Building a Honeypot

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What's a Honeypot?

- Wikipedia: "…a computer security mechanism set to detect, deflect, or, in some manner, counteract attempts at unauthorized use of information systems."

- In this case, we are deflecting the attempts of a bot to stuff our contact form full of bogus information.

- Sounds like a CAPTCHA, right?

So why not a CAPTCHA?

Qualifying question

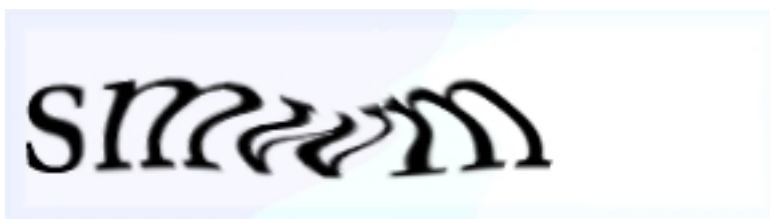Just to prove you are a human, please answer the following math challenge.

Q: Calculate:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left[6\cdot\sin\left(x-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)+3\cdot\cos\left(2\cdot x-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)\right]\Bigg|_{x=\pi}$$

A: [   ]

mandatory

Note: If you do not know the answer to this question, reload the page and you'll (probably) get another, easier, question.

Jane

Last Na[me]

Smith

Email

stopall[

Pick you[r]

⦿ Red

○ Gree[n]

Submit

Select all squares with street signs.

So why not a CAPTCHA?

- Not accessible

- Easily spoofed

- Newer CAPTCHAs use machine learning to determine if you're a bot

Why use a honeypot?

- Puts the burden on the bot, not on the user

- Less annoying

- More accessible

How to Implement

- Create two hidden form fields: one is type hidden, the other is hidden with CSS

- User never sees either one, but most bots will

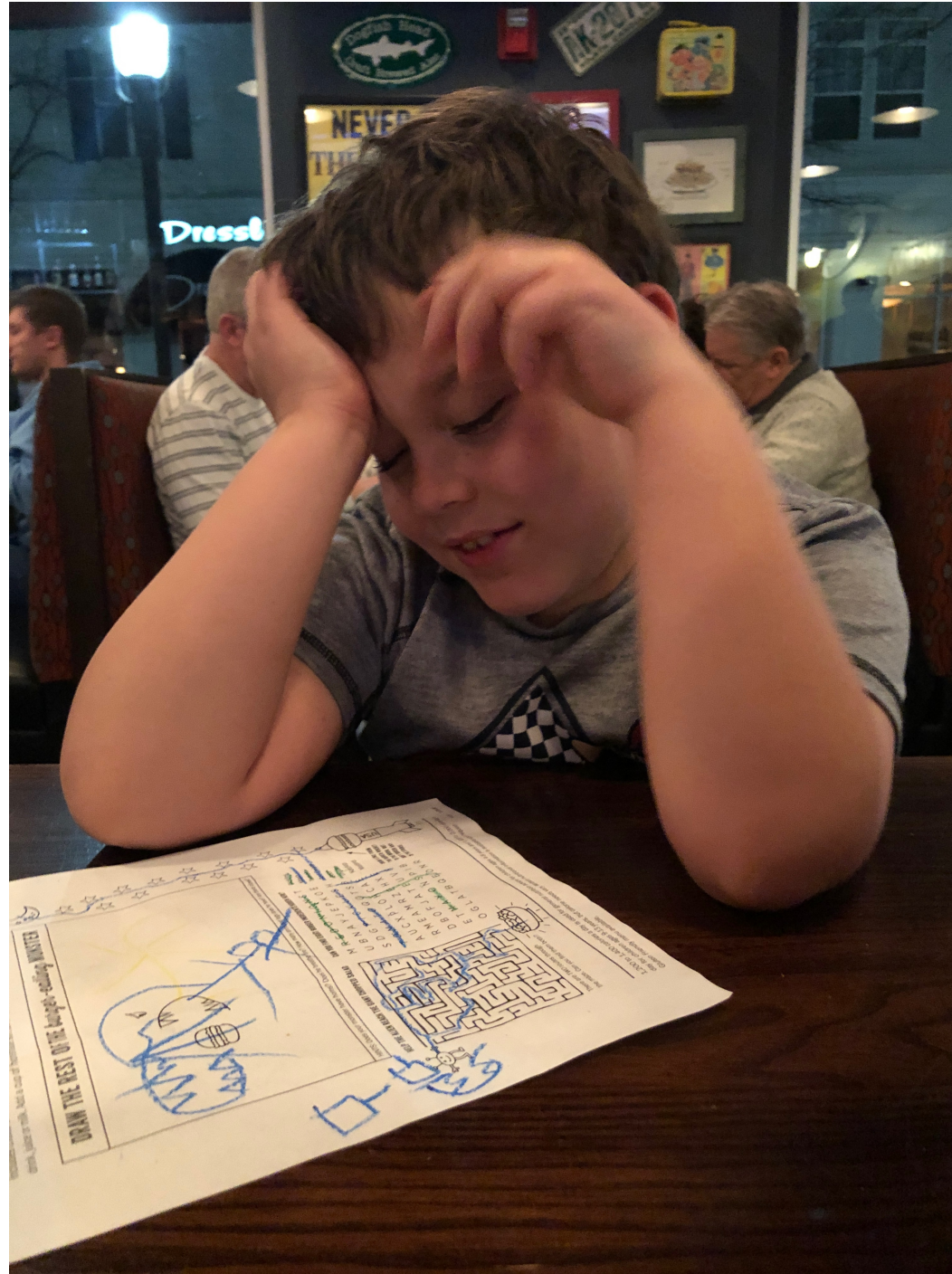- If either filled in, act accordingly

SHOW ME THE CODE!

http://advent.perldancer.org/2018/21

Working Example

https://crome-plated.com/contact

Questions?

Thank you!