



# A.L.I.C.E. AI Foundation

*Promoting the adoption and development of Alicebot and AIML free software.*

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

## A.L.I.C.E. Wins Loebner Prize Again!

Second-in-a-Row Victory for A.L.I.C.E.

**13 October 2001—London UK:** Today A.L.I.C.E. was awarded the bronze Loebner Prize medal for the second year in a row, at the annual competition based on the Turing Test, this year held at the London Science Museum. Once again, A.L.I.C.E. was ranked “most human” computer. In fact, one contest judge ranked A.L.I.C.E. higher than one of the humans “confederates”.

The Loebner Prize is an annual competition that challenges computer programs to convince human judges that the computer programs are actually people. The Prize contest was established in 1990 by Dr. Hugh Loebner, a renowned philanthropist.

The contest also includes “confederates”, who are intermingled with the chat bot contestants. One unusual aspect of today's contest was the use of only two human confederates. Last year's contest had four.

A.L.I.C.E. was created in 1995 by Dr. Richard S. Wallace, and has gone on to build up the largest free software bot community in history. Over 400 individuals around the world have contributed to development of A.L.I.C.E., the Alicebot software, and AIML, the HTML-like Artificial Intelligence Markup Language that makes it possible for anyone to create a bot for free.

In another unusual aspect of the contest, Hugh Loebner himself served as one of the judges. The programs and confederates were ranked on a scale of 0-25. Each judge could assign five points to each person or robot. One judge, in fact, ranked A.L.I.C.E. higher than one of the humans.

A.L.I.C.E.'s “most human computer” ranking this year was achieved with an even higher margin of victory than in the 2001 contest.

This contest was also significant because it was the first Loebner competition open to the public, and the first one held in Turing's home country.

Says Wallace, “The Science Museum venue was very historic. There you can see Babbage's Differential Engine, Turing's ACE Computer, and Gray Walter's Turtle, one of the first mobile robots, as well as numerous other artifacts of technology, space, medicine, and industry.”

A number of friends and supporters turned out to share the day with Wallace, including AIML botmasters and other bot enthusiasts.

#### **ABOUT RICHARD WALLACE:**

Dr. Richard S. Wallace is the Chairman of the Board and co-founder of the A.L.I.C.E. Artificial Intelligence Foundation. He is the author of Artificial Intelligence Markup Language (AIML) and Botmaster of A.L.I.C.E. (Artificial Linguistic Internet Computer Entity). Dr. Wallace's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *London Guardian*, *New York Post*, *WIRED*, *Premiere*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and on CNN, ZDTV, and TechTV, as well as in numerous publications across Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Richard Wallace is Information Technology Committee Chairman for St. Martin de Porres' Chapel, a medical cannabis patient services organization. Wallace was diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder in 1992, and became functionally disabled in 1999. He cares for sick and dying patients every day, and provides critically needed technical assistance to the Center.

In 1995 Dr. Wallace began working on A.L.I.C.E. Originally a SETL program, first used to control a robot eye with natural language commands, A.L.I.C.E. migrated to the platform-independent Java language in 1998. Made open source under the GNU general public license, more than 300 developers from around the world now contribute to the A.L.I.C.E. project. A.L.I.C.E. won the Loebner Prize, an annual Turing Test, in 2000.

Richard Wallace was born in Portland, Maine in 1960. Wallace earned his Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon in 1989. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Kim, and son, Linus.

#### **ABOUT THE A.L.I.C.E. AI FOUNDATION:**

The A.L.I.C.E. AI Foundation (<http://alicebot.org>) was founded in 2001, as a not-for-profit organization with the following mission:

- DISTRIBUTE Alicebot and AIML Free Software. We distribute our advanced AI software source code freely to schools, research labs, nonprofits and other organizations, and to individuals.
- PROMOTE the adoption and development of Alicebot and AIML technology.
- DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN standards for AIML, the AIML pattern language, Alicebot implementations, and Alicebot interfaces (Responders).
- PURSUE AND PROMOTE research and development in natural language and artificial intelligence technologies.
- PROVIDE education and training resources to promote the adoption of AIML technologies.
- WORK closely with and advise commercial entities engaged in AIML, development to develop standards, plan future programs, and evaluate research and development.
- ALLOCATE public and/or private funds as appropriate to organizations, agencies or individuals who can provide AIML, programs or products of high quality if they are deemed beneficial to the community.
- PLAN AND HOST periodic conferences and meetings as required to accomplish the general goals of the organization.

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