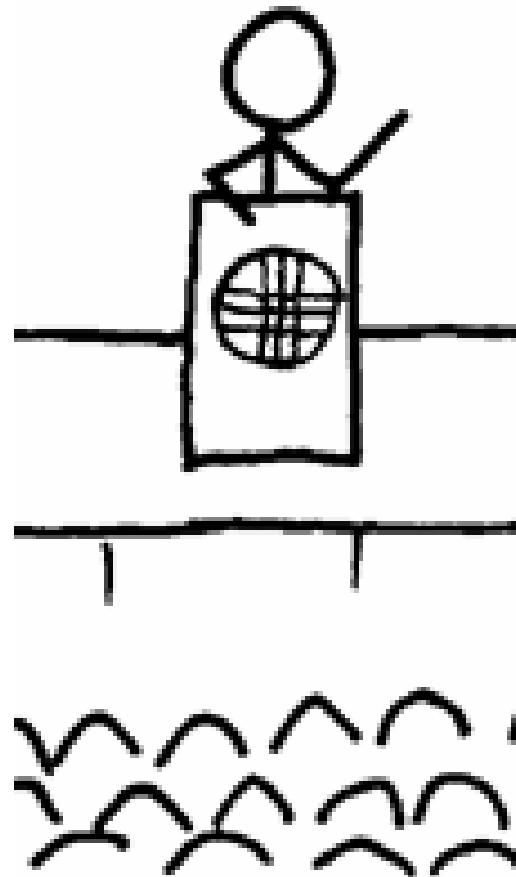


A Modest Drawing of Chance

Prize drawings limitations:

- poorly defined process
- poor distribution
- bias
- paper sticks together
- inconsistent folding
- privacy and regulatory issues

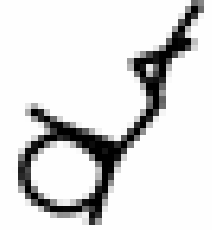


Random Indexing in Ten Easy Steps



1. Precisely count the submissions.
2. Pile the submissions face down in a stack.
3. Generate a random positive integer in the range of the number of submissions.
4. Precisely pop off the stack counting off the random number.
5. The last popped off the stack might be the winner, set aside (note, not the top item on the stack, otherwise #1 would never win).
6. If the stack underflows, then a mistake was made, start over.
7. Continue to precisely pop the stack until gone, while counting the remaining submissions.
8. Sum the count of remaining submissions to the random number.
9. The sum should be identical to the first count.
10. If not identical, then a mistake was made, start over.

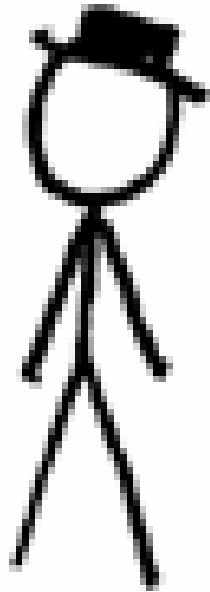
Fair Coin Selection



1. Pile the submissions face down in a stack.
2. Cut the stack roughly (or exactly) in two.
3. Flip a fair coin.
4. Use the coin result to consistently choose a stack to discard.
5. Repeat until only one submission remains, the winner.

Risk Management in Action

Or we could just use a hat.



images courtesy of <http://www.xkcd.com/>