My job is about what’s next. My processor’s job is to keep up.

When it comes to the next big thing, your success can depend on your speed.

Through the inherent efficiencies of our architecture, our customers have the ability to develop and test for both 32- and 64-bit applications on the same platform. That means builds can be created faster, testing can be fully integrated, and your competition will be left wondering how you beat them to market so quickly.

Find out more!

Register today at AMD DevCentral

http://developer.amd.com
Thank you for joining us at the 2006 TopCoder® Open, Sponsored by AMD. TopCoder is very excited to bring you this tournament in Las Vegas! It will be our first-ever tournament in this city and we’re looking forward to having some fun with all the finalists and watching what promises to be our most exciting competition to date.

All 64 finalists have worked hard to make it onsite and we are lucky to be assembling them all for this spectacular event. We have gathered the most talented programmers from all parts of the world, making this truly a diverse event. I welcome those who are coming to their first finals and thank them for their determination and participation. I also want to thank and congratulate our returning finalists. We appreciate your dedication to competition and hope we continue to impress you with our events.

I want to thank our sponsors for their combined efforts in making this tournament a unique one. We are very happy to have AMD join us as a first-ever title sponsor. We’re also pleased to have two returning premier sponsors, VeriSign and the National Security Agency (NSA), along with first-time premier sponsor UBS. All of their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I’d like to thank all of the TopCoder staff, as well as those members who build our systems, write problems, review designs and code, as well as those that administer contests. They work solidly to bring the finalists to the championship round, from beginning to end. I could not be more proud of the TopCoder team – employees and members combined.

I’m thrilled to kick off the 2006 TopCoder Open finals. I hope you all have some fun while in Las Vegas. I wish you the best of luck!

Jack Hughes
Founder, TopCoder, Inc.
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006
7:00pm - 9:00pm  Welcome Reception

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am  Algorithm Semifinal Room 1  
11:00am - 12:00pm  National Security Agency (NSA) Presentation  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  Lunch  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  Component Design & Development Session 1  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  Algorithm Semifinal Room 2  
4:00pm - 10:00pm  Competitor Game Room  
7:00pm - 10:00pm  Poker Tournament

### THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am  Algorithm Semifinal Room 3  
10:00am - 10:45am  Secondhand Shopping: Efficient Component Reuse  
11:00am - 12:00pm  VeriSign Presentation  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  Lunch  
1:00pm - 3:00pm  Component Design & Development Session 2  
3:00pm - 4:00pm  UBS Presentation  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  Customer Round Table  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  Algorithm Wildcard Round  
7:00pm - 10:00pm  AMD Evening Event

### FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006
9:00am - 11:00am  Component Design & Development Appeals Final  
11:00am - 11:45am  Bringing It All Together Using SOA Architectures  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  Lunch  
1:00pm - 2:00pm  AMD Presentation  
2:00pm - 2:45pm  Next Generation Development Round Table Discussion  
2:30pm - 4:30pm  Algorithm Championship Round  
4:30pm - 5:00pm  All Champion Announcements  
5:00pm - 6:00pm  Media Hour / Press Conference  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  Awards Reception
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Founder’s Message........................................Page 1
Schedule of Events........................................Page 2

ALGORITHM COMPETITION
Brackets.......................................................Page 4
Semifinalists................................................Page 6

Weirdest SRM Locations..............................Page 30
“Pick Me” Contest Winners............................Page 32
TCO Developer Forums.................................Page 34
Customer Round Table................................Page 35
What Are We Watching?...............................Page 36

COMPONENT COMPETITION
Brackets.......................................................Page 37
Design Finalists..........................................Page 38
Development Finalists.................................Page 42
Review Board.............................................Page 46

TopCoder Admin Staff.................................Page 48
ALGORITHM COMPETITION
BRACKET

FINAL ROUND

WILDCARD ROUND

SEMIFINAL ROUNDS

ROOM 1

SNAPDRAGON
PETR
KRIJGERTJE
BLADERUNNER
EGOR
YARIN
GROTMOL
MATHIJS
MIKEMIRZAYANOV
OPENGL
CYFRA
YING
TOMAL
IM2GOOD
BUS
DARLAM

ROOM 2

MISOF
ERYX
ANDREWZTA
KALINOV
RUBERIK
PPARYS
NICKA81
GEVAK
What are you most grateful for?  
Growing up in an environment that allowed me to become who I am today academically, and having opportunities to learn at my own pace.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?  
It sounds sappy, but I’d spend time with friends, away from all computers and responsibilities. I’d fly them all over to where I was and spend 24 hours just hanging out.

What is one thing your parents don’t know about you that you’d be willing to tell them through the TCO program?  
Hey, I often wake up at 4:30AM, solve SRM, and go to bed again...

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?  
My dog.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?  
You can solve any problem, and I am not speaking about programming contests here.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?  
I think our reality is much better than any science fiction.

What is the smartest person you ever met?  
Derek Kisman (SnapDragon) – he’s ridiculously good at such a large variety of things that I don’t think there’s any competition – from the people I’ve met, of course.
**Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?**

My grandmother, because she had lived in a wholly different time and could tell “eye witness” stories from the old days.

**What are you most grateful for?**

For having met my wife and for our three wonderful kids.

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

The elevator was almost full of big, heavy people. It stopped at a floor, and a tiny old lady entered. Then it wouldn’t start again, and someone said, “maybe overweight”. This triggered the tiny old lady to leave the elevator (as if she was the main cause of overweight), and then the elevator worked again.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

“Wow, you are an even greater geek than I am!” I think it was meant as a compliment.

---

**What are you most grateful for?**

For having great family.

**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Forget about the job, and just go travel around the world.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Math is really important. Solving simple problems helps to solve complex problems.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

Artificial Intelligence research. Or soccer, if I were really good at it.
Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
A friend of mine - he always says precisely what he thinks, he’s not afraid to make fun of people who deserve it and he’s always up to something. He keeps doing the most stupid things that he can think of but they’re always funny and he’s never afraid of anything. What I like the most about him is how he can overcome embarrassment and his ability to do everything in style. He’s just a typical good guy from a Hollywood happy-end movie.

What are you most grateful for?
For having such supportive parents.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
That I shouldn’t let my mom dress me but rather learn to do it by myself. It is surprising how many decisions I’ve already made based on this tiny little thing I learned in secondary school...
Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
Vladimir A. Goldich. He has a broad outlook. It is interesting to talk with him about any topic.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I would test aviating, formula-1 driving, parachute jumping and diving.

What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?
I was jumping in the elevator to prove its reliability and it stopped.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
My little sister.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
None. Our reality is the best.
How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Mostly increased - thanks to training. :)

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?
“You are crazy.”

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
“The Restaurant at the End of the Universe”

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Do nothing but rest the whole day.

What are you most grateful for?
Being born.

What are you most grateful for?
I am grateful to people who wrote all the open source software and freeware that I use. I’d also like to thank the sponsors for making the TCO possible.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
I would like us to colonize all the known Universe and become immortal and generally flawless and better, and work happily while the machines do anything that is not fun. Then, we could become friends with aliens, construct gates that lead to other universes, and discover the meaning of life.

If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?
I’d like to be more focused in my scientific work.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
I have learned that you don’t have to remember a lot of facts in mathematics and physics. You only have to learn the basic and simple ones, and how to deduce everything else from them.
Wenjie Fu

Number of Ratings: 12  Highest Rating: 2490  Lowest Rating: 1841

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I would ask for another such day.

If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?
That’s a lot. Since I am not smarter than them, I can’t tell who is the smartest.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
I learned a lot from my teachers, which are all very helpful to me, so I cannot tell which one is the most important.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
It changes unpredictably. I cannot tell any definite way to improve it.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Another one’s smile.

Georgios Papoutsis

Number of Ratings: 94  Highest Rating: 2702  Lowest Rating: 1601

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
Dr. Lance Ware, one of the founders of Mensa (met him some years ago during the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Mensa). What I find interesting about him is that he came up with the idea of initiating such an organization 60 years ago.

What are you most grateful for?
For living in the 21st century.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
I started yellow, later became red, and I am dreaming of being a target one day [in the far, far future...]. What helps me most is practicing and learning from my mistakes.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
To never give up.
### Oyvind Grotmol

#### Country
Norway

#### Current Rating
2575

#### Current Ranking
36

#### Rating Percentile
99.7489

#### Number of Ratings
45

#### Highest Rating
2538

#### Lowest Rating
1296

**Country**
Norway

**Current Rating**
2575

**Current Ranking**
36

**Rating Percentile**
99.7489

**Number of Ratings**
45

**Highest Rating**
2538

**Lowest Rating**
1296

---

**Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?**

Mom.

**What are you most grateful for?**

Birth.

---

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Have a lot of fun.

---

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Petr ;)

---

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It had increased greatly after I’ve installed the plug-in about a half of year ago.

---

### Alex Gevak

#### Country
Russian Federation

#### Current Rating
2503

#### Current Ranking
49

#### Rating Percentile
99.6582

#### Number of Ratings
46

#### Highest Rating
2538

#### Lowest Rating
1372

---

**Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?**

Mom.

---

**What are you most grateful for?**

Birth.

---

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Have a lot of fun.

---

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Star Wars.
ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

SEED 58 IM2GOOD Rune Fevang

Number of Ratings: 97  Highest Rating: 2612  Lowest Rating: 1313

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
Kanel Below. He is mathematician. He studies some very interesting problems. I like his problems in mathematical Olympiads.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
I am relatively new to TopCoder. So my rating only increases. The main problem for me (which I currently solved) - I need to program in C++. I program in Delphi usually.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Mathematical science is more important than the set of methods used in mathematical Olympiads.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
Labyrinth of Reflections by Sergey Lukyanenko.
If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do? I would visit my uncle in Vancouver and go to beautiful Canadian mountains.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be? I always smile when people tell me that something is obvious and I completely do not know why.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today? I was taught one important thing: to be concentrated and calm and thanks to this not to make mistakes in things I know how to do.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do? Is it someone else's money? Go to the bank and make a deposit!

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be? I always smile when people tell me that something is obvious and I completely do not know why.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today? I was taught one important thing: to be concentrated and calm and thanks to this not to make mistakes in things I know how to do.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be? That's just silly. :)

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be? If I was afraid of doing something, it was probably a bad idea anyway!

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve? I got to the top 10 in a few matches, and mostly stayed there. Doing contests regularly helps you keep up with the competition.
If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I would throw a big open air concert. I would get all popular bands to play and to hang out with me and my friends backstage.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
It was probably my elementary school teacher. He encouraged me to be individual and creative. He gave me opportunity to do things the way I want, not what was in the program.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
My rating has changed a lot over time. Probably most important was becoming red. At that time I was practicing a lot for IOI 2004. After that I started competing on TopCoder more often. Recently I started practicing a lot again and I hope soon there will be a target near my handle :)

Country: Croatia
Current Rating: 2785
Current Ranking: 20
Rating Percentile: 99.8605
Number of Ratings: 112
Highest Rating: 2947
Lowest Rating: 1633

Overall Competition Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made: 4</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended: 4</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems: 12</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions: 11</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions: 10</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td>91.31%</td>
<td>91.31%</td>
<td>91.31%</td>
<td>91.31%</td>
<td>91.31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Points: 913.40

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
Challenging tonek’s 200-pointer.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
Quarantine (by Greg Egan) comes to mind - where you can download software directly into your brain. But... I think I strongly prefer the present.

Country: Republic of Korea
Current Rating: 2497
Current Ranking: 51
Rating Percentile: 99.6443
Number of Ratings: 33
Highest Rating: 2518
Lowest Rating: 1803

Tournament Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made: 2</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended: 6</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems: 12</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions: 9</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions: 6</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td>70.92%</td>
<td>70.92%</td>
<td>70.92%</td>
<td>70.92%</td>
<td>70.92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Points: 460.26

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
I luckily won my first two matches, jumping up to something like 2300. I thought “Wow, this is a piece of cake!” ...And I learned that’s not true at all, as time passed by. :) Steps to improve? I’ll just quote snewman with what he said in TCO 04 leaflet - “constantly pushing yourself to improve in some way.”

ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

JongMan Koo

JongMan Koo

KALINOV Luka Kalinovcic

KALINOV Luka Kalinovcic

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I would throw a big open air concert. I would get all popular bands to play and to hang out with me and my friends backstage.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
It was probably my elementary school teacher. He encouraged me to be individual and creative. He gave me opportunity to do things I want the way I want, not what was in the program.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
My rating has changed a lot over time. Probably most important was becoming red. At that time I was practicing a lot for IOI 2004. After that I started competing on TopCoder more often. Recently I started practicing a lot again and I hope soon there will be a target near my handle :)
**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

**SEED 7 KRIJGERTJE**  
**Erik-Jan Krijgsman**

*Country:* Netherlands  
*Current Rating:* 3035  
*Current Ranking:* 7  
*Rating Percentile:* 99.9512  
*Number of Ratings:* 91  
*Highest Rating:* 3112  
*Lowest Rating:* 1813

---

**Tournament Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>77.61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>63.45%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions</td>
<td>227</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>88.02%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>87.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
If I want to do something then I do it, regardless of how much it may scare me.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Wild mammals.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
The Sirens of Titan by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Loathing of a single individual is probably the best way to unite all of mankind.

If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?
I’d like to explore my artistic side more. It’s been four years since last I played in a band and I rather miss it.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Go to Zaphod’s in Ottawa. They’ve got these great Pan-Galactic Gargle Blasters!

---

**Country:** Netherlands  
*Current Rating:* 3035  
*Current Ranking:* 7  
*Rating Percentile:* 99.9512  
*Number of Ratings:* 91  
*Highest Rating:* 3112  
*Lowest Rating:* 1813

---

**Tournament Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>75.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>77.61%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>63.45%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>270</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions</td>
<td>227</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>88.02%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>87.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Seeing somebody looking at John Dethridge’s code does and trying to figure out what it does.

What are you most grateful for?
That I’m healthy and that I have the opportunity to do what I want in my life.

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?
But you’re not a nerd! (after telling them I do programming contests).

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
I don’t know much science-fiction stories, but the ones I know usually start or end rather badly, so I’ll prefer that none of those stories come true.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Do what you like.
Yiming Li

What are you most grateful for?
I'm most grateful for TopCoder. I learned a lot from TopCoder.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
The same thing I do every day - try to take over the world ;-) I laugh a lot. Playing with my dog is my first pick, but many other things are really close.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
None - reality is much more interesting than any fiction.

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
Whether/when/how/why will humanity be extinct.

Krzysztof Duleba

What are you most grateful for?
I started two years ago as a green coder and made my way to red. I've simply been solving a lot of problems. I still have a long way to go.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
None - reality is much more interesting than any fiction.

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
Whether/when/how/why will humanity be extinct.
What are you most grateful for?

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
First I’d buy up all the advertising space I could get my hands on, and not use it. Maybe show art instead. Then I’d go rent the Shuttle.

What is one thing your parents don’t know about you that you’d be willing to tell them through the TCO program?
Hey, I’m in Vegas!

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Contrary to what seems to be public opinion, it’s actually OK to know how things work.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
A smile.
Mathijs Vogelzang

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would you do?

Take a trip to some exotic place.

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?

My girlfriend, if you met her you would know why.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

Never give up.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

My girlfriend’s smile.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?

Some optimistic one, which would make people happier.

Country: Netherlands
Current Rating: 2573
Current Ranking: 37
Rating Percentile: 99.7419
Number of Ratings: 47
Highest Rating: 2872
Lowest Rating: 1109

Tournament Statistics

Challenges Made: 9
Challenges Defended: 2
Problems: 12
Submissions: 9
Correct Submissions: 6
Overall Accuracy: 50.00%
Average Points: 512.71

Overall Competition Statistics

Challenges Made: 46
Challenges Defended: 16
Problems: 111
Submissions: 109
Correct Submissions: 85
Overall Accuracy: 62.74%
Average Points: 658.51

Marek Cygan

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?

Take a trip to some exotic place.

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?

My girlfriend, if you met her you would know why.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

Never give up.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

My girlfriend’s smile.

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?

Although I’m interested in questions like “are people fundamentally good or evil?” and “does extraterrestrial life exist?” I’m afraid that knowing the answer spoils all the fun of discussing these questions. Therefore I go for “what will be the best performing stock in the next 5 years?”.

Country: Poland
Current Rating: 2853
Current Ranking: 15
Rating Percentile: 99.8954
Number of Ratings: 93
Highest Rating: 2920
Lowest Rating: 1109

Tournament Statistics

Challenges Made: 4
Challenges Defended: 8
Problems: 12
Submissions: 10
Correct Submissions: 7
Overall Accuracy: 70.80%
Average Points: 758.13

Overall Competition Statistics

Challenges Made: 49
Challenges Defended: 43
Problems: 211
Submissions: 211
Correct Submissions: 160
Overall Accuracy: 76.60%
Average Points: 594.67
ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

SEED 1  MISOF Michal Forisek


**What are you most grateful for?**
A boring but sincere answer: For having so many great friends.

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**
Me and a party of my friends, we once got stuck in an elevator in our college dorm, because on the topmost floor there was a party, and someone turned on the fire extinguisher. I don’t know whether it qualifies as funny, it only started to be funny _after_ we got out of the elevator, but the look at the water flowing both down the stairs and the elevator shaft was pretty funny when we were safe.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**
Babylon Five in all its glory. :)

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**
It’s not really “a thing”, but my girlfriend is really good at making me smile. :)

---

ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

SEED 36  MIKEMIRZAYANOV Michael Mirzayanov


**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**
Happiness.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**
Love of science.

**Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?**
My teacher of the math, as she taught me math.

**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**
Does God exist?

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**
I open Medium before Easy.
ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

**SEED 31  NICKA8I  Nikolay Archak**

Country: Russian Federation  
Current Rating: 2406  
Current Ranking: 74  
Rating Percentile: 99.4838

Number of Ratings: 132  
Highest Rating: 2791  
Lowest Rating: 1420

---

**Tournament Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Accuracy:**

AVERAGE POINTS: 560.19

---

**Overall Competition Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>0.00%</th>
<th>20.00%</th>
<th>40.00%</th>
<th>60.00%</th>
<th>80.00%</th>
<th>100.00%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>178</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>304</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>399</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>235</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Accuracy:**

AVERAGE POINTS: 612.19

---

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Buy Microsoft, Sun, Apple and Adobe, open all sources of all their products and run away.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Canon in D by Pachelbel.

If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?
My father.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Be skeptical.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Up, down, up, down... Although I read tons of codes so as to enhance my coding skill, it mainly enhanced my code reading skill only. I started to think that I should change my learning strategy.

---

**Country**

Japan

**Current Rating**

2530

**Current Ranking**

44

**Rating Percentile**

99.6931

**Number of Ratings**

70

**Highest Rating**

2782

**Lowest Rating**

1632

---

**SEED 59  NATORI  Natori Shin**

---

**Country**

Japan

**Current Rating**

2530

**Current Ranking**

44

**Rating Percentile**

99.6931

**Number of Ratings**

70

**Highest Rating**

2782

**Lowest Rating**

1632

---

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

Be skeptical.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?

So many things: inline skates, a pack of beer, a traveler’s tent. I even have angel wings (a toy).

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
Solaris.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

Ryan.
If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
We can fly.

If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?
Zhou Yuan in Tsinghua University, China.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Forget the sadness, and be happy every day.

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
My Chinese teacher. She often told us some interesting history stories.

What are you most grateful for?
I met a beautiful girl when I entered senior school.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Stupidity of some people. A couple of years ago I used to get angry with it, but now it makes me smile.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Give me a day and that money and then I’ll start to think about it.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Lots of practicing using problems from previous TopCoder contests. As I have recently started competing at TopCoder, I had lots of free problems left. My rating has increased since I returned to competition about a month ago.

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?
Being “out of this world.” I know I perhaps shouldn’t treat it as a compliment but I liked it so much...
If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Go out with my friends.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Well, basically it just reached target-level and then floated around. I don’t think my skills have been improved much.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
The smile of my girlfriend.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Probably the dynamic programming technique.

What are you most grateful for?
Of course I’m most grateful to my parents for my upbringing and education.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Probably just relax with friends -- a free day is a rare thing!

What is one thing your parents don’t know about you that you’d be willing to tell them through the TCO program?
Well, I’ve occasionally ditched a class for an SRM. Tsk, tsk.

What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?
One time I was at a hotel in a group of twenty-odd people, and someone had the brilliant idea of us all getting in an elevator and going up at the same time. The “getting in” part went fine (after some smushing), but “going up” was not quite as successful: we moved up a couple feet… and then the elevator motor quit. Unfortunately, this left us in between floors, and we ended up stuck for around fifteen minutes. Ironically, this group was supposedly a group of “science scholars.”
If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I’d like to sleep the whole day.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
At the beginning my rating was about 2000. In august 2004 my rating increased and since then it is in the range of 2500-2700. I don’t know why it increased, I wasn’t practicing a lot then, rather I understood that in TC problems I should find the easiest solution and that I should code really carefully.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
The Nine Billion Names of God by Arthur Clarke. There the computer scientists cause the end of the world, because they’ve generated all the names of the God.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
There are many ways to succeed. Develop several of them at the same time, instead of focusing only on one. Somehow, the combination can be more effective, even if the amount of effort required is the same.

What are you most grateful for?
Being lucky. That’s the only way I advance in these tournaments!

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
On which date after Jan 1, 2026 will the stock market drop sharply (more than 10%)? Hopefully I would have enough capital to take advantage of that knowledge by then...

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
My wife, Debbie. :-)

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
There are many ways to succeed. Develop several of them at the same time, instead of focusing only on one. Somehow, the combination can be more effective, even if the amount of effort required is the same.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
I’d like to sleep the whole day.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
At the beginning my rating was about 2000. In august 2004 my rating increased and since then it is in the range of 2500-2700. I don’t know why it increased, I wasn’t practicing a lot then, rather I understood that in TC problems I should find the easiest solution and that I should code really carefully.
Bartholomew Furrow

What are you most grateful for?
Stumbling on a programming contest in second year, and having the next four years of my life revolve pleasantly around the consequences.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
It has changed like a heartbeat monitor, and gradually gone up in average over time. I've improved with four years of practice in ACM and TopCoder events. I've also improved by gaining a modicum of patience: the ability to reflect for a few seconds before starting to code, and another few before hitting Submit, is a marvelous thing.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
No subject is too dreary if approached the right way.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
Music. In particular, the Brahms String Sextet.

Reid Barton

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Practice makes perfect. My rating went up fairly consistently back when I was participating in every SRM. Now that I only compete in the tournaments, I've become a lot less consistent and my rating has dropped.

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
The Riemann Hypothesis. Then I'd sell out, in exchange for eternal fame and fortune.
**SEED 94 TOMAL** Tomasz Malesinski

**Country**: Poland  
**Current Rating**: 2363  
**Current Ranking**: 83  
**Rating Percentile**: 99.421  
**Number of Ratings**: 26  
**Highest Rating**: 3402  
**Lowest Rating**: 1693

**Tournament Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate 1-100%</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>20.0%</th>
<th>40.0%</th>
<th>60.0%</th>
<th>80.0%</th>
<th>100.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE POINTS:</td>
<td>411.12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate 1-100%</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>20.0%</th>
<th>40.0%</th>
<th>60.0%</th>
<th>80.0%</th>
<th>100.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>91.67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>373</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>338</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE POINTS:</td>
<td>1100.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**What are you most grateful for?**
Being intelligent. It lets me speak real well.

**What would we find in the trunk of your car?**
Winter supplies, because here in Calgary you could start a drive in sunshine and end it in a blizzard.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**
Well, I started out with a lot of experience from the ACM ICPC (and a lot of TopCoder practice), and maxed out my rating very quickly. Since then it’s been a long slow fall from #1 as I forget everything I used to know!

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**
That’d probably be Reid Barton. There isn’t a math competition out there that he couldn’t handily win.

---

**SEED 2 SNAPDRAGON** Derek Kisman

**Country**: Canada  
**Current Rating**: 3338  
**Current Ranking**: 2  
**Rating Percentile**: 99.986  
**Number of Ratings**: 131  
**Highest Rating**: 3402  
**Lowest Rating**: 1693

**Tournament Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate 1-100%</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>20.0%</th>
<th>40.0%</th>
<th>60.0%</th>
<th>80.0%</th>
<th>100.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE POINTS:</td>
<td>1018.92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Rate 1-100%</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
<th>20.0%</th>
<th>40.0%</th>
<th>60.0%</th>
<th>80.0%</th>
<th>100.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Made:</td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges Defended:</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94.81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems:</td>
<td>390</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions:</td>
<td>373</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Submissions:</td>
<td>338</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERALL ACCURACY:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVERAGE POINTS:</td>
<td>1100.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**What are you most grateful for?**
Winter supplies, because here in Calgary you could start a drive in sunshine and end it in a blizzard.

---

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**
Good classic rock songs, like Paranoid by Black Sabbath.

---

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**
Playing the guitar.
**Ulan Degenbaev**

**Country:** Kyrgyzstan  
**Current Rating:** 2428  
**Current Ranking:** 68  
**Rating Percentile:** 99.5257  
**Number of Ratings:** 50  
**Highest Rating:** 2442  
**Lowest Rating:** 1408

---

**What is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**  
Ela - likes to spend time with me for some reason.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**  
Do what you feel is good, not what others tell you.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
Time travel.

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**  
Pretend to be stuck, call for help through the door, go around through an upper floor and join the people trying to help.

---

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**  
Ela - likes to spend time with me for some reason.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**  
Do what you feel is good, not what others tell you.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
Strugatsky Brother - “Hard to Be a God”.

---

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**  
It is rising because I was lucky in recent matches. I did not take any special steps to improve it.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
Strugatsky Brother - “Hard to Be a God”.

---

**What is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**  
Ela - likes to spend time with me for some reason.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**  
Do what you feel is good, not what others tell you.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
Time travel.
If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be? Star Trek.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do? Invest the money. Then I would have more days like that.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve? It has been increasing. I participated in the events.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today? Do not redo. Improve.

If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be? Research.

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question? Why did the chicken cross the road? (I might blurt the answer out if I know though.)

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve? My TopCoder rating increases in spikes. I credit that to my teammates in the UBC ACM programming team. They taught me a lot.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today? It’s okay to get something wrong the first try; make sure you improve though.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be? Any science fiction story with teleporters would do.
SEED 18  YARIN  Jimmy Mardell

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
My peak was reached fairly quickly since I had years of experience in similar competitions before. However, once I left university and started working full time, I had much less time to compete and practice. This has caused my rating to decline steadily.

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
Perhaps dive among great white sharks (with cage and stuff).

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

Country Sweden  Current Rating 2715  Current Ranking 27  Rating Percentile 99.81  Number of Ratings 110  Highest Rating 3113  Lowest Rating 1555

Challenges Made: 2  Challenges Defended: 2
Problems: 12  Submissions: 8
Correct Submissions: 6
OVERALL ACCURACY:
AVERAGE POINTS: 660.15

Tournament Statistics

Challenges Made: 117  Challenges Defended: 43
Problems: 328  Submissions: 305
Correct Submissions: 257
OVERALL ACCURACY:
AVERAGE POINTS: 960.37

Overall Competition Statistics

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Spacewalk!

ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

SEED 73  YING  Ying Wang

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
My rating is quite steady now. I want to be a target, but I don’t have as much time to practice as I was competing in the ACM ICPC.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?
A girl in China. I smile every time that I think of her.

If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?
Petr. One of my Chinese friends taught him how to play Chinese chess in Shanghai, and he beat my friend immediately after he learned the rules.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Be a nice and honest man.

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
My professor. People always laugh when he tells a joke.

Country China  Current Rating 2571  Current Ranking 38  Rating Percentile 99.7349  Number of Ratings 46  Highest Rating 2571  Lowest Rating 1182

Challenges Made: 12  Challenges Defended: 6
Problems: 135  Submissions: 113
Correct Submissions: 83
OVERALL ACCURACY:
AVERAGE POINTS: 564.46

Tournament Statistics

Challenges Made: 123  Challenges Defended: 36
Problems: 357  Submissions: 305
Correct Submissions: 257
OVERALL ACCURACY:
AVERAGE POINTS: 960.37

Overall Competition Statistics

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
A girl in China. I smile every time that I think of her.
WEIRDEST SRM LOCATIONS

Where was the weirdest place that you participated in a TopCoder event?

[Petr]  
Once I wrote a SRM from an upper berth in a train moving from St. Petersburg to Moscow at 5am, as usual, with 3 other people sleeping in the same compartment.

[aboyner]  
A year ago, when an internet connection in India was expensive (to me, at least) and unreliable, I used to participate from cyber-cafes near my house. There were quite a few of them, and I’d have to install Emacs, DJGPP, and the JRE nearly each time...

Anyway, the Round 1 of Google Code Jam India was going on, and just as the coding phase was about to end, the connection went off at the place (used to happen quite frequently, so no surprise). And then I had to run to another place to try and submit before time ended, and the JRE wasn’t installed there and downloading it in the few minutes remaining was out of the question (average speed about 3 kB/s), so I had to run to another place...

Basically, that’s it - I was literally running on the streets because of TC.

(If anyone’s interested, I finally logged back into the arena with about 25 seconds remaining in the challenge phase, but I somehow did manage to sneak past that round and make it to the onsite...)

[covganet]  
The last Saturday for TCO06 Round 1, I had to go to a friend’s wedding. Both events had to start at the same time, 7:00 PM, and I didn’t know what to do! So, I skipped the beginning of the wedding, I left my girlfriend alone there just to go to town and find an internet cafe. But the most interesting thing was to convince the boss that it’s safe to install java at one computer. Finally he accepted and I had a chance to advance. After all the wedding was fine!

[Larry]  
Once, I was backpacking through Asia and though I didn’t have internet connection most of the time, at some point, I stumbled upon this internet cafe in Hong Kong. It was really, really shady. Everyone’s blasting counterstrike (they don’t use headphones) and smoking insanely. Suffice to say, it wasn’t a very quiet SRM.

After setting up PopsEdit and various local testing packages, I was ready to go. There really were a large number of kids on a school day morning. This was SRM 96, when there was still money, so I figured I could do okay, as my rating was still low enough to make it okay. I almost won too, but (of course) there was some off-by-one error in my 500.

On one end, the cost for the internet usage was cheap, at least financially. Unfortunately, it wasn’t so sweet, because during my 1000, there was some commotion about rather I was a “hacker” (TopCoder’s green on black Java applet really didn’t help). I knew this was a shady place to begin with (I really should’ve paid attention a little bit more, but I needed my TopCoder fix - I went about a month without TopCoder!) but apparently it was even shadier than I thought (I would definitely not take my kid there).

I basically told them it was a typing game, and that my parents wanted me to learn to type better. I was pretty sure they didn’t buy it at all, but it was good enough for them to ignore me for the rest of the SRM.

Okay, so it wasn’t really the weirdest place I had an SRM, per se, but it was definitely one of the weirdest story I’ve experienced in TC.
Your exceptional talent drives our success. 
It starts with you.

Do you thrive on challenges? Do you want to collaborate with like-minded technologists from a range of backgrounds? At UBS, we offer talented developers a world of opportunities.

UBS trades nearly every securities product around the world, executing one in nine shares globally\(^1\) on a technology platform that processes millions of client orders a day\(^2\). It’s your ideas, skills and commitment to excellence that will help us enhance our high speed order routing systems, create innovative new automated trading algorithms, and empower our traders and clients with the best equities trading and risk management tools in the industry.

Your skills and ambition are recognized from the moment you join us. To learn more about life at UBS and apply for a position, go to: [http://www.ubs.com/careers](http://www.ubs.com/careers)

UBS is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity in its workplace. (M/F/D/V)
Top 100 Reasons to “Pick Me”

I am recent graduate of UIUC where I double majored in EE/CS and served as editor-in-chief of the Technograph magazine – UIUC’s premier technology publication. During my career there, I interviewed industry luminaries Bill Gates, Dirk Meyer (President of AMD) and Paul Lauterbur/Anthony Leggett (Nobel Prize Physicists 2004). Since then, I’ve continued to pursue writing and editing opportunities. Most recently I’ve talked with business leader Keith Ferrazzi (best selling author of “Never Eat Alone”).

Communication and Writing Style

During high school, I was selected to the USA Today All-Academic First Team in 2000 for my “ability to effectively communicate complex technological concepts.” My goal as TopCoder’s blogger will be to convey the excitement, frustration, brilliance and achievement that will radiate from this competition. I’m also technologically qualified to explain all facets of the competition - I’ve interned at places as diverse as Microsoft, AMD and IBM’s Extreme Blue program.

I also think I have a unique writing style that would be interesting to TopCoder readers. My strongest influences are Fitzgerald and cummings – during college, this culminated in a series of published engineering humor/love poems with titles such as “k-map,” “adjacency matrix” and “Di Ode” (a parody of Shakespeare’s “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day.”)

Community Development Experience

While I am no Scoble – I do run several successful forums that encompass everything from consulting lifestyle to an internal company “facebook” with average member counts in the hundreds (my ploy to get Manolo click-throughs with a “Sex and the City” forum never paid off). Running these forums has taught me that actively engaging your community is the key to building traffic that matters – not only do I spend time writing quality content, but I like to be in the fold and participating actively in comments and reaching out to my most active contributors. This active networking led to me being extensively quoted for a “Wired” article that first reported this Web2.0 mash up craze.

I’m fun

Let’s admit, Vegas as a venue has a unique culture unmatched anywhere and I’m willing to bet TopCoder chose Vegas to enable sponsors, organizers and TopCoders have some fun in this neon-light desert adventure. I think I would be a fun, energetic person to have in this group. As evidence, I offer this fact: the thing I’m most famous for at my professional services firm is organizing the largest “Dodgeball” competition in company history (the exact number of competitions is a closely guarded secret).

Most importantly, I realize and appreciate what TopCoder is doing for the programming community with this competition. For this and the above reasons, I think I would make a great chronicler of this momentous occasion. In any event, I do wish the organizing team and TopCoder the best of luck and I hope to see you in Vegas!

Matthew Reeder

Where to begin? Do I care about wasting some of my 500 words in the name of artistic style? Nay! Most blog posts are probably around 500 words anyways. Of course, if a hyperlink is worth 1000 words, I’m already up to 1043.

Let me start by explaining why I think I’d be an appropriate person for this activity. I think you’re looking for someone who knows how to blog. That, of course, means knowing how to link and when I don’t have anything appropriate to link. You probably also want someone who’s witty, and is well-known
and well-respected in the TopCoder community, and also someone who has made contributions and given support to your operations since the day I joined TopCoder in 2004. Maybe it would reduce some overhead if you picked someone who has written for you in the past.

Then, since it’s not something you get to do every day, maybe you should pick me just to get the opportunity to meet me, at least for the part of the TopCoder staff who hasn’t already met me. Likewise, I’d like to meet you and the other competitors and spectators. History has me falling flat on my face in early rounds of the TCO or just being ineligible, preventing me from getting the opportunity to meet the best in the business, and everyone else that shares my passion for programming, and also others that may attend.

And now it looks like I’m up to 25248 words. Promise: the following paragraphs will have fewer hyperlinks than the last one. Most of those links aren’t that useful anyways (and are probably somewhat in excess of what I’d attempt in blogging for the TCO).

For those of you who are male, with me also comes pictures and short videos of the cutest baby in the world (sorry, I just can’t help it when Gwynneth is involved). If I could know sooner, maybe she could even come. Voices of people everywhere would raise entire octaves.

For those of you who coordinate travel, I’m just in Seattle. Someone must be giving dirt-cheap fares from Seattle to Las Vegas. And while staying in the same place as all the competitors might be fun, it’s still an option to stay with some obscure relatives I have in the area.

For those of you who are obsessive compulsive (or just grammar Nazis), I have good spelling and grammar and I usually express myself very clearly when I try to.

For those of you who are interested in legal issues, yes, I can avoid making comments about OCD and Nazis, and any statements that might tie them together.

For those of you who are more into running the contests, I think I would enjoy watching the TCO (even as something more of a reporter than as an administrator or spectator) more than just about anyone, and I have the capacity to understand the problems and solutions.

And if you like round numbers, this is exactly 500 words.

[omgrace]
Grace Yang

I’m the perfect candidate to blog about the TopCoder Open for the following reasons:

5. I’m already an expert blogger. You can just visit my current xanga to see: www.xanga.com/omgrace. I recall facts, funny things people said/did, and I take a ton of pictures so every reader is always entertained. Also, I can make a big deal out of everything...even a programming competition! I’ll report on all of the forums and make sure to keep every reader interested in the TopCoder Open.

4. I have a technology background. UIUC is one of the best schools for computer science. I’m a management information systems major, but I’ve taken some CS courses, including java, asp.net, and VB. That means I’ll understand the jargon at the tournament and be able to communicate with everyone in Las Vegas.

3. I’m very responsible and organized. I wouldn’t miss any of the deadlines, which means I wouldn’t leave topcoder.com readers in the dark about the competition. Also, I had a promising career in broadcast journalism before I switched into a more technology focused major, so I can definitely whip up an article in time for deadlines.

2. I bring in a different perspective. Seriously, how many females actually submit entries to blog for the TopCoder competition? By bringing a fresh face to the table, I’ll draw in more interest from the female population – maybe even more female groups to compete in next year’s competition! I know you’re interested now...

And the number one reason I should be chosen to blog for the TopCoder Open:

1. I’m FUN!! The competition is in LAS VEGAS – if you were competing, wouldn’t you want to spend your free time with someone that will always be a good time?

I’m sure you’ll have a lot of qualified applicants apply to be the blogger for the TopCoder Open, but if you pick me, it’ll be a year none of your readers will soon forget!
Introducing this year’s 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:

**Thursday, May 4**

10:00am - 10:45am  
**Secondhand Shopping: Efficient Component Reuse**  
**Presented by Sean Campion, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**  
Component based software engineering only works if the components developed are reused on a regular basis. When a library grows very large and diverse it becomes increasingly difficult for designers and developers to locate relevant components. If it becomes too difficult they are likely to decide to redesign / redevelop the functionality themselves, or duplicate it in a similar component, thus negating the advantages of component based software engineering and reuse. The search feature then becomes key, and raises the question: what to search on? Utilizing reuse metric information by tracking who is downloading what components in what applications will provide access to hardened assets to improve quality and time to market.

**Friday, May 5**

11:00am - 11:45am  
**Bringing It All Together Using SOA Architectures**  
**Presented by Rick Jones, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**  
In today’s IT environments, it is rare that an organization has the opportunity to reinvent itself from the ground up. Often we find ourselves saddled with stovepipe systems, a plethora of technologies, and software purchased but not implemented (shelfware) thanks to our “if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it” rationale. The conventional wisdom has been to either continue to exist disconnected or to invest heavily in cross-system enterprise integration platforms. The first is inefficient and the second frightens CEOs and CIOs equally due to the risk, scope, cost, and complexity of such endeavors. Both new and legacy solutions, from internal and external sources, are being hidden behind an SOA architecture. This discussion will address the various ways to properly utilize SOA to solve these types of problems.

2:00pm - 2:45pm  
**Next Generation Development Round Table Discussion**  
**Presented by Andy Lamora, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**  
This round table discussion will speak to the implications of next generation development. Find out how the paradigm of User Interfaces changes when considering how to design and build systems using next generation software.
The Customer Round Table presents a panel of executives from our customers who will discuss topics and answer your questions that address improving the quality and efficiency of the software development process. This will be followed by a cocktail hour for you to further discuss these issues with your peers.

**Including Panelists:**

**ABB**
Robert Longfellow
Director of Information Systems,
Power Technology Division,
North America

**MOBILE ESPN**
John Zehr
Vice President of Mobile Development

**STAGE STORES INC.**
Jeff Kish
Chief Information Officer

**VeriSign®**
Grady Bryant
Director of Common Application Framework
**Algorithm**

TopCoder Algorithm Competitions are fast-paced contests designed to find and reward the quickest 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 is tested in a high pressure environment where each second spent coding results in a lower score. Problems this year have included analyzing a communications network, navigating a maze blind-folded, reconstructing a tree from a matrix, and determining the best bus route to take after heading home from a party. 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 receives 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 a 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. This year over 2000 coders attempted to qualify for the TopCoder Open. Each semi-finalist has fought through the qualification round and 4 intense online rounds to make it to Las Vegas. The semi-finalists have been split into three rounds of 16. The top 2 scorers from each semi-final room will advance to the finals, and places 3-6 will advance to a Wildcard round. The last 2 final round spots (for a total of 8) will be filled with the top 2 finishers from the Wildcard Round. Once the finalists have been chosen it will all come down to the final round: 100 minutes of competition that determine who the champion of the 2006 TCO Algorithm Competition will be.

**Design**

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.

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 design is prepared to become the basis for a future development competition.

All design and review work of the TopCoder Open Design Finals took place online. At the onsite event, the competitors will first see their review scorecards and the appeals phase will take place.

**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 Open Development Finals took place online. At the onsite event, the competitors will first see their review scorecards and the appeals phase will take place.
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 Open Component Competitions.
**Component Design**

**AleaActaeAest**

*Country: Romania*  
*Algorithm Rating: 1951*  
*Design Rating: 2510*  
*Development Rating: 1820*  
*Total TC Earnings: $76,757*

*How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?*  
It is roughly the same, with the usual ups and downs. Some serious training is needed but I’m too lazy.

*If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?*  
Pilot a fighter jet.

*What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?*  
You have to work if you want to achieve something in life.

*If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?*  
Something with AI. I like the idea of smart robots.

*What are you most grateful for?*  
For access to a good education system.

---

**Component Design**

**Adrian Nicolae Carcu**

*Country: Romania*  
*Algorithm Rating: 1951*  
*Design Rating: 2510*  
*Development Rating: 1820*  
*Total TC Earnings: $76,757*

*How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?*  
It is roughly the same, with the usual ups and downs. Some serious training is needed but I’m too lazy.

*If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?*  
Pilot a fighter jet.

*What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?*  
You have to work if you want to achieve something in life.

*If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?*  
Something with AI. I like the idea of smart robots.

*What are you most grateful for?*  
For access to a good education system.
KYKY  Sergey Kalinichenko

Total TC Earnings: $37,553

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
Who gives haircuts to the barber who gives haircuts to everyone except the people who cut their own hair?

Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?
Alex Mendelev. He helped me to appreciate that there is so much more to computing programming than what is seen on the surface.

He was the first to mention Dijkstra’s “Notes on Structured Programming” to me, a ninety-page publication that changed my world.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Back in the times when I had the time to practice, my rating in algorithms was going up. Today it is random.

My design rating goes up in preparations to major events, and drops sharply near the end. I think that my scores reflect my ability to produce a quality design in a fixed amount of time: when the scope increases, the quality goes out the window unless the time is increased proportionally.
**POPS**  
Tim Roberts

**Country** United States  
**Algorithm Rating** 1474  
**Design Rating** 2248  
**Development Rating** N/A  
**Total TC Earnings** $78,406

**Tournament Statistics**

Highest Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.06</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

Highest Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99.23</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Sincerely I don’t care much about TopCoder ratings. TC competitions are for fun, and they give you an opportunity to earn some additional money. A high rating will not make you richer but it may actually reduce the fun because you’ll be more concerned about the competition result.

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?
For me, being called a hacker is the biggest compliment.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Success is a journey not a destination.

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
BASE jumping.

**NickA81**  
Nikolay Archak

**Country** Russian Federation  
**Algorithm Rating** 2406  
**Design Rating** 2146  
**Development Rating** N/A  
**Total TC Earnings** $36,086

**Tournament Statistics**

Highest Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.03</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overall Competition Statistics**

Highest Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Submissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.71</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
My ratings are all over the place. It really depends on how much I have going on outside of them. The less other stuff happening, the more I’m able to focus.

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
Success is a journey not a destination.

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?
BASE jumping.
**THINMAN**  
John Bollinger

Country: United States  
Algorithm Rating: 1429  
Design Rating: 1733  
Development Rating: 1416  
Total TC Earnings: $11,367

---

**Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?**
Boris Grebenshikov. He is a great Russian musician and poet. I met him at one of his concerts.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**
The ability to learn by myself with the help of books and Internet.

---

**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**
What is happiness?

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**
Music and Arts, especially guitar playing and rock/blues/reggae music.

---

**What are you most grateful for?**
That I am living on such a beautiful planet.

---

**COMPONENT DESIGN**
**Carl Nettelblad**

**Country:** Sweden  
**Algorithm Rating:** 1992  
**Design Rating:** N/A  
**Development Rating:** 1687  
**Total TC Earnings:** $13,544

---

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?  
Harry Kroto, Nobel prize laureate in chemistry in 1996. I certainly don’t agree with all his views on how to teach science, but he seemed to be very full of energy and creative in a variety of fields.

If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?  
Go traveling with my family.

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?  
“I am proud of you!” from my sister.

If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?  
Live without a computer and network for a month or longer.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?  
Generally it’s rising. Three hints: 1. Chose the components that you are familiar with or interested in. 2. Be aware of the TopCoder rules when writing code. 3. Make good appeals.

---

**Gencheng Wu**

**Country:** China  
**Algorithm Rating:** N/A  
**Design Rating:** N/A  
**Development Rating:** 1792  
**Total TC Earnings:** $3,623

---

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?  
“Study Extensively, Enquire Accurately, Reflect Carefully, Discriminate Clearly, Practice Earnestly.”

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?  
The basic premises of the Star Trek universe.

What would we find in the trunk of your car?  
My dual 20” TFT monitor setup being moved to my parents’ place when I stay there.
**OODINARY** Xing Yu

Country: China  
Algorithm Rating: 1721  
Design Rating: N/A  
Development Rating: 1987  
Total TC Earnings: $3,191

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?  
“To do everything as earnest as you can.”

If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?  
“Not only diligent and clever, but also honest and warmhearted.”

What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?  
Standing in the elevator and thinking about other things, forget to press the button to tell the elevator to go to which floor for a long time.

If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?  
Endless happiness and luck.

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?  
WishingBone.
If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?
Sleep. Especially after 5 consecutive weeks of CDDC qualification. However my wife prefers to go for a vacation in Bali (or Las Vegas would be great). So the final decision is to get a good sleep in the best and most expensive hotel in Bali (or Vegas).
ZJQ  Jian Qiang Zheng

Who is the most interesting person you’ve ever met and why?
oldbig, he always has great ideas.

What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?
I was in an elevator with three guards of the building which made me feel I am a fugitive.

If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?
Painting.

How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?
Roughly. To practice, and learn from pain and others.

What are you most grateful for?
My mother.

Qi Liu

If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?
How I obtain a PhD degree in ten minutes?

If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?
My mom. When I was a child, she could solve whatever difficulties I met. She must be the smartest, right?

What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?
How to draw a graph using the turtle in LOGO. That was the start of my programming life.

If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?
“The Core”. This is actually a movie. I’d like to travel to the inside of the earth.
**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 the design is flexible enough to be reused and customized in the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEWER</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Algorithm Rating</th>
<th>Design Rating</th>
<th>Development Rating</th>
<th>TC Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AKSONOV</td>
<td>Pavlo Aksonov</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1288</td>
<td>1873</td>
<td>1234</td>
<td>$66,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTOR_LXD</td>
<td>Xiaodong Li</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>2279</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$12,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISHINGBONE</td>
<td>Jiazhi Wu</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>2533</td>
<td>2279</td>
<td>1713</td>
<td>$29,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARGOLITE</td>
<td>Michael Paweska</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>1404</td>
<td>1222</td>
<td>$12,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUCU</td>
<td>Alejandro Marcu</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>1081</td>
<td>1651</td>
<td>$3,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFP2161</td>
<td>Jason Lee</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1689</td>
<td>$5,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 the component belongs in the TopCoder catalog, the Development Review Board adds a suite of test cases including stress, accuracy and failure to the component.
VeriSign Congratulates the Finalists of the 2006 TopCoder® Open

VeriSign intelligent infrastructure services at work.

Today and every day, VeriSign intelligent infrastructure services enable and protect an ever-increasing number of interactions over the world’s voice and data networks, helping to drive a dramatic transformation in the way people work, play, and live.

VeriSign is proud to again sponsor the 2006 TopCoder Open as we continue to build our relationship with this elite coding community.

› Opt-in or send your resume to makeyourmark@verisign.com.
Brett Bernstein
[AdminBrett]
I’d be having sushi in Tokyo.

Ryan Fairfax
[TheFaxman]
I’d be in Tokyo dining on Fugu. There should be a little danger in everything you do.

Mark Tong
[mktong]
I’d be sleeping through the days and living up the nights in Tokyo.

Javier Fernandez-Ivern
[Ivern]
I’d be climbing in the Gunks. (New Palz, NY)

MaryBeth Luce
[mbnd96]
I’d be camping for the summer in Glacier National Park. (West Glacier, MT)

Travis Haas
[thx1138]
I’d be watching the Giro d’Italia all around Italy.

Javier Fernandez-Ivern
[Ivern]
I’d be climbing in the Gunks. (New Palz, NY)

Travis Haas
[thx1138]
I’d be watching the Giro d’Italia all around Italy.

MaryBeth Luce
[mbnd96]
I’d be camping for the summer in Glacier National Park. (West Glacier, MT)

Nick Trefz
[ntrefz]
Am I fired?

Cheun Haas
[bettylee74]
I would be sailing down the coast of the Côte d’Azur. I don’t know how to sail, but I’d find a boat with a good-looking crew.

Olexiy Oryeshko
[OlexiyO]
I’d be climbing and ski ing the Himalayas.

Dave Messinger
[mess]
I’d be in Australia having some VB and learning cricket.

Anthony Yuen
[TangentZ]
I’d be scuba diving at the Great Barrier Reef.

Jessie D’Amato
[impld40]
I’d be lounging on a deserted beach in Fiji, engrossed in my latest novel.

Christie Tanguay
[Chrsie]
I’d still be in Vegas but gambling and eating the $5 all night buffets.

Cheun Haas
[bettylee74]
I would be sailing down the coast of the Côte d’Azur. I don’t know how to sail, but I’d find a boat with a good-looking crew.

Olexiy Oryeshko
[OlexiyO]
I’d be climbing and skiing the Himalayas.

Dave Messinger
[mess]
I’d be in Australia having some VB and learning cricket.

Anthony Yuen
[TangentZ]
I’d be scuba diving at the Great Barrier Reef.

Jessie D’Amato
[impld40]
I’d be lounging on a deserted beach in Fiji, engrossed in my latest novel.

Tricia Laisi
[tlaisi]
I’d be exploring the “Most beautiful country in the world.” (New Zealand)
WHERE INTELLIGENCE GOES TO WORK

Join our workforce and get a cool career, great benefits, and a secure future.

Visit our Web site to:

- Learn how you can apply your technical knowledge
- Find Computer Science/Engineering jobs available
- Apply online

LIFE AT NSA:
“Apply skills in new ways relevant to critical problems.”
Visit www.NSA.gov/Careers to learn more.

www.NSA.gov/Careers

U.S. citizenship is required. NSA is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants for employment are considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or status as a parent.
Proud Sponsors of the 2006 TopCoder Open:

AMD

NSA

VeriSign®

UBS