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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](#)

We've seen [robots that beg for change](#), [robots that toss baseballs](#), and [robots that can end us all](#), 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 [slowest self-driving car](#) 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, Boston 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](#)]

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