

Care-O-bot Manual

**Manual for Care-O-bot users  
and administrators**

Autors: Florian Weisshardt  
Nadia Hammoudeh Garcia

Fraunhofer IPA

Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation  
Stuttgart, Germany

Last modified on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2013



# Contents

<b>Nomenclature</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 User Manual</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Hardware overview . . . . .	2
2.2 Software overview . . . . .	3
2.3 Batteries and power supply . . . . .	4
2.4 Emergency stop . . . . .	4
2.4.1 Emergency stop buttons . . . . .	4
2.4.2 Safety field from the Sick S300 scanners . . . . .	5
2.4.3 Remote emergency stop control . . . . .	6
2.5 Running the robot . . . . .	6
2.5.1 Logging in to the robot pcs . . . . .	7
2.5.2 Bringup the robot . . . . .	7
2.5.3 Using dashboard and command_gui . . . . .	7
2.5.4 Rviz . . . . .	10
2.5.5 Joystick . . . . .	11
2.6 Power down the robot . . . . .	12
2.7 Packing the robot . . . . .	12

<b>3 Administrator manual</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1 Setup robot pcs . . . . .	18
3.1.1 Install operating system . . . . .	19
3.1.2 Install basic tools . . . . .	19
3.1.3 Setup ssh server . . . . .	19
3.1.4 Setup robot account for administration tasks . . . . .	19
3.1.5 Setup root account for administration tasks . . . . .	20
3.1.6 Setup internal robot network . . . . .	20
3.1.7 Install NFS . . . . .	21
3.1.8 Enable passwordless login . . . . .	23
3.1.9 Setup NTP time synchronitation . . . . .	23
3.1.10 Install ROS and driver software (electric distro) . . . . .	24
3.1.11 Install ROS and driver software (Groovy distro) . . . . .	26
3.1.12 Install ROS and driver software (Hydro distro) . . . . .	29
3.1.13 Setup hardware components . . . . .	31
3.1.14 Create new user accounts . . . . .	37
3.2 Network infrastructure for external access to the robot . . . . .	38
3.2.1 Setting up your building network (recommended) . . . . .	38
3.2.2 Manual setup for each remote pc . . . . .	38
3.3 Calibration . . . . .	39
3.3.1 Manual calibration . . . . .	39
3.3.2 Automatic calibration . . . . .	40
3.4 Backup and Restore . . . . .	40
3.4.1 Backup the entire system . . . . .	40
3.4.2 Restore the entire system . . . . .	40

<b>4 Support</b>	<b>42</b>
4.1 General support . . . . .	42
4.2 Report a bug . . . . .	42
4.3 Useful tools for debugging and working with the robot . . . . .	43
4.3.1 Modifying and developing code . . . . .	43
4.3.2 Working with git . . . . .	43
4.4 FAQ . . . . .	44
4.4.1 Working with the robot . . . . .	44
4.4.2 Developing on the robot . . . . .	45



# Nomenclature

X ..... robot number, e.g. X=3 for cob3-3

Y ..... pc number, e.g. Y=2 for pc2

IP ..... parameter that define the robot network 3.1



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This manual is divided into three main parts. The first part (chapter 2) is intended for all users, it shows how to startup the robot, login and execute simple commands on the robot. The second part (chapter 3) addresses robot administrators and covers topics like setting up the pcs, configuring network and add new user accounts. The third part (chapter 4) offers some first help in case you need support.

You can always get the latest version of this manual at <sup>1</sup>.

If you have comments, suggestions or would like to add something to the manual, please contact fmw@ipa.fhg.de.

---

<sup>1</sup>[https://github.com/ipa320/setup/blob/master/manual/Care-0-bot\\_manual.pdf](https://github.com/ipa320/setup/blob/master/manual/Care-0-bot_manual.pdf)

# Chapter 2

## User Manual

**NOTE:** Before you start working with the robot you have to attend a safety introduction. If you haven't got one yet, please contact your local robot administrator.

The following user manual requires some basic knowledge about

- Linux/Ubuntu
- Source code management with git
- ROS usage

If you are missing some of this requirements or feel uncomfortable with what you are doing, please interrupt and ask somebody to help you before continuing.

### 2.1 Hardware overview

You can take a look of the technical data of Care-O-Bot on the official web site<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>. Also you can see the distribution of the different Care-O-bots at <sup>3</sup>.

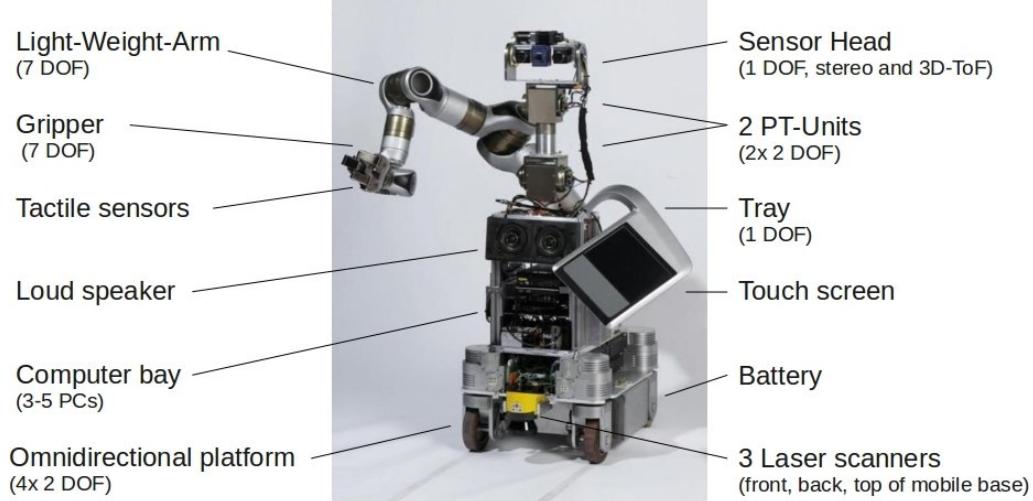
An overview of the robot hardware is shown in the following picture.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.care-o-bot-research.org/care-o-bot-3/technical-data>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.care-o-bot-research.org/care-o-bot-3/components>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Robots/Care-O-bot/distribution>



## 2.2 Software overview

We defined a layer called *bringup layer*, which covers all hardware drivers and basic robot components. This is the layer where low level robot movements are enabled through the joystick or dashboard and the robot status including actuator and sensor information is acquired. In the following overview you can see the repositories which belong to the bringup layer.

- **cob\_extern:** The `cob_extern` stack contains third party libraries needed for operating Care-O-bot. The packages are downloaded from the manufacturers website and not changed in any way.
- **cob\_common:** The `cob_common` stack hosts common packages that are used within the Care-O-bot repository. Also the urdf description of the robot, which is the kinematic and dynamic model of the robot, 3D models of robot components, information required for gazebo to simulate the COB and utility packages or common message and service definitions.
- **schunk\_modular\_robotics:** This repository includes drivers and models for Schunk products, like powercubes or sdh.
- **cob\_driver:** The `cob_driver` stack includes packages that provide access to the Care-O-bot hardware through ROS messages, services and actions. E.g. for mobile base, arm, camera sensors, laser scanners, etc...

- `cob_command_tools`: This stack provides the source code of the tools that you need to command the robot: `cob_command_gui`, `cob_dashboard`, `cob_script_server` and `cob_teleop`.
- `cob_robots`: The `cob_robots` stack collects Care-O-bot components that are used in bringing up a robot. The user's interface to the `cob_robots` stack is `cob_bringup`. In this package you find all the hardware configuration and launch files to bringup the hardware.
- `cob_environments`: This stack provides the parameters for default environment configurations.

## 2.3 Batteries and power supply

Care-O-bot is powered by a 48V battery, which can be a Gaia rechargeable Li ion battery (60 Ah 48V) or a plumb battery. The batteries can be charged with a maximum of 56V at 10A. The robot can be plugged in during operation.

## 2.4 Emergency stop

Please be aware that not all robot movements are safe for you as an user, the robot itself and the environment. Therefore please don't hesitate to activate the emergency stop in situations which are not foreseen by the user. There are three ways of stopping the robot: On the robot you have two red buttons on the laterals, you can step into the safety fields of the Sick S300 scanners or you use the wireless emergency stop. Remember to recover the robot components with the `command_gui` after an emergency stop was activated, check the status of the components using the dashboard.

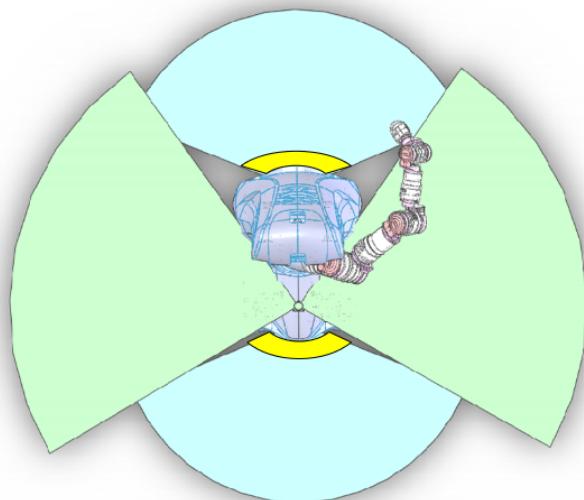
### 2.4.1 Emergency stop buttons

Press the red buttons on the left and right side of the torso. To release the emergency stop, turn the buttons so that they come out again. After that turn the key to position II until you hear a "click".



#### 2.4.2 Safety field from the Sick S300 scanners

If you step into the safety fields of the laser scanners the emergency stop is activated automatically. After the safety fields are free from any obstacle again the emergency stop is released on its own after a few seconds.



### 2.4.3 Remote emergency stop control

You can press the red button to stop the robot. To release the emergency stop you have to lift the red button and afterwards press the green button.

The remote emergency stop control can be disabled using the switch next to the key switch.

**WARNING:** This should usually not be used. It is only intended to be used if no remote control is available.

If the remote emergency stop control is disabled and the remote is within the wireless range, it should be placed in its base station. If you remove the remote from the base station, it might trigger an emergency stop.

**NOTE:** If you hear a "click" while releasing the emergency stop, but the dashboard and command\_gui still show that the emergency stop is activated, turn the key to position II again and hold it for some seconds until the dashboard or command\_gui show no more emergency stop.

## 2.5 Running the robot

First you have to connect the power supply to the robot or you can use the battery pressing the battery button on the base. To switch the robot on you have to use the key. If you move it to position II and hold for a few seconds the robot will turn on. To turn off the robot turn the key to position I.

After starting up the robot the emergency stop circuit is still activated. To enable power for the motors, keep the safety area of the Sick S300 scanners free of any obstacle and release the emergency buttons. In the case that the wireless emergency stop is active, release it by releasing the red button and pressing the green button afterwards. You should hear a "click" as soon as the emergency stop is released.

For safety reasons if the robot is not supervised any more, e.g. during a break, the emergency stop has to be activated. Never operate the robot without a local person supervising it being aware of the safety instructions (see separate safety instructions).



### 2.5.1 Logging in to the robot pcs

For logging in with a remote PC to the robot pcs you have to have an account on the robot. If you don't have an account contact your local robot administrator to create one for you (see the section 3.1.14.1). Use ssh to login (in this example to pc1 of cob3-3)

```
ssh -X user_name@cob3-3-pc1
```

### 2.5.2 Bringup the robot

**Note:** The following steps can only be done once by one person at the same time. It is not possible to start for example mulitple roscore or brinup.

The first step to bringup the robot is to start a roscore, this is necessary to have communication between the nodes. You can run it using

```
roscore
```

If you want to run the robot you have a launch file for launching all the components of the robot. It is located in the package cob\_bringup.

```
roslaunch cob_bringup robot.launch
```

Now all drivers and core components should be started so you can continue and have a look at the robot status in the dashboard or moving the robot using joystick or command\_gui.

### 2.5.3 Using dashboard and command\_gui

To know the state of all the components of the robot you can use the dashboard tool. To move the robot you can use the command\_gui. You can start both with

```
roslaunch cob_bringup dashboard.launch
```

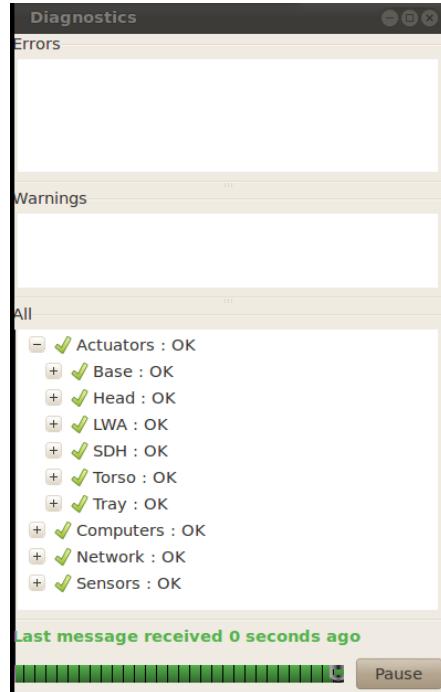
After launching this file you will see two GUIs on your screen: the smaller one is the dashboard, which gives you information about the current status of the robot and its components as well as the emergency stop status. The bigger one is called command\_gui and offers a wide range of buttons to move the robot to predefined positions using low level control commands. It also offers buttons for initialising and recovering the actuators. The emergency stop status is visible in the upper left corner of the command\_gui. Before initialising or moving the robot, check that the status is OK.

### 2.5.3.1 cob\_dashboard

The dashboard is an important tool where you can check the state of the robot, it is recommended that you have it always opened. The dashboard looks like this:



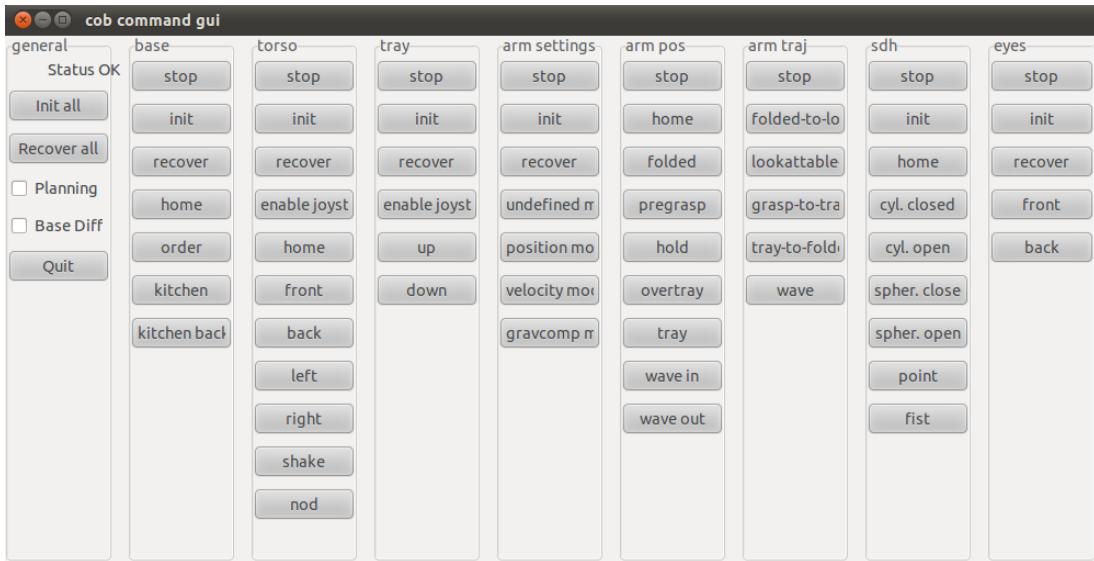
If you click the first button, you will see a new window popping up with three levels: Errors, Warnings and All. There you can see the state of each component at any time. The status monitoring is divided into Actuators, Sensors and other. The other buttons are for showing diagnostics, motors, emergency status and battery state. In the case of the Care-O-bot we have disabled the buttons for the Motors, you see them always in red.



All diagnostics information for the actors and sensors should be green after successfully initializing the components, see section 2.5.3.2.

### 2.5.3.2 cob\_command\_gui

The command gui can be used for sending low level movement commands to the robot components. The standard view of the command\_gui is:



In this screen-shot you can see different columns: general, base, torso, tray, arm settings, arm pos, arm traj, sdh and eyes. The first column is very important, when you run the robot. If you want to move it, first initialize all components with a click on **init all** and make sure that the **emergency stop is not active**. It will take some time and the actuators will do their homing sequence if necessary. After an emergency stop was activated, each component has to be recovered. Therefore press the button **recover all**.

The other columns of the components have different predefined positions where you can move to. Additionally Each component has a **stop**, **init** and **recover** button, to stop, initialize or recover a single component.

#### 2.5.4 Rviz

RVIZ is a tool that visualizes data from the robot, e.g. the sensor data from the laser scanners, but also information about the coordinate systems and transformations or the images from the cameras. You can add your own items to RVIZ to visualize topics, see more information at <sup>4</sup>.

RVIZ needs to be started on your local machine. To be able to visualize topics from the robot export your ROS\_MASTER\_URI to the robot

```
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311
```

---

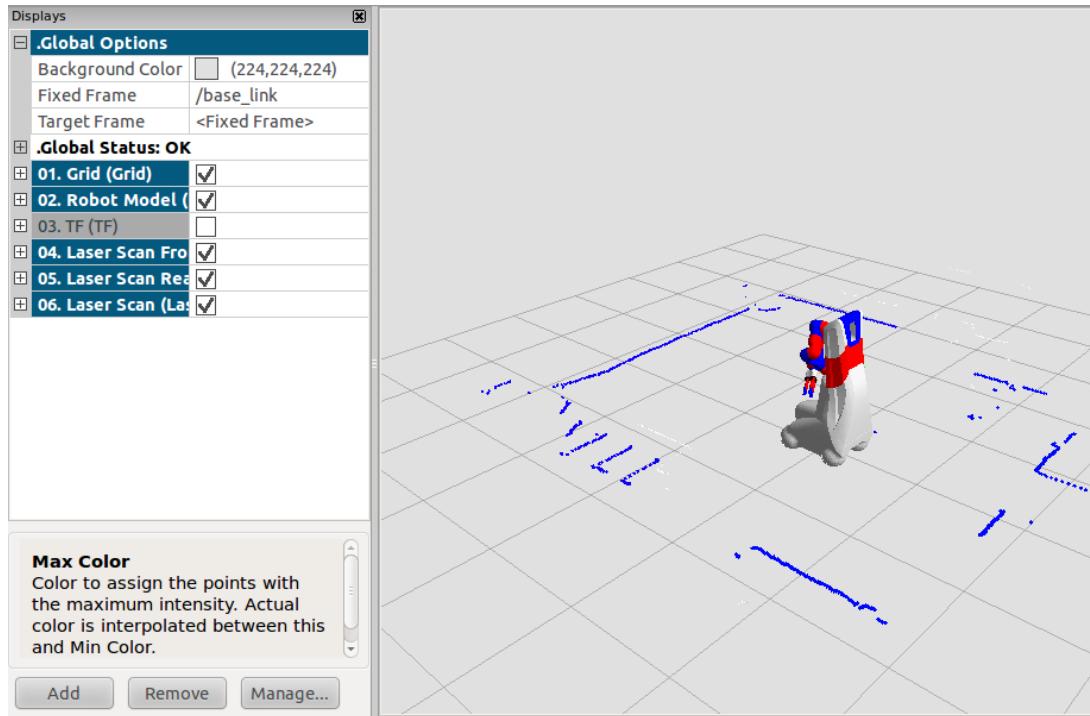
<sup>4</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/rviz>

```
rosrun rviz rviz
```

To use a predefined configuration for Care-O-bot start rviz with

```
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311
roslaunch cob_bringup rviz.launch
```

You will see a screen like this:



### 2.5.5 Joystick

To be able to use the joystick, initialize the components using the command\_gui. For moving the robot components, the dead-man\_button has to be pressed all the time, as soon as the button is released all hardware components will be stopped immediately.

- For moving the base: Hold the dead-man button and use the base rotation and translation axis to move the base.
- For moving the torso: Hold the dead-man button and the upper or lower neck button, then use the up\_down or left\_right axis to move the torso.

- For moving the tray: Hold the dead-man button and the tray button, then use the up\_down axis to move the tray.
- For moving the arm: Hold the dead-man button and one of the arm buttons, then use the up\_down or left\_right axis to move the selected arm joints.

Have a look at the following image to see which buttons command which components.



## 2.6 Power down the robot

To power down the robot press the emergency button and turn the key to position I, disconnect the power cable and turn off the power supply.

## 2.7 Packing the robot

In this section, the necessary steps for preparing the robot for shipment are described. Please consult the photos in this section for details. A checklist of

the material that you should take along in the robot shipping box in order to properly pack the robot is listed at <sup>5</sup>. Moreover, you should also always travel with a "first-aid" box that allows you to address common problems that may arise with the robot. The checklist for this first-aid box is listed at <sup>6</sup>.

The necessary packing steps are as follows:

- *Prepare the box.* Take out everything that could be in the way. Lay the tension belt flat on the ramp or under it. Open the front door (snap-on magnet). Remove the **2** rear cover from the robot.
- *Drive the robot into the box.* Take care that the robot is centered in the box as much as possible. Make sure that the black marks are free and there are some centimeters to the board of the lower belts.
- *Push emergency stop button, then power off.* **Attention:** Always push the emergency button before turning power off. Otherwise, the torso may lose its reference position, requiring a lengthy recalibration process.
- *Fasten the robot with a tension belt, but not too hard!* **Attention:** Make sure the fastener or the tension belt is not in contact with the robot cover.
- *Use foam material to protect the robot and to prevent slipping.* Make sure that no part of the robot is in contact with the tension belts and the robot has a good safty distance all around to the box.
- *Air travle* For air travel, fix an additional tension belt around the box. Moreover, seal the hinges with a plastic seal.

---

<sup>5</sup>[https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ipa320/setup/master/manual\\_ipa/ShippingBox.pdf](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ipa320/setup/master/manual_ipa/ShippingBox.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>[https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ipa320/setup/master/manual\\_ipa/FirstAidKit.pdf](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ipa320/setup/master/manual_ipa/FirstAidKit.pdf)



Figure 2.1: Step 0: Remove board and put the belt aside (left). Open the front door (right).

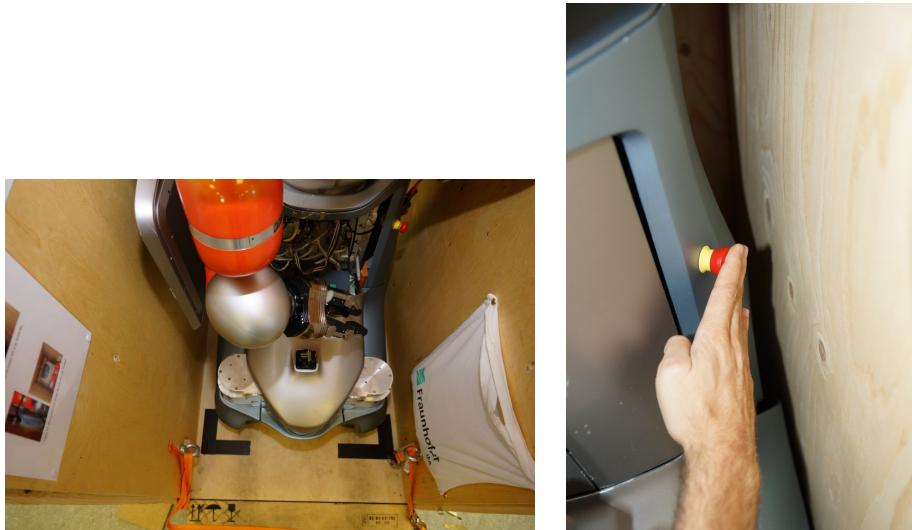


Figure 2.2: Step 1: Drive the robot in the box and park it as centrally as possible (left). **Always push the emergency stop button before power off!**



Figure 2.3: Step 2: Place the borad under the lower belts (left). Hook in the ends of the belt and fasten it **moderately** (right).



Figure 2.4: Step 3: Hook in the ends of the upper belt (left). Fasten the belt from the front (right).

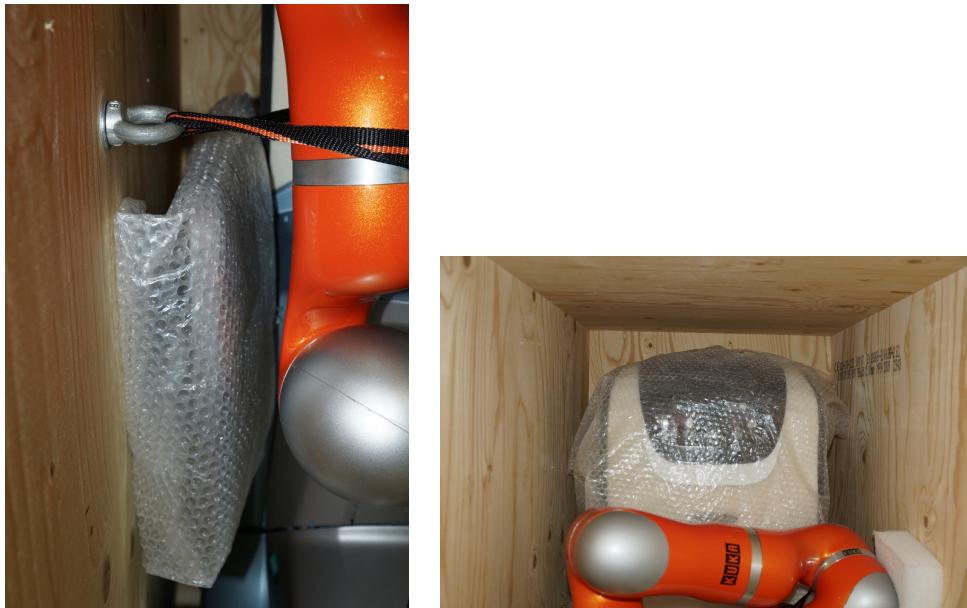


Figure 2.5: Step 4: Put bubble wrap around the tray and over the head.



Figure 2.6: Step 5: Put the "first-aid" box in holder and fasten the strap (left). Wrap the rear covers in bubble foil an put it in front of the robot. (right).

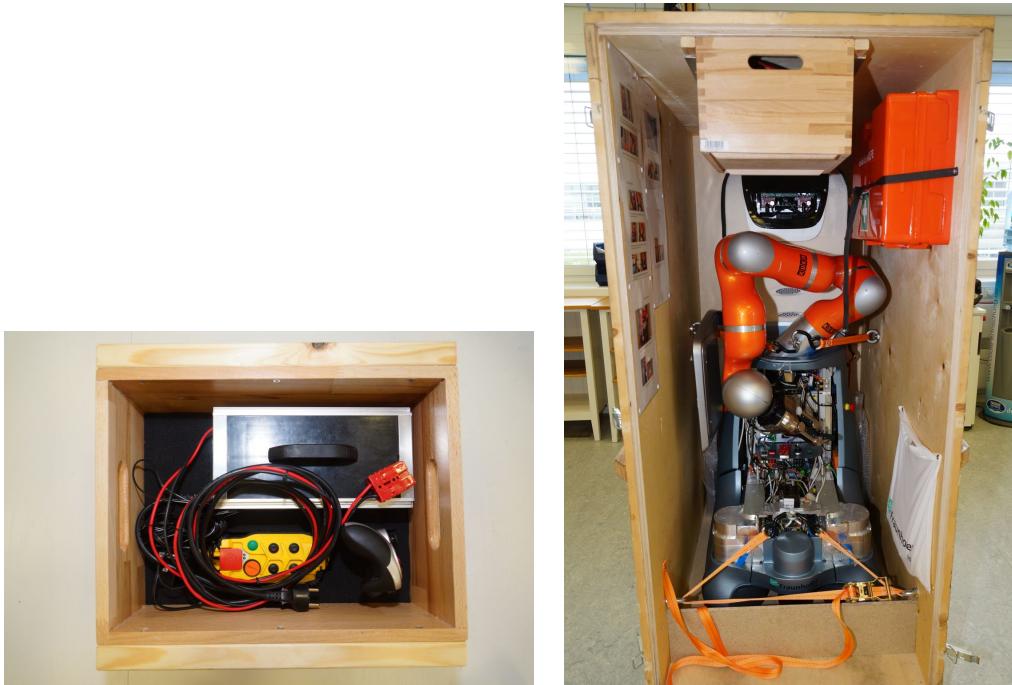


Figure 2.7: Step 6: Pack the accessory box as shown (left) and place it in the rails (right).



Figure 2.8: For air travel, also fix an additional tension belt around the box (left), and seal the hinges with a plastic seal (right).

# Chapter 3

## Administrator manual

The following administrator manual requires some enhanced knowledge about

- Linux/Ubuntu
- Network configuration
- Source code management with git
- ROS installation and usage

If you are missing some of this requirements or feel uncomfortable with what you are doing, please interrupt and ask somebody to help you before continuing.

### 3.1 Setup robot pcs

On all Care-O-bots there are at least two pcs. Some Care-O-bots have an optional third pc, which is not covered by this manual. Within this section we will guide you through setting up new pcs. When nothing otherwise is mentioned the following instructions are for both pc1 and pc2, please do the same steps on both pcs.

To pc1 all actuators are connected, sensors are connected both, to pc1 and pc2. All camera sensors are connected to pc2, whereas all other sensors like e.g. laser scanners are connected to pc1. By default pc3 is not connected to any hardware and therefore can be used as additional computing power.

### 3.1.1 Install operating system

The first step is to install the operating system for each pc, which means pc1 and pc2 (optionally pc3). We are using Ubuntu as the main operating system for the robot. We recommend to install the **Ubuntu 10.4 LTS (long term stable) 64-bit** version because this version is well tested to work with the hardware.

First please install Ubuntu (English version) creating a normal swap partition. Please choose `robot` as an admin account with a really safe password which should only be known to the local robot administrator. The hostname of the pc should be `cob3-X-X-pc1` and `cob3-X-X-pc2`.

### 3.1.2 Install basic tools

Next we have to install some basic tools for the further setup of the pcs. In order to install the packages a internet connection is needed.

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install vim tree git meld curl openjdk-6-jdk zsh
terminator language-pack-de language-pack-en ipython
```

### 3.1.3 Setup ssh server

Install openssh server on all robot pcs

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install openssh-server
```

Let the server send a alive interval to clients to not get a broken pipe. Execute the following line on all robot pcs

```
echo "ClientAliveInterval 60" | sudo tee -a /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

### 3.1.4 Setup robot account for administration tasks

To facilitate the further setup we created a setup repository with some helpful scripts. To checkout the setup repository use:

cob3-X	IP=X
raw3-X	IP=40+X
desire	IP=100

Table 3.1: IP address definition

```
mkdir ~/git
cd ~/git
git clone git://github.com/ipa320/setup.git
```

Allow robot user to execute sudo command without password. Add **robot** ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD: ALL to **/etc/sudoers** on all robot pcs

```
sudo visudo -f /etc/sudoers
```

### 3.1.5 Setup root account for administration tasks

Enable root account on all robot pcs

```
ssh cob3-X-pcY
sudo passwd root
```

### 3.1.6 Setup internal robot network

Inside the robot there's a router which connects the pcs and acts as gateway to the building network. Setup the router with the following configuration.

The ip address of the router should be 192.168.IP.1 and for the internal network dhcp should be activated. Use **cob3-X** as hostname for the router. Register the MAC addresses of pc1 and pc2 so that they get a fixed ip address over dhcp. Use 192.168.IP.101 for pc1 and 192.168.IP.102 for pc2. Enable portforwarding for port 2201 to 192.168.IP.101 and for port 2202 to 192.168.IP.102, where IP parameter is defined depending on the robot 3.1.

After ensuring that the network configuration of the router is setup correctly, we can configure the pcs. All pcs should have two ethernet ports. The upper one should be connected to the internal router. Sometimes the graphical network manager causes troubles, so it is best to remove it

```
sudo apt-get remove network-manager
```

After removing the network manager we will have to edit `/etc/network/interfaces` manually, you can do it copying the following lines on the pc's.

### 3.1.6.1 Network configuration on pc1

```
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback

auto eth0
iface eth0 inet dhcp
```

### 3.1.6.2 Network configuration on pc2

```
auto lo
iface lo inet loopback

auto eth0
iface eth0 inet dhcp

auto eth1
iface eth1 inet static
address 192.168.21.99 # ip adress for camera network
netmask 255.255.255.0 # netmask
```

## 3.1.7 Install NFS

After the network is configured properly we can setup a NFS between the robot pcs. pc2 will act as the NFS server and pc1 as NFS client.

In order to protect the pc's access, it is recommended create a local administrator user (root user 3.1.5) in each pc, in this case if there is a problem in the sever (pc2) or in the network this local user can access.

### 3.1.7.1 NFS configuration on pc2 (server)

Install the NFS server package and create the NFS directory

```
sudo apt-get install nfs-kernel-server
sudo mkdir /u
```

Add the following line to */etc/fstab*:

/home	/u	none	bind	0	0
-------	----	------	------	---	---

Now we can mount the drive

```
sudo mount /u
```

Activate IDMAPD in */etc/default/nfs-common* by changing the NEED\_IDMAPD to yes

NEED_IDMAPD=yes
-----------------

Add the following line to */etc/exports*:

/u *(rw, fsid=0, sync, no_subtree_check)
--

Change the home directory of the **robot** user from */home/robot* to */u/robot* in the */etc/passwd* file.

After finishing you need to reboot the pc

sudo reboot
-------------

### 3.1.7.2 NFS configuration on pc1 (client)

Install the NFS client package and create the NFS directory

```
sudo apt-get install nfs-kernel-server autoofs
sudo mkdir /u
```

Activate IDMAPD in */etc/default/nfs-common* by changing the NEED\_IDMAPD to yes

NEED_IDMAPD=yes
-----------------

Edit */etc/auto.master* and add

```
/-      /etc/auto.direct
```

Create a new file `/etc/auto.direct` with the following line, IP is the parameter that define your robot network 3.1:

```
/u      -fstype=nfs4 192.168.IP.102:/
```

Activate the NFS

```
sudo update-rc.d autofs defaults
sudo service autofs restart
sudo modprobe nfs
```

Change the home directory of the `robot` user from `/home/robot` to `/u/robot` in the `/etc/passwd` file.

After finishing you need to reboot the pc

```
sudo reboot
```

### 3.1.8 Enable passwordless login

Enable passwordless login to all robot pcs for robot user:

```
ssh-keygen
ssh-copy-id cob3-X-pc1
ssh cob3-X-pc1
ssh cob3-X-pc2
```

And for root user:

```
su root
ssh-keygen
ssh-copy-id cob3-X-pc1
ssh cob3-X-pc1
ssh cob3-X-pc2
```

### 3.1.9 Setup NTP time synchronitation

Install the ntp package

```
sudo apt-get install ntp
```

### 3.1.9.1 NTP configuration on pc1 (NTP server)

Edit `/etc/ntp.conf`, change the server to `0.pool.ntp.org` and add the restrict line, IP is the parameter that define your robot network 3.1.

```
server 0.pool.ntp.org
restrict 192.168.IP.0 mask 255.255.255.0 nomodify notrap
```

### 3.1.9.2 NTP configuration on pc2 (NTP client)

Edit `/etc/ntp.conf`, change the server to `cob3-X-pc1`:

```
server cob3-X-pc1
```

## 3.1.10 Install ROS and driver software (electric distro)

For general instructions see <sup>1</sup>.

### 3.1.10.1 Setup bash environment

We setup a special bash environment to be used on the Care-O-bot pcs. The environments differ on each pc. Copy the `cob.bash.bashrc.pcY` to `/etc/cob.bash.bashrc` on each pc.

```
sudo cp ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/cob.bash.bashrc.pcY /etc/cob.bash.bashrc
```

All users have a pre-configured bash environment too, therefore copy `user.bashrc` to `~/.bashrc`

```
cp ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/user.bashrc ~/.bashrc
```

The `.bashrc` file is preconfigured for cob3-3 and ipa-apartment, please change the following lines to fit your robot configuration. At the bottom of your `.bashrc`

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Robots/Care-O-bot/electric>

you have to define `ROS_MASTER_URI` to be `http://cob3-X-pc1:11311`, `ROBOT` to be `cob3-X` and `ROBOT_ENV` to point to your environment.

```
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311  
ROBOT=cob3-X  
ROBOT_ENV=YOUR_ENVIRONMENT
```

If you logout and login again or source your `~/.bashrc`, you should see different terminal colors for each pc and the `ROS_PACKAGE_PATH` should be configured.

### 3.1.10.2 Create overlays for stacks

If the release version of the stacks are not working for you, you can install overlays for individual stacks on the `robot` user account. To facilitate this process we have created a script which automatically generates ssh-keys, uploads them to github, forkes the stack (if necessary) and clones it to your machine. You can either install a read-only version from our main fork (`ipa320`) or insert your own username and password to fork and clone your own version of the stack. The script can be used by simply typing

```
githelper setup  
githelper clone -s COMMA_SEPARATED_LIST_OF_PACKAGES
```

All stacks needed for the bringup layer are listed at section 2.2.

**Note:** It should typically only be necessary to create an overlay for three stacks, `cob_robots`, `cob_calibration_data` and `cob_environments`. All other stacks should be used from their release version. If you need to modify a stack to work for you, please send us a pull request to `ipa320` on [www.github.com](https://www.github.com).

### 3.1.10.3 Install ROS and additional tools

#### Install python tools

```
sudo apt-get install python-ros*
```

#### Setup your sources.list

Ubuntu 10.04 (Lucid)

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://packages.ros.org/ros/ubuntu lucid main"
> /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ros-latest.list'
```

Ubuntu 10.10 (Maverick)

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://packages.ros.org/ros/ubuntu maverick
main" > /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ros-latest.list'
```

Ubuntu 11.04 (Natty)

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://packages.ros.org/ros/ubuntu natty main"
> /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ros-latest.list'
```

### Set up your keys

```
wget http://packages.ros.org/ros.key -O - | sudo apt-key add -
```

### Install ROS

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ros-electric-care-o-bot-robot
```

If you check

```
roscore
cob_bringup
pwd
```

you should end up in `/u/robot/git/care-o-bot/cob_robots/cob_bringup`.

**Build the bringup level packages** Before setup the components you can build all the bringup level packages:

```
rosmake --rosdep-install cob_bringup
```

### 3.1.11 Install ROS and driver software (Groovy distro)

For general instructions see <sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Robots/Care-O-bot/groovy>

### 3.1.11.1 Setup bash environment

We setup a special bash environment to be used on the Care-O-bot pcs. The environments differ on each pc. Copy the `cob.bash.bashrc.pcY` to `/etc/cob.bash.bashrc` on each pc.

```
sudo cp ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/cob.bash.bashrc.pcY /etc/cob.bash.bashrc
```

All users have a pre-configured bash environment too, therefore copy `user.bashrc` to `~/.bashrc`

```
cp ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/user.bashrc_groovy ~/.bashrc
```

The `.bashrc` file is preconfigured for cob3-3 and ipa-apartment, please change the following lines to fit your robot configuration. At the bottom of your `.bashrc` you have to define `ROS_MASTER_URI` to be `http://cob3-X-pc1:11311`, `ROBOT` to be `cob3-X` and `ROBOT_ENV` to point to your environment.

```
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311
ROBOT=cob3-X
ROBOT_ENV=YOUR_ENVIRONMENT
```

If you logout and login again or source your `~/.bashrc`, you should see different terminal colors for each pc and the `ROS_PACKAGE_PATH` should be configured.

### 3.1.11.2 Install ROS and additional tools

#### Setup your sources.list

Ubuntu 12.04 (Precise)

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://packages.ros.org/ros/ubuntu precise main" > /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ros-latest.list'
```

#### Set up your keys

```
wget http://packages.ros.org/ros.key -O - | sudo apt-key add -
```

#### Install ROS

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ros-groovy-desktop-full
```

### Install extra packages

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install python-setuptools ogre-tools ros-groovy-
    diagnostics-monitors ros-groovy-rxtools ros-groovy-pr2-* ros-
    groovy-client-rosjava-jni ros-groovy-openni*
```

### Install python tools

```
sudo apt-get install python-ros*
```

#### 3.1.11.3 Create overlays for stacks

##### Create and build catkin workspace

```
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin/src
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin/build
cd ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin/src
source /opt/ros/groovy/setup.bash
catkin_init_workspace
cd ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin
cmake src
catkin_make
```

##### Create the dry packages overlays

```
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot
cd ~/git/care-o-bot
rosws init . ~/git/care-o-bot_catkin-devel
rosinstall ~/git/care-o-bot https://raw.github.com/ipa320/setup/
    master/repositories/cob_groovy Bringup.rosinstall
```

If you check

```
sudo rosdep init
rosdep update
source ~/git/care-o-bot/setup.bash
rosed cob_bringup
pwd
```

you should end up in `/u/robot/git/care-o-bot/cob_robots/cob_bringup`.

**Build the bringup level packages** Before setup the components you can build all the bringup level packages:

```
rosmake cob_bringup
```

**Create the environment file on remote machine**

```
cp ~/git/setup/env.sh ~/git/care-o-bot/.
```

### 3.1.12 Install ROS and driver software (Hydro distro)

For general instructions see <sup>3</sup>.

#### 3.1.12.1 Setup bash environment

We setup a special bash environment to be used on the Care-O-bot pcs. The environments differ on each pc. Copy the `cob.bash.bashrc.pcY` to `/etc/cob.bash.bashrc` on each pc.

```
sudo cp ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/cob.bash.bashrc.pcY /etc/cob.bash.bashrc
```

All users have a pre-configured bash environment too, therefore append `user.bashrc` to `~/.bashrc`

```
cat ~/git/setup/cob-pcs/user.bashrc_hydro >> ~/.bashrc
```

The `.bashrc` file is not configured for any robot or environment, please change the following lines to fit your configuration. At the bottom of your `.bashrc` you have to define `ROS_MASTER_URI` to be `http://myrobot-pc1:11311`, `ROBOT` to be `myrobot` (where 'myrobot' is your robot name e.g. `cob3-3`) and `ROBOT_ENV` to point to your environment.

```
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://myrobot-pc1:11311
ROBOT=myrobot
ROBOT_ENV=myenvironment
```

If you logout and login again or source your `~/.bashrc`, you should see different terminal colors for each pc and the `ROS_PACKAGE_PATH` should be configured.

---

<sup>3</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Robots/Care-O-bot/hydro> (not yet exists)

### 3.1.12.2 Install ROS and additional tools

#### Setup your sources.list

```
sudo sh -c 'echo "deb http://packages.ros.org/ros/ubuntu `lsb_release -sc` main" > /etc/apt/sources.list.d/ros-latest.list'
```

#### Set up your keys

```
wget http://packages.ros.org/ros.key -O - | sudo apt-key add -
```

#### Install ROS

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install ros-hydro-desktop-full
```

#### Install extra packages

```
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install python-setuptools ogre-tools ros-hydro-
    diagnostics ros-hydro-pr2-* ros-hydro-rosjava-tools ros-hydro-
        openni* ros-hydro-moveit-full
```

#### Install python tools

```
sudo apt-get install python-ros*
```

#### Initialize rosdep-list

```
sudo rosdep init
rosdep update
```

### 3.1.12.3 Create overlays for stacks

#### Create, build catkin workspace and packages

```
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot
mkdir ~/git/care-o-bot/src
cd ~/git/care-o-bot/src
source /opt/ros/hydro/setup.bash
catkin_init_workspace
cd ~/git/care-o-bot
rosinstall --catkin ~/git/care-o-bot/src ~/git/setup/repositories/
    cob_hydro_bringup.rosinstall
```

```
catkin_make
source ~/.bashrc
```

You will probably get error that `rosinstall` can not write into `CMakeLists.txt` file but just ignore it and continue, because you already configured your workspace properly with `catkin_init_workspace` command.

Do not forget update rosdep-list:

```
rosdep update
```

### 3.1.13 Setup hardware components

In order to use the different hardware components we have to install the drivers and set permission rights. All hardware configuration is stored in the `cob_hardware_config` package.

**Setup udev rules** In order to have fixed device names we setup udev rules for Care-O-bot. Copy the udev rules from the setup repository to `/etc/udev/rules.d` on pc1 and pc2:

```
sudo cp ~/git/setup/udev_rules/01-cob.rules /etc/udev/rules.d
```

To activate these changes you have to restart the system.

**Setup can bus drivers on pc1** This step is necessary for all drivers with can bus interface (Schunk powercubes, Schunk sdh, head axis, base). In general both can drivers from Peak Systems<sup>4</sup> `libpcan` and ESD<sup>5</sup> `libntcan` can be used. Installation instructions can be found in the package documentation of libpcan <http://www.ros.org/wiki/libpcan> and libntcan <http://www.ros.org/wiki/libntcan>.

**Sick S300 laser scanners** The Sick S300 scanners on the front side and backside of the robot are connected via USB to pc1. Configuration is

---

<sup>4</sup><http://www.peak-system.com/>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.esd-electronics.com>

done in the `cob_hardware_config` package in `config/laser_front.yaml` and `config/laser_rear.yaml`, documentation about parameters in <sup>6</sup>.

To receive data from the Sick S300 scanners check if the user is in the  `dialout` group

```
groups
```

For testing you can run the front laser scanner with

```
roslaunch cob_bringup laser_front.launch
```

To check if there is some data published use

```
rostopic hz /scan_front
```

Check the rear scanner in the same way, the launch file is `laser_rear.launch` and the topic `/scan_rear`.

You have to configurate the scanners and setup the safety region for each scanner. It can be done using the Sick CDS software <sup>7</sup>.

**Note on new firmware (2.10 and greater):** Sick changed their scanner product line. From now on (April 2013) the Sick Professional CMS, that we used so far, has been replaced by the Sick Expert. The main difference is, that there is now no additional CMS version anymore. Expert equals to CMS, whereas Professional no longer has the CMS capabilities. The new scanners are also shipped with a new firmware (2.10). It is thus not possible anymore, to simply flash an old configuration as it might break the scanner. Additionally, the new scanners also have a new telegram protocoll version, which is not compatible with the current driver. However, it can be configured to use the old protocoll versions. How to setup the scanner with the new firmware is described in the following.

**How to setup Sick laser scanners with firmware version 2.10:** Make sure you have CDS 3.6.7 installed (even though it is not the latest one, this is the recommended version from the Sick support). When the scanner is connected and the CDS has started, add a new device to the respective COM port (do NOT hit the **Recognize Project** button). Choose the correct device: S300 Expert

---

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_sick\\_s300](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_sick_s300)

<sup>7</sup><http://www.sick.com/group/EN/home/service/software/Pages/configurationsoftwarecds.aspx>

(CMS should be entered automatically). Check the **Compatibility Mode** box; this serves to enable the old telegram protocol version. After that you can edit the configuration or import one (the current configurations for the scanners can be found in the robot specific folders on GitHub<sup>8</sup>, **raw3-3** contains configurations for the new scanners). If you are not sure which scanner your robot has, have a look at the distribution site on ros.org<sup>9</sup>.

**Note on importing scanner fields:** Please note that even though you can easily export and import any configurations, the scanner fields are not contained in the configuration files. You need to export and import the scanner fields separately using the CDS. This can be done in the **File** menu.

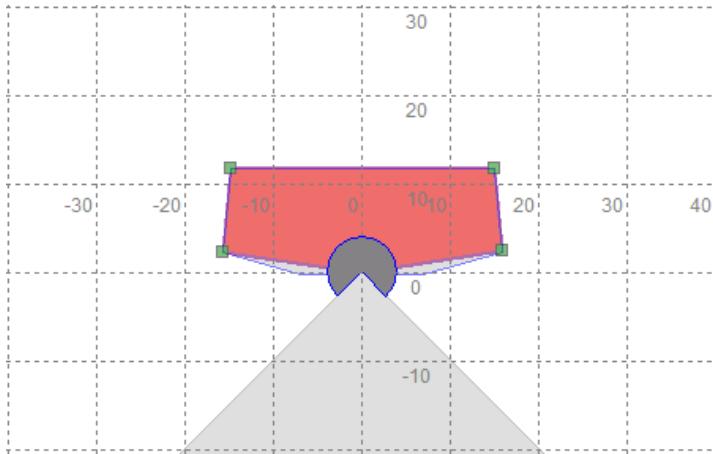
We recommend the following configuration:

- System parameters:
  - Application name: COB3
  - Device name S300[H]: S300-V
  - Device name S300[G]: S300-H
  - Name of the user: IPA
- Resolution/scanning range:
  - Application: Mobile
  - Resolution: 30 mm
- Restart:
  - Time delayed by: 2 Seconds
- Field sets:

---

<sup>8</sup>[https://github.com/ipa320/setup/tree/master/backup\\_configuration](https://github.com/ipa320/setup/tree/master/backup_configuration)

<sup>9</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Robots/Care-O-bot/distribution>



The safety region should have 4 points:

- $x=15 \text{ cm } y=12 \text{ cm}$
- $x=-15 \text{ cm } y=12 \text{ cm}$
- $x \approx 15 \text{ cm } y \approx 2.5 \text{ cm}$  (depend on the cover)
- $x \approx -15 \text{ cm } y \approx 2.5 \text{ cm}$  (depend on the cover)
- Measure data output:
  - Baud rate: 500 kBaud
  - Send mode: Continuous data output
  - Measured data aoutput: Distance
  - Beginning: -45
  - End: 225

**Hokuyo URG laser scanner** The Hokuyo laser scanner is connected to PC1 via USB. The configuration of this device is defined in the launch file as parameters `cob_bringup/components/laser_top.launch`.

For testing the scanner you have to call the run the node:

```
rostlaunch cob_bringup laser_top.launch
```

You can check the output of the topic:

```
rostopic hz /scan_top
```

**Relayboard** The Relayboard is connected to PC1 via USB. The configuration file (`relayboard.yaml`) is in the package `cob_hw_config` inside the folder `cob3-X/config`.

For testing the Relayboard you have to launch the file:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup relayboard.launch
```

And checking the output of the topic `/emergency_stop_state` prove its correct operation:

```
rostopic echo /emergency_stop_state
```

**Base** You have to configure the elmo controllers, all the information about the driver is in <sup>10</sup>, you find the parameters of this configuration in `cob_hw_config` package in `cob3-X/config/base`.

For testing you can launch the base with:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup base_solo.launch
```

Init the component using the service:

```
rosservice call /base_controller/init
```

And try to move the base using the joystick 2.5.5

**Tray sensors** The tray sensors are defined in udev\_rules and the library libphidgets<sup>11</sup> for this component is already built in the bringup level.

**Schunk SDH with tactile sensors** There is only one specific Firmware and library version supported. The version number is listed on <sup>12</sup>. Add the robot user to the group `dialout` in the `/etc/group` file.

You can launch the SDH with the following file:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup sdh_solo.launch
```

You can init and move the SDH using the `cob_command_gui` (2.5.3.2)

---

<sup>10</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_base\\_drive\\_chain](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_base_drive_chain)

<sup>11</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/libphidgets>

<sup>12</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/schunk\\_sdh](http://www.ros.org/wiki/schunk_sdh)

**Schunk powercubes (lwa, torso, tray)** There are two parts where configuration needs to be set. One part of the configuration is done inside the firmware of the powercubes and the other one is done through ROS parameters.

First make sure that the powercube settings in the firmware are correct. You can see and modify the parameters using the windows based PowerCubeCtrl software from the schunk homepage<sup>13</sup>. A sample configuration can be fount at <sup>14</sup>.

The ROS configuration is done in `cob_hw_config`, e.g. in `cob3-X/config/lwa.yaml` or `/config/torso.yaml`. Documentation about the ROS parameters can be found at <sup>15</sup> and <sup>16</sup>.

There is a launch file in `cob_bringup` per schunk component for testing:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup lwa_solo.launch
roslaunch cob_bringup torso_solo.launch
roslaunch cob_bringup tray_solo.launch
```

For initialing and moving you can use the `cob_command_gui` 2.5.3.2.

These components should be manual calibrated as it is explained on 3.3.1.

**Head axis** The configuration is in the package `cob_hw_config` in `cob3-X/config/head.yaml`. Documentation about parameters can be found at <sup>17</sup>.

For testing the head axis you can launch `head_solo.launch`:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup head_solo.launch
```

This component needs a manual calibration, for more information please see the section 3.3.1.

**Prosilica cameras** The IP address for the cameras should be 192.168.21.101 for the right camera and 192.168.21.102 for the left camera. You can set the

---

<sup>13</sup><http://www.schunk-modular-robotics.com/left-navigation/service-robotics/service-download/software/prl/powercube.html>

<sup>14</sup>tbd

<sup>15</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/schunk\\_powercube\\_chain](http://www.ros.org/wiki/schunk_powercube_chain)

<sup>16</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_trajectory\\_controller](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_trajectory_controller)

<sup>17</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_head\\_axis](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_head_axis)

camera IP address using the instructions on <sup>18</sup>.

You have to setup the network interface on the robot pc2 to access the cameras, please refer to section 3.1.6.

**Kinect** The kinect is connected to pc2. For testing you have to launch the kinect driver on pc2.

On pc1:

```
roscore
```

On pc2:

```
roslaunch cob_bringup kinect.launch
```

You can check the image in a remote pc:

```
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311
rosrun image_view image_view image:=/cam3d/rgb/image_color
```

And the point cloud checking the topic:

```
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://cob3-X-pc1:11311
rostopic hz /cam3d/depth/points
```

Or use the tool rviz as it is explained on section 2.5.4.

### 3.1.14 Create new user accounts

#### 3.1.14.1 Preparation

Due to the fact that all users need to be in the correct user groups, that the bash environment needs to be setup correctly and that user ids need to be synchronised between all pcs for the NFS to work, we facilitate the creation of a new user with a `cobadduser` script. Before you add the first user using the `cobadduser` script, please uncomment the following two lines in `/etc/adduser.conf` on pc2

```
EXTRA_GROUPS="dialout cdrom floppy audio video plugdev users"
ADD_EXTRA_GROUPS=1
```

---

<sup>18</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_camera\\_sensors/AVT\\_ProSilica](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_camera_sensors/AVT_ProSilica)

To synchronize the accounts and passwords we need remote root access to all pcs. Therefore make sure you did the steps from sec 3.1.5.

### 3.1.14.2 Account creation

After finishing the preparation step you can add new users. On pc2 and with administration rights you can use the following instruction

```
cobadduser new_user_name
```

An ssh-key and passwordless login to all robot pcs should work now. You can test it with

```
ssh cob3-X-pc1
ssh cob3-X-pc2
```

Logging in from one to another robot pc should work without password.

## 3.2 Network infrastructure for external access to the robot

For the robot internal network setup please refer to section 3.1.6.

Make sure you have name resolution and access to the robot pcs from your external pc. To satisfy the ROS communication you need a full DNS and reverse DNS name lockup for all machines. Check it from your remote pc with

```
ping 192.168.IP.101
ping cob3-X-pc1
```

and the other way round try to ping your remote pc from one of the robot pcs

```
ping your_ip_adress
ping your_hostname
```

If ping and DNS is not setup correctly, there are multiple ways to enable access and name resolution.

### 3.2.1 Setting up your building network (recommended)

Setting up you building network to enable dns and port forwarding to the internal network.

### 3.2.2 Manual setup for each remote pc

You can setup a route to the internal network addresses. Please change the robot name and your network device to fit your settings. E.g. for connecting to `cob3-X` on `eth0`

```
sudo route add -net 192.168.IP.0 netmask 255.255.0.0 gw cob3-X dev  
eth0
```

For connecting to `cob3-X` on `wlan0`

```
sudo route add -net 192.168.IP.0 netmask 255.255.0.0 gw cob3-X dev  
wlan0
```

For name resolution you will probably have to edit the file `/etc/hosts` on the robot pcs as well as on the remote pc. Therefore add the following addresses to the `/etc/hosts` of your remote pc.

```
192.168.IP.101 cob3-X-pc1  
192.168.IP.102 cob3-X-pc2
```

Add your ip adress and hostname to the `/etc/hosts` of all robot pcs.

## 3.3 Calibration

The calibration is divided into two steps, the manual preparation and automatic calibration. All calibration parameters are defined in `cob_calibration_data/cob3-X/calibration/calibration.urdf.xacro`

### 3.3.1 Manual calibration

**Components with hardware reference positions** Move the components to their home position using the build in hardware reference positions, e.g. nonius

of Kuka LBR.

**Components without hardware reference positions** You will have to manually calibrate the reference positions for each joint, e.g. for all Schunk powercubes in lwa, torso and tray as well as the head\_axis with a water balance. Therefore move the component into its home position, which means that the joint values for that configuration should all be zero. Record e.g. the joint states for the torso with

```
rostopic echo /torso_controller/state
```

and add or subtract these values to the ones already defined as `torso_*_ref` in the `cob_calibration_data/cob3-X/calibration/calibration.urdf.xacro`.

### 3.3.2 Automatic calibration

The automatic calibration step calibrates can be used for intrinsic and extrinsic camera calibration, as well as for hand eye calibration. The manual calibration steps from section 3.3.1 are a prerequisite for the automatic calibration. For more information and tutorials about the automatic calibration, see <sup>19</sup>.

## 3.4 Backup and Restore

### 3.4.1 Backup the entire system

We recommend to backup your system when you have a stable software version, e.g. all hardware drivers setup and running. You can backup the whole disks of your robot to an external hard disk using the tool dd.

Be sure that the external device has enough free space as an ext4 partition, you can format it using gparted <sup>20</sup>. With the new partition mounted in your system execute the following command:

```
sudo dd if=/dev/sdaX of=/dev/sdbY
```

---

<sup>19</sup>[http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob\\_calibration](http://www.ros.org/wiki/cob_calibration)

<sup>20</sup><http://gparted.sourceforge.net/>

where `/dev/sdaX` is the local partition where ubuntu is installed and `/dev/sdbY` is the partition where your external device is mounted. With this command you copy the whole partition, this step will take several hours depending on the disk size.

### 3.4.2 Restore the entire system

with the following instructions you can restore your system to a previous backed up version. However you should be aware of that if backing up and restoring fails you will need to setup your system from scratch. So we only recommend to restore your system if nothing else helps to get the system up and running again.

If you have a backup on an external hard disk you can use a CD or USB stick with live linux to restore the system with the following command:

```
sudo dd if=/dev/sdbY of=/dev/sdaX
```

where `/dev/sdbY` is the partition where your external device is mounted and `/dev/sdaX` is the local partition where you want to restore ubuntu to.

# Chapter 4

## Support

### 4.1 General support

Please consult ros answers<sup>1</sup> to see if your problem is already known.

Please please contact your local administrator or use the mailing list<sup>2</sup> for additional support or feature discussion.

### 4.2 Report a bug

If you discover a bug in one of the Care-O-bot stacks, please fill a ticket on our trac system<sup>3</sup>. A view of active tickets can be found at <sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>[http://answers.ros.org/questions/?tags=care-o-bot,cob\\_driver&start\\_over=true](http://answers.ros.org/questions/?tags=care-o-bot,cob_driver&start_over=true)

<sup>2</sup><http://www.care-o-bot-research.org/contributing/mailing-lists>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.care-o-bot-research.org/trac>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.care-o-bot-research.org/trac/report/1>

## 4.3 Useful tools for debugging and working with the robot

In this section we introduce some useful tools which can be used while working with the robot to facilitate the source code management.

### 4.3.1 Modifying and developing code

If you want to modify code from existing stacks, we recommend to create an overlay of the stack in your home directory. To facilitate this process we have created a *githelper* script which automatically sets up your git environment with generating ssh-keys, uploading them to github, forking stacks (if necessary) and cloning stacks to your machine. You can either install a read-only version from our main fork (*ipa320*) or insert your own username and password to fork and clone your own version of the stack.

You can get the script with

```
 wget https://raw.github.com/ipa320/setup/master/githelper
 chmod +x githelper
```

The script can be used by simply typing

```
./githelper --help
```

### 4.3.2 Working with git

If you are not used to it, working with git is difficult in the beginning. Nevertheless it is a great tool which helps a lot managing decentralised development of our source code. [www.github.com](https://www.github.com) offers a reliable hosting service and offers tools for graphical visualisation or merging pull requests. We recommend everybody to do some basic git tutorials which can be found on various places in the web.

To make your life with git a little easier we have created a tool called *githelper*, which allows you to do git operations like getting the status, pushing, pulling and even merging in an easy way over multiple repositories at the same time. To know what *githelper* can do type

```
./githelper --help
```

## 4.4 FAQ

In this section we try to answer some frequently asked questions. If your question is not covered, but you think it is relevant for others too, please contact fmw@ipa.fhg.de.

### 4.4.1 Working with the robot

**The robot doesn't move when I press a button on the command\_gui.** Make sure that the emergency stop is released properly, see section 2.4. To inspect which component is failing have a look at your dashboard, see section 2.5.3.1.

**Reaction time of the robot slows down** Make sure you don't hit the boarder of either CPU, IO or network load on all pcs. You can use commands from the ROS cheat sheet<sup>5</sup>. Especially the following commands can be useful while inspecting your system (you'll find documentation about this tool in the cheat sheet):

```
roswtf
rosnode ping
rosnode machine
rostopic bw
rostopic hz
rxgraph
```

Additionally to the ROS specific tools you can use standard linux tools to inspect your system:

```
top
iostop
gnome-system-monitor
```

---

<sup>5</sup><http://www.ros.org/wiki/Documentation?action=AttachFile&do=get&target=ROScheatsheet.pdf>

**Some tips and tricks:** In general you should try to distribute CPU, IO and network load between the robot pcs in a way that during normal operation you don't come close the limits. E.g. keep the CPU load lower than 75% and overall network traffic lower than 75% of the maximum bandwidth of your ethernet router (have in mind that there are different maximum rates for cable-based and wireless ethernet). Possible ways to reach this is

- Reduce computing effort with optimizing implementation for your algorithms
- Put nodes together on the same machine which need to either
  - communicate in a high rate
    - (e.g. laser scanners, base controller and navigation, check frequency with `rostopic hz`)
    - exchange huge amount of data
      - (e.g. camera driver and object detection, check with `rostopic bw`)
  - for data flow triggered nodes, reduce frequency of input data stream
    - (e.g. don't use full frame rate of cameras as input if your detection algorithm if it is not capable of calculating each frame anyway, e.g. reduce 30Hz frame rate of kinect to 1-5Hz for object detection)
  - use a mechanism to start and stop components (e.g. stop object detection if no object detection is needed at the moment to reduce CPU load and consider unsubscribing from topics to reduce network load.)

#### 4.4.2 Developing on the robot

**I have modified code or developed new code, how can others use it?**  
Use the pull request feature at [www.github.com](http://www.github.com), for help see <sup>6</sup>.

**I have new code, where should I put it?** We already have a big variety of stacks containing different functionalities. An overview of all stacks which belong to the bringup layer are listed in section 2.2. Except for new drivers there shouldn't be a need for you to add new packages to this stacks.

---

<sup>6</sup><http://help.github.com/send-pull-requests/>

Above the bringup layer there are several stacks for navigation, manipulation and perception functionalities. It is hard to say in which stack you can put your code, therefore please contact fmw@ipa.fhg.de to discuss where your code fits best.