

Re: Humans "unique" social

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-08/msg00132.html>

- *From:* EKurtz99@xxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Sun, 7 Aug 2005 01:24:15 -0400 (EDT)
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Malcolm wrote:

- > Computers have added impetus to the quest. Superficially you can have a
- > conversation with your PC:
- > "Please insert disk in drive A:"
- > [click click]
- > "OK: Do you want to save in JPEG or GIF?"
- > "JPEG"
- > "Error reading drive A: abort, retry, fail?"
- >
- > However it has proved impossible to scale up the computer's vocabulary and
- > range of competence, so that it can accept requests like "what is the
- > advantage of JPEG over GIF?".

As it turns out, yes and no; the website BrainBoost (<http://www.brainboost.com>) is able to answer your question:

"An advantage of JPEG over GIF is that it is not necessary to divide an image into colored pixels before compressing the image." – citing the source:

<http://www.cs.williams.edu/~cs105/s04/midterm/midterm-solution-s04.html>

However, the statement is clearly the result of a mindless text search, and in fact comes from a CS exam, where the student has to indicate whether the statement is true or false (the answer is actually given: "False. Both JPEG and GIF first break an image into pixels before building their compressed representations." but of course the BrainBoost engine was unable to realize that this nullified the previous statement).

Which of course makes the point I presume you were making – when it comes to language comprehension (as opposed to sophisticated searching and individual spoken word recognition) the AI/linguistics fraternity is exactly nowhere.

- > It seems almost certain that linguistics is one of the interesting
- > scientific problems. We don't know what the answer is, and we where it will
- > lead us.

- **References:**

- ◆ **Humans "unique" social**

- ◇ *From:* Anthony Cerrato

- Prev by Date: **Re: DNA growth... Where and how does this happen?**
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