Turing Test Activity

Answer the following questions based upon reading [Human or Computer?  Take This Test](https://www.nytimes.com/2002/12/10/science/human-or-computer-take-this-test.html)

1. What were Dr. Manber’s concerns about the need to tell the difference between a human user and a computer program? Provide at least 2 concerns.

Computer programs are entering chatrooms and pretending to be teenagers. They are promoting products and companies by giving out links. Another problem is that these bots are collecting personal information and could use that information in a bad way. Some of these bots were also spam signing up for email addresses.

1. Explain the Turing test as Dr. Turing defined it.

A series of questions that determined which of the users was a human. The human helps while the computer lied.

1. What are two practical applications of recognizing objects in cluttered backgrounds?

Automated recognition of military targets and being able to recognize objects that infringe trademarks on the internet.

Answer the following questions in your own words based upon reading [Cyborgs, Trolls and Bots:  A Guide to Online Misinformation](https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2020-02-07/cyborgs-trolls-and-bots-a-guide-to-online-misinformation)

1. What’s the difference between misinformation and disinformation?

Misinformation is regardless of intent, information that is produced that is not factual. Disinformation is information produced with the intent of spread hatred and mislead people into believing its true.

1. Fill in the blank. The Pew Research Center concluded in a 2018 study that accounts suspected of being bots are responsible for as many as two-thirds of all tweets that link to popular websites.
2. Provide different characteristics to distinguish between human users and bots.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Humans** | **Most Obvious Bots** |
| Frequency of Posts | Few | Hundreds |
| Subject of Posts | Specific topics | Variety |
| Kind of content | Original content | Reposted content |

1. What is a cyborg account? What are characteristics of cyborg accounts? What’s the difficulty associated with them related to the Turing test?

A hybrid type of bot account where a human takes over periodically to post original content. The difficulty is it is hard to tell if the account is a robot or human because it partially controlled by a human.

1. Fill in the following table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Deepfake** | **Shallowfakes, cheapfakes or dumbfakes** |
| Definition | Videos that are doctored using specialized software that is hard to tell if it is true or not. | Videos that sped up or slowed down to make it appear real but are fake. |
| Cost | Expensive | Cheap |
| Convincing? | yes | Yes and no |
| Difficulty to make | Very difficult | Easy |
| Kind of software needed | Specialized software | Little to no software |

Answer the following questions in your own words based on reading [Bots are Destroying Political Discourse as We Know It](https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/01/future-politics-bots-drowning-out-humans/604489/)

1. What are the 2 threads creating the biggest risk for artificial personas?

Artificial intelligence driven text generation and social media chatbots.

1. What are ways text generation software is already being used? Provide at least 2 examples.

Being used to create news stories by reposting content or creating content on websites. Talk to customers on merchanting websites, to make sales. Creating fake websites and posting propaganda instead of actual legitimate news.

1. Algorithmic bots have transformed to having personas. What are 2 characteristics of personas?

A name, a bio (paragraph of text explaining who they are and what they do), and fake photos of who they are.

1. What are 2 characteristics that will make future bots more difficult to detect?

Be able to make intelligent comments that are hard to tell if they are real or fake, and become so close to a real person that everything they post will be personalized.

Test Yourself by doing the [Bot or Not](https://botor.no/)

1. Play Bot or Not. Provide what questions you asked and what it asked. Were you right? Provide a good 2-3 sentences explaining what technique(s)/strategies you used to try to determine whether it was a bot or a human. Provide a good sentence or two describing what you would do differently if you were to do it again.

I asked whether they were going to school or not and it asked simple questions like what the weather is like and what is my worst habit. Part of my strategy was to hold off on answering the question by a little bit and see how the person responded to it. By waiting until 30 seconds were left the person asked if I was going to ask something. By the time I responded and responded to it’s questions it was writing replies before the questions were asked or responses were made. I guessed it was a bot, based on the repetitive responses and how fast it responded to my comments, I was correct.

If I were trying to play this game again, I would try to think of better questions that are complex and that a bot normally wouldn’t respond to. I would also try to think of different ways to respond to see if it would give different output.

1. Explain how this exercise is tied to the readings and related to your major/field. Remember to provide what your major/field is.

This type of exercise is tied to the readings because it helps identify how chatbots are used and even the slow clunky ones could possibly pass the Turing test. This will be critical to my field in programming because even implementing websites or application, you can also have an ai that helps costumers or users navigate around or answer questions that they may have. Part of understanding ai is the many uses that they provide and chatbots could provide lots of uses that could benefit and hurt humanity. The readings show how people implement bots to do many things including provide fake information in political debate.