



Dr. Dobb's Architecture & Design World 2008 to Feature Software Design Contest Powered by TopCoder



June 2008 – TopCoder will be onsite at the 2008 Dr Dobb's Architecture & Design World in Chicago July 21-24 to host the Software Architecture Contest, providing attendees with a TopCoder challenge in architectural design. The Software Architecture Contest will provide attendees with a real-world exercise in architectural design, facing off on an even playing field with their peers to determine who can create and document the best comprehensive software solution to address a set of system requirements.

Contestants will compete to create and document a comprehensive solution to a set of system requirements. During the conference, attendees will be able to browse and score the submissions using the same scorecards and criteria that TopCoder uses to judge competitions for our own commercial projects.

- The scope is defined. The requirements are solid. The development team is begging to write code. The client wants to deploy yesterday. Now all you have to do is deliver a clear, comprehensive design to implement those requirements and send that dev team's fingers flying .-

TopCoder's architecture process is designed to help you do just that. Architectures create a standard set of deliverables. An Application Design Specification (ADS) describes the system's data flow and organization, as well as the components, technologies, and patterns used to realize the system. UML sequence and interface diagrams define component boundaries and interactions. An Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) describes the logical and physical data model for the system. Component Requirement Specifications (RS) define the details of the system. Standardized deliverables enable an independent review board to judge and compare architectures – thus enabling competition and ranking.

During a TopCoder architecture competition, submissions are judged on a wide-ranging variety of criteria – efficiency, security, concurrency, transactionality (see "*TopCoder's Architecture Scorecard*" overview elsewhere in this newsletter) – as well as completeness and validity with respect to the system requirements. At TopCoder, this process helps us develop architectural skill and accuracy – both for internal staff and for our member base.

If you're planning on attending the conference and you're not registered full information for the Dr. Dobb's Architecture and Design World Conference is available at: <http://www.drdoobbsarchworld.com>.