# 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**

# AIML 1.0 Standard Passed

**Free ("Open Source") Artificial Intelligence Markup Language
Brings Bots to the Masses**

**16 July 2001—San Francisco CA:** The A.L.I.C.E. A.I. Foundation (http://alicebot.org) announced today, with little fanfare, the release of the AIML 1.0 tag set definition. The AIML 1.0 tag set is an XML standard for creating chat robots like A.L.I.C.E. The standard was developed by the Alicebot and AIML Architecture Committee, a standards-setting organ of the Foundation representing researchers, developers and companies with a stake in AIML technology.

AIML 1.0 is the first committee-approved, standardized version of the Artificial Intelligence Markup Language that was invented six years ago by A.L.I.C.E. creator Dr. Richard S. Wallace. AIML has been free software under the GNU General Public License (same as Linux) since its release.

The AIML 1.0 tag set description as adopted by the committee is available from the organization's web site at http://alicebot.org. The committee also released a Java code fragment that can update AIML tags from previous versions to 1.0, and convert some nonstandard experimental tags tested along the way.

"The AIML 1.0 tag set by itself does not constitute a full specification for the AIML language," explained Wallace, who chairs the non-profit foundation. "There is still much work for the AIML Schema and AIML Pattern Language committees to address a variety of open issues including: nesting, placement, semantics, and detailed descriptions of the approved tags. Yet the AIML 1.0 tag set specification is a giant step towards the standardization and adoption of AIML. Developers may begin work at once on AIML 1.0 Alicebot engines, and botmasters may rest assured that their AIML stands on solid ground."

The Foundation wishes to thank the members of the AIML Architecture Committee for participating in the long and arduous standardization process. The AIML 1.0 tag set was the result of a "Grand Compromise" by the members of the committee. The debate was often spirited and the number of e-mails transmitted immense. Thanks go to Noel Bush (Secretary), Jon Baer, Emmanuil Batsis, Zayn Blore, Joost van Brug, Ing. Pedro E. Colla, Kino Coursey, Aubrey Craig, Kris Drent, Christian Drossmann, Chris Fahey, Elisabeth Freeman, Dr. Eric Freeman, Magnus Lerch, Sherman Monroe, Thomas Ringate, James Strachan, Kim Sullivan and Andrew Teal.

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

The A.L.I.C.E. AI Foundation was founded in 2001, as a non-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.

**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, WIRED, CNN, Time, ZDTV and in numerous foreign language publications across Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Richard Wallace is a volunteer accountant and programmer 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.

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