

COLLABORATIVE ROBOTS 101

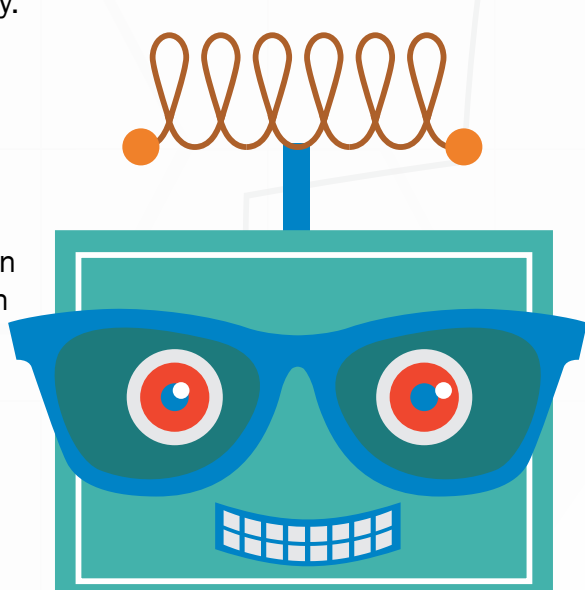
A collaborative robot—also referred to as a “cobot”—is a robot designed for direct interaction with a human. Scroll to learn more about what makes a cobot and how the the technology is moving forward!

ANATOMY OF A COBOT

While not all cobots have all of these features, below are some of the cool technologies that make up cobots today.

Face

Some collaborative robots now have screens with animated faces that can show the direction and status of the robot and even make facial expressions.



HI,
I'M OLLIE.
NICE TO
MEET YOU!

Eyes

Collaborative robots often use sensors or laser scanning technology (lidar) to be aware of their surroundings and detect nearby humans.

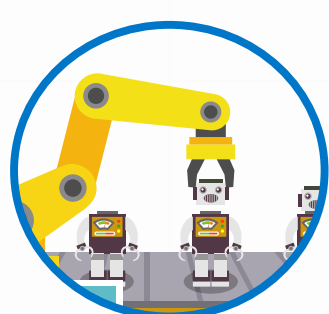
Arm

Most cobots have one or more arms that carry out simple tasks, like picking up and moving items, either autonomously or with direct human guidance.



Mobility

Currently, most cobots are stationary, but some manufacturers have developed mobile platforms for the robot to move freely throughout the workspace.



Cobots vs. Other Robots

A cobot works in an industrial setting with humans, unlike traditional industrial robots that are too fast and dangerous to be around. Service robots also interact with humans but not in an industrial setting.



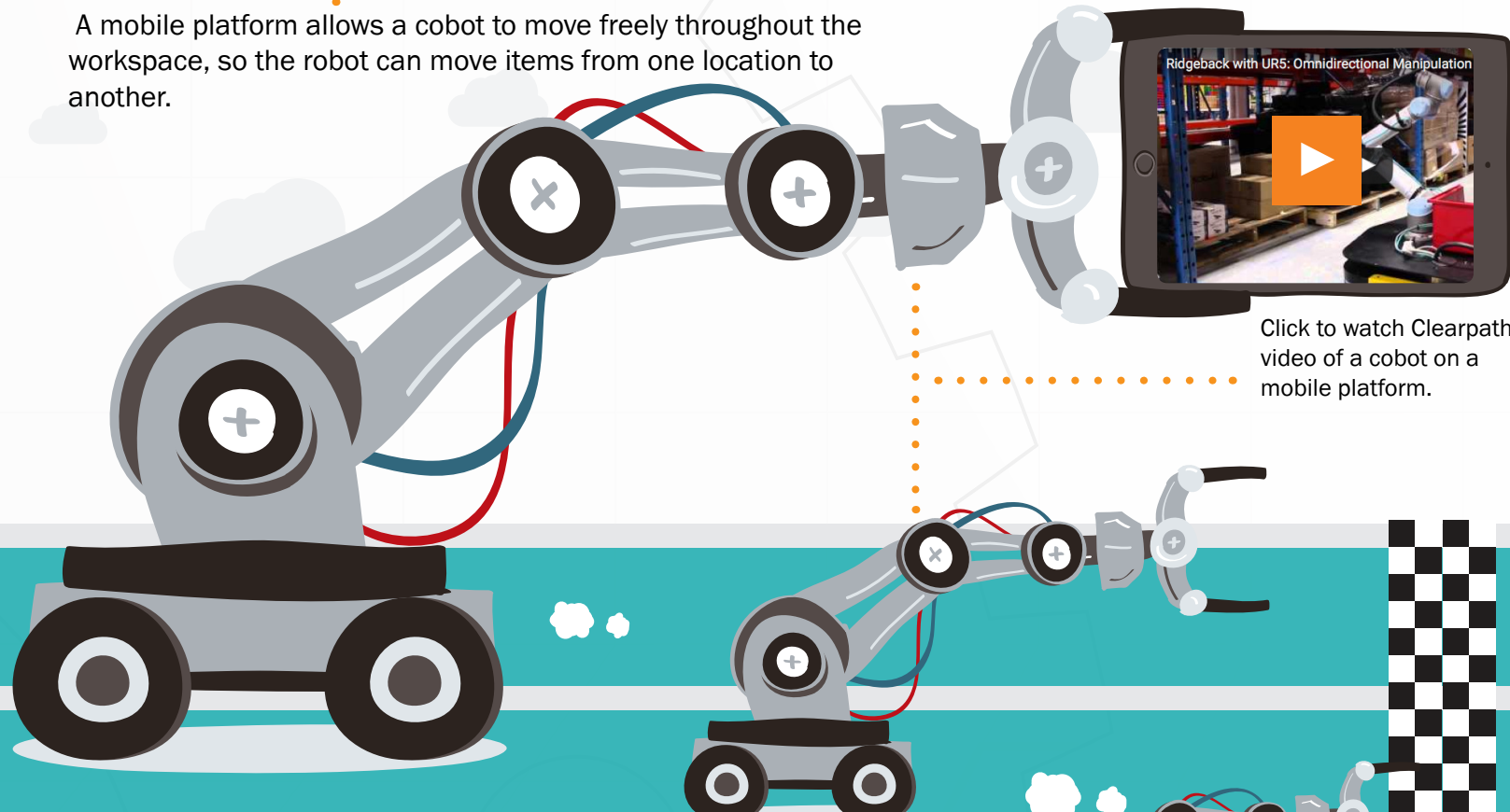
Safety

As with any moving machine, it is important to perform a risk assessment to determine whether a cobot requires a safety solution.

MOBILE COBOT

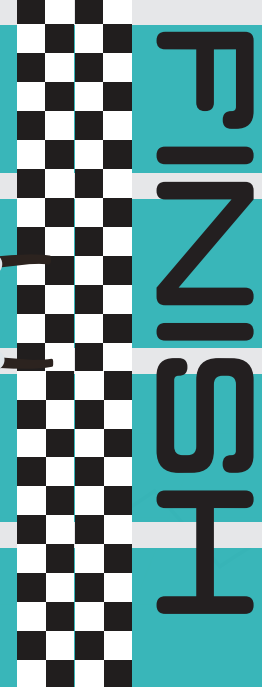
Mobile platforms make stationary collaborative robots mobile. The cobot and mobile platform communicate with one another to coordinate movement and tasks.

A mobile platform allows a cobot to move freely throughout the workspace, so the robot can move items from one location to another.



Click to watch Clearpath's video of a cobot on a mobile platform.

With situational awareness - knowing when humans and other obstacles are present - cobots understand when to slow down, move out of the way, or stop accordingly.



Collaborative robots have increased in popularity due to their relatively small size and price tag. Cobots are just getting started and mobile platforms are - literally - playing a part in moving these robots forward.

Visit SICK USA's blog for all our cobot posts.
www.sickusablog.com/tag/cobot/

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