Welcome to the 2005 TopCoder® Open, sponsored by Sun Microsystems®. Given our membership growth, we are excited to be able to introduce double the amount of on-site participants in both the Algorithm Competition as well as the Component Competition. With this addition in the number of participants, TopCoder is proud to have returning competitors as well as some new faces aboard that we will be able to meet on-site.

We are lucky to have such incredible sponsors this year who have gone above our expectations. Our relationship with returning title sponsor, Sun Microsystems, continues to grow deeper every year. We are truly honored with their continued commitment. We look forward to all the innovations they bring for future developers.

The National Security Agency (NSA) has joined as a supporter of the TCO, making it the first time a United States government agency has taken part in a TopCoder event. We also welcome Yahoo! back again, this time as a premier sponsor. Their constant involvement with TopCoder proves their commitment in finding talent in the TopCoder community. We are thrilled to bring you first-time premier sponsor, VeriSign, whose involvement with TopCoder has been impressive. We look forward to working with them in the future.

This year’s TCO could not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the TopCoder staff. Together they have again brought you an incredible event that will surely bring us an exciting competition. I must thank them all for their continued dedication to the TopCoder family and their strong desire to work hard. I’d also like to thank those members who build our systems, write problems, review designs and code as well as those that administer contests.

This TCO should prove to be an exhilarating competition with 64 of the smartest minds on board and plenty of prize money to go around. Best of luck to all the finalists!

Jack Hughes
Founder, TopCoder, Inc.
**Wednesday, October 12, 2005**

- 9:00am - 4:00pm: Component Design & Development Championship
- 10:00am - 5:00pm: Competitor Game Room
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm: Welcome Reception

**Thursday, October 13, 2005**

- 9:00am - 10:00am: VeriSign Presentation
- 10:15am - 10:45am: Developer Conference: Hot Coffee with RFID
- 10:00am - 12:00pm: Algorithm Semifinal Room 1
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm: Lunch
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm: Algorithm Semifinal Room 2
- 2:15pm - 2:45pm: Developer Conference: Mobile Components and J2ME
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm: NSA Presentation
- 4:15pm - 4:45pm: Developer Conference: TopCoder Solutions
- 4:00pm - 6:00pm: Algorithm Semifinal Room 3
- 7:00pm - 10:00pm: Sun Microsystems Evening Event

**Friday, October 14, 2005**

- 8:00am - 10:00am: Algorithm Wildcard Round
- 10:00am - 11:00am: Yahoo! Presentation
- 11:00am - 12:30pm: Component Design & Development Appeals Phase
- 11:30am - 12:00pm: Developer Conference: JavaServer Faces Round Table
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm: Lunch
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm: Sun Microsystems Presentation
- 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
If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Don't need any, really. Supernatural things can only make everything worse.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?
Be confident.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
Tønsberg, oldest city in Norway.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO?
Making it through university without switching out of CS!
If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?

Kai-fu Lee, the Microsoft VP who got charged because of joining Google.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?

I laugh like my handle.

If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating?

Titanic.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

Reading, thinking and coding. Reading is important, although not so many people noticed it. ;)

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Maybe bagels. I've been trying that out the last couple nights due to four TopCoder matches in a row. No adverse effects yet!

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

Gibberish. Then I could say, “I code in gibberish.” In fact, I already do that sometimes.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Maybe bagels. I've been trying that out the last couple nights due to four TopCoder matches in a row. No adverse effects yet!

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Maybe bagels. I've been trying that out the last couple nights due to four TopCoder matches in a row. No adverse effects yet!

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

Gibberish. Then I could say, “I code in gibberish.” In fact, I already do that sometimes.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would like to be just in the place where I am right now.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

I would like to compete against tomek, to see how much work is still in front of me.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder?

I don’t think I'm a master coder, but my advice would be to practice and never give up.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Maybe bagels. I've been trying that out the last couple nights due to four TopCoder matches in a row. No adverse effects yet!

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

Gibberish. Then I could say, “I code in gibberish.” In fact, I already do that sometimes.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I would like to be just in the place where I am right now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fulfilling wishes at will (since this one is the most generic/powerful one).

What is your favorite activity outside computing?

Traveling (walking/cycling/whatever), seeing places.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Madison, Wisconsin. I think it’s most famous simply for being a nice place to live.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Madison, Wisconsin. I think it’s most famous simply for being a nice place to live.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

I would like to compete against tomek, to see how much work is still in front of me.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder?

I don’t think I'm a master coder, but my advice would be to practice and never give up.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Maybe bagels. I've been trying that out the last couple nights due to four TopCoder matches in a row. No adverse effects yet!

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

Gibberish. Then I could say, “I code in gibberish.” In fact, I already do that sometimes.
If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

It would be the ability to determine whether a given Turing machine halts, because this would allow for incredible mathematical results.

What is the only thing worth missing a TopCoder match for?

Eating Bruschetta made with yellow tomatoes.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?

I dropped out of university with no qualifications. I have little or no algorithm training. I am involved at a Baptist church, and was a youth leader for 7 years.
If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Mind control, to take over the world!

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?

Bjarne Strustrup - I'd love to hear his thoughts on programming language development and evolution, as applied to modern commercial languages.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Cupertino, California, for being the headquarters of Apple.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Jiangsu Province. Famous for its beautiful ladies.

What is your favorite activity outside computing?

Playing the guitar.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?

Never underestimate your potential.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

My hometown is Knyszyn. It is a small town and it was the favorite place of Zygmunt August, the Polish king from 16th century.

If TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating?

"The Shawshank Redemption". An excellent movie, but didn't win many prizes.

What is your favorite activity outside computing?

Knowledge of algorithms, speed, and carefulness.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?

I may be the tallest among the finalists.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

snewman. He is an experienced coder and still does very well in fast coding, writing and reading contests.

What is your favorite activity outside computing?

I can cook a lot of delicious dessert, including Chinese Moon Cakes.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

New Orleans, to see the destruction of nature first hand.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Simulate, from SRM 80. It was a very cool problem that required you to simulate the operation of a computer constructed from logic gates, but required caching of repeated states in order to run in time.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

The Mariana Trench (if I can survive). Nothing is more mysterious and fascinating than the deep ocean and outer space.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?

Enjoy your life. Coding is not the only thing.

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?

Someone from the free software world, let’s say, Linus Torvalds.

What is your favorite activity outside computing?

Enjoy your life: coding is not the only thing.
If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why? Radeye. Oh, “he” knows why. Don’t let that friendly smile and easy-going manner fool you. :)

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Melbourne. It’s most famous for the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it? Bob. Coders’ hard drives will be filled with “.bob” files.

Telekinesis. You’re never bored with telekinesis.

I do indent my code when I’m not competing.

Earning a doctorate from Stanford University.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose? Pelmeni (Siberian meat dumplings).

Russian game “What, Where, When”.

The ability to write code as cleanly and quickly as SnapDragon.

I run marathons, and am married (and to a beautiful woman), and have been programming longer than other members’ parents have known each other.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why? Teleportation. I hate to spend my time on moving from one place to another.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO? About 10 years ago I calculated 10 million digits of Pi on Pentium-120 with 64 MB of memory.

What would you name it? Hanalei, home of Puff the Magic Dragon. To find out why, all you need to do is visit once.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? I have two children – 4 and 8 years old.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? I run marathons, and am married (and to a beautiful woman), and have been programming longer than other members’ parents have known each other.

What is your favorite activity outside computing? I run marathons.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? I have two children – 4 and 8 years old.

What is your favorite activity outside computing? I run marathons.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? I have two children – 4 and 8 years old.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why? If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose? Pelmeni (Siberian meat dumplings).

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? I have two children – 4 and 8 years old.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO? About 10 years ago I calculated 10 million digits of Pi on Pentium-120 with 64 MB of memory.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Melbourne. It’s most famous for the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO? About 10 years ago I calculated 10 million digits of Pi on Pentium-120 with 64 MB of memory.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Melbourne. It’s most famous for the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

1. Knowledge of algorithms, write correct code and write it fast.
2. What is your favorite activity outside computing?
   Hanging out with friends.
3. What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
   Bucharest, Romania. Famous for alcohol and thievery.

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?
John Carmack.
What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
Speed, accuracy and being determined enough to wake up at 2AM.

If you could play in the TopCoder movie, who would you be?
Jackie Chan. I’m not similar but I like his style.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
It would be power of super-speed, of course. It should be quite useful during TopCoder matches.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO?
Enjoying life.

Who would play you in the TopCoder movie?
If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating?
Back to the Future.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
Messy :).
What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself someday?

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Cooking. I horribly need it.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

On some beach near a waterfall far, far away from computers.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Jamaica, to chill out on the beach.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

My mom’s spaghetti.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?

Precision.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

The Moon (as an astronaut). I've always wanted to see things from the distance.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?

I've written my last 5 matches at Boston, Toronto, Cape Cod, Reading, and Worcester, respectively, on 5 different computers.

What is the hardest thing for you to find in searching for a job?

I think it would be neat to work in a garage with a couple of smart friends on an idea destined to revolutionize technology. That opportunity is hard to find.
Michal Forisek

Poland
country: Slovakia current rating: 2896 current ranking: # rating percentile: 99.9323

Tournament statistics

If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating? Let’s say Pulp Fiction. Probably not the best one ever, but I enjoy it (as much as I enjoy my current rating :)).

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO?
Having a lot of great friends I can rely on.

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?
Famous people from various programming contests. E.g., Gordon Cormack, Shahriar Manzoor, Miguel Revilla, ...

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?
Without a balanced diet the “rest of my life” period wouldn’t be that long, so I’d probably go with something enjoyable, such as cookies :)

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
Consistency, speed and skill. A TopCoder has to be able to solve hard problems, has to be able to code them quickly, but the most important skill is the ability to consistently solve all the easy and medium problems.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?
Work hard and believe in yourself.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
It’s Gdynia, the city in northern Poland. It was the first Polish Navy port after World War I and one of the youngest cities in Poland.

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?
Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO?

What is your favorite activity outside computing?
Having a lot of great friends I can rely on.

Who would play you in the TopCoder movie?
Johnny Depp.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?
Work hard and believe in yourself.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
Stalitsa. It is known for “stalitski paixy” - girdles woven with gold and silk.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?
I didn’t have a computer till the age of 17.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
IMHO, you need technical skills (math & software development), passion for coding and tranquillity.

Who would play you in the TopCoder movie?
Ivan Miatselski.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?
Work hard and believe in yourself.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
Stalitsa. It is known for “stalitski paixy” - girdles woven with gold and silk.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?
I didn’t have a computer till the age of 17.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
Math, software development, and passion for coding and tranquility.

What is your favorite activity outside computing?
I like Korean kimchi but I doubt I’ll survive too long eating only this food.
If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? I don't want to go anywhere now, but I save this possibility for a rainy day.

What are the skills needed to be a TopCoder? Consistence, persistence and the ability to concentrate.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? That I haven’t used the word ‘aperiodicity’ in my answers.

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it? ML (this abbreviation has many meanings, among other things, the Marian’s Language)

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday? Practice. A lot. You need a really good excuse not to practice, especially with so many practice rooms available in the TopCoder Arena.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why? Super-speed, like the comic book hero The Flash. It would be pretty nice to be able to move at a "leisurely pace" and still outrun the rest of the world easily.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Kosice. It’s famous for the Kosice Peace Marathon, Europe’s oldest international marathon.

Who would play you in the TopCoder movie? Uhm, one of the guys who wake up at 3 AM four nights in a row...
If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating? The Neverending Story

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why? Ryan. After he would give a good description of how he pumped me.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
1) Time
2) Patience
3) The ability to enjoy yourself

If you could have written any algorithm problem, which one would you have wanted to be responsible for? MLSRecord from TCO Round 2. It was a neat problem, plus it had to do with baseball.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Midland, Texas. Quite a while ago a kid, Baby Jessica, fell down a well, which brought nationwide attention to our town. Also George W. Bush spent some time there in his childhood. Finally I was born there. In conclusion, it’s probably not known for being the brightest place on Earth.
If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

kLang. I feel about the letter k the same way as Apple feels about the letter i. Also, it sounds like a heavy metal object hitting the floor.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

Focus, dedication and an enjoyment of code in its purest form.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Chongqing, for its spicy hot pot.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Siberia, because I'd like to see it, but I'll probably never get the chance.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Tibet, to join its wisdom.

What are your goals in life and what is the most important thing in the world?

Smart, speed, robust.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Kiev, it's very famous for its history and culture.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

Talent, perseverance, dedication.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Izhevsk, it's famous for its citizens like Kalashnikov, a weapon designer.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?

Bill Gates.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

If you could transplant yourself at this moment anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Siberia, because I’d like to see it, but I’ll probably never get the chance.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Tibet, to join its wisdom.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

I feel about the letter k the same way as Apple feels about the letter i. Also, it sounds like a heavy metal object hitting the floor.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?

Focus, dedication and an enjoyment of code in its purest form.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Fly. Every bird can. If humans evolved from bird instead of monkey, we wouldn't have so many traffic problems nowadays, and oil price wouldn't matter.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
The tiny suburb of Løvenstad is famous for.. uhm.. We have the largest Buddhist temple in Scandinavia, I think.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?

Oatmeal. Nourishing, filling, tasty and amusing.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a master coder like yourself?

Tomek, because I'd look good losing in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

KovychevRA, my past team-mate, to see how we match up against each other now.
For this year’s TopCoder Open, the member community was asked to select “the best of the best” from our group of semifinalists. Ten superlative categories were put into place, from Most Popular to Best Code Breaker, and voters were given one week to decide. Congratulations to our winners!

Where Intelligence Goes to Work

It’s about solving the toughest challenges. Taking the path never traveled. Using your intelligence and imagination to impact the world.

NSA is looking for intelligent and imaginative people to produce foreign intelligence information and protect U.S. information systems.

If you’re ready to give your intelligence some competition, join NSA, where the top intelligence really matters.

**Career Opportunities:**

- Computer/Electrical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Foreign Language
- Intelligence Analysis
- Cryptanalysis
- Signals Analysis

For other career opportunities, more information, and to apply online, visit our Web site.

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, handicap, sexual orientation, or status as a parent.
Introducing Developer Conferences to this year’s TCO. All finalists and spectators are welcome to come participate in the following interactive discussions. Learn about TopCoder’s real world experience in the following areas.

**Thursday, October 13, 2005**

**10:15 am - 10:45 am**  
Hot Coffee with RFID  
Participate in a high-level overview of Radio Frequency Identification. Discover the benefits and pitfalls of incorporating RFID into a real world application.

**2:15 pm - 2:45 pm**  
Mobile Components and J2ME  
Learn how to incorporate reusable components into mobile application. TopCoder will present how best to use components in a J2ME phone application. Some of the following J2ME components will be discussed:  
- Stream Manager  
- Stream Handler  
- Data Landing Zone  
- True Type Font Library Creator.

**4:15 pm - 4:45 pm**  
TopCoder Solutions: Identity & Access Management  
Most people think of security as restricting access to information, but when done correctly the greatest value is realized by increasing the flow of appropriate information to the appropriate people. Increasingly, employees find themselves burdened with different logins to several different applications. Forgotten passwords or lag in user creation adds to delays in basic business operations across the enterprise. Operating and maintaining a help desk to create and maintain these users is often costly.  

With a proven track record of success within Fortune 100 organizations, TopCoder Software’s identity and access management solutions centralize users and passwords, allowing organizations to reduce maintenance cost, improve accessibility and enforce consistent security policies. Utilizing TopCoder’s Component-Based Methodology provides a flexible, standardized and easily maintained solution that is capable of working with industry leading security products.

**Friday, October 14, 2005**

**11:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
JavaServer Faces Round Table  
Come and discuss the advantages of JavaServer Faces with TopCoder Project Managers and members. A round table forum will be held to discuss the advantages of using JSF components in your web application. The topics will focus on creating JSF components and integrating your custom JSF components with Java Studio Creator. Learn about a great new emerging technology and one of the best tools to integrate the technology into your application.
If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
Oldbig, because if I lose the duel in the arena, I can take another duel in the campus :-)

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
My hometown is small city named Wenling, it has the first sunshine of the mainland of China in the new year of 2000.

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?
Pangu, maybe written in Chinese.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
Tibet, it is my dream.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
Exact.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?
Think hard and don't take yourself too seriously.

If you could have written any algorithm problem, which one would you have wanted to be responsible for?
SRM 1, problem 1, because it would have been cool to be TopCoder's very first problem author.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Flying – it would make going anywhere a lot easier, and the scenery is excellent.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members?
There is nothing very special about me but some people are surprised to hear about a Russian who lives in the South Korea.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?
Tomatoes – Because with only one thing to eat, I’d come to hate it. And I already hate tomatoes.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year's TCO?
Fathering a child - this eclipses even the getting to the semifinals of the TopCoder Invitational 2002 in algorithms.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
1. Discipline, 2. Ability to learn quickly, 3. Ability to type quickly.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Slowing down the time - that would let me get more things done.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
Richland, known for building bombs.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?
Tomatoes – Because with only one thing to eat, I’d come to hate it. And I already hate tomatoes.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year's TCO?
Fathering a child - this eclipses even the getting to the semifinals of the TopCoder Invitational 2002 in algorithms.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
1. Discipline, 2. Ability to learn quickly, 3. Ability to type quickly.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?
Richland, known for building bombs.

If you had to eat one thing for the rest of your life, what food would you choose?
Tomatoes – Because with only one thing to eat, I’d come to hate it. And I already hate tomatoes.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year's TCO?
Fathering a child - this eclipses even the getting to the semifinals of the TopCoder Invitational 2002 in algorithms.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder?
1. Discipline, 2. Ability to learn quickly, 3. Ability to type quickly.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?
ZorbaTHut - too bad he’s retired :-)

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?
Reading thoughts of other people. It is devilishly intriguing to know what your friends and colleagues think about you. Such skill has many other obvious benefits too.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be?
"Passion". I have a passion for math and software development.
What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Zamboanga City is known for its colorful vintas.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder? Brilliance, perseverance and willingness.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Viscous.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why? Endless energy - I’d be able to keep up with all my kids and not be exhausted by 9pm (when I then do these competitions!).

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Earned - through a lot of late night production support and seeing how hundreds of other programmers designed and solved problems.

What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday? There are many different ways to solve a problem - never solve it twice the same way. Always try different approaches and methods to learn the strengths and weaknesses of those approaches.

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why? Pops. He can normally beat the pants off me in component design, but in the Arena we’re (a bit) more evenly matched.

If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating? Time Bandits. Not really one of the best of all time, but good fun all the same.

Who would play you in the TopCoder movie? I would play myself, of course. No one else could do as good a job. If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it? OLToM: One Language Too Many.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? St. Louis. These days it may be most famous for its baseball team, but historically it was the edge of the east and “gateway to the west”; this is symbolized these days by the Gateway Arch.

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why? Immortality. Then I’d have all the time to figure out how to get everything else. If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Viscous.

If you could have written any algorithm problem, which one would you have wanted to be responsible for? I have always liked the mystique behind the Towers of Hanoi. It’s quite stimulating and serves as a good introduction to certain areas of algorithmic problem solving.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO? I married the most wonderful woman in my life.

What are three skills needed to be a TopCoder? Able to code without sleeping for a long time. Able to find the needed info quickly. Able to understand the math and logic behind the coding.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Concise.

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it? Toffy.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for? Manila (a magical food in the Bible) :)

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Mana (a magical food in the Bible).

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it? Canoise.
If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating? Star Wars - A New Hope -- I hope my rating will rise, and I don't think the movie is all that good, but there are on the other hand quite a lot of movies that I think are less entertaining, just like my rating isn't great, but it happens to be "high enough" to qualify.

If you had to describe your coding ability in one word, what would it be? Quality.

What about you would surprise other TopCoder members? That I'm actually studying biology. I think biology combined with a genuine interest in computer science is quite uncommon, but there are some quite interesting pattern matching and sequence aligning problems, for example.
What advice would you give to a young programmer looking to be a master coder like yourself someday?

Use the source, Luke. :)

If you could challenge any TopCoder member to a duel in the arena, who would you want to compete against and why?

snewman, because I want to learn from him how to become as good as he is, even at his age.

What is your hometown and what is it most famous for?

Surabaya, famous for being hot, humid, and close to the famous Bali.

If you were to create a new computer language, what would you name it?

Felia (after my wife’s name).

If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be and why?

Teleport, because I hate walking.

What is your greatest achievement in life besides being a finalist in this year’s TCO?

Learning how to develop real components in a true OO way. And of course, earning quite a fortune.

If your TopCoder ratings were based on the best movies of all time, what movie would represent your rating?

Gone with the Wind. Especially for my algorithm rating.

If TopCoder could invite anyone to host a chat in the arena, who would you like to chat with the most?

Bill Gates. Challenge him about the Linux stuff.

If you could transplant yourself at this moment to anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?

Area 51 in US. Famous for the aliens.
About design: 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.

About development: 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: Where it all comes together.

Billions of times each day, the world interacts with a company you may not realize is there. One that is driving dynamic transformations at the very core of commerce and communications. VeriSign. Through our BrainPoint Infrastructure Services, we enable businesses and individuals to find, connect, secure and transact across today’s complex Internet, telecom and converged networks.

We operate the systems that manage, format and protect 16-billion Web addresses and email every day. We run one of the largest telecom signaling networks in the world, operating services such as cellular roaming, text messaging, caller ID, and multimedia messaging. We manage Internet and user security for over 15,000 global businesses and 400,000 Web sites. And we handle over 30 percent of all e-commerce transactions in North America, processing $300-billion in daily sales. As much as 70 percent of online spending and conversion. VeriSign utilizes these capabilities to develop the BrainPoint Infrastructure Services necessary for everything from mobile-enabled supply chains to inter-enterprise self to mobile and rich media content distribution.

Whether you’re a telecom carrier looking to rapidly deploy new services, a Fortune 500 enterprise needing comprehensive predictive security services, or an e-commerce leader wanting to securely process payments and reduce fraud, you can help. We’re VeriSign. Where it all comes together.
**Play the Admin Match Game!**

How well do you know your TC Admin? Try matching them to their surprising factoid.

**A** "Sometimes I'll order Taco flavored Doritos from the web site of a Texas grocery store. They are impossible to find anywhere else."

**B** "Years ago I made a full scale digital model of the Titanic (before the movie existed) using the Duke Nukem level creator."

**C** "I practiced reciting the alphabet backwards so many times when I was a child that I now often have trouble remembering it forwards."

**D** "My car was rear-ended the day after I purchased it, and I drove from Sacramento to Denver with the back end patched up with duct tape and plastic garbage bags."

**E** "My two front teeth are fake, ever since a crazy bicycle accident in 9th grade that left my bike (and teeth) unusable!"

**F** "I once baxed a Kangaroo."

**G** "My Spanish sucks."

**H** "Despite my age, I probably own the largest collection of Disney’s The Little Mermaid paraphernalia."

**I** "I’m Polish. Right down to the homemade Pierogis and Golomki."

**J** "I practice whirly ball."

**K** "I dream of becoming a national whirly ball champion."

**L** "I have a fascination with puppies; the sleepier, the better."

**M** "I’m a huge fan of The Little Mermaid."

**N** "I have more TopCoder shirts than anyone else."

**O** "I can remember the first 314 decimal digits of PI."

**P** "I don’t own a cell phone."

**Q** "I can consume up to a kilo a day of gummy bears and other Haribo-like fruit gums."

**R** "I have been to numerous origami conventions."

---

**TheFaxman**

Ryan Fairfax

Algorithm Competition Manager

**NTrefz**

Nick Trefz

Graphic Designer

**OCTekiyo**

Oley Teikyo

Algorithm Problem Coordinator

**CHRISIE**

Christie Tanguay

Accountant

**VERDOX**

Matt Murphy

Project Manager

**IVERN**

Javier Fernandez-Ivern

Component Manager

**THX1188**

Travis Haas

Infrastructure Manager

**BBRAIS**

Bill Blake

Project Manager

**FOGLEBIRD**

Michael Fogelnik

Internal Developer

**LBAKSTROM**

Lars Bakst-Storm

Algorithm Problem Coordinator

**TANGENTS**

Anthony Yeun

Project Manager

**MESS**

Dave Messinger

Project Manager

---

**admin matchgame**

Brett Bernstein

Algorithm Problem Coordinator

**DOK**

Greg Paul

Director of Competitions

**MMORRIS**

Mike Morris

VP Software Development

**MKTONG**

Mark Tong

Internal Developer

**MIKE**

Mike Lydon

CTO

**JMPLOO**

Jesse D’Amato

Event Manager

---

ANSWERS: 5A, 8B, 7C, 4D, 15E, 13F, 12G, 6H, 18I, 3J, 11K, 14L, 10M, 2N, 16P, 9Q, 1R
Proud Sponsors of the 2005 TopCoder Open: