

Mobility: The Goto Statement of Agent Technology

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Conclusions

Mobility

- adds no power, but distracts from high-level issues
- emphasizes procedural operation, requiring knowledge of local
 - information models
 - interpreter
 - processing semantics
- conflates method definition and execution
- deemphasizes social and communicative aspects
- complicates design and maintenance of distributed systems

Challenges

Less commonly mentioned than security, but important for building complex systems involving agents:

- Incorporating models of
 - static information
 - dynamic processing
 - communication: separate installation from execution requests
 - coordination requirements
 - social abstractions

Doing so will blur the distinction between mobile and conventional agent implementation techniques.