

COS 116
The Computational Universe
Homework 3
Due 5/3/07

In this assignment, you will participate in a *Turing Test*, an experiment proposed by Alan Turing to determine whether a computer program is intelligent.

1. **Start Internet Explorer and visit the following web page:**
<http://www.turinghub.com/>
2. **Click where it says “Take the Turing test.”** A new window will pop-up, consisting of a gray area and a text box. Enter a greeting in the text box, and click “Send.”
3. **Have a brief (about 5 minute) conversation with whomever responds.** Don’t try to be tricky by using philosophical jargon or questions about very recent events. Just use a simple conversational tone, as you would use with your friends in instant messaging. However, avoid abbreviations or slang that a machine may not know about. Also, change topics a few times during your conversation.
4. **As the conversation proceeds, select and copy the text with your mouse, and paste it into a document file.** It’s important to do this during the conversation, because the text will continually scroll out of view and you’ll need it later.
5. **After the conversation is over, click “Rate The Chat” and answer the poll.**
6. **Print out a copy of the conversation and also your answer to the poll. On it, mark any place where you thought it was obvious that your conversation partner was a machine. Bring the printout to class on 5/3.**
7. **Go to <http://www.turinghub.com/about.html> to learn more about the experiment you just participated in.**
8. **If you have technical difficulties, have a look at <http://www.turinghub.com/technical.html>.**
9. **Read the Searle article (handout / see course web under readings).**
10. **Write a blog entry in the course blog on the subject “Can machines think?”**