

the ITEC SOLUTION

PROJECT JURASSIC PARK RIVER ADVENTURESM

Client
Universal Studios EscapeSM

Scope of Work
Create a show animation system for programming, controlling, and monitoring the movements of the 14 animatronic dinosaur figures in the Jurassic Park River Adventure ride at Universal Studios Islands of AdventureSM theme park in Orlando, Florida.

- Challenges**
- Make system capable of producing lifelike movement in dinosaur figures
 - Protect dinosaur figures from accidental damage due to conflicting animation commands
 - Closely monitor figures to assure continuous daily operation

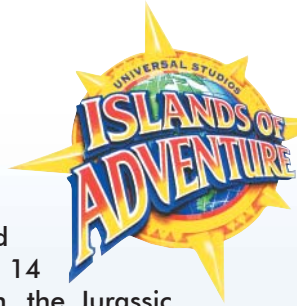
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Make system capable of producing lifelike movement

Knowing that much of the animation programming for the Jurassic Park River Adventure dinosaurs would be done by art directors rather than computer engineers, ITEC designed its animation control system to be as user-friendly as possible. Relieved of technical distractions, the dinosaur programmers could concentrate their efforts on creating subtle, lifelike performances. "Compliance feedback" technology helped the animators program smoother and more natural-looking action. Even the larger figures, such as the rampaging T-Rex, were capable of surprisingly delicate movements.

Protect figures from accidental damage due to conflicting commands

Since the animatronic dinosaurs are capable of tearing themselves apart if given certain combinations of motion commands, the ITEC engineers designed preventative safeguards into the animation system. The system constantly monitors each motion axis. Every signal from the programming console is analyzed for position, velocity, and acceleration so that the figures are automatically prevented from executing self-destructive animation commands.



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Closely monitor figures to assure continuous daily operation

During day-to-day ride operation, ITEC's animation controller constantly monitors every animated figure, watching for any degradation in the motion range at each diagnostic point on each dinosaur. Some of the figures have as many as 15 axes of motion, with up to 15 diagnostic points associated with each axis. If a significant fault is detected in any of them, the ITEC controller not only reports the problem but, if necessary, also acts to automatically limit or completely lock out the movement of the affected axis until maintenance personnel can make the appropriate adjustments.



ITEC[®]
ENTERTAINMENT
CORPORATION

8544 Commodity Circle • Orlando, FL 32819
Tel: 407.226.0200 • Fax: 407.226.0201

www.itec.com

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