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Computer Science Prize to Honor 3 Forerunners of Internet Security

By JOHN MARKOFF

The Association of Computing Machinery plans to announce today that Ronald L. Rivest, Adi Shamir and Leonard M. Adleman will receive the 2002 A. M. Turing Award for their development work in public-key cryptography.

The award, which carries a $100,000 prize financed by the Intel Corporation, is given annually to leading researchers in the field of computer science.

Working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977, the three men developed the RSA algorithm, which is widely used today as a basic mechanism for secure Internet transactions, as well as in the banking and credit card industries.

The strength of this approach is that it provides highly secure communications over distances between parties that have never previously been in contact.
Dr. Rivest now teaches in the electrical engineering and computer science department at M.I.T.

Dr. Shamir is a professor in the applied mathematics department at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Dr. Adleman is a professor of computer science and of molecular biology at the University of Southern California.

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