Welcome to the 2006 TopCoder® Collegiate Challenge, Sponsored by AOL®. It has been five years since the beginning of TopCoder and it has been a fascinating journey.

Twelve is the number of consecutive tournaments held, including the Collegiate Challenge and the TopCoder Open. We have brought our events from San Francisco, to Boston, to Connecticut, to Santa Clara, to Las Vegas and now here in San Diego. Each has grown larger in size and production.

95,527 is the number of members that have evolved TopCoder. They fill up our Single Round Matches, they build our components, voice their opinions in our forums and increasingly build and manage the infrastructure that, in a full-circle sort of way, supports the community.

240 is the number of collegiate registrants for the first-ever 2001 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge. 3,317 is the number of collegiate registrants for the 2006 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge.

Fifteen is the number of university students that have made it to the onsite finals in this year's Component Design and Development Competition. After numerous weeks of online competition, they will all come together for a week of risk, wagering and appeals.

$8,347,545 is the sum of money paid out in prizes since our first contest. $2,734,919 in algorithms, $2,787,625 in components and $2,825,001 in member contract payments.

48 is the number of exceptional Algorithm finalists that we have brought together from all over the world.

3592 is the highest algorithm ranking a TopCoder member has ever reached.

Six is the number of review board members that have given us their time to be onsite and review the submissions and appeals for the Component Design and Development Competition. Year after year, they are consistently hardworking and reliable and I thank them for their help.

Four is the number of fantastic sponsors that have supported us in this tournament. AOL as our title sponsor, has outdone themselves with their amount of participation and enthusiasm. We are honored to work with them. The National Security Agency (NSA), Bloomberg, and UBS, as our premier sponsors, are a pleasure to work with and I thank them for their support.

Four is the number of TopCoder Staff we started off with in 2001. 92 is the number of TopCoder staff employed now that help all of the above to be possible and I am grateful.

I’m looking forward to the 2006 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge finals. Thanks to everyone for attending and good luck to the competitors!

Jack Hughes
Founder, TopCoder, Inc.
Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 14, 2006
7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception

Wednesday, November 15, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am Algorithm Semifinal Room 1
11:00am - 12:00pm UBS Presentation
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 3:00pm Component Design & Development 1
3:00pm - 4:00pm Developer Forum: Applying the TopCoder Philosophy to New Frontiers
4:00pm - 6:00pm Algorithm Semifinal Room 2
4:00pm - 10:00pm Competitor Game Room
7:00pm - 10:00pm Poker Tournament

Thursday, November 16, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am Algorithm Semifinal Room 3
11:00am - 12:00pm Bloomberg Presentation
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 2:00pm NSA Presentation
1:00pm - 3:00pm Component Design & Development 2
3:00pm - 4:00pm Developer Forum: Estimating Project Size
4:00pm - 6:00pm Algorithm Wildcard Round
6:30pm - 10:00pm AOL Evening Event

Friday, November 17, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am Component Design & Development Appeals Final
11:00am - 12:00pm AOL Presentation
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 2:00pm Developer Forum: Overview of Recent TopCoder Projects
1:30pm - 3:30pm Algorithm Championship Round
3:30pm - 4:00pm All Champion Announcements
4:00pm - 5:00pm Media Hour / Press Conference
7:00pm - 10:00pm Awards Reception

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Component Competition

TopCoder Design Competitions require participants to design a software component. Starting from a requirements specification, they produce a full set of design documentation: UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification document which contains algorithm descriptions, exception handling, and documentation.

The Scoreboard during the Appeals Phase: Each column represents the score from that reviewer, with the last column being the average. If the score is yellow, there is a pending appeal. If it is green, the last appeal was successful. If it is red, the last appeal was unsuccessful. Below each score is a line with “P: x S: x F: x”, indicating the number of pending, successful, and failed appeals.

The Scoreboard showing Final Component Results: Each pair of columns is the final score for the component and the coder’s wager on that component. Underneath the score for each component is the place that they got within that component. The last column is the total wagered points earned.

Component Development

TopCoder Development Competitions require participants to implement a previously designed software component. Their starting point is the winning design submission that includes UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification document which contains algorithm descriptions, exception handling, and documentation. They are required to provide a full implementation of the design, as well as a full suite of unit tests for their implementation and documentation.

Each competitor’s submission goes through a review process that includes an initial screening and, if the submission passes screening, a full review by a three person Review Board. The competitors have a chance to appeal their review scores and once all appeals are answered the winner of the competition is announced. After the winner fixes any remaining problems with their submission, the competition ends and the implementation becomes a part of the TopCoder software catalog.

All implementation and review work of the TopCoder Collegiate Challenge Development Finals took place online. At the onsite event, the competitors will first see their review scorecards and the appeals phase will take place.

Component Competition Bracket

During the onsite design and development finals, the competitors will be asked to perform appeals on three components they worked on during the three online final rounds. Before each of the three appeal rounds, they will wager points on the component for the round. The number of points they will receive for that round will equal the points wagered, divided by their placement in the component. The Design and Development competitors with the most points after all three projects have finished appeals will be the winners of the 2006 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge Component Competitions.

The Scoreboard showing Final Component Results:
**AntiMatter**  
**Design Rating 1433**  
Current Ranking 24 / Rating Percentile 76.00 / Number of Ratings 28 / Highest Rating 1469 / Country: United States

**Hubert Hwang**  
**College** M.I.T.  
**Hometown** Staten Island, NY  
**Favorite Food** Beef Lo mein  
**Favorite Movie** Favorite bad movie: “Puma Man”, favorite not-bad movie: “The Matrix”  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory** It would have to be my first time onsite at the TCCC 2004. Watching the finalists compete live is so much better than sitting in the arena waiting for someone to submit so that all of the spectators can go “oooh” and speculate on the winner. :)

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**Indemar**  
**Design Rating 747**  
Current Ranking 71 / Rating Percentile 29.00 / Number of Ratings 5 / Highest Rating 1001 / Country: Romania

**Radu Ioanitescu**  
**College** Politehnica University of Bucharest  
**Hometown** Bucharest  
**Favorite Food** French fries  
**Favorite Movie** A Beautiful Mind  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory** My father once crashed the laptop on a Thursday morning and it just wouldn’t start. I disassembled the laptop and remember trying to make the hard drive work so that I could get my design and submit it. I didn’t after all but amazingly the laptop recovered and it still had daily “duties” after this incident.

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**Finrod**  
**Design Rating 1062**  
Current Ranking 49 / Rating Percentile 51.00 / Number of Ratings 2 / Highest Rating 1082 / Country: Poland

**Filip Sieczkowski**  
**College** University of Wroclaw  
**Hometown** Wroclaw, Poland  
**Favorite Food** Mediterranean cuisine in general, specifically paella.  
**Favorite Movie** Star Wars  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory** This year’s TCCC because I have never advanced to the finals and because it was totally unexpected. After 3 weeks and 2 successful submissions I was in the best 8, I couldn’t believe it. Then in the 5th week, I made a pretty bad error. I was crushed, but when the results came in, I found out I was second only to AleaActaEst who didn’t take part in the tournament and earned 10 points. I finished at 3th place, 2 points ahead of oldbam and wca, and advanced to the onsite.

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**Maone**  
**Design Rating 1471**  
Current Ranking 20 / Rating Percentile 80.00 / Number of Ratings 5 / Highest Rating 1471 / Country: China

**Yiqiang Mao**  
**College** Zhijiang University  
**Hometown** Jiangshan, Zhejiang Province, China  
**Favorite Movie** A Better Tomorrow  
**Favorite band/artist** Chow Yun-Fat  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory** In the TCCC06 Component Design Competition, I got 40 points when winning only one of them.
Marijn Kruisselbrink
College: Eindhoven University of Technology
Hometown: Zwolle, The Netherlands
Favorite Food: Poffertjes
Favorite TopCoder Memory: After having forgotten to register in the last week of qualification for this TCCC, I was very disappointed when it turned out I placed 9th when the qualification round was over. I was of course still hoping someone wouldn’t be able to make it onsite. However just when I had given up all hope, since the championship round had started, I received an e-mail to compete in the onsite finals! 

Rostyslav Slipetskyy
College: Kyiv, Mohyla Academy
Hometown: Uzhgorod, Ukraine
Favorite Food: Varenyky (Ukrainian National Food)
Favorite Movie: Wild Orchid
Favorite TopCoder Memory: By the time I decided to take part in the SRM, I was a TC member for half a year. One night (it was actually deep night in my country), I decided to try my best. I registered for the SRM and waited patiently for this exciting moment to begin. From my university only one boy was a TopCoder member, but I had no idea if he already passed his first SRM or not. When the SRM began, that boy (rage_true) was in the same room with me! It was unforgettable!

Patrick Coleman
College: University of Adelaide
Hometown: Adelaide, South Australia
Favorite Food: Chicken Schnitzel
Favorite Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Competing in SRM319, GCJ’06 round 2, and working on a TCCC design all on the same day, two days after the regional ACM final. Busy at the time, but they all turned out well.

Marijn Kruisselbrink
College: Eindhoven University of Technology
Hometown: Zwolle, The Netherlands
Favorite Food: Poffertjes
Favorite TopCoder Memory: After having forgotten to register in the last week of qualification for this TCCC, I was very disappointed when it turned out I placed 9th when the qualification round was over. I was of course still hoping someone wouldn’t be able to make it onsite. However just when I had given up all hope, since the championship round had started, I received an e-mail to compete in the onsite finals!

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Favorite TopCoder Memory: Competing in SRM319, GCJ’06 round 2, and working on a TCCC design all on the same day, two days after the regional ACM final. Busy at the time, but they all turned out well.
Wenbin Dai
College: Zhejiang University
Hometown: OuZhou, Zhejiang Province, China
Favorite Food: Food by my mother
Favorite Band/Artist: Beyond
Favorite TopCoder Memory: In SRM277, I solved two problems, ranked first in the room after coding phase. Unfortunately I failed three challenges and dropped to third. I did not know that cash was offered for winning that SRM. After system test, the two reds before me each failed one problem and I returned to first. Suddenly, I was informed that I won $80 in that contest! It was the first time I won a room and cash from TC :-).
Spotlight: TCCC Student Representative

In order to increase participation in this year’s TopCoder Collegiate Challenge, TopCoder members from around the world volunteered their time in our Student Representative program. Each member delivered hundreds of flyers to their local campus in hopes of being crowned the best. The Student Rep who brought in the most members to compete in the TCCC won an all expense paid trip to the onsite event here in San Diego. Congratulations to our Student Rep winner, Zhengqiang Lu from China who had 23 referrals of which 15 qualified for the TCCC.
Developer Forums

All finalists and spectators are welcome to participate in the interactive discussions. Learn about TopCoder’s real world experience in the following areas:

Wednesday, November 15   3:00PM - 4:00PM

Applying the TopCoder Philosophy to New Frontiers
Two TopCoder clients have utilized the core TopCoder philosophies—competition-based business models and objective rating systems—as a means of assessing performance and reducing risk. In the first part of the forum, Aizling will discuss how the company based its revolutionary approach to nursing and the healthcare industry on a competition model, feedback system, and shift matching logic. Next up will be Equitrader, which will review its simulated trading competitions, its rating system, and new technology that enables members to create autonomous trading bots. How does the TopCoder approach apply to staffing a medical facility or trading stocks? Join in the discussion and find out!

Thursday, November 16   3:00PM - 4:00PM

Estimating Project Size
How long will this take? How much money will it cost? These two simple questions can be infuriatingly difficult to answer, especially when it comes to an enterprise software project. But there’s hope, thanks to the “Use Case Points” methodology. Use Case Points can help evaluate a project’s scope - based on the Use Cases and Actors outlined in the Use Case model - as well as a project’s complexity. This forum will discuss the features of the Use Case Points approach and highlight how it has been applied to TopCoder projects.

Friday, November 17   1:00PM - 2:00PM

Overview of Recent TopCoder Projects
New clients and projects have expanded TopCoder’s presence in a variety of market spaces, from energy and insurance to finance, healthcare, media, and retail. TopCoder has built a variety of applications - including data warehousing, internal, integration, and mobile device systems - using new and emerging technologies like J2ME, RFID, and AJAX. For each project, TopCoder has applied its software development methodology to build reliable, scalable solutions - and, by leveraging TopCoder’s component library, these projects have been completed for less money and with fewer bugs. In this forum, learn more about the diverse array of projects TopCoder is tackling and what we’ve learned by applying our methods to a wide range of industries.

Review Board

Design Reviewers
Highly rated and experienced TopCoder members fill the ranks of the Architecture Design Review Board. These members screen and review all design submissions to ensure the components meet the functional requirements, are documented properly and contain the appropriate sequence, use and case diagrams. Additionally, the Architecture Design Review Board recommends design enhancements and verifies that the design is flexible enough to be reused and customizable in the future.

WishingBone
Jiazhi Wu
Country: China
Algorithm Rating: 2533
Design Rating: 1709
Development Rating: 27,800.76
TC Earnings: $22,026.38

Luca
Codrut-Lucian Lazar
Country: Romania
Algorithm Rating: 0
Design Rating: 1708
Development Rating: 0
TC Earnings: $22,026.38

Development Reviewers
TopCoder Software utilizes past component development winners and accomplished TopCoder competitors to staff the Development Review Board. These reviewers verify that each development submission meets the required functionality, coding style, adheres to the component design and contains a suitable test suite. Furthermore, to certify that the component belongs in the TopCoder catalog, the Development Review Board adds a suite of test cases including stress, accuracy and failure cases to the component.

TheCois
Francois Bonin
Country: Ghana
Algorithm Rating: 1358
Design Rating: 2228
Development Rating: 820
TC Earnings: $1,084.31

Visualage
Qi Wu
Country: China
Algorithm Rating: 2096
Design Rating: 2054
Development Rating: 38,231.02
TC Earnings: $1,026.38

Assistant
Yanbo Wu
Country: China
Algorithm Rating: 1069
Design Rating: 0
Development Rating: 1220
TC Earnings: $5,002.43

adic
Adrian Nicolae Carcu
Country: Romania
Algorithm Rating: 1964
Design Rating: 2471
Development Rating: 1820
TC Earnings: $83,607.39

Developer Forums 15

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What are We Watching?  
Algorithm Competition

TopCoder Algorithm Competitions are fast-paced contests designed to find and reward the fastest and most accurate coder. Each round is broken into three main parts: the Coding Phase, the Challenge Phase, and the System Testing Phase.

The Coding Phase tasks competitors with solving 3 problems of increasing difficulty in 85 minutes. Their knowledge of algorithms, programming language proficiency, and problem solving skills are tested in a high pressure environment where each second spent coding results in a lower score. Problems this year have included arranging a group of students by height, determining optimal placement of pipe pieces in a truck, connecting igloos after a snow storm, and determining possible moves for a game of dominoes. After finishing the Coding Phase, the coders have an opportunity to compete head-to-head in the Challenge Phase.

During the Challenge Phase coders can submit inputs that attempt to “break” another coder’s submission. Coders analyze the code for each submission looking for potential bugs. Once they believe they’ve found a mistake they must craft a set of inputs that will cause the submission to fail. If the challenged program returns a wrong result, the challenger gets 50 points and the defendant’s score for that submission becomes zero. If the returned result is correct, the challenger loses 25 points.

Once the Challenge Phase is over coders wait in suspense while a series of System Tests run on each program. The System Tests determine if a solution is correct or not. If a solution fails on any of the system test cases, it is re-scored to zero. Once the System Tests are finished the results are displayed on the Arena scoreboard and the winners are declared.

The 48 semi-finalists represent the best of the best in a record setting field of participants. 1500 coders qualified for the 2006 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge. This year marks the first event with rounds run by section, allowing more coders to compete in the tournament. Each semi-finalist had to fight through two sectional rounds and one overall round to advance. The semi-finalists have been split into three rounds of 16. The top two scorers from each semifinal will advance to the finals, and places 3-6 will advance to a Wildcard round. The last two finals spots (for a total of 8) will be filled with the top two finishes in the Wildcard. Once the finalists have been chosen it will all come down to the finals: 100 minutes of competition that determine who will be the champion of the 2006 TCCC Algorithm Competition.

The Scoreboard during Coding Phase: Each score represents the potential points a competitor could earn on that problem. If the background is green, it has been submitted and the score is locked. The last column is the total score from all submitted problems.

The Scoreboard during Challenge Phase: The first column is the last action that a coder made (challenged, viewing, etc.). If the text is green the challenge was successful, if red, it was unsuccessful. The “Challenges” column is the total points the coder has earned from the challenge phase. Each of the defense columns shows the coder’s score for each submitted problem. If the score is yellow, someone is looking at it. If it is green, it was defended successfully. If it is red, it was challenged. The name of the challenger will appear under the score. The last column is total score.

The Scoreboard during System Testing: Scores with a green background and a checkmark passed systests. Those with a red background and an X failed systest. Final column is total score.
Algorithm Competition Bracket

Final Round

Wildcard Round

Semifinal Rounds

Room 1

tomek
ACRush
reid
Ying
mathijks
AdrianKuegel
MikeMirzayanov
ardiankp

Room 2

misof
andrewzta
krijgertje
Egor
Revenger
halyavin
Abednego
lhi

Room 3

Psyho
domino
Maris
Vitally
FatSimon
Macsy
bjoeris
Multifarious

Petr
bmerry
Eryx
OpenGL
lucab
kia
nicka81
gevak

KOTEHOK
Vintik
PMH
darnley
maone
Vovka
tywok
olo
Algorithm semifinalists

Igor Navereniouk
College: University of Toronto
Hometown: Moscow, Russia
Favorite Food: Tuna sashimi
Favorite Movie: Pulp Fiction
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Making it to Google Code Jam onsite last year was pretty exciting. Getting a summer job there after that was even better.

Rating History

Tournament Stats

Algorithm semifinalists

Adrian Kuegel
College: University of Ulm
Hometown: Nuremberg
Favorite Movie: Some Like It Hot
Favorite Band/Artist: Shania Twain
Favorite TopCoder Memory: One of the most exciting events for me was SRM 217, where I got 3rd place (I had never done better). During the challenge phase, for a short time I was leading, until Snapdragon got another successful challenge.

Rating History

Algorithm semifinalists

Andrey Stankevich
College: Saint-Petersburg State University, ITMO
Hometown: St Petersburg
Favorite Food: Seafood
Favorite Movie: Forrest Gump
Favorite TopCoder Memory: TCO06, I had a contest every day - semi, wildcard, finals. Wildcard was exciting. Coded easy (harder than needed). Coded medium (later failed). 20 minutes left. No chance for hard. Open it. Hmm, I can solve it. Coding... 3 minutes left, paste compile test... -1 case wrong! Back to vim, fixing... compile test... ok! Submit! Passed. Never give up.

Rating History

Algorithm semifinalists

Abednego
College: University of Toronto
Hometown: Moscow, Russia
Favorite Food: Tuna sashimi
Favorite Movie: Pulp Fiction
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Making it to Google Code Jam onsite last year was pretty exciting. Getting a summer job there after that was even better.

Rating History

Tournament Stats

Algorithm semifinalists

ACRush
College: Tsinghua University
Hometown: Hangzhou, Zhejiang of China
Favorite Movie: Lord Of The Rings
Favorite Band/Artist: Beatles
Favorite TopCoder Memory: If I was in the lead after the challenge phase and had a 600+ performance on the hard problem, then I always failed the system tests on the hard.

Rating History

Tournament Stats

Algorithm semifinalists

Andrewzta
College: Saint-Petersburg State University, ITMO
Hometown: St Petersburg
Favorite Food: Seafood
Favorite Movie: Forrest Gump
Favorite TopCoder Memory: TCO06, I had a contest every day - semi, wildcard, finals. Wildcard was exciting. Coded easy (harder than needed). Coded medium (later failed). 20 minutes left. No chance for hard. Open it. Hmm, I can solve it. Coding... 3 minutes left, paste compile test... -1 case wrong! Back to vim, fixing... compile test... ok! Submit! Passed. Never give up.

Rating History

TianCheng Lou
College: Tsinghua University
Hometown: Hangzhou, Zhejiang of China
Favorite Movie: Lord Of The Rings
Favorite Band/Artist: Beatles
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Rating History
Ardian Kristanto Poernomo

College: Nanyang Technological University
Hometown: Surabaya, Indonesia
Favorite Food: Rice!
Favorite Movie: All funny movies are easy to enjoy :)

Favorite TopCoder Memory: When I reached onsite for the TCO (2005). When I met the TOP-coders, I found they are not that “Nerdy”. Haha. maybe I’m just over-excited, makes my rating which is peaked in the last online round dropped until yellow in several following SRMs, peaked at TCO semifinal which I scored 0 :(. I hope I wont repeat that again this year :P

Bankevich

College: St. Petersburg SU
Hometown: St. Petersburg
Favorite Food: Ice-cream
Favorite Band/Artist: Nautilus Pompilius
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I was 53rd at the Round 3 TCCC. And only 48 contestants advance onsite. Unfortunately I know now, that I was not eliminated! It is great!

Benson Joeris

College: Colorado State University
Hometown: Fort Collins, Colorado
Favorite Food: Big City potato burrito (local restaurant)
Favorite Movie: The Wall
Favorite TopCoder Memory: In the 3rd round of this tournament, I was excited about being 16th going into system tests. When I found that my 500 failed, I was sad, knowing I hadn’t qualified. Then I scrolled down to see how far I had dropped, and saw the number 48 next to my name.
Bruce Merry  
**College:** University of Cape Town  
**Hometown:** Cape Town  
**Favorite Food:** Lasagna  
**Favorite Movie:** Lack, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory:** Coming 5th in the 3rd Intel Multi-threaded Contest was an interesting experience. It seemed to take over my life and I was on campus into the wee hours trying to scrape out an extra few milliseconds to stay in the top 5.

Mircea Pasoi  
**College:** University of Bucharest  
**Hometown:** Ploiesti  
**Favorite Food:** Pizza  
**Favorite Movie:** Fight Club  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory:** My most exciting TopCoder story is qualifying for the TCCC 2006 onsite finals. I've always wanted to take part at such an event, so this is like a dream come true. I know I will meet some amazing people at the finals...it will be awesome!

Egor Kulikov  
**College:** Moscow State University  
**Hometown:** Yaroslavl'  
**Favorite Food:** Roasted potato with great piece of pork  
**Favorite Movie:** V for Vendetta  
**Favorite TopCoder Memory:** The only SRM I won had a very challenging easy for 300 pts. I started with it and wrote something that somehow passed examples. Then I noticed, that the 450 was submitted for about 445 by some people and wrote it very fast just because of it. I think if I have used different order, I won't ever be in top 10...
Algorithm Semifinalists

**Eryk Kopczynski**
College: Warsaw University  
Hometown: Warsaw  
Favorite Movie: UFO  
Favorite Band/Artist: M.C. Escher  
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Winning the TCO last year was of course the most exciting story for me. Another exciting story is when I stayed at a place without Internet access during a round of GEIJ and I had to travel to get it, but 50 words is not enough for that.

**FatSimon**
College: University of Waterloo  
Hometown: Waterloo  
Favorite Food: Anything spicy  
Favorite Band/Artist: M.C. Escher  
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I finally got to red during the TCCC elimination rounds!

**Roman Satyukov**
College: Saint-Petersburg State University, ITMO  
Hometown: Saint-Petersburg, Russia  
Favorite Movie: Back to the Future  
Favorite Band/Artist: Queen  
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I haven't been to any onsite events or won any SRM's yet. And I hope that my most exciting TopCoder event will be soon.

**Alexey Zhevak**
College: Ufa State Technical University of Aviation  
Hometown: Ufa, Russia  
Favorite Movie: The 5th Element  
Favorite Band/Artist: M.C. Escher

algo\textsuperscript{r}\textsuperscript{r}h\textsuperscript{m}m\textsuperscript{r} S\textsuperscript{E}m\textsuperscript{r}f\textsuperscript{I}n\textsuperscript{a}l\textsuperscript{I}st\textsuperscript{s}
Kaisuke Nakajima
College: University of Tokyo
Hometown: Chigasaki
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Movie: Apollo 13
Favorite Band/Artist: ZZ Top
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Formerly I participated in ACM/ICPC several times but never made it to the finals. I could only imagine how exciting it would be to compete with world champions... and was very surprised to know exactly those people are here in TopCoder :) I really enjoy being part of this community.

Rune Fevang
College: Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Hometown: Tønsberg, Norway
Favorite Movie: Lord of the Rings, Two Towers
Favorite Band/Artist: DJ Tiesto
Favorite TopCoder Memory: It will have to be SRM 246 where I got a lot of challenges on a precision issue. My own solution also had a precision issue, but fortunately for me it was just small enough to get by system tests :).
Ivan Krasinikov
College: Stavropol State University
Hometown: Stavropol, Russia
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I remember Online Round 1 of TCO 2006. That was my first contest in Division 1, of course, in which, after I have solved all three problems, I still had about a half of coding time left, and just didn’t know what to do next. That was quite a strange new feeling!

Erik-Jan Krijgsman
College: Universiteit Twente
Hometown: Hengeveld
Favorite Movie: Lord of the Rings
Favorite Band/Artist: U2
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Well, the most exciting thing still is competing at an onsite event. When you sit there, you really feel the tension. I still remember how nervous I was at last year's TCCC.

KOTEHOK
College: St. Petersburg State University
Hometown: St. Petersburg, Russia
Favorite Food: Pelmeni (Russian food like ravioli)
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Once on vacation, a strange thought occurred to me. I decided to TopCode! I went to cafe and found the only PC with 64mb memory! But it did not stop me. Although I lost two minutes on my 500 to swapping, it was the fastest, I finished 5th and became red.

Luca Barbieri
College: Scuola Normale Superiore
Hometown: Milano, Italy
Favorite Food: Filet mignon
Favorite Movie: The Matrix
Favorite TopCoder Memory: My favorite memory was qualifying for the onsite finals of TCO 2006 in the middle of the night, and then the competition and the stay in Las Vegas.
Mathijs Vogelzang
College: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Hometown: Groningen, Netherlands
Favorite Movie: Pulp Fiction
Favorite Band/Artist: The Smashing Pumpkins
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Winning the TCCC ‘05 was very exciting. I couldn’t believe it at first. I made it into the biggest national newspaper with a photo. The “I won the TCCC” party I threw back home was great fun.
Mike Mirzayanov  
SEED 40  
Current Rating 2540  
Current Ranking 55  /  Rating Percentile 99.668  /  Number of Ratings 84  /  Highest Rating 2571  /  Country: Russian Federation

Michael Mirzayanov  
College Saratov State University  
Hometown Saratov. Have you been in Saratov?  
Favorite Food Tuborg  
Favorite Band/Artist Only Russians: Irina Bogusheskaya, Svetlana Suraganova, Zimovie Zverey, etc...  
Favorite TopCoder Memory I took the 54th place on the TCCC Round 3, but advanced to the finals. Great!

Algorithm Semifinalists

Multifarious  
SEED 278  
Current Rating 1976  
Current Ranking 330  /  Rating Percentile 98.0181  /  Number of Ratings 40  /  Highest Rating 2039  /  Country: United States

Nathan Claus  
College Purdue University  
Hometown Indianapolis, Indiana  
Favorite Food Macaroni and Cheese  
Favorite Band/Artist Aphex Twin  
Favorite TopCoder Memory My favorite TopCoder experience actually was not related to SRMs, or the TCCC or the Marathon Matches - it was competing in Abednego's puzzles through the Forums.

Algorithm Semifinalists

Misof  
SEED 2  
Current Rating 3165  
Current Ranking 6  /  Rating Percentile 99.9638 /  Number of Ratings 76  /  Highest Rating 3387  /  Country: Slovakia

Michal Forisek  
College Comenius University  
Hometown Poprad, Slovakia  
Favorite Food Curry chicken, and anything hot & spicy  
Favorite Movie Blade Runner  
Favorite TopCoder Memory Getting into TCCC's finals it was my first TC event, and it was quite emotional from my point of view -- in the semis a narrow loss to tomek due to a subtle bug, and then getting back in shape and winning the wildcard.

Algorithm Semifinalists

Nicka81  
SEED 50  
Current Rating 2336  
Current Ranking 106  /  Rating Percentile 99.3634  /  Number of Ratings 147  /  Highest Rating 2791  /  Country: Russian Federation

Nikolay Archak  
College New York University  
Hometown Saint-Petersburg, Russia  
Favorite Food Korean samgyeopsal  
Favorite Band/Artist Scorpions  
Favorite TopCoder Memory One of my favorite TopCoder memories is taking the second place in the Algorithm Semifinals at TCO05 and advancing to the finals. I never was very confident in my algorithmic skills and I didn't expect to get this far in my first major TopCoder tournament. The suspense of waiting for system tests combined with excitement gave an incredible feeling of adrenaline flowing through my veins. This day will take me long to forget.

Algorithm Semifinalists
Nicholas Jimsheleishvili
College Tbilisi State University
Hometown Tskaltubo (Georgia)
Favorite Food Khinkali
Favorite Movie Good The Bad And The Ugly
Favorite TopCoder Memory I finished the 250p and the 500p very fast and was in first place. Not a very fast solution in the 1000p left me in top 10. But after testing phases only the 1000p survived. As a result my strategy became opposite: I do the 250p and the 500p slow 2) don’t do the 1000p. It worked very well in the TCCC online rounds, so one bad match is now my favorite memory.

Aleksander Piotrowski
College Warsaw University
Hometown Lochowo
Favorite Movie The Shawshank Redemption
Favorite Band/Artist Red Hot Chili Peppers
Favorite TopCoder Memory I'm just having a great time solving problems with people from all over the world.

Wenbin Tang
College Tsinghua University
Hometown Xinchang, Zhejiang
Favorite Food Fried beef
Favorite Band/Artist Aquarius
Favorite TopCoder Memory I've never been the first in an SRM !!!...before System testing......

Petr Mitrichev
College Moscow State University
Hometown Moscow
Favorite Food Beef
Favorite Band/Artist Irina Bogushevskaya
Favorite TopCoder Memory Currently I have one story that outweighs all the other stories taken together - it's about winning TCO'06. When the coding phase ended, it was good. When I blind challenged +125, it became better. When tomek's hard failed challenge, it became even better. And when I passed the system tests, it was just the best.
Reid Barton
College: Harvard University
Hometown: Arlington, MA
Favorite Food: Any ethnic food
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Antimatter and I decided to walk from the TCCC in Boston back to MIT at 4 in the morning.

Minghao Pan
College: ZheJiang University
Hometown: Hangzhou
Favorite Food: Almost everything
Favorite Band/Artist: Stefanie Sun
Favorite TopCoder Memory: It should be the last online round of this TCCC. I guess everyone can understand how exciting it is to advance onsite, especially after many times of failure in the last 4 years. The moment I found myself on the top 48 after system tests, it was really fascinating.

Psyho
College: Warsaw University
Hometown: Gdansk
Favorite Movie: Requiem for a Dream
Favorite Band/Artist: Simon Posford
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I don’t have any story so far, but I hope I’ll have one after TCCC ;)

Denis Nazarov
College: Ufa State Technical University of Aviation
Hometown: Ufa
Favorite Food: Strawberry
Favorite Movie: Vanilla Sky
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I thought I lost my trip when after 5 seconds after TCCC06 Online Round 3 I found the stupidest bug in my 500-point problem. But ... I am still going to San Diego =)
Tomek Seede 1 Current Rating 3394
Current Ranking 1 / Rating Percentile 99.994 / Number of Ratings 105 / Highest Rating 3592 / Country: Poland

Tomasz Czajka
College: Purdue University
Hometown: Stalowa Wola
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Movie: Back to the Future
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I enjoyed winning a contest online when I submitted an incorrect solution very quickly on purpose to see if I could trick others into following with the "obvious" incorrect solution. It worked and sparked a discussion on competition versus cooperation at TopCoder.

Ricardo Martin
College: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Hometown: Madrid, Spain
Favorite Movie: The Matrix
Favorite Band/Artist: Red Hot Chili Peppers
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Once, I was doing an SRM at 3am and suddenly saw something moving in the kitchen. I thought it was a hallucination because of the hour it was. During the next SRM I had the same vision. I stood up to investigate. It was a little mouse that liked to go through my house at night. The question is how it got to the 6th floor. :-(

Tywok Seede 218 Current Rating 2095
Current Ranking 232 / Rating Percentile 98.5996 / Number of Ratings 48 / Highest Rating 2095 / Country: Spain

Ricardo Martin
College: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Hometown: Madrid, Spain
Favorite Movie: The Matrix
Favorite Band/Artist: Red Hot Chili Peppers
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Once, I was doing an SRM at 3am and suddenly saw something moving in the kitchen. I thought it was a hallucination because of the hour it was. During the next SRM I had the same vision. I stood up to investigate. It was a little mouse that liked to go through my house at night. The question is how it got to the 6th floor. :-(

Vedensky Seede 154 Current Rating 2204
Current Ranking 175 / Rating Percentile 98.9437 / Number of Ratings 77 / Highest Rating 2451 / Country: Ukraine

Kirill Vedensky
College: National Technical University of Ukraine, KPI
Hometown: Kiev
Favorite Movie: Soviet Cartoon
Favorite Band/Artist: Pikkardyska Terzia
Favorite TopCoder Memory: I won second place in the third SRM I competed in, while in the first SRM (two weeks before) I just knew Pascal, and only basics of C++. I couldn't solve the Div2Medium on it because I didn't know how to do simple type conversions in C++.

Algorithm Semifinalists
Algorithm Semifinalists

Konstantin Azarov
College: Moscow Engineering Physics Institute
Hometown: Moscow, Russia
Favorite Food: Candy
Favorite Movie: Once upon a time in America
Favorite TopCoder Memory: Well, I think that Round 3 of this TCCC was the most exciting until now. With crappy solution of 500 and a not 100% 250, only 100 challenge points gave some hope. In short, I would say that it was very exciting to wait for the division summary update after system tests.

Vitaliy Valtman
College: St. Petersburg State University
Hometown: St. Petersburg
Favorite Food: Meat with potatoes
Favorite Band/Artist: Vladimir Visotsky
Favorite TopCoder Memory: My best place in TopCoder competition isn’t very good, so I was almost sure that I would fail in TCCC eliminating round. After the coding & challenging phases I was in the first 48. So, the most exciting in this is that all problems I have submitted were accepted, because often I have a faulty bug in my solution.

Volodymyr Kachurovskyi
College: National Technical University of Ukraine, KPI
Hometown: Vinnytsia
Favorite Movie: American Beauty
Favorite Band/Artist: Metallica
Favorite TopCoder Memory: TCCC06 is the most exciting story for me itself. I find it a complete adventure to win a trip to the finals and to meet the best world coders.

Ying Wang
College: Stanford University
Favorite Food: Pizza
Favorite Movie: Legends of the Fall
Favorite Band/Artist: Faye Wong
Favorite TopCoder Memory: In one prized SRM, I topped the room by beating Petr and Andrewzta.
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T C C C B l o g g e r s :  R e p o r t i n g  L i v e  f r o m  S a n  D i e g o

For this year’s TopCoder Collegiate Challenge we wanted two bloggers to join us onsite and give a member’s perspective on the competition, the atmosphere and the city of San Diego. Those members interested in attending participated in our Pick Me Contest where they submitted an essay explaining why they should be selected as a blogger for the TCCC. Our two winners are enthusiastic about TopCoder, possess impressive creative writing skills, and most importantly, will give a detailed account of the entire event. Excerpts from our winners’ essays are below and you can also read their live tournament blogs online at www.topcoder.com/tccc06

[Churchillio]
Dave Churchill
“... I’m outgoing, speak fluent English, and have a great sense of humor... so blogging about the competition would be as much fun to read as it would be for me to write (I provide a 60 day moneyback guarantee* on all claims of humor related writings). I think I would be able to put a spin on the competition that provides people with a real feel of the spirit, tension and atmosphere of the live programming competition experience, and probably get a few people who weren’t interested in TopCoder/live competition to be more interested in it.

I would also put a nice geek-twist on the blog, something like “Real life algorithms”, where I would describe aspects of the competition in pseudocode, or something similar. Contextual humor, combined with seriously informative writing would be my angle, one I believe would be the best for such an event. If it was totally insane with no actual reporting it would be useless, but if it was totally serious to the point of boring, nobody would read. I have multiple years experience with digital photography and image editing, so the blog would also be full of photos for people to enjoy.

So pick me, I love competition, I love writing, I’d make it worth your while, and you wouldn’t be sorry. ”

[RRLevinger]
Ryan Levering
“... This particular competition has always piqued my interest, mainly because it takes out some of the big names and therefore opens the door to a lot of coders that may not be able to compete at a more open competition like the TCO. Therefore, I usually find the competition a little more interesting, much like watching non-professional sports. I’ve almost been selected to go to the last two TCCCs. This has been annoying for me, but definitely has increased my desire to be there, even if I can’t compete. Having someone who really wants to be there is important to making sure they take an active interest in what they’re writing and in what is going on. ...

... From the company’s point of view, what the bloggers write will be important to both attracting envious coders for the next competition, as well as selling the sophistication and brilliance of the current competitors to sponsoring companies. I think that I can add to the TCCC experience with my professional style and insight.”
Mike Lydon
University of Connecticut
Management Information Systems
“I wasted an hour or two each day playing darts.”

Christie Tanguay
Undergrad - Albertus Magnus College, business management/accounting, Grad - University of New Haven finance/strategy policy.
“I worked as a travel agent throughout undergrad traveling around North America to the top tourist destinations writing hotel and restaurant surveys for an advertising company.”

Travis Haas
Purdue University
Electrical Engineering Technology
“I was a shift leader at a Whirlpool packaging plant where I became friends with a guy who called himself Death Chuck.”

Cheun Haas
Purdue University - Pre-Med, Hartford Art School - Graphic Design
“I played bass guitar for my friend’s band. We played two open-mic shows and a few parties, and our set included me switching instruments with my band mates so I could sing ‘Self Esteem’ by the Offspring.”

Cheun Haas
Purdue University
Electrical Engineering
“When I was in college, I earned my life by dancing tango in the streets.”

Dave Messinger
Trinity College
Computer Science
“I played center on the Flag Football team.”

Diego Belfer
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina - Computer Science
“These are the kind of things we do in Argentina when someone ends college. Next to me is a recently graduated friend covered with eggs, flour, Yerba Mate, Ketchup, and anything we could find. As you notice by my face, it is better to be the non-graduate one in that moment. No one can avoid this, so I will be covered with all this stuff in 1 1/2 years.”
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TopCoder

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