

9. Computer Programming

The supplementary work below is designed to involve you in other aspects of computer and business systems while having fun playing the game.

The game you are playing is a computer program, written by someone with a specific intention. As complicated as it seems and with sufficient planning the program is put together by breaking the initial problem of writing the computer game into smaller more manageable problems. This Top-Down approach works for solving many problems but not all.

There are a number of programming problems withing the game that are interesting enough to examine on their own. By now you will have met Jane the secretary, always ready to answer you questions and give advice. This section of the program is based on "ELIZA". What is ELIZA, try seaching the internet for "ELIZA+programming"?

Discuss the meaning of the following statement in relation to the reasearch you have done on ELIZA.

"ELIZA has almost no intelligence whatsoever, only tricks like string substitution and canned responses based on keywords. Yet when the original ELIZA first appeared in the 60's, some people actually mistook her for human. The illusion of intelligence works best, however, if you limit your conversation to talking about yourself and your life."

Discuss in class the Algorithm for having a conversation, try flowcharting a solution. If you have done any computer programming before write a small program that revolves around a conversation.