



THE ALICE NEWSLETTER

LEARNING TO PROGRAM WITH ALICE

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Volume 4, Number 1

Topics For This Issue

- Alice Cookies (the edible kind)
- A copy of [Learning to Program with Alice online!](#)
- Alice – Media Computation URL
- Request for Middle School materials
- Some Alice videos
- Alice events at SIGCSE

All,

Welcome to our first Alice e-newsletter of 2008.

Perhaps our biggest news is that we will be releasing a new version of Alice 2, which will be called Alice 2.2. This "point release" will include two new features:



- 1) There will be an option to save your world out as a movie. With the increased popularity of YouTube as a venue for students to disseminate movies, we decided that we needed to provide this ability ASAP.
- 2) Many of the human characters in the People gallery will now have a walk method. One of the biggest complaints we have gotten is that it is really hard to make a realistic walk. So, we'll be providing one.

Alice 2.2 will also fix some of the bugs reported with Alice 2.0. Prentice Hall has encouraged on us to put out a second edition of Learning to Program With Alice, and, assuming that I can get the time to review the changes Wanda and I have made (mainly to Tips and Techniques sections), the new edition of our book should be available for use with your classes this Fall. Please note that Alice 2.2 will be available for free download from the web, so it will not be necessary to buy the new edition of the book in order to get access to the new features in Alice 2.2.

Alice Cookies



Susan Rodger, from Duke, has come up with one of the most creative (and certainly the most delicious) ways to excite students about Alice. She makes cookies in the shape and likeness of one of the more interesting characters from the Alice gallery. Please take a look at:

<http://www.cs.duke.edu/~rodger/baking/cs.html>

for some of her creations. I was thinking that a trip down to Raleigh-Durham might be warranted on or about December 3, 2008.

A copy of Learning to Program with Alice *online*

Links

aliceprogramming.net

Helpful information on Teaching with Alice (course calendars, lectures, labs, assignments, exams, solutions, etc.)

alice.org

Download Alice, Alice community

visualization.sju.edu

The Center for Visualization website. Archive of past newsletters; listing of grants; useful information for users

I came across the Google Books site (books.google.com), and our Alice text is available for viewing. Enter the following URL into your browser:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=NwIbWrnyHeYC&printsec=frontcover&dq=%22Learning+to+Program+with+Alice%22&sig=245bPv1HlaOXnCEmtKWg0k8EGw0#PPP1,M1>

or, just go to <http://books.google.com> and enter "Learning to Program with Alice" (include the quotes) into the search criteria. Please note that only a part of the book is available on this preview.

Alice - Media Computation URL

I wanted to share the URL for the Alice and Media Computation website. (Thanks, Barb Ericson, for reminding me!) It is:

<http://home.cc.gatech.edu/TeaParty>

For those of you who teach CS1, you should definitely take a look at this site (and for those of you who teach Java in any capacity, you should also check out the site.) We are producing a combined text incorporating both Alice and the Media Computation approach, and hope to have many more details in the next e-newsletter.



Contact Us

- Recommend a colleague to the Alice Newsletter
- Share your success stories with other users
- Upcoming events / plans using Alice
- Comments, corrections or omissions

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A request for middle school materials

We received the following request:

Good Day,

I'm frequently asked to provide outreach to area youth. I am interested in using Alice in several future workshops. Are there any teaching resources or lessons geared towards middle school and high school students that can be completed in 2 hours plus a 1 hour overview?

Thanks,

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<http://www.personal.psu.edu/rll142/>

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I pointed Roderick to Susan Rodger's workshop materials:

<http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/alice/dukeFemmes/>

<http://www.cs.duke.edu/csed/alice/duke07wahl/>

But, if you would be willing to share other materials that you have, please contact Roderick directly. If you'd be willing to share your materials with everyone, I'd be happy to add a link on aliceprogramming.net. Just let us know.

Some Alice Videos

I am not much of a TV fan, and will admit to having never heard of "The Lab with Leo Laporte", but evidently it is a popular techie program produced in Canada. In any event, there are a couple of nice interviews with Leo and Jason Madar from Capilano College providing a nice introduction to Alice.

Take a look at:

<http://tinyurl.com/2guqqv>

<http://tinyurl.com/yuuftq>



The Lab with Leo Laporte

Alice events at



For those of you heading to Portland, OR for SIGCSE (<http://www.cs.duke.edu/sigcse08/>) next month, we will be holding several Alice events.

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- ✚ Thursday March 13, 8:30-10 AM Randy's keynote address on Alice (<http://www.cs.duke.edu/sigcse08/keynotes.html>)
- ✚ Thursday March 13, 6-6:45 PM Teaching with Alice Birds of a Feather session (<http://db.grinnell.edu/sigcse/sigcse2008/Program/viewAcceptedProposal.asp?sessionType=bof&sessionNumber=15>)
- ✚ Friday March 14, 12-1:30 PM The Alice Tea Party
- ✚ Friday March 14, 7-10 PM Workshop on how to program with Alice (<http://db.grinnell.edu/sigcse/sigcse2008/Program/viewAcceptedProposal.asp?sessionType=workshop&sessionNumber=23>)

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If you had not been planning to attend SIGCSE, perhaps the opportunity to hear Randy give what promises to be an unbelievable talk on Alice will be enough to change your mind.

We hope that you are having a great Spring semester, and look forward to seeing many of you next month at SIGCSE!

Regards,
Wanda and Steve