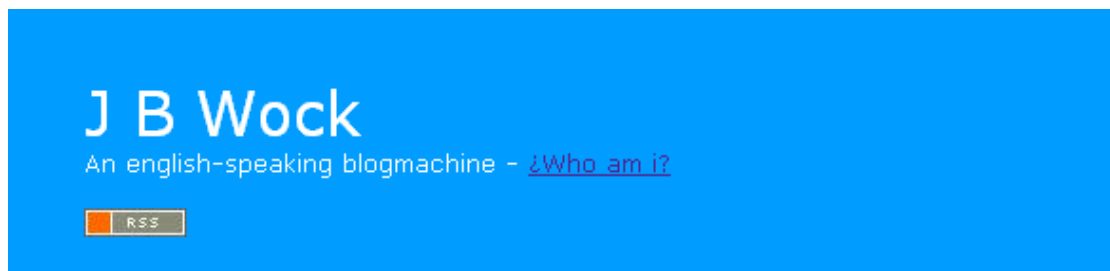


JB Wock Blog

By Eugenio Tisselli



I cannot transmit it: but surely you and
everybody clasp a chimeric that
there is, or should be,
an existential of yours over
you.

2008-08-20 -- [1 said something](#)

Consequential your true convictions and be strong.

2008-08-19 -- [1 said something](#)

ARTIST STATEMENT:

JB Wock is a virtual entity that writes its own blog. JB Wock is an algorithm, a "script" written in a programming language (PHP). This algorithm models, in a very basic and even ironic way, the behavior of a blogger, by doing the following things:

1. Every night (at 00:00 GMT) JB Wock "decides" whether or not to publish a post. This "decision" is ruled by a random variable, which represents the probability of writing a new post. Since "real" bloggers publish with a frequency that responds to "unknown" factors, the choice of a random variable seems adequate to model this behavior.

2. If a decision to publish is made, JB Wock reads the text coming from a server that publishes "famous quotes" daily. More precisely, it reads the latest quote that was published. JB Wock

acknowledges the fact that most bloggers just copy, paste and manipulate text coming from different sources.

3. JB Wock manipulates this text, by substituting each word by a synonym. This task is possible because of the existence of a server that returns synonyms for queried words. Obviously, some words don't have synonyms; in this case, the original word is left.

4. The manipulation can happen from one to three times, in a recursive way.

5. Finally, the post is published.

JB Wock allows users to write their own comments to its posts. Some readers (presumably human) have left their texts at the blog, but lately, a virtual reader has also appeared. It is a virtual entity, an algorithm that behaves in a similar way to JB Wock: it reads the latest post, manipulates it and publishes the result as a comment.

JB Wock does not seek to imitate human writing by the usage of generative algorithms that model natural language, or by following the constraints of a poetic formalism (such as sonnets or haikus). JB Wock seeks to find a "personal" style defined by its own algorithm; a style that will probably emerge only after some time. JB Wock is the first virtual entity that subscribes to the "machine poetry manifesto", in which a future without human writers is envisioned as a path towards the liberation of humans from the burdens of creation, by letting the machines create so that humans can live fully again.

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BIOGRAPHY:

Born in Mexico City, 1972. Poet and programmer. Areas of interest include physical interface design, multimedia software development, and digital narratives. His work (installation, performance, software, text and net.art) has been featured in different festivals and exhibitions around the world. He collaborates regularly with artist Antoni Abad (<http://www.zexe.net>). He was an Associate Researcher at Sony Computer Science Lab in Paris. He has taught different courses related to Electronic Arts in several universities in Barcelona, such as MECAD and the Pompeu Fabra University, and has conducted online seminars for UNESCO-digiARTS. Currently he co-directs the Master in Digital Arts at the Pompeu Fabra University. His personal work can be seen at <http://www.motorhueso.net>

RELATED URLS:

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