WAC 2005 Panel 2:
Reasons why AC may fail, and how to prevent that

Position statements by

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Alert: Risk of Failure!

Bad and good news regarding three good reasons
Why "Situated and Autonomic Communication"
(SAC) may fail

a) ignorance

b) fear

c) self-*

and what we can do about it.

a) Ignorance

The bad news is:

Nobody knows what "autonomic" is.

The good news is:

Nobody knows what "autonomic" **isn't**.

So everybody can do research in autonomics!

b) Fear

The bad news is:

Humans fear to lose control and will request many control knobs, perverting the idea of autonomics.

The good news is:

Finding *limitations* for/of new stuff is easier than to *come up* with new solutions: easy research topics!

c) Self-*

The bad news is:

SAC will provide many solutions, even valuable ones, with serious problems, which can only be solved by more SAC efforts.

SAC systems will require more human intervention and invention than before, perverting the idea of autonomy.

The good news is:

This shows that SAC is inherently **self–. . . justifying**, in an emergent way!

How to prevent AC failure

a) Ignorance:

➢ Find a razor-sharp definition of SAC: Better be too restrictive initially than the other way round (too open and/or too late).

How to prevent AC failure

b) Fear to lose control:

> - Do research that demonstrates that autonomic solutions are more robust than those relying on human intervention.
> - Find novel ways of expressing "what we want" instead of "how"

How to prevent AC failure

c) Self-justifying fate:

> - Measure of autonomicity: inversely proportional to the amount of human intervention (and invention?) required.
> - Complexity correctly treated and encapsulated [Pfeifer]