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.