

Making Shakey

Peter E. Hart

Abstract

Shakey, the world's first mobile, intelligent robot, was developed at Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) between 1966 and 1972. I worked on this project from the day it started until the day it ended (by which time I was the project leader).

I'll describe how the project got launched, how we approached this new world of robots, what we actually did, and what the consequences have been for current technology and for modern life. Along the way, I'll describe how people reacted to Shakey at the time, and I'll close with a perspective on the historical context of Robotics and thoughts about possibilities for the future.

Bio

Peter Hart has founded or led half a dozen companies and international research centers, and has invented or developed the theory of some of the most widely used procedures in modern computing. His technical writings have been cited over 75,000 times, which according to Google Scholar makes him the most-cited author in Robotics and the sixth most-cited author in Computer Science. He holds over 125 patents, and is a Fellow of the IEEE, the ACM, the AAI, and the Rensselaer Alumni Association, and is a Member of the SRI Hall of Fame.