The Loebner Prize and Chatbots: Past, Present, and Future

In 1990, Hugh Loebner established a prize for the first computer whose responses were indistinguishable from a human's. Based on Alan Turing's famous test for computer intelligence, this contest has continued to the present day.

The grand prize has never been claimed, although many chatbots have competed in the contest, and every year a bronze medal is awarded to the most convincing program. I will discuss the behavior and implementation of some of these chatbots.

Speculation on how a chatbot must be implemented to win the contest, whether one can, and what the significance of this might be, will follow.