Hello and welcome to the RAVEN II community!

You have received this letter because you have just started (or are about to start) a project involving the RAVEN II robot housed at QUT (the first RAVEN in the southern hemisphere!) named Zaphod.

As a brief introduction, the RAVEN is a 7-DOF cable-driven surgical robotic platform that is open-source and designed for research. The robot itself can be either teleoperated (there are two omega.7 haptic devices located next to Zaphod for this purpose) or programmed to operate autonomously (via ROS). For more information, please visit the RAVEN-II wiki.

Zaphod is located in the Medical Robotics Lab on Level 11 of S Block in the Gardens Point campus of QUT. This level requires completion of an induction session to gain access, details of which can be found at the entrance to the floor, or on request from one of the contacts listed below. You will then have to be trained to operate the robot, which can be organised through email.

As stated above, the RAVEN is an open-source platform, and the software used on it can be found on the University of Washington Biorobotics Lab github. This also contains some other packages that are useful for simulating the RAVEN without hardware, or as a base for autonomous operation.

Note that the RAVEN is interfaced with using ROS (Kinetic), and thus a basic knowledge of how to use this tool will be helpful. As an additional note, Zaphod has its own attached computer, which is the only computer that ca be used to control it.

Here are some useful links for getting started:

* Raven-II Wiki: <https://github.com/uw-biorobotics/raven2/wiki>
* Youtube tutorial playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxMsr-mRZng81BdDTaUX0sueXWeVOX0qd&disable_polymer=true>
* Raven-II Github: <https://github.com/uw-biorobotics>
* Raven-II forum: <http://astro.ee.washington.edu/ravenIIwiki/index.php/Main_Page>

(Login details – username=QUT, password=zaphod)

* ROS Tutorials: <http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Tutorials>

Finally, if you have any questions about the RAVEN feel free to contact one of the following people:

Tom Coppin (first point of contact)

Email: [t.coppin@hdr.qut.edu.au](mailto:t.coppin@hdr.qut.edu.au)

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