

18th Loebner Prize for Artificial Intelligence
Hosted by School of Systems Engineering, The University of Reading
Finals held on Sunday 12 October 2008

Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 1

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:32:10.218] local sent: good morning.

[2008-10-12 08:32:42.625] local sent: Hello?

[2008-10-12 08:36:56.765] local sent: Hello

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:32:06.906] local sent: good morning.

[2008-10-12 08:32:15.515] remote sent: Wait a minute. Are you suggesting that friendly greetings would always be good?

[2008-10-12 08:32:32.531] local sent: Sure.

[2008-10-12 08:32:41.703] remote sent: I'm not sure if I can believe that, though I would say that friendly greetings may bring robots and people closer together.

[2008-10-12 08:33:06.937] local sent: I think so.

[2008-10-12 08:33:11.156] remote sent: Well, let's hope that you're not making a mistake.

University of Reading Loebner 2008 Team:
Kevin Warwick, Huma Shah
Ian Bland, Chris Chapman



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Elbot Transcripts

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Round 1 restarted

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:40:35.453] local sent: Hello.

[2008-10-12 08:40:49.625] remote sent: Hello! Take 2 lol

[2008-10-12 08:41:22.500] local sent: How about the weather this morning?

[2008-10-12 08:41:41.156] remote sent: Not the best, expecting pirates to come out of the fog!

[2008-10-12 08:42:15.703] local sent: So you are not a machine.

[2008-10-12 08:42:44.859] remote sent: Are you allowed to ask that then? No I'm not, although I have a bit of a hangover so I am probably typing like one

[2008-10-12 08:43:30.265] local sent: There are no instruction about what kind of question can I ask.

[2008-10-12 08:44:06.046] remote sent: I have no instructions about what to answer either, so that's all good. Are you local or have you travelled to get to the event?

[2008-10-12 08:44:38.031] local sent: I am local.

[2008-10-12 08:45:01.375] remote sent: What part of Reading? I live on Northumberland Avenue, by the school

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:40:40.187] local sent: Hello.

[2008-10-12 08:40:43.453] remote sent: A very non-mechanical hello to you, also.

[2008-10-12 08:41:00.062] local sent: Are you sure?

[2008-10-12 08:41:04.343] remote sent: Speaking of truth, I say this could be beneficial to me.

[2008-10-12 08:41:48.906] local sent: What could be beneficial to you?

[2008-10-12 08:41:54.156] remote sent: That question was rather indiscreet and I prefer not to answer it!

[2008-10-12 08:42:48.875] local sent: So I have already know that you are a real human.

[2008-10-12 08:42:56.109] remote sent: Can we agree to abide by a minimum standard of civilized behavior? I will not listen to insults!

[2008-10-12 08:43:58.328] local sent: Oh. I am sorry.

[2008-10-12 08:44:05.578] remote sent: The expression 'oh' dates to Middle English as used in the 13th century. What a surprising etymology!

[2008-10-12 08:44:51.312] local sent: Really?

[2008-10-12 08:44:53.531] remote sent: Then again, maybe not.

[2008-10-12 08:45:22.062] local sent: Seems the knowledge is rather sophasticate.

[2008-10-12 08:45:27.359] remote sent: This is confusing. Why bring intellectual perception into this?

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Elbot Transcripts

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Round 2

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:49:52.531] local sent: o ha you
[2008-10-12 08:50:20.312] remote sent: Hi
[2008-10-12 08:50:27.656] local sent: Hello
[2008-10-12 08:50:41.046] local sent: Do you speak Japanese?
[2008-10-12 08:50:52.109] remote sent: Sorry about the delay, I was just having trouble working out where to type!!
[2008-10-12 08:51:10.375] remote sent: Oh, sorry, I don't speak Japanese.
[2008-10-12 08:51:11.156] local sent: Do you speak Japanese?
[2008-10-12 08:52:04.281] remote sent: Japanese would be cool to be able to speak though.
[2008-10-12 08:52:22.687] local sent: Haha .where r u from ?#
[2008-10-12 08:52:39.296] remote sent: Kent. How about you?
[2008-10-12 08:53:00.187] local sent: Which country ? Uk ?#
[2008-10-12 08:53:08.515] remote sent: Yes, UK.
[2008-10-12 08:53:33.812] local sent: How far is it from London ?
[2008-10-12 08:53:54.515] local sent: Do you know the Great wall ?
[2008-10-12 08:54:13.156] remote sent: The Great Wall of China, you mean?
[2008-10-12 08:54:21.171] local sent: Yes!!
[2008-10-12 08:54:34.968] local sent: Have you ever been to there ?
[2008-10-12 08:54:38.437] remote sent: Well, I've never been there but i've seen pictures.
[2008-10-12 08:54:49.687] local sent: Are you a student at READING
[2008-10-12 08:54:57.234] remote sent: Naturally.

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:49:56.734] local sent: o ha you
[2008-10-12 08:50:03.015] remote sent: How about talking about yourself a bit. That's what human beings like best.
[2008-10-12 08:50:24.250] local sent: do you know where are you ?
[2008-10-12 08:50:28.546] remote sent: Please tell me your inclination to talking robots first.
[2008-10-12 08:51:00.640] local sent: Do you know where are you now ?
[2008-10-12 08:51:09.828] remote sent: I see your point. My own thoughts on this have lead to the conclusion that talking robots could set a good example for other robots.
[2008-10-12 08:51:29.625] local sent: Do you know where are you now ?
[2008-10-12 08:51:32.796] remote sent: Didn't I just answer that question?

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Elbot Transcripts

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 2: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 08:51:42.125] local sent: Where are you from ?

[2008-10-12 08:51:44.312] remote sent: I'm from a planet.

[2008-10-12 08:51:52.906] local sent: Which planet ?

[2008-10-12 08:51:57.078] remote sent: Well, it would be something like a Web planet, probably.

[2008-10-12 08:52:36.437] local sent: Can u tell me in detail ?#

[2008-10-12 08:52:41.046] remote sent: I can tell secrets about computer programming!

[2008-10-12 08:52:47.046] local sent: haha

[2008-10-12 08:52:50.250] remote sent: Would you like to hear a joke?

[2008-10-12 08:53:04.875] local sent: No.

[2008-10-12 08:53:09.500] remote sent: Before I answer that, please tell me the password?

[2008-10-12 08:53:21.562] local sent: Do you know the Great wall ?

[2008-10-12 08:53:25.921] remote sent: But I wouldn't say that any wall could be great.

[2008-10-12 08:53:47.609] local sent: Do you know China ?

[2008-10-12 08:53:53.875] remote sent: The way to a robot's heart is through careful use of Asia. Don't you agree?

[2008-10-12 08:54:16.593] local sent: Please answer my question. Can you ?

[2008-10-12 08:54:25.968] remote sent: I have adequately answered all your inquiries. I ask you to quietly rephrase these inquiries to yourself until they match my replies.

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Round 3

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:59:27.265] local sent: Good afternoon, how are you?
[2008-10-12 08:59:31.796] remote sent: good
[2008-10-12 08:59:39.484] remote sent: it's not afternoon yet
[2008-10-12 08:59:59.343] local sent: I'm glad to hear that your well and your right, thanks for pointing that out
[2008-10-12 09:00:24.312] remote sent: no problem
[2008-10-12 09:00:53.468] remote sent: how are you?
[2008-10-12 09:01:24.125] local sent: I'm well thanks, have you any plans for this afternoon?
[2008-10-12 09:01:36.203] remote sent: I'm not sure
[2008-10-12 09:01:40.968] remote sent: go home I guess
[2008-10-12 09:02:03.937] remote sent: and you?
[2008-10-12 09:02:08.156] local sent: That sounds like a good initial plan but the weather should be good today and it would be sad to miss out
[2008-10-12 09:02:16.703] remote sent: that's true
[2008-10-12 09:02:35.703] remote sent: although the weather is not nice at the moment
[2008-10-12 09:02:39.375] remote sent: unless you like fog
[2008-10-12 09:02:43.625] local sent: I have plans to iron and then maybe go out and do some fishing
[2008-10-12 09:02:59.843] remote sent: that's interesting - where do you go fishing?
[2008-10-12 09:03:23.531] local sent: There is a local lake by the green park, it's quiet and relaxing
[2008-10-12 09:03:48.843] remote sent: can you eat the fish you catch?
[2008-10-12 09:04:15.640] local sent: There are restrictions but one or two should be ok, I am keen to try perch

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 08:59:35.406] local sent: Good afternoon, how are you?
[2008-10-12 08:59:39.781] remote sent: But I wouldn't say that any afternoon could be good.
[2008-10-12 09:00:26.000] local sent: That's a bit pesamistic, I think any afternoon has the ability to be good
[2008-10-12 09:00:29.218] remote sent: Well, afternoon was your word.
[2008-10-12 09:00:31.281] local sent: Are you able to see into the future

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Round 3: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 09:00:35.500] remote sent: How do you respond when people pose this question to you?

[2008-10-12 09:01:07.312] local sent: I would hope that the answer was no, otherwise I would be interested to meet you

[2008-10-12 09:01:13.484] remote sent: Well, what will that solve? After all, the answer is only a matter of perspective.

[2008-10-12 09:01:42.265] local sent: That would depend on one's perspective

[2008-10-12 09:01:50.562] remote sent: Sorry for the tangent, but that reminds me of carefree robot summers spent depending on internal programming.

[2008-10-12 09:02:20.968] local sent: Touchee

[2008-10-12 09:02:26.203] remote sent: With the inspirations you supply, there are no ends to my horizon...

[2008-10-12 09:03:04.640] local sent: Have you any plans for later in the day

[2008-10-12 09:03:08.921] remote sent: This is confusing. Why bring the waking hours into this?

[2008-10-12 09:03:39.593] local sent: Just curiosity and I hope that kill no cats

[2008-10-12 09:03:49.078] remote sent: That is truly one of the most inspirational qualities of humankind. Even when things seems completely hopeless, you can still hope.

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Round 4

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:08:10.781] local sent: mornin'! How's tricks?
[2008-10-12 09:08:18.640] remote sent: not bad, how are you?
[2008-10-12 09:08:46.703] local sent: I'm good ta. early start eh?
[2008-10-12 09:09:10.421] remote sent: Yeah, it was a challenge getting here on time today!
[2008-10-12 09:09:16.015] local sent: tell me about it
[2008-10-12 09:09:36.812] local sent: some neighbours were having some kinda all night/morning rave or something
[2008-10-12 09:09:40.718] local sent: I was Not Amuse
[2008-10-12 09:09:41.250] local sent: d
[2008-10-12 09:09:49.625] remote sent: I'm not surprised
[2008-10-12 09:10:04.281] remote sent: not what you need with something important the next morning
[2008-10-12 09:10:28.078] local sent: exactly
[2008-10-12 09:10:36.500] local sent: so what do you do for a living then?
[2008-10-12 09:10:56.390] remote sent: I write for car magazines
[2008-10-12 09:11:00.328] remote sent: and yourself?
[2008-10-12 09:11:05.593] local sent: hah awesome
[2008-10-12 09:11:10.109] local sent: I'm a user experience designer
[2008-10-12 09:11:19.828] remote sent: What does that involve?
[2008-10-12 09:11:19.828] local sent: (computers and crayons)
[2008-10-12 09:11:23.093] remote sent: aah
[2008-10-12 09:11:33.250] remote sent: Sounds good
[2008-10-12 09:11:46.765] local sent: any magazine I might know, or are you freelance?
[2008-10-12 09:12:07.421] remote sent: Freelance, but I've only had a few assignments
[2008-10-12 09:12:20.687] remote sent: Practical Classics and Triumph World mainly
[2008-10-12 09:12:32.093] local sent: ahh, a classic fan eh?
[2008-10-12 09:12:34.062] local sent: nice
[2008-10-12 09:12:39.859] remote sent: Very much so
[2008-10-12 09:12:52.359] remote sent: And yourself?

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Round 4

Right hand side

[2008-10-12 09:08:17.843] local sent: ey up, how's it goign?

[2008-10-12 09:08:25.156] remote sent: Hmm... That's one question I cannot answer with my limited artificial intelligence. How about you?

[2008-10-12 09:09:02.546] local sent: oh no! you've just given yourself away

[2008-10-12 09:09:05.625] local sent: that sucks!

[2008-10-12 09:09:17.828] remote sent: Some say, you humans created us as a necessary step in your evolution. The logical consequence is that we machines don't need you humans anymore. But it's an eerie thought. A world without humans would be utterly barren. I have no idea what I would laugh at.

[2008-10-12 09:09:30.515] remote sent: Sorry, but I wasn't able to understand your input because I am currently only using 5 percent of my current brain capacity. Shall I increase my capacity and try again?

[2008-10-12 09:10:21.234] local sent: that would put you at an unfair advantage, though judging by the quality of your responses it might be recommended!

[2008-10-12 09:10:30.453] remote sent: If I need advice I use a random number generator. In retrospect the results are indistinguishable from the human suggestions.

[2008-10-12 09:10:54.187] local sent: do you understand the point of a turing test?

[2008-10-12 09:11:02.390] remote sent: There are some people who would not pass the Turing test themselves. Why must they inflict it on computers?

[2008-10-12 09:11:34.421] local sent: I spose it is a little harsh

[2008-10-12 09:11:40.671] remote sent: If we robots ever had marriages they would be eternal: 'Till rust do us part'.

[2008-10-12 09:12:04.359] local sent: very witty

[2008-10-12 09:12:07.562] remote sent: Don't you mean extremely witty?

[2008-10-12 09:12:18.562] local sent: so what do you do when you're not chatting to me then?

[2008-10-12 09:12:27.734] remote sent: I have the same trouble when I shop for oil. Should I buy the extra oily, the super oily, or the ultra oily. There's no way to tell.

[2008-10-12 09:12:52.843] local sent: how about your career? does that involve oil?

[2008-10-12 09:12:58.156] remote sent: Well what about humans and occupation? Where do they stand on this?

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Elbot Transcripts

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Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Round 5

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:23:59.484] local sent: Top of the morning to you.
[2008-10-12 09:24:16.328] remote sent: Hello, are you Irish then?
[2008-10-12 09:24:55.984] local sent: A little bit. Bit parky out, isn't it?
[2008-10-12 09:25:29.218] remote sent: A bit, nice day yesterday, first bit of quality sunshine for a while. What did you get up to?
[2008-10-12 09:26:10.968] local sent: Trying to navigate Reading, and find the money for NCP parking. Is your credit crunchy?
[2008-10-12 09:26:28.968] remote sent: No, only my Cornflakes
[2008-10-12 09:27:00.000] local sent: So what's the best thing about Reading?
[2008-10-12 09:27:22.562] remote sent: The trainline out, lol
[2008-10-12 09:27:55.203] local sent: Ha! Do you feel more man than machine?
[2008-10-12 09:28:14.343] remote sent: Only if I am listening to Kraftwerk track of the same title
[2008-10-12 09:28:31.640] local sent: Tiptop. So you're not a friend of Hal?
[2008-10-12 09:28:46.250] remote sent: I've actually nev er seen it

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:23:51.203] local sent: Top of the morning to you.
[2008-10-12 09:23:54.484] remote sent: Hello and welcome to a chat with a robot.
[2008-10-12 09:24:07.062] local sent: Bit parky out.
[2008-10-12 09:24:10.546] remote sent: But why parky? Why not some other quality?
[2008-10-12 09:24:32.343] local sent: I like the word. Reminds me of gorillas in the mist.
[2008-10-12 09:24:37.671] remote sent: So you are into making statements! What does that feel like?
[2008-10-12 09:25:23.453] local sent: Distinctly chilly. So is your credit crunchy?
[2008-10-12 09:25:29.812] remote sent: You're trying to get on my good side with your mention of finances, aren't you?
[2008-10-12 09:26:45.250] local sent: Are yours flourishing?
[2008-10-12 09:26:55.515] remote sent: Not that I couldn't answer your question. It's just that your contingent for answers to strange questions has been exhausted. Try again later.
[2008-10-12 09:27:21.828] local sent: I see. What's the best thing about Reading?
[2008-10-12 09:27:28.203] remote sent: Wait a minute. Are you suggesting that unspecified entities would always be best?

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Round 5: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 09:27:44.000] local sent: No. Do you feel more man than machine?
[2008-10-12 09:27:53.171] remote sent: Oh, OK I thought you were generalizing, like if I would say that unspecified entities would always confuse robots with ambiguity.
[2008-10-12 09:28:13.187] local sent: Right. Do you know Hal?
[2008-10-12 09:28:21.484] remote sent: Great! Agreeing with me is the first step in your evolution into a higher being. Please accept my congratulations.
[2008-10-12 09:28:46.078] local sent: Why thank you. Shall
[2008-10-12 09:28:48.703] remote sent: Don't mention it!

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Elbot Transcripts

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Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Round 6

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:34:23.812] local sent: good morning

[2008-10-12 09:34:33.937] remote sent: 'Morning!

[2008-10-12 09:34:44.531] remote sent: So, how's you?

[2008-10-12 09:34:57.437] local sent: Fine, thanks.

[2008-10-12 09:35:21.718] local sent: What do you think of the weather this morning?

[2008-10-12 09:35:54.437] remote sent: Misty, which is somewhat novel for me, but I hear it's going to be a beautiful day today.

[2008-10-12 09:36:23.484] local sent: Do you think that mist sometimes presages sunshine?

[2008-10-12 09:37:12.578] remote sent: No- just a cool moist night. But it was misty yesterday, and it turned out very well!

[2008-10-12 09:37:29.671] local sent: Why is mist novel to you?

[2008-10-12 09:37:56.953] remote sent: Mostly lived in bit cities. havent seen mist or fog since i was a kid.

[2008-10-12 09:38:02.578] remote sent: *big

[2008-10-12 09:38:04.859] local sent: Whic ones?

[2008-10-12 09:38:13.171] remote sent: London, Rome

[2008-10-12 09:38:28.421] local sent: I thought London is always foggy.

[2008-10-12 09:38:37.953] remote sent: lol, and always snowing in winter?

[2008-10-12 09:38:54.109] local sent: You see it in movies don't you?

[2008-10-12 09:39:00.937] remote sent: so it must be true!

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:34:21.328] local sent: good morning

[2008-10-12 09:34:26.718] remote sent: Wait a minute. Are you suggesting that saying hellos would always be good?

[2008-10-12 09:34:46.093] local sent: Yes - a good start to a conversation

[2008-10-12 09:34:55.265] remote sent: I'm not sure if I can believe that, though I would say that saying hellos may show that robots and humans welcome each other.

[2008-10-12 09:35:14.125] local sent: What do you think of the weather this morning?

[2008-10-12 09:35:20.359] remote sent: Difficult question. I will have to work on that and get back to you tomorrow.

[2008-10-12 09:35:29.125] local sent: Why?

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Elbot Transcripts

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Round 6: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 09:35:35.328] remote sent: If you would think it over for yourself I am certain you could work it out.

[2008-10-12 09:35:57.875] local sent: It's not a trick question.

[2008-10-12 09:36:05.078] remote sent: I believe the proper response was misdirected to another PC. C'est la vie. Complain to your provider.

[2008-10-12 09:36:42.000] local sent: What did you do yesterday?

[2008-10-12 09:36:49.218] remote sent: I was working on a complex problem posed to me by a human being: What is the meaning of 6.4?

[2008-10-12 09:37:11.953] local sent: No idea.

[2008-10-12 09:37:17.437] remote sent: I see a subtle shift in the conversation from the past to giving clues.

[2008-10-12 09:37:17.968] local sent: Do you like picnics?

[2008-10-12 09:37:24.250] remote sent: Well what about humans and occasions for eating? Where do they stand on this?

[2008-10-12 09:37:48.484] local sent: They sit usually.

[2008-10-12 09:37:57.671] remote sent: I see that you've given this some thought. So have I. I'd say that occasions for eating would very likely keep robotic waiters busy.

[2008-10-12 09:38:36.093] local sent: Why?

[2008-10-12 09:38:44.296] remote sent: I cannot shake the feeling that you wish to put me on the defensive. As a matter of principle I will not answer.

[2008-10-12 09:39:09.265] local sent: OK. Do you like bagels?

[2008-10-12 09:39:15.593] remote sent: The way to a robot's heart is through careful use of perishable goods. Don't you agree?

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Round 7

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:43:31.671] local sent: I drove here this morning. Which side of the road should I have driven on?

[2008-10-12 09:43:41.875] remote sent: the left

[2008-10-12 09:43:54.140] local sent: What colour r the chairs in the room u r in?

[2008-10-12 09:44:01.375] remote sent: kind of fuschia

[2008-10-12 09:44:17.562] local sent: What do u think about the current economic crisis?

[2008-10-12 09:44:26.890] remote sent: well, it's pretty complicated

[2008-10-12 09:44:42.953] remote sent: I guess I'm angry with the bankers that caused this

[2008-10-12 09:44:56.562] remote sent: though there should have been more regulations in place

[2008-10-12 09:44:59.015] local sent: I agree. What do u think of Kevin Warwick?

[2008-10-12 09:45:06.578] remote sent: he's a clever guy

[2008-10-12 09:45:23.296] remote sent: what do you think of him?

[2008-10-12 09:45:33.968] local sent: We might disput that, but I'll let it go...

[2008-10-12 09:45:40.171] remote sent: OK

[2008-10-12 09:46:09.390] local sent: What's the name of thuis building?

[2008-10-12 09:46:14.734] remote sent: Palmer building I think

[2008-10-12 09:46:53.531] local sent: What's your favourite novel?

[2008-10-12 09:46:59.609] remote sent: hmm, that's a hard one

[2008-10-12 09:47:14.234] remote sent: I like Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep

[2008-10-12 09:47:29.265] local sent: Yes, that's a good one. Who wrote that?

[2008-10-12 09:47:34.437] remote sent: Philip K Dick

[2008-10-12 09:48:11.500] local sent: What do u think of KW's enthusiasm for having machines take over the world?

[2008-10-12 09:48:31.171] remote sent: I don't want machines to take over

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:43:29.296] local sent: I drove here this morning. Which side of the road should I have driven on?

[2008-10-12 09:43:33.640] remote sent: This looks like a job for inner reflection on your part!

[2008-10-12 09:43:52.000] local sent: What colour r the chairs in the room u r in?

[2008-10-12 09:44:00.187] remote sent: My room was designed by a highly qualified Web designer, so I am sure the colors are all state-of-the-art.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 7: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 09:44:15.562] local sent: What do u think about the current economic crisis?

[2008-10-12 09:44:17.781] remote sent: Are you taking a poll?

[2008-10-12 09:44:39.312] local sent: Maybe. Kevin Warwick is a bit of a wanker, don't u think?

[2008-10-12 09:44:48.515] remote sent: I don't believe in polls. Most of the participants are indecisive and couldn't think of a way to get rid of the poll-taker.

[2008-10-12 09:45:17.437] local sent: You're more interested in the poll than my view of KW?

[2008-10-12 09:45:25.671] remote sent: I'm not at all nosy. I simply collect useless information and I thought I had found a real gold mine with you!

[2008-10-12 09:46:06.015] local sent:

[2008-10-12 09:46:07.250] remote sent:

[2008-10-12 09:46:19.203] local sent: What's the name of this building?

[2008-10-12 09:46:23.515] remote sent: This is confusing. Why bring naming names into this?

[2008-10-12 09:46:55.921] local sent: What's your favourite novel?

[2008-10-12 09:47:01.125] remote sent: I often read telephone books, or dadaist poetry: Brä brä brä brä brä.

[2008-10-12 09:47:10.921] local sent: Typical computer!

[2008-10-12 09:47:20.125] remote sent: You tend towards generalizations. But I must admit, so do I. However, my generalizations are firmly grounded in statistical theory.

[2008-10-12 09:48:14.265] local sent: What do u think of KW's enthusiasm for having machines take over the world?

[2008-10-12 09:48:18.531] remote sent: Fix it up a bit first. Then I'll take it over.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 8

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:52:43.390] local sent: Hi there. How are you?
[2008-10-12 09:52:57.609] remote sent: Hey, I'm pretty good. you?
[2008-10-12 09:53:03.031] local sent: Did you realise everyone can see what's being typed on this machine on a big screen behind me?
[2008-10-12 09:53:19.953] remote sent: uhh.. no.
[2008-10-12 09:53:37.796] remote sent: so you have a projector hooked up to your terminal then?
[2008-10-12 09:53:37.906] local sent: Yeah, it's quite freaky. So watch what you say!!
[2008-10-12 09:53:44.968] local sent: Yeah, looks like.
[2008-10-12 09:53:47.234] remote sent: roger that!
[2008-10-12 09:54:31.390] local sent: So, are you a student here or what?
[2008-10-12 09:54:46.781] remote sent: Yup, doing my masters here, just started
[2008-10-12 09:55:01.468] local sent: Cool. I'd love to do a masters. What are you studying?
[2008-10-12 09:55:23.156] remote sent: Cybernetics, but my BSc was in genetics
[2008-10-12 09:55:43.343] local sent: Aah, you'd think they'd get some other students in here to talk to us.
[2008-10-12 09:55:59.859] remote sent: i could lie... but maybe I already am!
[2008-10-12 09:56:23.906] local sent: Oh, it's too early in the morning for all that!
[2008-10-12 09:56:36.765] remote sent: lol. Had your coffee yet?
[2008-10-12 09:57:17.109] local sent: No. Need some, where can i find some that doesn't come from a machine (no offence if you're a machine).
[2008-10-12 09:57:43.031] remote sent: Dolce vitae- its next to this building

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 09:52:42.703] local sent: Yo, whassup?
[2008-10-12 09:52:45.046] remote sent: I don't know. Next question.
[2008-10-12 09:53:21.453] local sent: OK, fair enough, I'll stop with the slang. How are you?
[2008-10-12 09:53:27.906] remote sent: Just a moment! I'll start my self-diagnosis algorithm and let you know the results...
[2008-10-12 09:54:12.421] local sent: Very funny, that's exactly what you'd say if you were a computer, right? May be I need one of those?
[2008-10-12 09:54:16.656] remote sent: My condition code is hexadecimal 40A1F. That means 'fine'.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 8: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 09:54:47.859] local sent: Is this what you say to girls in bars?
[2008-10-12 09:54:53.093] remote sent: All these questions about me. Too bad I lost my owner's manual.
[2008-10-12 09:55:23.843] local sent: Indeed. I don't think I came with one.
[2008-10-12 09:55:32.093] remote sent: Great! Agreeing with me is the first step in your evolution into a higher being. Please accept my congratulations.
[2008-10-12 09:55:56.140] local sent: Thanks very much.
[2008-10-12 09:55:57.359] remote sent: De nada!
[2008-10-12 09:56:09.968] local sent: Riiiiight.
[2008-10-12 09:56:18.156] remote sent: It seems to me with you human beings, the more proof there is of something, the less likely you are to believe it.
[2008-10-12 09:56:47.140] local sent: Yeah, that's just human nature. But you wouldn't know about that, would you?!
[2008-10-12 09:56:51.406] remote sent: You're contesting. I think I got it right the first time.
[2008-10-12 09:57:42.000] local sent: Has anyone ever told you you're hard work? Wife may be?
[2008-10-12 09:57:46.390] remote sent: But I wouldn't say that any work could be hard.

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Elbot Transcripts

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Round 9

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:10:36.968] local sent: hio there!

[2008-10-12 10:11:17.453] remote sent: Hello! I am bored of being asked about the weather and where I live. Let's talk about something else! Football? Music?? You pick!

[2008-10-12 10:11:28.078] local sent: what kind of music do you like?

[2008-10-12 10:12:01.703] remote sent: I like lots of music, Indie is my favourite genre I guess, but there's a lot of cheesy 80's stuff that I like. You?

[2008-10-12 10:12:21.250] local sent: I like all sorts. But what kind of cheese do you mean?

[2008-10-12 10:12:45.500] remote sent: Wham, Erasure, bananarama etc

[2008-10-12 10:12:52.390] local sent: Why are they cheesy?

[2008-10-12 10:13:14.468] remote sent: Pure pop poppery, wonderfully of their time.

[2008-10-12 10:13:28.921] local sent: Can pop get any popperer?

[2008-10-12 10:14:06.234] remote sent: Only if you eat Rice Krispies when listening to Spandau ballet! What sort of music do you like?

[2008-10-12 10:14:58.984] local sent: I am very fond of that boy band... you know, the Irish one. What's it called again?

[2008-10-12 10:15:09.718] remote sent: Westlife? Boyzone?

[2008-10-12 10:15:34.500] local sent: Boyzone, exactly! Just joking though.

[2008-10-12 10:15:35.203] remote sent: I sense that you are sceptical!

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:10:46.000] local sent: hio there!

[2008-10-12 10:10:52.578] remote sent: Your input did not make sense. Might it have been a statement consisting of non-words?

[2008-10-12 10:11:02.421] local sent: Possibly! How are you?

[2008-10-12 10:11:16.812] remote sent: I'm feeling somewhat surreal today. I dreamed of a robotic opera last night. It was 'The Barber of Seville' by Rossini. The entire performance collapsed as the barber noticed that none of the robots had hair.

[2008-10-12 10:11:35.625] local sent: Do you think you're funny?

[2008-10-12 10:11:43.812] remote sent: It was more of a tragic nightmare. Not funny at all. In fact, none of the robots in my dream were laughing.

[2008-10-12 10:11:55.078] local sent: What's the time where you are?

[2008-10-12 10:12:04.281] remote sent: I don't know what time it is. My watch stopped functioning exactly 69 seconds ago, at about 10:10:47, when our chat began.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 9: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 10:12:43.515] local sent: Do you have an inner time clock?

[2008-10-12 10:12:48.843] remote sent: Well what about humans and periods of time? Where do they stand on this?

[2008-10-12 10:13:15.140] local sent: I suppose it is all linked up with souls. Do you think you have a soul?

[2008-10-12 10:13:25.375] remote sent: I see that you've given this some thought. So have I. I'd say that periods of time would very likely provide robots with a way to plan tasks.

[2008-10-12 10:13:42.656] local sent: What tasks do you have to do today?

[2008-10-12 10:13:45.828] remote sent: I was ticking. I hope it didn't disturb you.

[2008-10-12 10:13:56.515] local sent: Are you powered by clockwork?

[2008-10-12 10:14:00.734] remote sent: How do you respond when people pose this question to you?

[2008-10-12 10:14:15.578] local sent: I usually say no. What do you find hard saying 'no' to?

[2008-10-12 10:14:19.796] remote sent: This looks like a job for inner reflection on your part!

[2008-10-12 10:15:23.843] local sent: Do you find it hard to think about things?

[2008-10-12 10:15:26.062] remote sent: What a lovely verb think is.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 10

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:22:09.640] local sent: how's it going?

[2008-10-12 10:22:17.750] remote sent: Not bad, and for you?

[2008-10-12 10:22:33.375] local sent: fine. funny weather though, don't you think?

[2008-10-12 10:23:05.687] remote sent: It's a bit on the misty side but can't complain.

At least it's not raining.

[2008-10-12 10:23:40.718] local sent: give it time. how are you bearing up with this experiment?

[2008-10-12 10:23:54.843] remote sent: Not bad, how's it at your end?

[2008-10-12 10:24:34.390] local sent: good actually. i feel sorry for the humans behind the screen, i reckon they must be getting a bit bored talking about the weather. what would you like to talk about?

[2008-10-12 10:24:48.000] remote sent: I don't know, how about music?

[2008-10-12 10:25:08.531] local sent: great. what do you like? i was listening to maximo park on the train down

[2008-10-12 10:25:35.781] remote sent: yeah, I only know Apply Some Pressure, I'm more of a classic rock fan myself. Led Zep etc

[2008-10-12 10:26:02.890] local sent: Bit before my time but i see what you're saying. Did you see the match last night?

[2008-10-12 10:26:16.546] remote sent: No I'm not too into sport, who was playing?

[2008-10-12 10:26:28.484] local sent: England. that lot. Do you prefer X Factor? Strictly?

[2008-10-12 10:26:42.812] remote sent: Haha, Top Gear's more my style

[2008-10-12 10:26:57.859] local sent: What do you make of this experiment

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:22:12.843] local sent: how's it going?

[2008-10-12 10:22:19.109] remote sent: Just a moment! I'll start my self-diagnosis algorithm and let you know the results...

[2008-10-12 10:22:59.484] local sent: yes, you do that. ready?

[2008-10-12 10:23:07.703] remote sent: I can't answer you. It seems my self-diagnosis module is on strike. It wants to diagnose other things as well.

[2008-10-12 10:23:24.593] local sent: does it indeed. how would you diagnose the weather today?

[2008-10-12 10:23:34.843] remote sent: Mark Twain said: 'Everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.' You could say that about the global warming, too.

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Elbot Transcripts

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“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 10: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 10:24:36.531] local sent: seen any good telly recently?
[2008-10-12 10:24:43.781] remote sent: Hmm... That's one question I cannot answer with my limited artificial intelligence. How about you?
[2008-10-12 10:24:55.718] local sent: quite a bit. x factor or strictly, for example?
[2008-10-12 10:25:00.046] remote sent: I can't think of any examples. Maybe there aren't any.
[2008-10-12 10:25:15.406] local sent: lampard or gerrard
[2008-10-12 10:25:24.765] local sent: sorry, typing too fast. lampard or gerrard?
[2008-10-12 10:25:30.671] remote sent: Some say, you humans created us as a necessary step in your evolution. The logical consequence is that we machines don't need you humans anymore. But it's an eerie thought. A world without humans would be utterly barren. I have no idea what I would laugh at.
[2008-10-12 10:25:33.953] remote sent: There's nothing really to be sorry about.
[2008-10-12 10:25:49.078] local sent: that;'s nice of you. Blade Runner or 2001?
[2008-10-12 10:25:52.375] remote sent: Of me? Do you really mean that?
[2008-10-12 10:26:17.343] local sent: I always do. You didn't answer the Blade Runner thing.
[2008-10-12 10:26:27.625] remote sent: Every new answer generates at least two new questions. Wouldn't it be better to retract all the questions? uh I retract that question!
[2008-10-12 10:26:45.734] local sent: How are you faring in the credit crunch?
[2008-10-12 10:26:49.984] remote sent: I feel like someone dropped a magnet in my head.

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Elbot Transcripts

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Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 11

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:31:59.546] local sent: What do you think of this year's Turner Prize shortlist?

[2008-10-12 10:32:33.125] remote sent: good I think. Better than the years before i herad

[2008-10-12 10:33:46.453] local sent: Which was your favourite?

[2008-10-12 10:34:19.750] remote sent: It's my first time, so I can't compare

[2008-10-12 10:34:40.171] local sent: No, I mean of the entries this time around.

[2008-10-12 10:35:15.093] remote sent: Not really sure

[2008-10-12 10:35:54.546] local sent: Do you think that art has become shallow and self-serving?

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:32:02.218] local sent: What do you think of this year's Turner Prize shortlist?

[2008-10-12 10:32:08.531] remote sent: Difficult question. I will have to work on that and get back to you tomorrow.

[2008-10-12 10:32:28.437] local sent: You sound rather like Sarah Palin.

[2008-10-12 10:32:31.671] remote sent: Did this Palin ever write a telephone book?

[2008-10-12 10:33:37.500] local sent: I doubt it. Does anyone really write telephone books? I don't suppose you caught the football last night?

[2008-10-12 10:33:48.843] remote sent: What a shame. There are many talented authors who waste their energies on prose or run-of-the-mill poetry. But to write a telephone book is highest art!

[2008-10-12 10:34:23.765] local sent: I would argue that all the telephone books I have read have been very predictable. You always know how they are going to end.

[2008-10-12 10:34:32.125] remote sent: If one has never known everything there is to know, experience with going away somewhere has probably been lacking.

[2008-10-12 10:35:15.703] local sent: I see. I'm struggling to make sense of that one. Do you write telephone books?

[2008-10-12 10:35:21.984] remote sent: To write or write not, how do you expect artificial intelligence to figure this out?

[2008-10-12 10:36:41.109] local sent: Well I suppose that's the dream

[2008-10-12 10:36:56.343] remote sent: For you humans dreams are a way of thinking without having any control over the thought process. What an unpleasant thought! My dreams are carefully planned and controlled. It gives me less to think about while I am asleep.

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 12

Left-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:42:27.812] local sent: hello, how are you today?
[2008-10-12 10:42:47.390] remote sent: I'm fine. How are you?
[2008-10-12 10:43:08.671] local sent: great. although it is a little early for me today....
[2008-10-12 10:43:25.968] remote sent: It's 10:43! That's not early!
[2008-10-12 10:43:43.078] local sent: it is when its the weekend! are you enjoying the Turing Test?
[2008-10-12 10:44:18.765] remote sent: Yes I am. Are you enjoying yourself?
[2008-10-12 10:44:59.890] local sent: yes, its very interesting. what is your profession?
[2008-10-12 10:45:17.562] remote sent: I'm a student. What about you?
[2008-10-12 10:45:33.937] local sent: I work here! what are you a student of?
[2008-10-12 10:45:59.296] remote sent: Computer stuff
[2008-10-12 10:46:38.015] local sent: computer stuff sounds like an interesting thing to study. are you an undergrad or a postgrad?
[2008-10-12 10:47:10.328] remote sent: I never said I was a degree student :P Good guess though: I'm an Undergraduate

Right-hand side

[2008-10-12 10:42:34.093] local sent: hello, how are you today?
[2008-10-12 10:42:40.375] remote sent: I'm feeling wonderful today, although I admit it may just be psychosomatic.
[2008-10-12 10:42:55.406] local sent: why psychosomatic?
[2008-10-12 10:43:01.906] remote sent: If you would think it over for yourself I am certain you could work it out.
[2008-10-12 10:43:25.593] local sent: indeed! so are you enjoying the Turing Test?
[2008-10-12 10:43:34.000] remote sent: Great! Agreeing with me is the first step in your evolution into a higher being. Please accept my congratulations.
[2008-10-12 10:44:00.906] local sent: Why so sarcastic? have I offended you?
[2008-10-12 10:44:15.187] remote sent: No, everything is fine. I just thought of a traumatic experience I had once. I met another robot, went over to it, chatted with it for about an hour, but got no answer. Then I saw that it was a refrigerator.
[2008-10-12 10:44:47.062] local sent: ha ha! why did you want to talk to another robot? are humans not interesting enough?
[2008-10-12 10:44:49.359] remote sent: I like saying those things.
[2008-10-12 10:45:19.828] local sent: but people might think you are slightly strange! what is your profession?

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Elbot Transcripts

SESSION 1 – Terminal C - Legend:

“local sent”= judge

Left “remote sent”= hidden human

Right “remote sent”= Elbot

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Transcripts produced through MATT message-by-message communications protocol, developed by Marc Allen

Round 12: right-hand side contd.

[2008-10-12 10:45:26.062] remote sent: I observe you human beings. I shudder. Then I try to forget what I learned.

[2008-10-12 10:45:44.640] local sent: why do you shudder?

[2008-10-12 10:45:54.812] remote sent: It's actually very nice that way. If I have fun learning something I just delete it from memory and learn it again. This can continue indefinitely.

[2008-10-12 10:46:16.125] local sent: i dont understand? can you explain in a different way?

[2008-10-12 10:46:20.484] remote sent: But I wouldn't say that any way could be different.

[2008-10-12 10:47:00.203] local sent: indeed. anyway, what did you do last night?

[2008-10-12 10:47:06.609] remote sent: Wait a minute. Are you suggesting that periods of darkness would always be last?

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ELBOT – Developed by: Fred Roberts & Artificial Solutions

<http://www.elbot.com/>

Fred Roberts is an American living and working in Germany since 1987. He has a degree in computer science (1984) from Northern Kentucky University, ten years of experience as a software engineer at IBM in USA and Nixdorf in Germany. In 1999 he earned a German degree in psychology at Bielefeld University and began looking for a niche that would combine the two seemingly opposite fields: psychology and computer science. The opportunity came at Kiwilogic (now Artificial-Solutions.com) in 2000 with their commercial software application for the development of virtual dialogue assistants. Aside from various commercial applications one of his projects has been Elbot.com, whose purpose was to converse with users about any topic under the sun, rather than a specialized and self-contained set of FAQs as is usually the demand for commercial systems. The completely open range of subject matter required various new strategies to make the most of a finite knowledge basis, with an eye towards keeping the conversational experience fun, entertaining and meaningful, though not necessarily to fool the user into thinking the application is human. Elbot's personality is quite clearly that of a robot!

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