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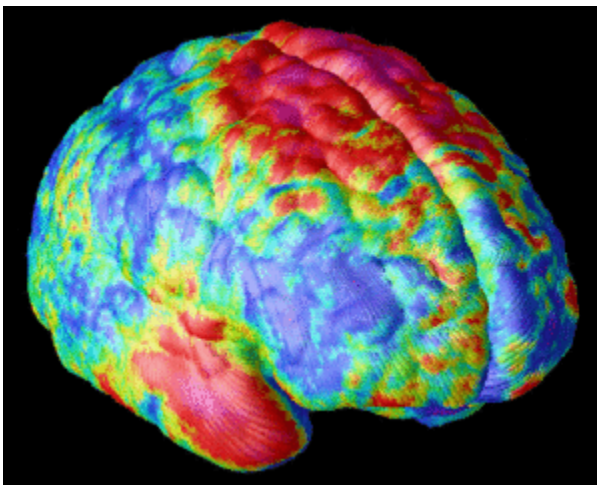


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Artificial Psychologist

2015-08-02 BY GENE



tl;dr: <https://watson-pi-demo.mybluemix.net/>

A new psychologist is in town and his name is Watson.

Watson's above site just contains a text area and an Analyze button.

The instructions say to paste in something you have written.

Being a curious cat, I had fun pasting-in famous quotes and passages from books, like Alice in Wonderland, etc.

It was interesting to speculate about the personalities of the authors or characters they were portraying.

A section from "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allen Poe results in, "You are sentimental and somewhat compulsive.

You are organized: you feel a strong need for structure in your life. You are calm-

seeking: you prefer activities that are quiet, calm, and safe. And you are independent: you have a strong desire to have time to yourself.

Your choices are driven by a desire for well-being.

You consider both taking pleasure in life and independence to guide a large part of what you do. You are highly motivated to enjoy life to its fullest. And you like to set your own goals to decide how to best achieve them.”

Next, I put in a passage from of Richard Feynman, lecturing to his students (<http://www.feynmanlectures.caltech.edu/>). It said, “You are shrewd, skeptical...”

Ha! The analysis went on to say, “You are philosophical: you are open to and intrigued by new ideas and love to explore them. You are imaginative: you have a wild imagination. And you are independent: you have a strong desire to have time to yourself.”

I put in text from famous horror stories like, The Call of Cthulu, but Watson only ended up saying the author/character was independent, efficient, shrewd and skeptical, etc.

Naturally, I wondered if Watson only said positive things, so I actually went and found examples of suicide notes. Watson said, “You are prone to suffer from anxiety over simple things” and other things a psychologist would say to (or about) a severely depressed person!

Lastly, I put in my own resume and Watson says in part, “You are adventurous: you are eager to experience new things... Experiences that give a sense of sophistication hold some appeal to you. You are relatively unconcerned with tradition: you care more about making your own path than following what others have done. You consider independence to guide a large part of what you do: you like to set your own goals to decide how to best achieve them.”

IBM Watson is amazing.

Epistemologist-at-large

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