

Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity.
Anon



Excellent

You have definitely had enough of it? You are absolutely right. Waiting in the booking office of a railroad company for hours is neither good for your health nor does it increase your mental wellbeing. If you want to save your good health, your only chance is to take up your receiver in order to satisfy your needs. Often a matter of two minutes become your main project. Now people want to change this radically. Innovative people had a very interesting idea which should now be tested. You can order a ticket via cell phone. This is possible by using modern technology to enable users of a hightech cell phone to order your ticket in a more comfortable way. Without stress! The idea to order tickets by means of modern technology sounds great. Unfortunately, lame excuses of persons for not having bought a tickets are useless. However, even though the tickets might be booked in no time: Transportation and punctuality which have to be discussed. (sk)

Communicative partner with charming smile

Avatar Max is a sensitive listener and rhetoric from Januar, 16.

Bielefeld. (sk) A charming smile and a short waving of the hand: Surely, Max will impress his audience and be an interesting partner for conversation in the world's famous computer museum, the Heinz Nixdorf Museums-Forum in Paderborn. Max is no product of mere imagination. Furthermore, he is the result of research on the field of artificial intelligence. Prof. Dr. Ipke Wachsmuth and Dr.-Ing. Stefan Kopp and their team at Bielefeld University have worked on the project of the so called Sonderforschungsbereich „Situating artificial communciators“ and have brought him to life. “We wanted to create a communication partner that should become as natural as possible“, Dr. Ing. Stefan Kopp, creator of Max states. For the exhibition in Paderborn, Max had to improve his skills. The scientists helped him to learn to talk in cooperation with the computer museum.

“Hello, my name is Max“. This is how the active and communicative talker starts, when visitors approach him. People can small-talk with him about the weather or his favorite soccer club. Furthermore, he also talks about very personal matters of his life such as his job or his friends. His memory is not to be underestimated. He remembers a lot of what people tell him. But if someone insults him, he acts very emotionally: In these cases, he might also disappear. Another task is to be some kind of a guide answering questions posed by the visitors via keyboard. He informs about topics like the museum or other objects of the exhibition surrounding him.

The project is part of an interdisciplinary research program that is supported by the German Society of Research in Bielefeld. It deals with the development of artificial systems. Aim: They should learn to perceive their environment and, depending on the situation, communicate with humans. With his charming smile, Max has been casted in 2002. Museumskurator Dr. Stefan Stein saw him at Bielefeld Universität and was eager to have him to become part of the exhibition “Artificial Intelligence and Robotics“. Those who are interested in an interesting conversation with the artificial rhetoric, has the opportunity to do so from Januar, 17 onwards. Further information can be found on the homepage: www.hnf.de

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