

## New Technology Promises an End to CAPTCHAs

A small technology start-up has just launched a new product that they hope will end the bane of CAPTCHAs forever.

CAPTCHAs are those annoying little boxes you seem to find everywhere on the web with the twisty, distorted letters in them that you're supposed to type in to prove you're a human. Nobody likes CAPTCHAs, and it turns out that they're just not very effective at stopping spam.

ShareThink Ltd. of Ottawa, Canada has created a new product they call the Human Intelligence Verification Engine, or HIVE for short. Instead of requiring users to type in letters, a HIVE challenge shows users a collection of assorted objects, and requires users to use their mouse and draw a line to match two things that belong together, or to circle one thing that doesn't belong. The resulting test is a sort of mini-game that harks back to the old *Sesame Street* game where "One of these things is not like the others".

