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Ranger robot trots 40 miles straight on 5 cents worth of electricity

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For Cornell's ultra low-power Ranger robot, slow and steady sets the record

by Taylor Hatmaker on May 12, 2011

Filed under: Computers

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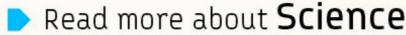
We've seen <u>robots that beg for change</u>, <u>robots that toss baseballs</u>, and <u>robots that can end us all</u>, but Cornell's Ranger robot has far more sensible plans. Ranger is a bipedal robot designed to walk long distances utilizing only the bare minimum of electricity. The robot recently went the distance indeed, walking 40.54 miles —almost a double marathon — over the course of nearly 31 hours. Yes, that means Ranger clocks in at an impressively slow 1.3 miles per hour that makes the <u>slowest self-driving car</u> we've seen look like a speed demon.

The Ranger Robot is clearly taking the slow and steady strategy, but thanks to its deliberate pace it actually managed to walk for over a whole day consecutively without any human intervention whatsoever. Cornell's creation broke its own personal record of 14.3 miles, and blew the previous record holder, Bostom Dynamics' infamously creepy BigDog, totally out of the water.

In a world where robots are executing increasingly sophisticated tasks, automating a rote task like walking sounds simple — but it isn't. Using only 5 cents worth of electricity, Cornell's goal was to create a self-propelled ultra low-power robot that didn't require any human interference whatsoever. With 10,000 lines of computer code in action, Ranger managed to do just that — walking a full 186,076 steps without recharging or so much as being touched by a human hand.

[Via: PopSci]

(Source)





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