

Computer Literacy 1 Practical Assignment 2 (October)

Artificial Intelligence!

In this assignment you are going to explore Artificial Intelligence (AI). All you have to do is to chat with an online Avatar. It's again a web-browser based assignment.

You might have read about 'Elbot' (<http://www.engadget.com/tag/Turingtest/>). He was in the BBC news last week and made quite an impression as apparently 3 judges who chatted with him thought he was human when indeed he is a computer. Your assignment will be to write down your conversation with Elbot (1/3 of marks) and an essay about your conversation (2/3 of marks)

Who is Elbot?

Elbot is an AI agent that is accessible with the help of any web-browser.

What does he do?

He's having a conversation with you.

So he's an interactive AI agent controlled by a computer and not by a human.

To start him you must push his red button. To have a conversation with Elbot you must type in sentences or questions in a text box (which pops up automatically after you pushed up his red button). This text is sent to Elbot and he creates a reply. He can also reply with questions to keep a conversation going.

Where can I find Elbot?

Here he is: <http://www.elbot.com/>

Your **assignment** will be a chat with Elbot.

Go to his website <http://www.elbot.com/> and push his red button. A new window will pop up and Elbot starts talking to you right away. You can answer whatever you like, but try to stay in context.

Write down your conversation with Elbot. Your conversation will consist of about 14 turns: meaning 7 turns for Elbot and 7 turns for you.

Example:

Elbot: Hello, I'm Elbot. But what does it all mean?

Susen: Hi Elbot. What does it all mean?

Elbot: That's it! It means what! I'm glad we finally know.

After you used Elbot, please write down your impression of him (in essay form).

Do you think he really could trick you into believing you were talking to a human?

Were his replies out of context or did they fit into your conversation?

He's mainly able to reply by picking up words from your text. Can you identify words he was picking up from your short conversation? If you can identify any of these keywords, write them down, and please check again if Elbot replied in context or if he just used some totally random answer.

Your **essay** should be about **400 - 450 words** long.

!!!Since the chat is in a separate window you need to be sure that your browser allows pop-up windows and doesn't block them!!!

Submission:

The following instructions should be followed exactly. Failure to do so will certainly lose you marks and may result in your assignment being lost.

You should hand in your assignment on paper at the ITO room 4.02 of Appleton Tower.

The office is open: Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 5.15pm, although closes from 11.00- 11.30am and between 1.00-2.00pm for lunch.

On the first page of your assignment it should say "CL1 prac1 submission" and your matric. number. Your essay should have a title at the top and be properly structured into paragraphs etc. with subheadings where appropriate. For the essay you should put your name and matric. number to left and right of the footer. In the centre of the footer you should put "Page m of n" where m is the page number and n is the total number of pages.

Deadline for submissions is 16.00 on Friday 7 November