

PHD COMICS visits Willow Garage

WILLOW GARAGE IS A START-UP ROBOTICS COMPANY IN THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY.

AN ENTIRE COMPANY DEDICATED TO ONE GOAL: TO MAKE PERSONAL ROBOTICS A REALITY.



THEIR STRATEGY: TO ACCELERATE THE RATE OF ROBOTICS RESEARCH EVERYWHERE.

HOW ARE THEY DOING THIS?

FIRST, WILLOW GARAGE ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD GIVE AWAY TEN STATE-OF-THE-ART PERSONAL ROBOTS (THE PR2) TO LABS AND INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE GLOBE.



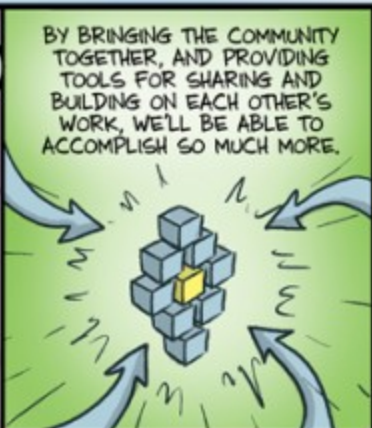
THE GOAL IS FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A COMMON PLATFORM ON WHICH TO SHARE AND COMPARE RESULTS.

THEY ALSO STARTED A FREE ONLINE OPEN-SOURCE ROBOT PLATFORM CALLED ROS (ROBOT OPERATING SYSTEM).

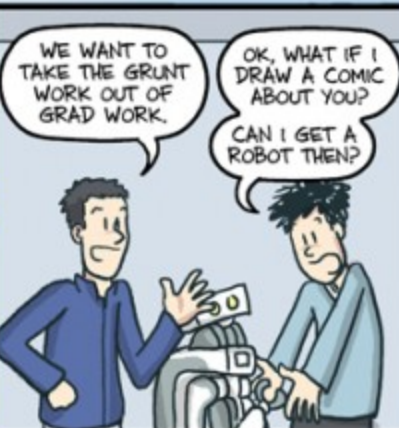


ANYONE CAN DOWNLOAD THE CODE, IMPROVE IT, AND SHARE THEIR INNOVATIONS.

YOU CAN USE IT ON ANY ROBOT, NOT JUST THE PR2!



BY BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER, AND PROVIDING TOOLS FOR SHARING AND BUILDING ON EACH OTHER'S WORK, WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH MORE.



WE WANT TO TAKE THE GRUNT WORK OUT OF GRAD WORK.

OK, WHAT IF I DRAW A COMIC ABOUT YOU? CAN I GET A ROBOT THEN?