

Re: What IS Intelligence

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Java/comp.lang.java.programmer/2003-12/1174.html>

From: Programmer Dude (*Chris_at_Sonnack.com*)

Date: 12/09/03

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Wouter Lievens wrote:

>>> *Another thought that I've had, most people seem to think that
>>> intelligence is a binary switch: this species has it, this—
>>> doesn't. A very humanocentric point of view,...*
>>
>> *I would call it plain stupid, rather than humanocentric.*
>
> *It's called anthropocentric, by the way...*

Yes. People have been using "humanocentric" in this thread (as you can see from the quote), so I just went with the flow.

> *Nobody has seemed to ask himself this pivotal question:*
>
> *If humans are intelligent, and dogs are not, then there must be
> a biological difference in the brain!*

And there is. Not in the substance, but in the structure.

> *Is there, or are human and dog brains made of the same stuff?*
> *It seems they are. So a logical conclusion must be that they
> have the same capacity, only humans have developed those much
> stronger.*

Most houses are built from the same basic materials. Are all houses basically equal? Imagine a theatre and a small house both built from bricks, wood, steel and glass. Are they the same in their purpose and capacity? Or does the **structure** of how those materials are put together matter (and matter a great deal).

As we believe mind comes largely from the **structure** of the brain, it is that structure that matters, not the substance.

> *If humans are 'intelligent' and dogs are not, it means they must
> have a fundamentally different brain, which they don't!*

comp.lang.java.programmer: Re: What IS Intelligence

Apply that logic to, say, the Z80 and the latest from Intel.
Both made from silicon.... are they equal??

Structure is pretty important! (-:

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