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The First Robot Arm to Enter the Factory: Unimate

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For a long time, picking up and moving car parts freshly cast from molten metal was a job for people. The parts were hot enough to burn a hand, and the factory was full of toxic fumes, so a moment’s carelessness could lead to serious injury. In 1961, at a car factory in New Jersey in the United States, a machine appeared that took over this dangerous job from people for the first time. With a single arm attached to a body like a large box, it tirelessly repeated the motions it had memorized. This is “Unimate,” regarded as the world’s first industrial robot. In this article, we will look in tur