facilitating negotiating for said recognizing.

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11. Method of claim 1 further comprising receiving a request from the requestor comprising responding to a selection from a graphical display.

12. Method of claim 11 wherein the selection is selected from: an icon; an image; a video; a window; a control; and combinations thereof.

13. Method of controlling a robot comprising:

selecting a point and/or a route; and

invoking a control, thereby enabling transmitting instructions to which a robot not previously traveling to the point or along the route may respond.

14. Method of claim 13 wherein said invoking comprises evaluating a privilege of a user.

15. Method of claim 13 further comprising transmitting instructions to which a robot may respond.

16. Method of claim 13 further comprising commanding the robot to perform according to the instructions.

17. Method of claim 13 further comprising second selecting the robot.

18. Method of claim 17 wherein said second selecting comprises determining a state of each of a plurality of robots.

19. Method of claim 18 wherein the state is selected from: autonomous, manually-controlled, idle and combinations thereof.

20. Method of claim 13 wherein the instructions comprise traveling to the point and/or along the route.

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