

Claims

1. Method of handling a software application on a robot, said robot comprising a plurality of installed software applications, a software application being associated with a predefined semantic description, the method comprising the steps of:

- extracting one or more patterns from an audio dialog with a human user, the audio dialog comprising sentences, a pattern comprising predefined sentences and a response by the user to a question raised by the robot, wherein the question is raised by the robot to disambiguate a sentence of the dialog or a pattern extracted from said dialog;
- comparing said one or more patterns with the semantic descriptions of said software applications;
- selecting a software application based on the performed comparisons;
- executing the selected software application.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one installed software application is associated with one or more execution rules and wherein the step of selecting a software application comprises verifying said one or more rules.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said one or more rules are predefined or are dynamically defined.

4. The method of claims 2 and 3, wherein said one or more rules are locally retrievable on the robot or are remotely accessible via a network connection.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the dialog comprises a request by the user of the robot to pronounce a list of installed software applications.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the list to be pronounced by the robot is dependent on parameters associated with the perceived environment of the robot.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the parameters are selected from the group comprising the age of a user, the gender of a user, the height of a user, the number of users in the vicinity of the robot, the mood of a user, the presence or the absence of a smile of a user, the ambient audio level, the current date, the current time, the current
5 location and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a software application further comprises associating an execution probability value to each installed software application depending on said comparisons
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9. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising receiving the confirmation of the user before executing the selected software application.

10. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising displaying one or
15 more representations associated with one or more of the installed software applications during the dialog with the user.

11. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising identifying a missing application in the robot, retrieving and installing said missing software application in
20 the robot during the dialog with the user.

12. A computer program comprising instructions for carrying out the steps of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 11 when said computer program is executed on a suitable computer device.
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13. A system comprising means adapted to carry out the steps of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 11.