Skybot

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The Skype API provides facilities for external applications to be able to communicate with and control various aspects of the Skype VOIP and IM application. Originally developed in early 2005, Skybot uses the power and flexibility of Tcl to dramatically expand the usefulness of the Skype system. Using Skybot, one can create a variety of programmable responses to incoming Skype calls and chat messages. The system incorporates a Tcl-based state machine which can be configured to automatically trigger Tcl code in response to various Skype events. This provides the user with a surprisingly-broad and powerful set of capabilities for automating Skype-based communication operations. For example, Skybot can be set to set the user's Skype status to offline when the screensaver activates, thereby removing the possibility that the user's machine can be used by Skype as a relay node. Other potential uses are to route incoming calls in specific ways, based on the identity of the caller and/or the time of day or day of the week. For example, during off hours, you may want calls from a client to be routed to your work voice mail system, calls from your spouse to go to your cell phone, and calls from your boss to trigger an email alert to be sent to your PDA. Want to play hookey from work one afternoon? Skybot can keep your online status looking like you're at your machine, periodically switching it between "online" and "away." If your boss sends you a chat message, it could initiate a conversation between him or her and a customized Eliza engine that simulates your presence by sending plausible yet noncommittal chat responses, feigning some crisis that you have to drop off for, then sending the whole conversation to your Blackberry, so you'll know to finish the hole you're golfing on and head back to the office.