

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thinking Solutions Creates Language Recognition Tool

Duffys Forest, NSW – Friday, 31 August 2007 – Thinking Solutions today announced the success of its new programming approach that recognises languages.

“The software we have created allows students to see how the words they write relate to each other”, said John Ball, Managing Director of Thinking Solutions. “We have used an approach which we believe works the way the human brain does. The theory proposed more than 20 years ago has taken 2 years to validate. We are now keen to bring the tool to market to help students learn about their language.”

The software offers a unique learning opportunity for students and teachers alike, as prior computer programming was not suitable for this application. By being able to recognise complex patterns containing high-levels of ambiguity, such as those found in languages, the resulting computer display shows how writing is made up including its grammatical construction.

Ball added, “While the attempt to master computers began more than 50 years ago, they have been troublesome to program. We created a new type of computer program that recognises patterns just as a brain does. Based on the results, we see we are on the right track.”

Pilot trials are continuing until November. Beta trials for general user feedback will be conducted to improve the user-friendliness of the system at the conclusion of the pilot. Information on Beta testing will be available for interested participants through the Thinking Solutions web site.

A full capability grammar tool suitable for students of English will be available in the February 2008 timeframe via electronic download. While this first version will not contain the full dictionary of English words, it provides an effective language tool to support teachers.

The next release in late 2008 is planned to contain a dictionary of roughly 100,000 English words. Foreign language versions are proposed following the English releases.

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THE SCIENCE The Thinking Solutions technology is based on the theory that the brain is controlled by Pattern-Atoms or Patoms¹, which store, match and use hierarchical, bidirectional patterns. In other words, the computer simply takes stored patterns and tests them to see if they do or don't match. Matches lead to further pattern use. Consequently, the model deals with ambiguity and biological complexity and caters to a number of brain-like applications that were previously beyond our reach.

PROJECT TURING The prototype program is the result of a major Thinking Solutions project run throughout 2006. Named Project Turing after the late computer pioneer Alan Turing, the prototype demonstrates that it is possible to implement this type of brain-like programming on a computer.

FUTURE PROGRAMS Future work will incorporate other features of the new paradigm. The Thinking Solutions lab has already demonstrated working capabilities in language translation, converting complex phrases between languages in real time. The programming methodology may also improve search engine effectiveness, provide intelligent dictionaries and other student applications.

Ball said: "The amazing thing about this programming approach is its speed. While programs today typically rely on lengthy processing techniques, our approach is much faster because even very complicated patterns are matched in only hundreds of steps, not thousands or millions. When you think of it, if we are truly running brain-like software, the response time should be a million or so times faster than a brain due to the difference in speed between a computer and a neuron."

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¹ The **Patom** is a term created by combining the words "Pattern" and "Atom" and was first discussed by John Ball on the ABC Radio National show, Ockham's Razor, in 2000. <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/science/ockham/stories/s73842.htm>



Brain-based machine builders

ABOUT THINKING SOLUTIONS – Thinking Solutions was incorporated to develop and promote Patom technology, effectively providing a targeted R&D service to industry. Thinking Solutions was formed in 1997 and incorporated in 2006. The company is privately owned and has been funded by its founder to date, leading to the creation of the prototype technology. Thinking Solutions is located in Duffys Forest in Sydney, Australia.

ABOUT JOHN BALL – The founder of Thinking Solutions is John Ball. John has been working on brain models since the early 1980's and holds degrees in computing, cognitive science and business from 3 Sydney-based Universities. He has held technical and management positions in computer-based multi-national companies since 1984 and now spends the majority of his time designing and testing new pattern-based applications. John lives in Sydney with his wife Beth and their Shetland sheepdog, Marnie.

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