

Home Page of The Loebner Prize in Artificial Intelligence

"The First Turing Test"



Loebner Prize Gold Medal

(Solid 18 carat, not gold-plated like the Olympic "Gold" medals)

What is the Loebner Prize?

The Loebner Prize for artificial intelligence (AI) is the first formal instantiation of a [Turing Test](#). The test is named after [Alan Turing](#) the brilliant British mathematician. Among his many accomplishments was basic research in computing science. In 1950, in the article [Computing Machinery and Intelligence](#) which appeared in the philosophy journal Mind, Alan Turing asked the question "Can a Machine Think?" He answered in the affirmative, but a central question was: "If a computer could think, how could we tell?" Turing's suggestion was, that if the responses from the computer were indistinguishable from that of a human, the computer could be said to be thinking. This field is generally known as natural language processing.

In 1990 [Hugh Loebner](#) agreed with The Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies to underwrite a contest designed to implement the Turing Test. Dr. Loebner pledged a Grand Prize of \$100,000 and a Gold Medal (pictured above) for the first computer whose responses were indistinguishable from a human's. Such a computer can be said "to think." Each year an annual prize of \$2000 and a bronze medal is awarded to the **most** human-like computer. The winner of the annual contest is the best entry relative to other entries that year, irrespective of how good it is in an absolute sense.

Further information on the development of the Loebner Prize and the reasons for its existence is available in Loebner's article [In Response](#) to the article [Lessons from a Restricted Turing Test](#) by Stuart Shieber.

The Loebner Prize is made possible by funding from [Crown Industries, Inc., of East Orange NJ.](#)

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[Information on the Loebner Prize 2010 Competition](#)

The 2010 Loebner Prize Competition in Artificial Intelligence will be held 23 October 2010 at California State University, Los Angeles. The Loebner Prize communications protocol will be used in the contest.

The Loebner Prize is an instantiation of the Turing Test. The 2010 competition will be the 20th running of the contest. A total of US\$ 5000 will be awarded to the 4 finalists as follows:

First Prize: \$3000 and the Bronze Annual Medal

Second Prize: \$1000

Third Prize: \$750

Fourth Prize: \$250.

At risk will be the \$25,000 Silver Medal Prize. .