

Live Question Tool: WolframAlpha

Q tool for WolframAlpha event

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Active Questions

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What are the possible business opportunities for others related to WolframAlpha?

[9](#)[votes](#)1:49 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Seb Schmoller: How has Wolfram gone about doing user testing with "real users in the street", who know nothing about the nature of the data sets that that WolframAlpha can interrogate nor about the syntax that causes WolframAlpha to produce nice comprehensive answers?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team:](#) We continue to test and interact with users of all types. We also will provide ample documentation, tips and inline help. AND we very much will take feedback on the platform and our help materials.

Most Recently Submitted Questions

3:14 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[2](#)[votes](#)

wendy: Do some data sources come with added licensing restrictions, or have you managed to avoid those sources or negotiate those terms away?

[0](#)[votes](#)4:10 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Anonymous: Skynet's ears ROTFL

[2](#)[votes](#)4:10 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Scott Fossel: What is your social media and web integration strategy? Am I going to be able to have Wolfram Alpha travel everywhere with me as a tool in my pocket as I circumnavigate the web?

[1](#)[votes](#)4:06 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Wolfkisser: Why would a normal user use it?

[0](#)[votes](#)4:03 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Seb Schmoller: How do you stop the data curation pipeline from being a bottleneck?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team:](#) Add people, community and computers.

[1](#)[votes](#)3:57 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Wolfmother: How does this compare to Hunch.com?

[4](#)3:55 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**Wolfmother:** When will the downloadable version of this talk be available?[2](#)3:54 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**Ken:** Will the mechanism/procedure for assessment and curation of data be public?[3](#)3:52 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**Ken:** How will you decide when you have enough data on a query to answer it within WIA? (As opposed to deferring it as a matter of opinion)[1](#)3:48 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**János Löbb:** How many Hungarians are watching this webcast ? Please hands up !!**Anonymous:** hands up!!**János Löbb:** Szia, Honnan nézed amit nem látsz ?**Anonymous:** right ! ;-)**János Löbb:** Mármint innen az USA-ból vagy Hungisztánból ?**Anonymous:** nem !**János Löbb:** Akkor honnan ? Csak nem a Marsról ?**Anonymous:** Hmmmhhh, esetleg**János Löbb:** Erről a keskeny sáv szélességről eszembe jutott egy abszolút vicc: Ki az abszolút sovány ?

Aki a hasát szappanozza és a háta habzik :)

Anonymous: egzakt ;-)**János Löbb:** Kíváncsi vagyok mennyi ideig lehet ezt az ingyen üzenetet használni !!**Anonymous:** I hope you enjoyed our conversation !**János Löbb:** Természetesen. Az mindig öröm, ha valakivel az anyanyelvünkön is tudunk beszélgetni

Hungisztán falain kívül.

[2](#)3:46 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**Russell:** Can the system look at historical patterns in scientific research (for which the information is very available) and propose new experiments, or expose "holes" in past research?**Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team:** That is still a task for the researcher.**Anonymous:** Whatever.**Anonymous:** pfft**Anonymous:** It can help the researcher actually. Wolfram has showed cases in which he has detected lulls in the time series as an indication of holes in the data coming from some source, which I think is great.[5](#)3:38 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)**Anon:** Why are the moderators deleting questions?**Anonymous:** The humor chip has not yet been installed.**Anonymous:** WolframAlpha will probably be moderated as well. Can anyone confirm that?

Anonymous: They're not. That's how Berkman's Question Tool works. Relax.

3
votes

3:35 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Dmitry: What is the probability of WIA turning into Skynet?

Anonymous: T1000

Anonymous: I'll take Inevitable Disasters for \$500, Alex.

6
votes

3:35 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Espen Andersen: Will the webcast be recorded and posted somewhere - the real-time feed keeps going down.

Anonymous: Yes

Anonymous: No

Anonymous: Maybe

Anonymous: maybe

Anonymous: Too slow u lose

Anonymous: we hope

Dharmishta: The webcast will be posted on the berkman site.

Anonymous: dream on

Anonymous: *is dreaming

dan: video will be syndicated after this is over at <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/interactive>

Anonymous: how long after the talk can we see it?

Anonymous: I just hear the audio! no video!!

Anonymous: horrible! what isp do they use?

1
votes

3:34 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Is it powered by some oracle turing machine ?

5
votes

3:28 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Will inconsistencies in experimental techniques employed by the original sources of the curated data make statistical comparison between data sets invalid?

1
votes

3:27 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Christina: Can you customize what kind of automatic results turn up for any given data input? For example, making it so that any time I put in dollars, it always tells me what it is in a particular, nonpopular currency?

2
votes

3:25 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Toasticus: What do FSB strap and Vdroop have to do with CPU and RAM overclocking?

3
votes

3:23 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Is there any working URL for the webcast?

Anonymous: http://harmony.law.harvard.edu/webcast.sdp but it is not working

Anonymous: www.hulu.com/simpsons

Anonymous: Back working again. Hooray. Let's see how it scales this time.

Anonymous: Atleast I here a voice, no picture can be seen.

Anonymous: Looks like they cut the video streaming to reserve bandwidth. Too bad.

dan: video will be syndicated after this is over at http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/interactive

Anonymous: after we bought enough bandwidth and server to serve it of course...

János Löbb: Yes, probably right at the Berkman Center. Outside of it even Wolfram|Alpha is not sure.

1

3:11 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Does the live-broadcast work for anybody?

Dharmishta: Try re-loading the page, it just got a bit better.

WHutchison: Yes but the screen is dim.

anon: the screen is very dark

Anonymous: its down again

8

3:11 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Larry8494: Will it answer how much bandwidth should have been reserved for this webcast because they're isn't enough right now.

Anonymous: Probably it has already, but underestimated the needed bandwidth :-)

Anonymous: I just see a light blue screen, but good sound at 3:16. Is that normal? Is Wolfram wearing a light blue shirt?

anon: ha!

2

3:07 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

What type of citations will WIA be able to provide, depending on the types of questions?

0

2:54 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

describe the data curation process and how it scales in breadth and depth

9

2:43 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Narayan: Will the system list the assumptions made to arrive at the answer?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: In mathematics there is a show steps option. In Many computations there is a Show Details option. Most computations have a Source Information link. Lastly, when specific models have been chosen - like Random Walks - in finance, it is noted.

Narayan: Thanks for the response

3

11:03 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Narayan: Will wolfram be able to check and tell if two voice files are from the same person or not?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: Not at this time. You can do this in Mathematica though!

Narayan: Thanks for the information

[4](#)

[votes](#)

10:56 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Matt Chorey: How will WolframAlpha affect students in terms of research? Specifically, to which University departments will WolframAlpha be most relevant(from Engineering to Journalism)?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: We see a significant use in all departments. Every discipline uses computation and facts. I suppose you could even use WIA to do poetry if you wanted... some pretty deep linguistic tools. Your first question is big question, and I only have 255 chars!

[6](#)

[votes](#)

10:49 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Jouko Salonen: Does WA have memory of its past opinions or history - does it / can it change her mind during time or during conversation? Does it hesitate?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: Not sure I understand your question. WolframAlpha is not based on opinions nor is it a chatbot or other conversational tool. It is a computational knowledge engine. Though, you might want to create a conversational tool with the API!

[6](#)

[votes](#)

12:28 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

What is the preferred way to cite an answer from Wolfram Alpha?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: This is documented on the site. You will find it in the help sections.

[4](#)

[votes](#)

6:33 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Sally Morem: How many different products are offered for sale in the United States annually?

[3](#)

[votes](#)

3:39 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Bleyddyn: Is Wolfram/Alpha self-hosting to any extent? In other words, how much did/do you use Wolfram/Alpha to build and improve Wolfram/Alpha?

[2](#)

[votes](#)

2:56 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

peter berner: Welche gemeinsamkeiten hatt "gott" in den verschiedenen religionen?

[6](#)

[votes](#)

2:35 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

42?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: 42 is the 5th Catalan number (C₅). oh, you meant the meaning of life?!

[7](#)

[votes](#)

12:28 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Andre: will be this website only from the learning ability more comparative than google, or it change only the format for data mining?

[5](#)[votes](#)

To be or not to be?

Anonymous: whatever you want it to be4:10 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)**AdamJil:** Will the controversial Human Clonning ever be practical and successful?2:01 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[5](#)[votes](#)**P+T:** What are the limitations and flaws of neoclassical economics?**Anonymous:** The only limit is your imagination.12:25 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[7](#)[votes](#)**P+T:** What are the vulnerabilities to gaming of carbon-offset markets in which purchased offsets are retired?10:08 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)[5](#)[votes](#)**P+T:** Is the Office of the Vice President in the executive or legislative branch?10:03 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)

Can science ever prove that there is a super power (God) that controls the entire universe?

Alex: This would depend on whether or not there is a God that could be proved to exist. If his control is indeed infinite, it would also depend on whether or not he would want to be proven to exist.**lionking:** Do you mean to say it is the belief of individuals? If more than 75% of world population believe there's exists a God, why can not it be proven - with all the scripts, historical data, researched data, science, etc. etc?10:01 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)[7](#)[votes](#)

How does Alpha deal with erroneous and contradictory information in its basis?

7:55 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)**ralf:** wird es der menschheit gelingen die drohende klimakatastrophe, schmelzen der pole und gletscher, veränderung des golfstromes ,wüstenbildung ,klimaerwärmung, steigen der meeresspiegel etc. ,noch zu stoppen ?**Anonymous:** Wenn nur das Plenken endlich gestoppt wird, ist schon der erste Schritt in eine bessere Zukunft getan.11:03 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)[5](#)[votes](#)

who are considered the top film directors of the last 50 years

8:31 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Anonymous: In terms of what? Average BO Gross, DVD sales, awards, number of films . . .

[7](#)

[votes](#)

how is the age of the universe computed

8:11 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[4](#)

[votes](#)

explain the role of data curation in effective search engine design

8:10 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[6](#)

[votes](#)

what role did racism have on the 2008 US Presidential election?

7:57 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[5](#)

[votes](#)

gennady udod: Will there be a third world war

Anonymous: sooner than you think

7:52 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[7](#)

[votes](#)

Braulio Medina Dias: When will the economic crisis be over?

5:31 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[6](#)

[votes](#)

Braulio Medina Dias: What is the first 100-digit palindromic prime found in the digital expansion of e ?

Braulio Medina Dias:found in the digits of "e" is the right way to say that.

8:57 pm EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[4](#)

[votes](#)

Braulio Medina Dias: What is the meaning of life?

8:47 pm EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[9](#)

[votes](#)

Will Wolfram Alpha work?

8:33 pm EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[8](#)

[votes](#)

What is the best website for finding remix competitions?

Anonymous: www.remixcompetition.com

Anonymous: www.remixcomps.com

Anonymous: www.laptoprockers.eu/remix/all

11:50 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[5](#)

[votes](#)

The Forehead: Is it possible for Wolfram Alpha to improve itself by altering its own subroutinesZ

The Forehead: Sorry. That was a typo. There should be a question mark there.

11:27 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

- [9](#)
[votes](#)
Orbo: Does Steorn Orbo really works?
Anonymous: yes and no
9:52 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Helen: Could WolframAlpha create new knowledge in the process of generating an answer, and if yes, will the new knowledge automatically become part of the database for answering other questions?
3:56 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: Can quarks be shattered into pieces, and if so, would there be an energy release, and if so, how big would that be?
2:22 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: How many words contains the german edition of Thomas Mann's "Death in Venice"?
2:18 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Loldude: Why does the quick brown fox always jump over the lazy dog?
2:09 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [7](#)
[votes](#)
Kendall: How fast could a mastodon run?
2:01 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
VASU GAUTAM: How this is going to work for non computational search,or we will still have to depend on google for that?
12:34 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
David Ellicott: Where will be the best place on earth for human habitation in 50 years time and in 100 years time?
12:14 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
minh: Is personalized tutoring a viable economic activity during the current recession?
9:45 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
[votes](#)
Kerick Robery L. de Sousa (Br): As a citizen from a Portuguese speaking country, I would like to know if WolframAlpha will support other languages besides english.
9:37 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[8](#)[votes](#)

Steven: Given an open-ended or vague question, how does Alpha decide when to stop computing an answer?

Anonymous: It will just crash

7:44 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)

Might Alpha leverage other databases and references so as to substantially provide for aspects of some systems without the need for full development - perhaps prototyping off documentation, using in-house like intranet search, or external offerings.

7:35 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[7](#)[votes](#)

Stewart: Can Alpha chain and handle modest fuzziness, e.g provide the median population density across 3rd world capitals now versus 1960. Population figures might be trend adjusted to years; nations, cities and perhaps fuzzy status may've changed.

7:29 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)

Steven: Have any of your novel cellular automata proved better at parsing natural language than other (standard) parsing systems?

Steven: That is, I meant to write "automata".

7:13 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[5](#)[votes](#)

Alex Zakharov: Team had created database, answer will be retrieved from this database. Any database is limited by known facts. If some system (technical, industrial, social, etc.) was not studied before, a search engine will return nothing. How would you avoid it?

6:32 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[3](#)[votes](#)

Matt: Will your tool have specific utility for Cycorp's product to augment its own AI functionality?

6:15 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[7](#)[votes](#)

Prometheus: Are you worried that knowledge generated by Wolfram Alpha can be exploited by individuals to cause harm to society, groups of people, or other individuals? Are you worried about other ethical implications Wolfram Alpha might have on society?

Anonymous: I'd be more worried about Mathematica being used to create something to harm mankind; it is more powerful and used by the military.

6:14 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[6](#)[votes](#)

R.B.: It's easy to imagine search-bar stateable questions that require a large amount of computational resources/memory – questions that reduce to primality testing, graph combinatorics problems, etc. How will this be handled?

5:31 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[6](#)5:18 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

[Martinianos - Brazil](#): The name sounds too strange to pronounce it. Can you considering change it?

Purblis: It's the developers name. Considering how big this engine may become, it is rather vain to stamp ones own name on it, in order for it be remembered for generations to come. It is unethical to put oneself before society.

Rafał Wolfram: I don't find it strange. It is not vain to use own name (or somone else name to honour him) as a company or product name. It is common especialy in Europe look at siemens, singer, goldman sachs, kellog etc.

Braulio Medina Dias: What about Porsche, Ferrari and Bosch?

mike: BMW

Braulio: BMW - Bayerische Motorwerke

[9](#)3:51 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Mary: Sometimes my googling answers outside of the framework of questions which are better answers. If my question isn't creative enough, Google expands my awareness of answers outside of my thinking. How would you avoid the drawback of only having 1 answer?

charakjagan: actually it commutes the answers of factual question so factual queries leads to factual and only one answers

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: You'll find many ways to expand and explore. Generally you can find options within the answers to compute more, go deeper, try something different and so forth

[1](#)3:25 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Anonymous: Is anyone at the talk actually looking at these questions?

[2](#)4:12 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Ken: Will there be an appeal process for curation decisions?

[2](#)4:11 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Christopher Morley: Does WolframAlpha "sign" the results with some sort of verifiable code that can be used to verify in a court of law that it indeed computed specific results at a certain time?

[2](#)4:06 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Russell: Doesn't Google already do this? Doesn't Google have conversions and calculator-type functionality already?

Anonymous: this will be far more than a "calculator".

Russell: How?

[3](#)4:03 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Has the webcast ended at the hour sharp?

anon: no more voice!

anonymous: voice is gone

Anonymous: refresh - voice comes back

0
[votes](#)

4:00 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

turbo: Something tells me that Kurt Godel would not approve of WIA!!

Anonymous: haha

1
[votes](#)

4:00 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Wolfhumper: What's your exit strategy?

1
[votes](#)

3:59 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

turbo: What Stephen is going to do is to have expert check the answers, go back and tweak the mathematical models, and go back and forth refining the process...etc.

turbo: There it is! He just said that he's going to go back and refine the math model....

3
[votes](#)

3:47 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Carmen: How do you get web analytics data for websites? relying on panel data is inaccurate - so how can you see Apple's page views

5
[votes](#)

3:46 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

Anonymous: Are users allowed to vote on quality of results?

2
[votes](#)

3:43 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

turbo: Whatever happened to the GIGO concept, and who decides if the original data are accurate? These inside Wolfram experts are the ones deciding the mathematical models?

1
[votes](#)

3:42 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

János Löbb: Miért nincs elég sávszélesség ehhez az adáshoz ?

Anonymous: right !

Anonymous: I totally agree

Anonymous: exactly! translation "Why there is not enough bandwidth for this sending?"

János Löbb: Igen. Se kép se hang akár Safari, akár Firefox, akár QuickTime.

Anonymous: because Harvard didn't planned to have almost ~1k people connecting.

Anonymous: csakugyan !

János Löbb: Kíváncsi vagyok vajon www2-n is sugározzák-e. I am sure here at Yale I have plenty of bandwidth to receive it :)

Anonymous: invite him to give another talk!

Anonymous: maybe their bandwidth is capped

Anonymous: by time warner

anon: Only 1k? Can't handle 1k people on a stream? Lame!

János Löbb: I already invited him in 2006. He did a lecture in the Architecture part of Yale :) That was the time I saw Manipulate the first time. Official version was 4.x :)

Anonymous: harvard runs on comcast

János Löbb: That sucks. They probably overpay Comcast and that is why we cannot see anything. Still no picture no voice here.

2

3:39 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

turbo: I'm struck by the apparent randomness of this talk ... not the usual Wolfram quality!

Anonymous: perhaps because it wasn't planned before hand, he is basically randomly choosing topics to test Wolfram Alpha I guess.

Anonymous: Well, he's showing a way that folks will interact the system...

3

3:35 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Christina: How well does this work on non-English languages?

Anonymous: not at all

Anonymous: it seems to recognize languages and he has said that in the future it will handle multi languages.

Hector Zenil WIA Team:: That's right.

5

3:35 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

AIH: how does the tool parse the difference between venetian blind and blind venetian? Would you know how to distinguish between an expert asking a question or a novice (in a particular field)?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: Subtle question, indeed. We do not attempt to detect if it is an expert or a novice. The computational knowledge will be useful to both the novice and the expert.

4

3:31 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Eric Herboso: Are these queries he's typing tested in advance? I'd prefer to hear him put in queries that the audience comes up with on the fly.

1

3:31 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

turbo: Will Alpha use fuzzy logic for any of it's mathematical models? Does it utilize neural network technology?

8

3:27 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Andrea: What are the sources of information for the answers? Are they noted? How can one trust the information?

Christina: And can a user customize which datasets are consulted?

Andrea: Folio to my own question: And where will you get the money to keep getting/updating reliable information?

- [1](#)
[votes](#)
Christopher Morley: Who would best be able to compare and contrast Wolfram Alpha and IBM DeepQA?
3:25 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Hoppe: Is the webcast recorded, so that all of us which cannot receive it, because of the low bandwidth, get the opportunity to see it afterwards ?
Dharmishta: We'll be posting it online afterwards
3:24 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [0](#)
[votes](#)
Zeta: Will use the results generated by your engine to derive new facts? Is this process automatic?
Russell Foltz-Smith - WIA Team: A user can enter computations that have never been tried before. You might find new facts out. sure. Computation over vast amounts of data makes this possible.
3:17 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
[votes](#)
Zeta: Will you use data from Wikipedia?
Seb Schmoller: During last week's presentation which I wrote up here:
<http://fm.schmoller.net/2009/04/wolframalpha-changing-the-face-of-web-search.html> Stephen W was made clear that Wikipedia's data is used by WolframAlpha
Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: Where it is useful or helpful (and correct), it is integrated. It is particularly helpful in crafting how people talk about things. It is presented as "Related Links" on many computations.
Seb Schmoller: Rusell, how to you keep on top of the "correctness" of content in Wikipedia?
3:03 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [2](#)
[votes](#)
sil: Is this effort focused on scientific and encyclopedic material or will it handle simple and everyday practical questions such as: what is the best bbq sauce recipe? and how do I kick a soccer ball?
2:58 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [1](#)
[votes](#)
Ivan Sheldon: What are you doing with digital maps?
2:56 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [2](#)
[votes](#)
Terry M.: How does WIA view data standardization? Especially if standards are not widely adopted.
2:51 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [3](#)
[votes](#)
Germán: does Wolfram have any "diffuse" part in its thinking process as it is known in diffuse logic?
2:49 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [3](#)
[votes](#)
How to you price a synthetic CDO?
2:30 pm EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[7](#)10:52 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

What's the current population of the country, björk comes from?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team](#): easy! just query for this: "bjork place of birth". Population spits out right there, plus a map and weather and time. AND you can then follow up with more population questions based on what you learn

[6](#)3:51 am EDT, 28 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Richard: Computed answers will potentially draw facts and data from sources and items of varying certainty (acceptance, currency, derivation ...) will the status of answers be apparent and could additional background specifics and quantification be presented.

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team](#): Yes. Where possible we note models and showcase variance. Also you can review the Source Information for further drilling down. That said, there's always room for improving how this is done. We look to the community for feedback.

[4](#)8:25 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

nbk1: Considering users in social networks. Assume 20 attributes per user, reciprocally suscribed by 20 other users, 4 random attribute updates occur per hour: How does bandwidth develop per added user, per added attribute and when jump above 1 Terabyte/sec?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team](#): Well, there you have the start of a great computation to try in Wolfram Alpha! can you work it into a shorter form or define some of your assumptions a bit more?

[6](#)5:43 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Sally Morem: In what year will Verner Vinge's technological Singularity occur?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team](#): Hmmm. A fun question. Much more fun to hear what you think! Wolfram|Alpha can't predict such a thing, but I imagine you can have some fun theorizing while exploring the world with WIA.

[5](#)3:44 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

jeff: Please explain how NKS techniques are being used for linguistic processing of the user's input.

[6](#)2:05 pm EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

TechCruncher: Why my question was deleted?

[Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team](#): what was your question?

[9](#)11:06 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Steve Redmond: Will Wolfram|Alpha be able to identify trends, patterns, correlations, similiarities, metadata etc from a given database of English text?

Anonymous: No

Steve Redmond: Will WIA be able to understand the meaning and context of sentences, maybe

paragraphs, rather than just words?

Steve Redmond: Will WIA be able to cluster different text (sentences, paragraphs) together by finding relationships (themes, similarities) between them?

Russell Foltz-Smith; WIA Team: You cannot yet upload unstructured text and mine it right now. You can use Wolfram|Alpha linguistic data and Mathematica to do some interesting things already! We have thought about some ideas here on how to provide something useful directly in WIA.

[5](#)

5:02 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Holger: Where can i find the source-code for wolfram|alpha?

Anonymous: and: can i understand the source?

[4](#)

2:00 am EDT, 27 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

P+T: Is the economy an open or closed system?

Alex Conconi: Depends which economy. North Korea is the closest thing to a closed economy, though even it isn't entirely closed. Most economies are open - they trade with one another/trade is encouraged rather than discouraged.

P+T: Thanks Alex! Intended question was: Is the GLOBAL economy an open or closed system? Neoclassical economists say "Yes," ecological economists say "No."

[5](#)

10:09 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

P+T: What are the limitations and flaws of using neoclassical economics to understand and manage climate change?

[7](#)

10:08 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

P+T: What emergent properties will result from the Wolfram|Alpha knowledge system?

[6](#)

10:05 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

P+T: Was the Bush Administration's implementation of the unitary executive theory a violation of the Constitution?

[7](#)

9:59 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Will Wolfram|Alpha provide any type of target advertising and business oppotunities such as google ads, pay-per-click, pay-per-view, etc.?

[5](#)

7:53 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

Arthur: What relationship does the universe have with the number 42?

[6](#)

6:22 pm EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

renate: in wich languages can we post questions ?

- [7](#)
[votes](#)
Derek Rhodes: Does the system gain experience - does it improve through user interaction?
10:55 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [7](#)
[votes](#)
what was the number of French casualties in the Battle of Avingourt
8:52 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
what is the role of parallel computing in search engine design; cite examples for both Wolfram|Alpha and Google
7:59 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
What are the driving strategies to break a traffic jam?
7:56 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [4](#)
[votes](#)
Nikita Pshenov: Is having being in a relationship a factor to achieving big success in life?
7:53 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Braulio Medina Dias: Why can't Wolfram Alpha tell if each statement about the natural numbers is true or false?
5:33 am EDT, 26 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
Braulio Medina Dias: Is the Riemann Hypothesis true or false?
Anonymous: depends
9:05 pm EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Julio: Would the system handle computational questions, say for waterhammer for example?
8:43 pm EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [9](#)
[votes](#)
For Wolfram Alpha: What is the difference between good and evil?
10:56 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
[votes](#)
Gomes: For Wolfram Alpha: What is the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything?
Anonymous: 42
Anonymous: Even Google tells you that - in seven-and-a-half milliseconds.
6:47 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)

- [5](#)
[votes](#)
Jorge: For Wolfram Alpha: Which team will most likely win the 2010 World Soccer Championship in South Africa?
Anonymous: Montserrat!!
4:51 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [7](#)
[votes](#)
charakjagan: how wolfram alpha is going to handle the non computational queries?
4:32 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [3](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: What is the average number of intermetallic compounds in binary alloy systems?
4:05 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: What is the minimal length for the DNA sequence of a biological active virus?
2:06 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: What is the number of atoms in the universe?
R.B.: $\sim 10^{80}$ in the observable universe. Outside of our causal sphere... you'll have to ask Wolfram Alpha!
2:03 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Wolfgang: Is there an algorithm for prime factorization not referring to quantum computers?
1:58 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
[votes](#)
SA: What is the smallest set that does not contain itself?
1:53 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [5](#)
[votes](#)
Julian Mancilla: It will be some voice recognition/synthesis API for artificial agent programmers?
12:43 am EDT, 25 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [6](#)
[votes](#)
Fred Kulack: For Wolfram|Alpha: What is the near future outlook for the U.S. economy.
Anonymous: Terrifying
11:52 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [7](#)
[votes](#)
For Wolfram Alpha: What is the least labor intensive process to create an 10 megaton non-nuclear electromagnetic pulse bomb out of everyday household objects?
9:36 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)
- [8](#)
8:28 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)

[votes](#)

[Kerick Robery L. de Sousa \(Br\)](#): How will WolframAlpha deal with the privacy of its users, given today many search engines, perhaps most of them seem to be hostile towards it?

[5](#)7:40 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Ryan McClellan: Do you see the breakthroughs you have made while creating Wolfram Alpha as having the potential to hasten the arrival of Artificial General Intelligence?

[6](#)7:36 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Wes: Can it handle questions involving statistical analysis? For example, "What are the drunk driving rates of minors in the U.S. compared to those in Europe?"

[7](#)6:56 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Sheila Lennon: Can WolframAlpha tell me how to cook brown rice in a crockpot? It's a typical human question with a factual answer.

[6](#)6:36 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

Olivier D.: How do you search engine compare to Google for the end-user ?

[5](#)6:18 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

PabloB: How can I assist to the launch, if possible?

[9](#)5:02 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

GNH: Will WolframAlpha be "monetized" in a way that allows targeted advertising, such as the current crop of "search engines."

Anon.: Hopefully not.

[6](#)4:30 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

I second Martinianos - Brazil. Suggest a contest to rename your engine.

Anonymous: I beg to differ. Wolfram Alpha is the best name.

[7](#)4:04 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)[votes](#)

newmac: Will Wolfram have an audible voice; with personality?

2:37 pm EDT, 24 Apr :: [Reply](#)

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