Birds sing through the CompuPhase MP3 Player...

PWN visitors centre "De Hoep": Dierenduin

In the Dutch visitors centre "De Hoep" a single button press at the console is sufficient to hear a nice bird song of your choice!
The CompuPhase MP3 player/controller detects the switch press and lets the birdy sing in a perfect tune...
The audio fragments ("tracks") as well as the configuration are stored on the compact flash card and can easily be adapted or extended.

So, what’s new or special to this approach?
There are so many MP3 players by now, can’t they do the job?
No, most of the popular consumer MP3 players are rather limited to configure and lack suitable connectors for sensors, switches or external electronics. The CompuPhase MP3 controller was specifically designed for built-in applications in information counters, kiosks and consoles.
And what about a Personal Computer or PDA?
Sometimes possible, but inconvenient: the Operating System must be shut down in the appropriate way and one needs an extra "interface" to connect the PC to peripheral equipment anyway.
Also, this approach is not very reliable: think of rotating parts (hard disk/CD ROM) and out-door usage.

CompuPhase MP3 Controller type H0420

You find more information about possible MP3 applications on the rear of this flyer.
Or select www.compuphase.com/mp3 in your Internet browser.
Does this sound familiar?

- in the fairy tales garden: "Just pull the cord, then the door will open."
- in the hospital (during renovations): "The ENT department is temporarily moved to the 2nd floor."
- in the museum (passing by): "This painting completely fulfills the ideals of the impressionism."
- in the gambling machine hall: "Choose the correct answer (button A, B, or C) and come out on top!"
- at the reception desk or booking terminal: "While you wait, please listen here to a short introduction."
- at the bus station: "Bus line 136 route has changed. Choose Next for more information."
- in the elevator: "You have arrived at the drugstore department."
- while radio listening (broadcast watchdog!!): "Waiting for service, we play from our play list...."
- in the classroom (language teaching): "Strike the barcode below the picture to hear the correct French translation."
- during a guided tour: "Insert your badge in the reader to listen to the comment in your own language."
- in the visitors centre: "Press the birdy picture and listen how the bird sings its song for you!"
- et cetera

And in many of these cases it might be nice to alternate spoken text with background music.

However, you may realize that reproducing audible information like voice, music or sounds what-so-ever is not such an easy job as it may seem. Frequently, poor or inadequate techniques and systems are used that were not designed and produced to add interactivity. That is, vary the sound depending of the specific situation. Most video and CD-ROM players need adaptation in order to connect them to external interactive sources like sensors. Also, they quickly wear out, their mechanics as well as the applied media, such as tape or disk. Even the modern MP3 players for personal (public) use are not really apt to reliably play sound tracks in a kiosk application and, although they may have some buttons and connectors, they can hardly be called "programmable" in the sense that they can smoothly interact with a driving interactive application, like in gaming.

Now we proudly offer you the programmable CompuPhase MP3 player/controller, the perfect solution for many of the environments as listed above. Our MP3 player type H0420 facilitates:
- a complete and flexible configuration via the Scripting-language Pawn in a free Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
- easy creation of (multiple) play lists and "looping sounds"
- full support of "MPEG layer 3"
- synchronisation of audio events on the audio track (e.g. karaoke)
- ample connectors for buttons, keys, sensors, LCD, RS232...
- excellent audio quality (to be connected to a standard sound amplifier)
- "solid state" design (no moving parts)
- also designed for out-door use (-40 to +85 °C)
- favourable price setting, quantum discounts as of 10 pieces
- on request also available with casing, power supply, amplifier, DMX-512, etc.

At the right:
The MP3 player with battery-supply and LCD

More information at:

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