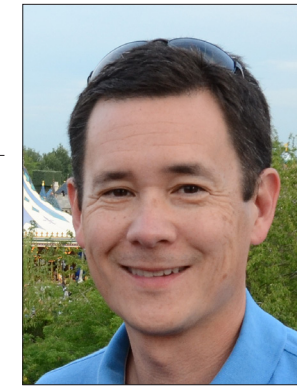
Keynote Speaker



Welcome to the Future! Technology and Innovation at Disney

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Abstract

Jet packs, self-driving cars, universal translators, space tourism; many of the science fiction dreams of yesterday are on the verge of becoming realities of today and promise to transform the world of tomorrow. We have complex communicators/supercomputers in our pockets that would make Captain Kirk proud; robotic dogs that could play fetch with R2D2; and computers, though maybe not quite up to HAL 9000 standards, that can play a mean game of Jeopardy. (Still waiting for that flying car in every garage!)

In a similar manner, advances in artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual and augmented realities, and mobile technology are transforming the world of Disney and its theme parks. In this talk I will give an overview of some of the exciting new advances in technology and innovation in Disney theme parks. I will discuss the technology being used both in front of guests and behind the scenes. I will include examples and videos from some of the newest Disney attractions, many of which can be found right next door to the conference. I will also discuss some of the work being done in the area of immersive design and review at Walt Disney Imagineering, in Glendale CA.

Welcome to the future! It's a great big beautiful tomorrow!

Bio

Mark Mine is Director of Technical Concept Design at Walt Disney Imagineering and head of WDI's Creative Technology Group. The Creative Technology Group's mission is to help Imagineering build better theme park rides and attractions through new ways to design, evaluate, and present concepts and ideas. The Creative Technology Group's expertise in virtual reality and computer graphics has been applied to many projects including the Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage, Toy Story Mania, and the new Radiator Springs Racers at Disney's California Adventure. Prior to working at Disney, Mark was a system engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena California working on the Voyager Missions to the outer planets. Mark has a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, a Master's Degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.