

Actors

4-20-2012

Opening Discussion

- Minute essay comments:
 - Database records.
 - How close is Cleverbot to passing the Turing Test?
 - The indexes are stored in a file, not an array.
 - Finals schedule.
 - Can computers be creative? Will they have aesthetics?
 - Seek to middle and write overwrites.
 - Seek past and and write – check API.
 - Impact of AI on humanity? Good or bad?

More

- Strong AI vs. weak AI. Human level computers?

Short Version

- There is a helper method in the Actor object that takes a function for the body of the act method.
- You should import `scala.actors.Actor`, then you can call `actor { body }`.

Receive

- To make an actor deal with a message use `receive`. The argument is a partial function with cases you want that `receive` to deal with.
- Most likely this needs to happen multiple times so you put it in a loop.
- `Receive` is always handled in the actor's thread.

Code

- Let's make some actors that utilize receive.

React

- You only want so many threads, so applications with lots of actors need an alternate approach.
- The react method works like receive, but allows thread sharing and doesn't return.
- To make it happen multiple times embed in a call to loop.
- The actor framework balanced threads and actors share threads.

Code Again

- Let's come up with a fairly large actor program to write and implement it.

Playing with Actors

- Let's play a little with Actors given what we know so far.

Minute Essay

- Questions?
- What features do you think would need to go into a program that allows you to take my quizzes or do self-check exercises on the computer?
- Turn in assignment #3.