The Turing Test

In his 1950 paper, *Computing Machinery and Intelligence,* Alan Turing proposed what is still considered the ultimate test for artificial intelligence. The Turing Test is based on the observation that we, as humans, make assumptions about intelligence and self-awareness in other humans by monitoring and interacting with them. Turing proposed that if the behavior of a machine were indistinguishable from a human's behavior, then we ought to give the machine the same credit for being intelligent that we give people.

The Turing Test involves a human judge and two contestants, one being the computer to be tested and the second being a human control subject. The job of the judge is to converse with the two contestants via computer terminals, without knowing which contestant is which. If, after a sufficiently long period of conversation, the judge is unable to identify the computer, then the computer is said to have passed the test and must be considered to possess human-like intelligence.