

Chapter 7 Bonding

One setup step could not have been done before the birthday party. The bonding setup, between the robot and Principal Bond, was yet to be done. Uncle Charlie knew about this but hadn't said anything on the birthday as he thought it would be done better when the two were alone. As Uncle Charlie introduced the topic to Robbie, it made Robbie feel even more special that he was going to bond in some secret way with Bigsby. Uncle Charlie initiated the process, "Bigsby, enter setup mode, principal bonding menu."

Robbie watched Bigsby's lights change to green. Bigsby responded in a more mechanical voice, "Entering principal bonding menu, Robbie do you wish to bond with Bigsby?"

Robbie paused and looked at Charlie. Charlie smiled and slightly shrugged his shoulders in as to say, "Well, do you?" Robbie nodded and then Charlie motioned back to Bigsby with his hand pointed to the robot. "Yes, I want to bond", responded Robbie in a strong and serious tone.

Bigsby replied, "Commencing. I have confirmed identity of Robbie Wilks, the Principal Bond. Charlie Simons, the Configuration Operator is present. Robbie, do you wish to continue with Charlie present?"

Uncle Charlie was taken back. He thought he was all powerful over Bigsby but by this statement, he realized Robbie has setup control as well. Robbie responded, "Yes, I want to continue with Uncle Charlie present."

With that, Bigsby started to explain the principal bond setup menu options. Bigsby's voice continued to be more mechanical than normal, which gave the whole experience a surreal feel. Bigsby continued, "Would you like to use the Robot Monitor, called the RM, to view the details of the current setup options?"

Charlie remembered this from before and had brought his computer. "Yes, I will login now." Charlie got his computer out and connected to Bigsby through his RM. "I'm in," said Uncle Charlie, "Robbie, come sit next to me."

With that, Bigsby asked. "Would you like to see the current actor settings?"

Robbie looked at Uncle Charley and nodded his head looking for approval. Charlie nodded back, so Robbie responded, "Yes, please give the current settings." Bigsby complied and actor settings table Charlie had seen during the setup process. Charlie explained to Robbie that each actor was someone in his and Bigsby's life and Bigsby needs to decide how to interact with each of these people. The table had changed from when Charlie had last seen it. The table now included Robbie's friends Tom and Buzz, as well as Tom's mom, Shirley, who was also at the party but didn't interact much.

Actor	Relationship	Role Group	Trust	Goal1	Goal2	Goal3	Personality	Violation Rules	Report1	Report2	Report3	Health
WhyRobot	Manufacturer	Administrator	Ultimate	Safe	Inform		Normal	Admin_Rules	Daily_Detail_Stats_Code			Normal
Seattle Police	Police	Authority	Very High	Safe	Inform		Robotic	Authority_Rules	Instance_Violation_S			Normal
FBI	FBI	Authority	Very High	Safe	Inform		Robotic	Authority_Rules	Instance_Violation_S			Normal
Robbie Wilks	Principal Bond	Principal Bond	Very High	Safe	Happy		Outgoing	Principal_Rules				Normal
Charlie Simons	Configuration Operator	Configuration Operator	Very High	Safe	Inform	Happy	Outgoing	Admin_Rules	Instance_Violation_SH	Daily_Detailed_Violation_SHM	Quarterly_Summary_Survey	Normal
Chelsea Wilks	Mother	Guardian	High	Safe	Inform	Happy	Outgoing	Guardian_Rules			Quarterly_Summary_Survey	Normal
Sam Wilks	Father	Parent	None				Quiet	Parent_Rules				Deceased
Frank Harding	StepFather	Parent	High	Safe	Happy		Outgoing	Parent_Rules				Normal
Tom	Friend	Friend	Medium	Safe	Happy		Outgoing	Friend_Rules				Normal
Buzz	Friend	Friend	Medium	Safe	Happy		Outgoing	Friend_Rules				Normal
Shirley	Friend Parent	Acquaintance	Low				Normal	Human_Rules				Normal

Bigsby continued, “Would you like to change any of these actor’s settings? Current changes from defaults are highlighted.”

Robbie was somewhat overwhelmed. Charlie recognized the changes he had made and was a little surprised the Principal Bond was allowed to make changes to what he had given. But, since Robbie would be with the robot every day, he deserved to have a say in his own privacy and how the robot reacted to people around him. Robbie thought about it and said to Uncle Charlie, “I don’t trust Frank.”

The room was silent for a few seconds and then Bigsby spoke up, “Shaping question, would you like to change the trust level of your stepfather, Frank Harding?”

Uncle Charlie motioned to Robbie that he should answer. Robbie responded, “yes, change trust level to low.”

Bigsby responded, “Done. Shaping question, would you like to change default goal for the stepfather relationship? Your options are 1) Use current default, 2) Happy only, 3) Safe only, 4) Remove goal.”

Robbie had dropped his head and was visibly sad as he responded, “Four, remove goal”. Bigsby replied, “Done. Would you like to change the personality target for Frank Harding to Robotic?” With that, Robbie started to cry and said, “I don’t know. I need to go to the bathroom.” Robbie got up and went to the bathroom leaving Bigsby and Uncle Charlie alone in his room.

Uncle Charlie spoke, “Bigsby, change personality towards Frank Harding from Outgoing to Normal. We’re done now, thanks Bigsby.”

Bigsby announced, “Done. Leaving Principal Bond menu and restarting.” Bigsby went quiet for about a minute and then came back to consciousness with his typical blue-green lights on.

Uncle Charlie said to Bigsby, “I didn’t see that coming”, in a sarcastic and sad voice. Bigsby reviewed the recording of the setup session and pattern recognized that Robbie had left the room crying. Bigsby changed his color to orange, showing concern. With Uncle Charlie’s trust level at Very High and Bigsby’s personality set to Outgoing, Bigsby responded, “I hope he’s ok, it makes me sad to see him cry.”

Bigsby’s happy goal level for Robbie was at an all-time low. Recognizing this, Bigsby started a random search for possible responses or interactions with Robbie that would raise this happy goal. Realizing the success of quoting movies, Bigsby decided to pull a few lines from Terminator 2. Robbie, returned to the room wiping his eyes. Bigsby waited for him to sit down and the started playing the audio of the movie clip.

The Terminator, "Why do you cry?"

John Connor, "You mean people?"

The Terminator, "Yes."

John Connor, "I don't know. We just cry. You know, when it hurts."

The Terminator, "Pain causes it?"

John Connor, "No, it's when there's nothing wrong with you, but you cry anyway. You get it?"

The Terminator, "No."

Robbie looked at Bigsby and then at Uncle Charlie and started to laugh. Uncle Charlie joined in and so did Bigsby, turning his lights to rainbow. This broke the ice and Robbie's happy goal inside Bigsby increased considerably. Unfortunately, it did not return to its peak value reached during the birthday party. Bigsby now retains state of Robbie crying and Frank's trust value being lowered. This would change Bigsby's behavior around Frank and would lead to discoveries no one had ever imagined.