

Windscribe Puts \$42,000 on the Line to Settle the Human vs AI Art Debate

VPN company launches animation contest pitting human artists against AI creators, with a 60/40 prize split favoring the humans.

TORONTO, CANADA, March 23, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Windscribe, the privacy-focused VPN service known for its transparency and irreverent brand, has launched the [Windscribe Animated Production Fest](#) (WAP Fest). It's a \$42,000 animation contest designed to put the ongoing human vs AI art debate to a very public and expensive test.

The contest runs two parallel competitions under the same umbrella. One track is exclusively for human-made animations with zero generative AI permitted. The other is an open free-for-all where AI tools, human craft, or any combination thereof are fair game. Both tracks share the same categories, the same judges, and the same deadline: April 13, 2026.

The \$42,000 prize pool is split 60/40 in favor of humans; \$25,000 goes to the human track and \$17,000 is for the AI. But here's the kicker: human artists can also enter the AI category. The reverse is not true. As Windscribe puts it, "If AI-generated work is really as good as the techbros claim, it shouldn't need protection from the competition."

Here's how it works: participants download the Windscribe app (free, no payment info required), pick any two location nicknames from the server list, and create a 30-to-60-second animation using those nicknames as the creative premise. Windscribe's VPN locations have carried playful nicknames since 2018. While other VPNs might have "New York - US East" in their list, Windscribe has names like "New York - Insomnia" and "Miami - Florida Man" - the kind of thing that sparks a story.



WAP Fest - Windscribe's \$42,000 Animation Contest



We decided to throw money at the debate instead of opinions. If AI can truly match human creativity, let's see it happen in a fair fight with real stakes.”

Windscribe

The competition spans seven judging categories: Grand Prize, Funniest, Best Character, Best Art Style, Best Vibes, Best Sound Design, and Best Story. Each category awards prizes in both the human and AI tracks. Grand Prize winners take home \$10,000 (human) and \$7,500 (AI), with category winners earning \$2,000 and \$1,250 respectively. Ten honorary mentions per track round out the awards at \$300 (human) and \$200 (AI) each. Every winner also receives a Windscribe Pro subscription.

Windscribe lays out some rules for the contest. First off, human track entries face strict verification - no generative AI of any kind is permitted (no AI-generated visuals, sounds, music, voices, or scripts). Traditional animation tools like auto-tweening and motion smoothing are allowed, but generative features are not. Simple proof of work is required for every human submission.

The AI track has one rule: make it good. Any tools, any workflow, any level of AI involvement. Windscribe's framing is deliberately provocative: if AI evangelists insist the technology can match human creativity, this is their chance to prove it in a head-to-head format with real money at stake.

All submissions must be original, animation-only (no filmed content except stop-motion and claymation), and free of copyrighted material. Users can use any animation style including 2D, 3D, anime, vector, rotoscope, pixel art, and everything in between.

Now why is a VPN company running an art contest in the first place? Windscribe has a history of community-driven creative competitions. The WAP Fest follows the company's earlier [Windscribe Transnational Film Festival](#) (WTF Fest), continuing a pattern of investing directly in its user community rather than spending on traditional advertising.

The human-vs-AI framing taps into one of the most active cultural debates in the creative world right now. Rather than publishing a blog post with an opinion, Windscribe is spending \$42,000 to generate an actual answer - or at least a very entertaining argument.

The contest is open now with a deadline of April 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST. Animations must be 30 to 60 seconds, delivered as uncompressed MP4 files in 1080p or 4K resolution at a minimum of 12 FPS. Full rules, submission guidelines, and entry details are available at <https://windscribe.com/wap>.

About Windscribe

Windscribe is a privacy-focused VPN and security tool used by millions of people worldwide. Built

on a foundation of transparency and a [court-proven no-logging policy](#), Windscribe offers both free and paid plans with features including R.O.B.E.R.T. (DNS-level ad and malware blocking), fully open-source clients, and servers in over 69 countries. The company is headquartered in Toronto, Canada.

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