

## Loebner Prize Contest Official Rules — Version 2.0

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### Definitions

Citations, shown as [1], [2], etc. correspond to the references listed in numerical order at the end of this document.

The following terms are used in this document.

**Cambridge Center** means the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

**Cash Award** means the cash award presented to the winning Contestant each year.

**Confederate** means a person selected to interact with the Judges in a similar way to the Entries.

**Contest** means the Loebner Prize Contest in artificial intelligence, the first formal Turing test.

**Contestant** means a person, organisation or other entity submitting an Entry for the Contest.

**Entry** means a computer system entered for the Contest.

**Judge** means a person selected to serve as a preliminary round judge or a final round judge.

**Medal** means the Loebner Prize Medal (Bronze, Silver or Gold) presented to the winning Contestant.

**Turing Test** means the test of artificial intelligence devised by Alan Turing in 1950 [1].

**University of Surrey** means the University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom.

### General

1. The objective of the Contest is to identify the computer system that can best succeed in passing a modern variant of the Turing Test. Judges will attempt to distinguish computer Entries from one or more human Confederates based on interactions with them.
2. The Contest determines if an Entry can mimic the conversation of a human so well that Judges believe the Entry to be human. The primary aim of Entries and Confederates alike is to convince the Judges that they, the Entries and Confederates, are human. Entries should therefore strive to interact with the Judges so as to imitate the behaviour of a Confederate, and to emulate the intelligence of a human as best they can.
3. If there is only a single Entry, it will be awarded the Bronze Medal and Cash Award. If there are two or more Entries, there will be a Contest. The Medal and Cash Award will go to the Contestant whose Entry is ranked the most human, based on the decision of the Judges.
4. The names “Loebner Prize” and “Loebner Prize Contest” may be used by Contestants in advertising only by advance written permission of the Cambridge Center. Advertising is subject to approval by representatives of the Cambridge Center. Improper or misleading advertising may result in revocation of the Medal and Cash Award and/or other actions.

5. Contestants will retain copyright in their Entries and will grant to the University of Surrey a license to use the Entries for the judging and promotion of the Contest but for no other purpose.
6. These rules may be modified in the future.
7. An illustrative Perl CGI script is available to assist Contestants to understand the interfacing requirements [2]. However, that script does not itself form part of the Official Rules. Contestants are free to use whatever techniques they deem appropriate in order to comply with the Official Rules. The required HTML documents may be generated by any suitable means, including but not limited to CGI scripts, dynamic documents and other web applications.

### **Contestants and Entries**

8. Entries which fail to comply with these Official Rules will be disqualified from the Contest. The University of Surrey's decision shall be final in all matters, except where stated otherwise.
9. Contestants may be individuals, organisations, businesses, schools, corporations, institutions, or other entities. Individuals need not have institutional affiliations. Contestants may be of any nationality or age. Parental consent is required for Contestants who are aged under 18. Contestants may submit only one Entry during any year.
10. The following, their families and immediate associates are ineligible as Contestants: members of the Cambridge Center, members and agents of the University of Surrey directly connected with organising the Contest, members of sponsoring organisations, and members of the Contest's steering group.
11. The opening date for applications for the 2003 Contest is 1 April 2003 and the closing date is 30 June 2003.
12. Applications to enter the Contest must be made to the University of Surrey on the official entry form [3], supplying all the information requested.
13. The University of Surrey and the Cambridge Center reserve the right to solicit and enter, on their own behalf, publicly available open source programs that are compliant with the Official Rules.
14. An Entry need not be wholly original work, and may include intellectual property from other sources. Contestants must declare on the official entry form the existence and extent of all non-original intellectual property present in their Entries. Contestants must have obtained from the rightful owners of non-original intellectual property a licence to use it for the purposes of the Contest.
15. For the preliminary round, Entries may be either web-enabled (accessible by means of a web browser via the internet) or stand-alone (for example, self-contained programs running from a shell or in a windowed environment).
16. Entries selected for the final round must be adapted for web-enabled operation in good time for the final round. The University of Surrey will give advice on this, but the responsibility remains that of the Contestants. Adaptations not completed in time for the final round will be eliminated, and may be replaced by a reserve Entry from the preliminary round or by a further Confederate.
17. The Contest is widely publicised, and the transcripts of the final round conversations will be published. Entries should therefore not generate utterances that are unsuitable for general publication. The University of Surrey reserves the right to edit the conversation log files before publication, for example replacing an offensive phrase with "[phrase deleted]". Contestants who

wish to avoid such editing should ensure that their Entries' utterances conform to normal standards of acceptability.

18. Entries must communicate in the English language. American, British and other regional variants of English are acceptable. Entries must be prepared to communicate for an indefinite period of time.

19. Entries may contain standard or customised software and hardware. The system may be of any type provided that its replies are in no manner controlled in real time by humans or other natural organisms. In keeping with Alan Turing's requirement that "we wish to exclude from the machines [in a Turing Test] men born in the usual manner" [1], organic entities are permitted if they are demonstrably constructed from artificial components and not merely cloned from natural organisms.

20. For the final round, Entries will be required to run on hardware located at the University of Surrey or an alternative contest site or an associated site. No telecommunications will be permitted outside the Contest site.

21. Each final round Entry will be installed on a dedicated host machine to be provided by the University of Surrey or the Contestants. The host machine will be provided with any necessary software, such as a standard web server, as appropriate to each Entry. Confederates will also communicate via dedicated host machines. Each host machine will be connected directly to one of a set of identical Judges' terminals. Host machines and Confederates will be located out of sight and earshot of the Judges.

22. Efforts will be made to secure the use of standard equipment and software packages as required by the Contestants, but this cannot be guaranteed. Where appropriate hardware or software cannot be provided by the organisers, Contestants will be required to provide hardware and/or suitably licensed software on-site. If this is not possible, the Entry will be eliminated, and may be replaced by a reserve Entry from the preliminary round or by a further Confederate.

23. Contestants chosen to participate in the final round may submit their Entries to the University of Surrey as programs recorded on standard machine-readable media (magnetic or optical storage) or electronically (via email, FTP, etc). Entries must be accompanied by adequate installation instructions and operating documentation. Final round Entries must be received in a working state by 15 September 2003 at the latest.

24. After their initial submission, Entries may be updated until 10 October 2003 at the latest. The University of Surrey will work with Contestants to install updated versions of Entries and advise Contestants on any problems found, but it is the Contestants' responsibility to ensure that Entries comply fully with the Official Rules.

25. It is not obligatory for Contestants to attend the final round of judging. University of Surrey personnel will be available to operate the Entries according to the documentation provided by the Contestants.

26. Appropriate steps will be taken to prevent the unauthorised duplication or publication of Contestants' entries. However, neither the University of Surrey nor any of its agents can guarantee absolute security. Contestants, by entering this Contest, confirm their understanding of this and agree to hold the Cambridge Center, the University of Surrey and their agents harmless should there be any unauthorised duplication or publication of Entries. Contestants who require absolute security will be allowed to operate their Entries and/or provide their own hardware on-site. However, all Entries must be fully compliant with the Official Rules by 10 October 2003.

27. Entries in the final round will be required to record the conversations as text files in the specified format [4]. The recordings will remain the property of the Cambridge Center, which will

also retain the copyright on transcripts or other representations of the recordings. By entering the contest the Contestants shall assign to the Cambridge Center copyright in the conversations recorded by the Entries and in the contribution to those conversations made by the Entries during the Contest.

28. Unless the Contestants agree otherwise, the University of Surrey will erase all Entries from the hardware after the Contest and will return or destroy, as requested, all machine-readable media submitted by Contestants and copies thereof.

29. To avoid giving Judges clues as to the nature of the Entries, all Entries must generate HTML documents that are visually identical when viewed with a standard web browser. The document format is specified in the form of an HTML template with placeholders for the data [5].

30. To avoid giving Judges clues as to the nature of the Entries, all Entries must include an intentional delay between the time an HTML form submission is received and the corresponding HTML document is returned. The duration of this delay must be at least five seconds, but may be longer.

### **Judging**

31. During judging, no constraints will be placed on the topics of conversation or on the Judges' or Confederates' utterances. As in any normal conversation, both participants have a role in determining the direction of the conversation and are free to decide what topics they do or do not wish to discuss.

32. If necessary, there will be two rounds of judging: a preliminary round and a final round. If eight or fewer Entries are submitted to the Contest, they will all go forward automatically to the final round. If more than eight Entries are submitted, a preliminary round of judging will take place to select eight Entries as finalists to compete in the final round, a real-time and simultaneous contest to be held on 18 October 2003 at the University of Surrey (date and location subject to change).

33. The preliminary round of judging will take place via the internet for web-enabled Entries. For the preliminary round, Entries need not comply with the interface requirements to be imposed for the final round. Contestants will be informed of a time period (several days) during which their entries will be judged, and they will be required to make their Entry available online during this period. Stand-alone Entries will be installed and judged on machines at the University of Surrey, or on the Judges' own machines.

34. A panel of preliminary round Judges will be recruited, and a chief Judge appointed. No Judge will be required to evaluate more than ten Entries. Each Entry will be judged by at least three independent Judges. After conversing with the Entries as many times and for as long as necessary to reach an opinion, each Judge will rank the allotted Entries in order from best to worst.

35. To assist the preliminary round Judges to produce their rankings, they will be issued with guidelines for assessment. These will be based on the Entries' ability to hold conversations and how human they seem, considering each conversation as a whole.

36. After preliminary round judging is complete, the Chief Judge will calculate the arithmetic mean (across Judges) of the ranks of each Entry. The Chief Judge will then order all the Entries by their mean rank. The top ranked Entries will go forward as finalists, with one or two Entries held in reserve in case a finalist drops out or is eliminated.

37. If there is any difficulty in selecting the finalists, a panel of three Judges headed by the Chief Judge may evaluate the Entries in question. The panel's decision shall be final.

38. The responses of each Entry must differ in essence from those of any other Entry. An input that elicits a wide variety of answers from different humans (for example, “What did you do last weekend?”) are expected to elicit a wide variety of answers from different Entries. If two or more Entries, in response to identical inputs of this type, are found consistently to differ only marginally from each other in wording or meaning, any or all of those Entries may be disqualified at the discretion of a panel of three Judges headed by the Chief Judge. The panel’s decision shall be final.

39. Finalists and reserves will be notified of the selection decision by 15 August 2003 at the latest.

40. At least five final round Judges will be recruited by the University of Surrey in consultation with the Cambridge Center. The aim will be to choose Judges who are well educated, who are fluent in English, who are capable typists, and who represent the community at large, rather than experts in psychology, linguistics, artificial intelligence, etc.

41. The following, their families and immediate associates are ineligible as final round Judges: Contestants, members of the Cambridge Center, members and agents of the University of Surrey directly connected with organising the Contest, members of the Contest’s steering group, preliminary round Judges.

42. Judges will have one or more opportunities to interact with each of the Entries and Confederates on the computer terminals available concurrently during the Contest. They will be informed that at least one of the terminals is connected to Confederates and that at least two of the terminals are connected to Entries.

43. If, in the opinion of the majority the Judges, an Entry is not compliant with the Official Rules, that Entry will be disqualified.

44. The Judges’ decision on all points will be final. The Cambridge Center, the University of Surrey and their agents accept no liability in connection with the Medal or Cash Award.

45. Judges will not be allowed to confer with each other or with spectators during final round judging. One or more referees may be present to ensure that this rule is obeyed.

46. Each Judge will be instructed to provide individual subjective ratings of the humanness of the responses of each conversational partner (Entry or Confederate) on the following scale:

*Was your conversational partner a human or a machine?*

- 0 Partner not accessible, or severe system malfunction
- 1 Definitely a machine
- 2 Probably a machine
- 3 Could be either a machine or a human; undecided
- 4 Probably a human
- 5 Definitely a human

Fractional scores (e.g. 3.25, 4.1) will be allowed.

47. When judging is complete, the ratings will be combined by calculating the arithmetic means of the individual Judges’ ratings of each Entry and Confederate. The resulting means will be sorted to produce an overall ranking. The highest ranked Entry will be the winner and will receive the Medal and Cash Award.

48. If no Confederate is ranked higher than the winning Entry (equal placing being permitted), the winning Entry will be awarded the Silver Medal and Cash Award; otherwise it will be awarded the Bronze Medal and Cash Award.

49. If the Silver Medal is awarded in any year, the text-only Contest will be discontinued and a modified Turing Test Contest including audio-visual input will be initiated in the following year, leading to the Gold Medal and Cash Award. To win the Gold Medal and Cash Award, an Entry must respond indistinguishably from a human when presented with text, audio and video input.

50. In the case of tied places, disqualification or any other matter of dispute connected with the final round judging, the Judges will confer together and attempt to reach a majority decision. If a majority cannot be obtained, the outcome will be decided by tossing a coin.

### **Confederates**

51. The Confederates must at all times converse in such a manner as to convince the judges that they are human. In general, Confederates should be honest and truthful in their responses. This rule does not in any way restrict the actual words or meanings of sentences used during the conversations, which are allowed to involve, for example, humorous asides and untruths about identity, where appropriate in the conversation. Confederates' conversations will be monitored by one or more referees to ensure that their conversations comply with this rule.

52. The following, their families and immediate associates are ineligible as Confederates: Contestants, members of the Cambridge Center, members and agents of the University of Surrey directly connected with organising the Contest, members of the Contest's steering group, preliminary round Judges.

53. One or more referees may be present to limit communications of the Confederates.

### **Medals and Awards**

54. The Bronze Medal will be accompanied by a Cash Award of US\$2,000 in 2003.

55. If there are no Entries in the 2003 Loebner Prize Contest, the US\$2,000 Cash Award will be added to that for 2004, making the Cash Award US\$4,000 in 2004.

56. The Silver Medal will be accompanied by a Cash Award of US\$25,000.

57. The Gold Medal will be accompanied by a Cash Award of US\$100,000.

58. Non-cash awards will be awarded to the Entries ranked second and third to the winner.

59. The Cambridge Center reserves the right to investigate and verify the authenticity of any winning Entry. If the winning Entry is disqualified the appropriate Medal and Award will be awarded to the Entry placed second.

60. If, in any given year, a publicly available open source Entry entered by the University of Surrey or the Cambridge Center wins the Bronze Medal but not the Silver Medal, then no Medal will be awarded that year and the prize money will be added to the prize money for the next year.

61. If, in any given year, a publicly available open source Entry entered by the University of Surrey or the Cambridge Center wins the Silver Medal or the Gold Medal, then the Medal and the Cash Award will be awarded to the body responsible the development of that Entry. If no such body can be identified, or if there is disagreement among two or more claimants, the Medal and the Cash Award will be held in trust until such time as the Entry may legally possess, either in the United States of America or in the venue of the contest, the Cash Award and Gold Medal in its own right.

## References

- [1] Turing, A.M., “Computing machinery and intelligence”, *Mind*, vol. 59, pp. 433–460 (1950)
- [2] Specimen Perl CGI script:  
see <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/loebner/specimen.html>
- [3] Official entry form:  
see <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/loebner/entryform.html>
- [4] Definition of logging requirements:  
see <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/loebner/logging.html>
- [5] HTML template:  
see <http://www.surrey.ac.uk/dwrc/loebner/template.html>

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