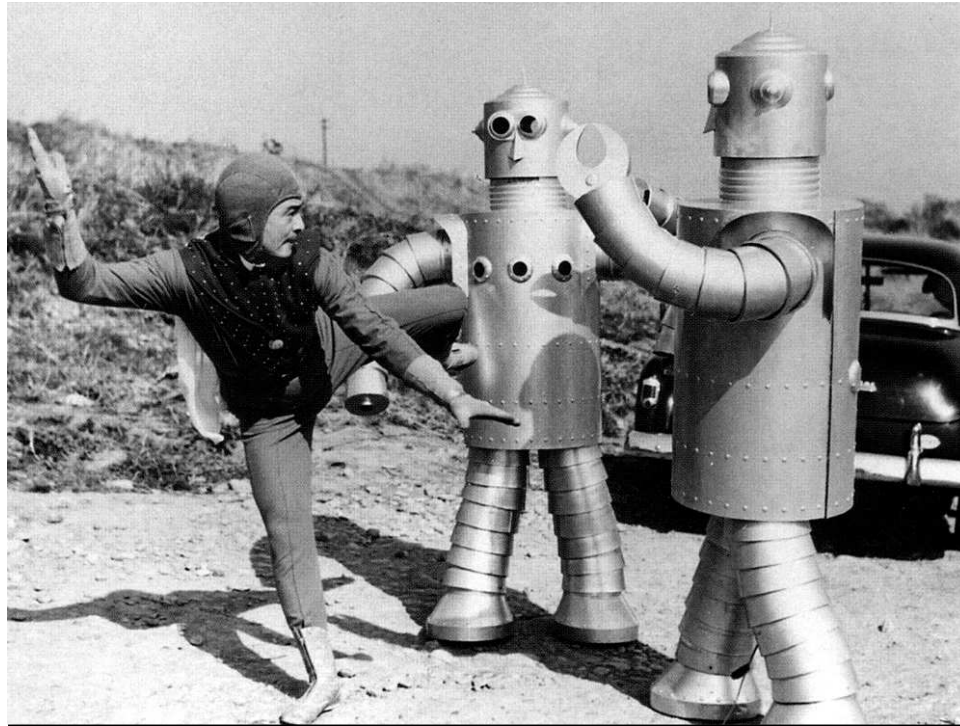


The Dinkbots



Way back when, Dinklaker Research Laboratories created a pair of Dinkbots™, the first automatons with true artificial intelligence. Possessing the computational skills of six Univacs and capable of amazing feats of strength, the Dinkbots were expected to revolutionize the up-and-coming field of mobile problem-solving computer systems (MPSCS). Instead, left to their own devices, the Dinkbots channeled their analytical algorithms into creating bizarre dance routines with their programmer-nanny, Hidaki. Unfortunately, a snooty choreographer who didn't consider the consequences of her actions publicly deemed the dances awful and without merit. Almost at once, the "Do No Harm" fail-safe directive with which the Dinkbots had been programmed failed, and then all hell broke loose, with poor Hidaki becoming the first casualty.