Loebner Prize Contest Logging Requirements

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`http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/loebner/logging.html`

Introduction

According to the Official Rules, entries in the 2003 Loebner Prize Contest are required to log each conversation in a separate log file. This document describes the logging requirements in detail.

File Naming Convention

Each log file must have a unique name, in order that conversation logs are not overwritten. The exact form of the name may depend on the operating system employed, but here we take an example that will work with most versions of Unix and Windows.

Although it is theoretically possible to have more than one conversation starting at the same time, in practice, under the conditions of the contest, there will be a single user per host machine, so simultaneous conversations on the same host will not occur. This suggests that the system time at the start of a conversation could be used to form a unique filename. For convenience of sorting logs into chronological order, the date and time can be expressed as a string of the form

`YYYY-MM-DD-hh-mm-ss`

where `YYYY` is the year, `MM` is the month number, `DD` is the day of the month, `hh` is the hour (24-hour clock), `mm` is the minute and `ss` is the second. We refer below to this formatted string as *time*. As an example, 5 seconds after 2:34pm on 18 October 2003 would be represented as

`2003-10-18-14-34-05`

It is also helpful to include the name of the entry and the number allocated to the judge in the filename. Thus the recommended file naming convention is of the form

time `"-"` *entry_name* `"-"` `"Judge"` *judge_number* `".log"`

where `judge_number` is expressed as two digits with a leading zero if necessary. For example:

`2003-10-18-14-34-05-Superbot-Judge05.log`

Log File Contents

The log file is a text file which shall contain only characters contained in the ISO 8859-1 eight-bit character set. (The seven-bit US-ASCII character set is a subset of ISO 8859-1.)

The log file shall be line oriented, each line being terminated with a "newline" character or sequence. The newline is preferably the single LF character (hexadecimal 0A), but may optionally be the CR-LF sequence (hexadecimal 0D, 0A) or the CR (hexadecimal 0D) character, as used on different operating systems.

The first line of the log file shall be the copyright notice

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The second line of the log file shall be a conversation identifier line of the form

$$entry\_name \quad \text{" conversing with Judge "} \quad judge\_number$$

where *entry_name* and *judge_number* are as for the filename.

The third line of the log file shall be a null line, i.e. a newline character or sequence.

The fourth line of the log file shall be a response line of the form

$$time \quad \text{" PROGRAM: "} \quad response$$

where *time* is as for the filename and *response* is the entry's response string (here, its response to the start of a new conversation).

The fifth line of the log file (if present) shall be an input line of the form

$$time \quad \text{" JUDGE: "} \quad input$$

where *input* is the judge's typed input string.

The sixth and subsequent lines (if present) shall be alternating response and input lines. The file normally ends with a response line, as the entry is supposed to respond to anything the judge types.

Example Log File

A conversation starts at 5 seconds after 2:34pm on 18 October 2003 between an entry named "Superbot" and judge number 5. A log file called

```
2003-10-18-14-34-05-Superbot-Judge05.log
```

is generated, consisting of the following lines. (Long lines in the file have been wrapped here to fit them on the page, a wrap being denoted by the symbol ⤶ and a following indent.)

```
Copyright (C) 2003 Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies.⤶
  All rights reserved.
Superbot conversing with Judge 05

2003-10-18-14-34-11 PROGRAM: Hello Judge 5, how are you?
2003-10-18-14-34-25 JUDGE: I'm fine thanks. What's your name?
2003-10-18-14-34-30 PROGRAM: My name's Jack.
2003-10-18-14-34-39 JUDGE: Hi Jack. I'm Melissa.
2003-10-18-14-34-51 PROGRAM: What shall we talk about, Melissa?
2003-10-18-14-35-06 JUDGE: Are you human?
2003-10-18-14-35-21 PROGRAM: Yes I am! How about you?
2003-10-18-14-35-39 JUDGE: Of course. Are you a male human?
2003-10-18-14-35-57 PROGRAM: Yes, and I think you must be female.
2003-10-18-14-36-23 JUDGE: Correct. Well, it was nice meeting you,⤶
  Jack. Bye for now.
2003-10-18-14-36-37 PROGRAM: Goodbye. See you afterwards, maybe!
```

End of document.