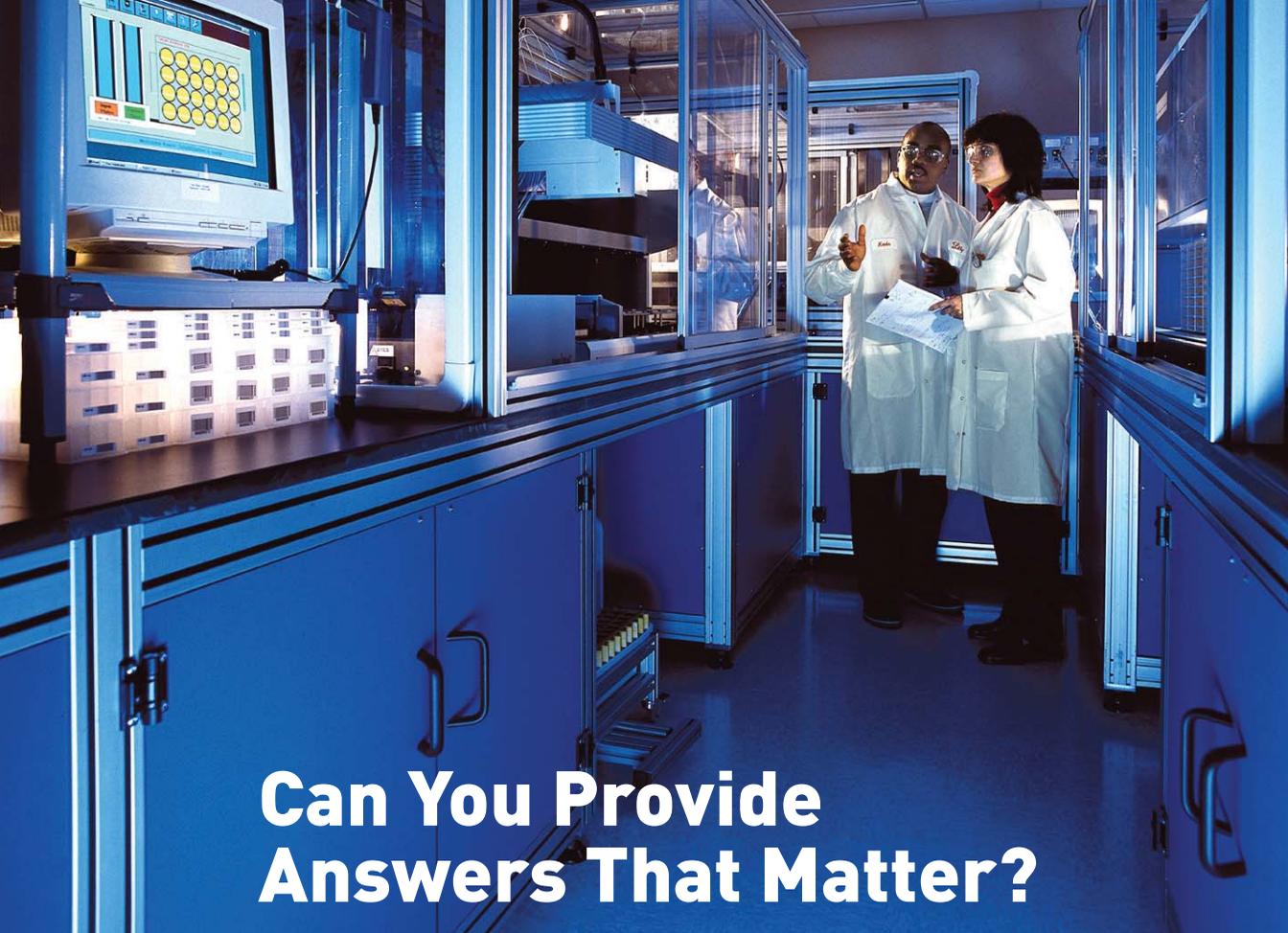




2008
TOPCODER
OPEN



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opportunity



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Answers That Matter.

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Welcome Message

Dear Finalists, Sponsors, Event Patrons and Attendees:

It is my immense pleasure to welcome you back to the Mirage Las Vegas and the 2008 TopCoder Open. One hundred and twenty of the finest programming and designing individuals in the world are traveling untold thousands of miles collectively to attend this event. It is an honor to have them here for this remarkable event of skill, creativity and intelligence and my congratulations goes out to each and every one of them.

My sincere gratitude to event patron, NSA, our premier sponsors, Lilly and AOL as well as our standard sponsors, VeriSign, BT and Belfair. Last, but by no means least, I would also like to thank our magnificent TopCoder staff for putting this event together.

Enjoy the event!

Jack Hughes
Founder, TopCoder, Inc.

40 trillion bits of data per second



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Tournament Schedule: Sunday - Tuesday

Sunday, May 11, 2008

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Dinner *Grand Ballroom F*

Monday, May 12, 2008

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Studio Design Competition** **Grand Ballroom A**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Marathon Competition** **Grand Ballroom A**

11:30 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM **Component Design** **Grand Ballroom A**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM NSA Presentation *Grand Ballroom G*

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Welcome Reception *Grand Ballroom A*

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM **Algorithm Semifinal Room 1** **Grand Ballroom A**

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM AOL Presentation *Grand Ballroom F*

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM **Algorithm Semifinal Room 2** **Grand Ballroom A**

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Algorithm Semifinal Room 3** **Grand Ballroom A**

4:00 PM - 4:45 PM Developer Forum:
From Architecture to Assembly *Grand Ballroom G*

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner *Grand Ballroom F*

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Algorithm Wildcard Round** **Grand Ballroom A**

Tournament Schedule: Wednesday - Thursday

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Studio Design Competition** **Grand Ballroom A**

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM **Component Development** **Grand Ballroom A**

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lilly Presentation *Grand Ballroom F*

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

1:00 PM - 1:45 PM Round Table: Crowd Sourcing,
Collaboration & Innovation *Grand Ballroom G*

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM Developer Forum: TC Direct,
Cockpit & Widget Innerworkings *Grand Ballroom G*

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM Corporate Forum:
Grady Bryant from VeriSign *Grand Ballroom G*

4:00 PM - 4:45 PM Developer Forum:
Quality through Review *Grand Ballroom G*

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner *Grand Ballroom F*

6:30 PM - 11:00 PM TopCoder Competitor Poker
Tournament & Game Room *Grand Ballroom F*

Thursday, May 15, 2008

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet *Grand Ballroom F*

9:00 AM - 9:45 PM Corporate Forum: Ron Burkhart
from On Point Technology *Grand Ballroom G*

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM Corporate Forum:
Nic Perez from AOL *Grand Ballroom G*

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Algorithm Finals** *Grand Ballroom F*

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet **Grand Ballroom A**

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM Key Note: Jack Hughes,
TopCoder Founder **Grand Ballroom A**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ALL CHAMPION AWARDS **Grand Ballroom A**

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Closing Dessert Reception **Grand Ballroom A**



what are we watching COMPONENT COMPETITION

Component 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 is reviewed and scored by a three person Review Board. The winner and second place of the competition receive a cash prize, and the winner's design becomes the basis for a future component development competition.

The design work for the 2008 TopCoder Open finals is being done entirely on-site, and will be pieced together with output from the Studio finals to become the basis for the development finals.

and scored by a three person Review Board. The winner and second place of the competition receive a cash prize, and the winner's implementation becomes a part of the TopCoder software catalog.

Component Development

TopCoder Development Competitions require participants to implement a previously designed software component. Their starting point is the winning design submission that includes UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification 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 and documentation for their implementation.

Each competitor's submission is reviewed and scored by a three person Review Board. The winner and second place of the competition receive a cash prize, and the winner's implementation becomes a part of the TopCoder software catalog.

The development work for the 2008 TopCoder Open finals is being done entirely on-site, and is based on the output from the Studio and Component Design finals.

COMPONENT DESIGN BRACKET

Final Round

[AleaActaEst]

[argolite]

[dmks]

[fabrizyo]

[humblefool]

[kyky]

[Luca]

[Pops]

[ShindouHikaru]

[tushak]

[urtk]

[Wendell]





Rating: 1029 **Country:** Canada

Piotr Paweska [AleaActaEst] I am from Toronto, Canada currently attending the University of Toronto while running my own business. My handle is a strong allusion to "Alea Jacta Est" which is what Julius Caesar said when crossing the river Rubicon. I have many favorite parts of TopCoder; the great community, lots of exciting things happening all the time, I thrive on competition and TopCoder is my competition-cola... daily fix guaranteed. There are many, many great competitors in TopCoder. Finally, I learn new things all the time. I am really glad to be at the TCO this year. I am looking forward to meeting all the great competitors in the arena. The 6 hour challenge will be a lot of fun. I am definitely looking towards some great competition. I have not really achieved anything great. Building my recording studio was I think a personal accomplishment that I really value. Winning the TCO would definitely be a great accomplishment! Perhaps in next year's TCO I will be able to put that down in the questionnaire. But just being in another TCO is great!



Rating: 1548 **Country:** Canada

Michael Paweska [argolite] My handle is a combination of the words "argos" and "hoplite". I'm a great fan of Steven Pressfield novels about ancient Greece (especially his book "Gates of Fire"), and at the time when I was first reading his novels, I was looking to come up with a unique handle that would have a martial and greek theme. I thought of trying "Athens" and "Sparta" as prefixes, but atholite and spartolite just did not work for me. With the sheer amount of effort that goes into winning a Digital Run, there is not much time for hobbies. But when I'm not tied to the computer, I like to hike with my girlfriend for several hours at a time.



Rating: 1602 **Country:** China

Zhimin Chen [dmks] I am from Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. My handle is an abbreviation of some Chinese words. And the Chinese words mean sandstorm in the great desert. I love outdoor sports and my biggest accomplishment would be when I travelled by bicycle for a long distance of over 1000km.



Rating: 1709 **Country:** Italy

Fabrizio Lovato [fabrizyo] I am from Arzignano, a little city near Vicenza, Vicenza is near Venice. My favorite part of TopCoder is Designer competitions and the Digital Run obviously. However I know TopCoder for its algorithm competitions. Like all other competitors, I fight for the victory. This year is very different from the past years. With the new format all competitors can win. My best result in TC was the DR summer victory, I was so happy! I'm into computer science engineering like almost all people at TC. When I was a student I wanted to have a job that I could work from home. I actually work only for TC, so this is a great result for me. It gives me a lot of free time and I can work as I want. Sincerely, I like this life and I have liked competing since I was child.



Rating: 1814 **Country:** India

Harsha S [humblefool] I'm a 23 year old graduate and who has an intense love for competition. Since school, I've worked at Microsoft Research, done two quarters of Digital Run and a month long unsuccessful stint as an ACM ICPC Coach - I was an ACM ICPC finalist myself in 2006 but coaching is a different ball game I guess! I like to spend my free time watching sports on television or playing them with my friends. I am most looking forward to meeting the other competitors at the TCO who I keep running into every other week on one or another component, and of course, competing with them!



Rating: 2705 **Country:** United States

Sergey Kalinichenko [kyky] I started programming in 1986, took part in my first programming competition in 1987, won the first programming competition in Ukraine in 1988, and made the top-ten list at the first programming competition in the USSR later the same year. I did electrical engineering in college, so I started competing again only in 2001. I made the on-sites of the TCI in 2002 (it was called "invitational" back then), and I went to every design finals at TCO's from 2003 to 2007, winning the event once (in 2007). My achievements outside of competitions include building an algorithm for sorting FedEx parcels at their largest fully automated hub, building a high-performance policy rating engine for one of the top insurance carriers in the nation, and defining a language for declarative handling of data security.





Rating: 1502 **Country:** Romania

Codrut-Lucian Lazar [Luca] I currently attend Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Though, I don't have a hobby I'm dedicated to, I used to ski, played chess for a while, and now I'm thinking of starting to play more tennis. I consider doing the architecture for the TC UML Tool as a big accomplishment of mine. I'm quite happy that I managed to keep under control the complexity of the project, which was intimidating at first.



Rating: 2572 **Country:** United States

Tim Roberts [Pops] I work for Gotham Financial Labs in Raleigh, NC. I think the best part about TopCoder is the community. I've met and have had the opportunity to talk to quite a few people and they all are very nice. Unlike many of the other sites, if you ask a question (even a stupid one) - you'll more than likely get a response and even a good conversation on it. My favorite hobby I'd have to say it's working on the house. I'm currently on year 3 of finishing off my attic into an extra bonus room and possibly into a home theater. My biggest accomplishment is my family - I have a lovely wife and 3 (sometimes) good sons! Beyond that, I feel that I have done well in my professional life in that I've jumped on opportunities where I've seen them.



Rating: 1604 **Country:** Philippines

Celsus Kintanar [ShindouHikaru] Shindou Hikaru is the name of a fictional Go player. I chose it because I liked the way ShindouHikaru consistently strived to become better. The format of this year's TCO is going to be interesting, since time will be very limited. When I compete online, my most productive hours are the last few before the deadline, so I'll feel right at home with the format. I used to call myself the programming programmer, for being good at both games and programming. Really though - the title rightfully belongs to SnapDragon. As I grow older, I continually realize that the world is full of smart, talented people.



Rating: 1817 **Country:** Ukraine

Ushak Taras [tushak] My name is Taras. I have had this handle for about 5 years. This is very easy to guess for anybody who knows my real name. It was generated by mail server from my first name and surname. So, my name is Taras Ushak and handle tushak. I live in Kyiv which is the capital of my country. I am studying on Master's program in Intellectual system of decision making at National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy". Except professional subjects I like economy, ancient history and physic. After graduation I want to have my own enterprise in computer or stock marketing sectors. My greatest achievement in computer science used to be qualification for this TCO. And in any case I want to enjoy this life! Science used to be qualification for this TCO. That is me.



Rating: 2130 **Country:** China

Shenhua Gu [urtks] I am really looking forward to meeting friends from the entire world who share the same TopCoder. I like playing basketball. But now I've spent nearly all of my time on the competition. My handle means "Hey! This is a cool guy"! I am going to graduate, and try to find a job once I finish at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.



Rating: 2136 **Country:** China

Qun Huang [Wendell] Wendell is my English name, which should be a common one in US. I got it from my first foreign teacher, who told me it meant "a wonder". I currently work for TopCoder full time, which gives me the freedom to arrange my time, which I don't have if I'm employed. I won the Kaisi Entrance Scholarship to college 2001-2005 and won the scholarship for outstanding students in college every year 2005. In 2007, I graduated from Zhongshan University.



component competition REVIEW BOARD

Design Reviewers

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



[**adic**]
Adrian Carcu
Country: **Romania**
Design Rating: **2201**
Development Rating: **1820**
Algorithm Rating: **1864**



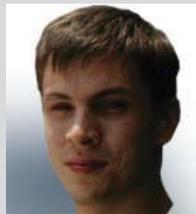
[**Ghostar**]
Justin Gasper
Country: **United States**
Design Rating: **1890**
Development Rating: **N/A**
Algorithm Rating: **1012**



[**nhzp339**]
Xiaoshi Lu
Country: **China**
Design Rating: **2509**
Development Rating: **1663**
Algorithm Rating: **2059**



[**cnettel**]
Carl Nettelblad
Country: **Sweden**
Development Rating: **1599**
Design Rating: **N/A**
Algorithm Rating: **2250**



[**aksonov**]
Pavlo Aksonov
Country: **Ukraine**
Development Rating: **1228**
Design Rating: **1677**
Algorithm Rating: **1353**



[**TheCois**]
Francois Bonin
Country: **Ghana**
Development Rating: **819**
Design Rating: **1228**
Algorithm Rating: **1358**

Development Reviewers

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

COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT BRACKET

Final Round

[**cyberjag**]

[**enefem21**]

[**hefeng**]

[**hotblue**]

[**jueyey**]

[**netsafe**]

[**oldbig**]

[**Orange_Cloud**]

[**PE**]

[**romanoTC**]

[**wiedzmin**]

[**Xuchen**]

CHAMPION



Rating: 1051 Country: India

Jerrish Varghese [cyberjag] I'm a 26 year old software engineer from Parakode, Kerala, India. I studied Computer Engineering and worked as a Programmer Analyst for a leading IT company in India for 3 years. I like being my own boss, so now I take contract jobs including TopCoder. My school mates used to call me "jag" which was my nickname. I added a 'cyber' before that when I started using internet. Component design and development competitions are my favorite part of TopCoder. I really like this idea and I had never seen nor done coding of this much high quality before. The time it takes to complete projects are also amazing.



Rating: 1465 Country: Indonesia

Nanda Firdausi Muhammad [enefem21] For me, the most fun thing is the competition and the learning process. I learn a lot of things about TopCoder software development and technology. The community is also very good; it's hard to find such big community with quite a deep interest in programming. I found many interesting things in the forum and so far the best I can remember is the reaction of the community for 'monsters and bunnies' problem from TCO08 qualification. Of course, for component development, the money is also interesting. This will be my third onsite tournament and so far the result is not that good. I must work very hard to do my best this time especially since the prospect of getting onsite in the next TCCC is not that high. There are many things in the past that I proud of, however being in the high-class community like TopCoder just makes me realize that what I've already achieved can't be compared to other's accomplishments. Maybe if I win this TCO I will write it as my proudest achievement.



Rating: 1987 Country: China

Feng He [hefeng] I'm not working for any company currently but I really enjoy working as a SOHO programmer right now. Frankly speaking, TopCoder provides me an opportunity to work at home. What's more, I can learn a lot from the community. It has been an exciting accomplishment for me to be able to advance to the finals from all these great coders. I just want to be able to enjoy the finals, as well as the tourism in Las Vegas. I also love sports. I was a good soccer forward in the old days, and I guess I'm still good enough now.



Rating: 1300 Country: Philippines

Willeus Acuna [hotblue] Born February 17, 1975, I graduated valedictorian in high school. Graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Studies. I am happily married to my wife Shai. I currently own my own business called HotBlue Software Solutions, Inc. in the Philippines. Basically, it represents red and blue, two of the primary colors in the Philippine flag, as well as my handle. My favorite part about TopCoder is the opportunity it provides for balancing knowledge and learning, professional achievement, and monetary rewards. TopCoder simply gives you a sense of accomplishment as a developer that is difficult to find anywhere else. As a finalist, I am most looking forward to representing my country. Coming from a third-world, developing country like the Philippines, the TCO is a venue to prove that Filipinos can succeed in the global arena.



Rating: 1674 Country: China

Yijie Wang [jueyey] I currently have empty achievements in my TopCoder profile, but this trip will fill one. From my TopCoder profile, "Member Since 08.20.2005", I am an older TopCoder member, it was not until 5.19.2007 did I try my first component development competition. So to competition, I am still young. Thanks to TopCoder, I enjoy the algorithm problems and enjoy the feeling of winning a component development competition. Since it's my first trip to TCO, I am most looking forward to seeing the great TopCoder members like: PE, oldbig and Pops and so on. I like playing basketball and Ping-Pong. I also enjoy watching the NBA - I am a fond of Rocket and YaoMing.



Rating: 1358 Country: China

Zhiyong Li [netsafe] I am a graduate of high school other than university. In high school, I was involved in programming and took part in NOI (Chinese National Olympiad in Informatics). I live in a small city, where the only programmer I know is me, so all my knowledge is learned by myself until now. I work for the IT department of a bank for more than 12 years now, and my routine work is maintaining IBM server and corebank system and write some c or cobol code. I started my TopCoder competition "career" last year, and learned a lot. I am really looking forward to attending this great and a wonderful competition, and to make new friends at the same time.





Rating: 2165 Country: China

Zheng Zhang [oldbig] If you translate my handle literally, it means "boss". I received a Master's Degree from Zhejiang University and I am working for Google now. I competed in ACM ICPC World Finals twice and the best placement is the 13th. I really enjoy TopCoder SRM's. The thing I am looking forward to the most is winning some money in Las Vegas!



Rating: 1697 Country: Russian Federation

Nikita Rybak [Orange_Cloud] I am from Vologda, Russia and currently am unemployed, but get some income from TopCoder. My handle is really nothing special; it was the condition of my mind at the time of me creating it. My favorite part about TopCoder is the people. It's a place where you can find new friends and new enemies too... but mostly friends. Surely I have some achievements, but I do not sit and count awards. Being short, I'm lazy. I prefer to look forward and do something interesting.



Rating: 1797 Country: China

Ninghai Huang [PE] PE is the short for Presentation Error. Just like AC for Accepted, WA for Wrong Answer. I have excellent skills in the field of software development and have grasped some software languages and tools, such as C/C++, Java, C# and asp.net. I have 5 years of experience in software design and development, such as web applications, desktop applications and j2me applications. I'm a standout team player, with effective communication and problem solving skills, and the ability to learn and apply new skills quickly and effectively. I was champion in the 2006 and 2007 TCCC in Development. I won second place in the 2007 TCO in Development. I also place 9th Place in the 30th ACM/ICPC Asia Regional, Hangzhou Site, 17th Place in the 30th ACM/ICPC Asia Regional, Chengdu Site, 3rd Place in 29th ACM/ICPC Asia Regional, Beijing Site and received honorable Mention in the 29th ACM/ICPC world final.



Rating: 1841 Country: Brazil

Romano Silva [romanoTC] I am passionate about computer programming. I always worked with software development and it really motivates me. I like agile/iterative methodologies and I am a huge fan of TopCoder's methodology. I can say that going to TCO '08 is a huge accomplishment, but my 3 kids (Teresa, Domingos and Bernardo) are the accomplishments of my life. I am looking forward to enjoying the competition, meeting other developers, designers and TC administrators which have helped me a lot in my competitions. The competition adds an adrenaline to software development. That's an amazing motivation factor and what drives me.



Rating: 1725 Country: Ukraine

Oleksiy Hrushetsky [wiedzmin] I graduated from National University of "Kiev-Mohyla Academy", department of computer science, have degree of bachelor. I am married. I like sports (I had been playing hockey for 13 years, but due to some health problems had to stop), listening to music, especially punk rock. At this moment, my occupation is senior java developer at GlobalLogic. My handle is the main personage of Andrzej Sapkowski's book 'Wiedzmin'; this word is Polish, English translation - 'warlock'



Rating: 1638 Country: China

Luchuan Xu [Xuchen] I graduated with a Masters degree of Computer Science from Zhejiang University, where there are many talented people who did very well in TopCoder. I am a smart, passionate, self-motivated and quick-learner. In 2004, I won the 29th ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest Asia Preliminary Contest Beijing Site Silver Award and was the 2004 Zhejiang Province Collegiate Programming Contest Champion.





Digital Run Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Digital Run. The Digital Run is an ongoing contest offered to active competitors in Component Design, Development and Assembly competitions. Each Component or Assembly contest posted for a competition carries placement points. Points are awarded to competitors based on the number of submissions that pass review. The top five members with the highest point totals at the end of each Stage win prize money and an all expenses paid trip to this year's TopCoder Open.

Design Cup Stage 1 Top Five Winners

[fabrizyo]	Points Earned: 18,515.00	Prize Amount: \$60,000.00
[AleaActaEst]	Points Earned: 13,450.00	Prize Amount: \$30,000.00
[Ghostar]	Points Earned: 11,430.00	Prize Amount: \$20,000.00
[prunthaban]	Points Earned: 7,468.00	Prize Amount: \$12,000.00
[Standlove]	Points Earned: 7,096.00	Prize Amount: \$8,000.00

Design Cup Stage 2 Top Five Winners

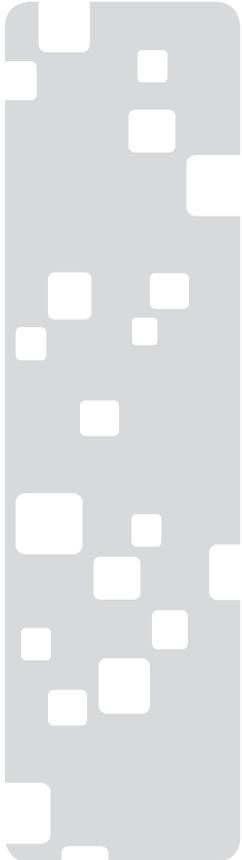
[argolite]	Points Earned: 29,285.00	Prize Amount: \$60,000.00
[AleaActaEst]	Points Earned: 14,228.00	Prize Amount: \$30,000.00
[zsudraco]	Points Earned: 13,103.00	Prize Amount: \$20,000.00
[Standlove]	Points Earned: 12,542.00	Prize Amount: \$12,000.00
[saevio]	Points Earned: 8,673.50	Prize Amount: \$8,000.00

Development Cup Stage 1 Top Five Winners

[nebula.lam]	Points Earned: 7,975.00	Prize Amount: \$15,000.00
[RachaelCook]	Points Earned: 5,136.00	Prize Amount: \$8,000.00
[minhu]	Points Earned: 4,129.06	Prize Amount: \$5,000.00
[evilisneo]	Points Earned: 3,876.00	Prize Amount: \$3,000.00
[Yeung]	Points Earned: 3,460.00	Prize Amount: \$2,000.00

Development Cup Stage 2 Top Five Winners

[kkkk9]	Points Earned: 10,525.00	Prize Amount: \$15,000.00
[Yeung]	Points Earned: 8,770.00	Prize Amount: \$8,000.00
[elkhawajah]	Points Earned: 7,139.00	Prize Amount: \$5,000.00
[moonli]	Points Earned: 6,065.00	Prize Amount: \$3,000.00
[kurtrips]	Points Earned: 5,007.50	Prize Amount: \$2,000.00



what are we watching ALGORITHM COMPETITION

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

The Coding Phase tasks competitors with solving 3 problems of increasing difficulty in 85 minutes. Competitors gain points for their submissions based on how fast they solve each problem.

During the Challenge Phase coders can submit inputs that attempt to "break" another coder's submission by looking for potential bugs. Successful challenges reward the challenger with extra points.

Once the Challenge Phase is over a series of System Tests is run on each program to determine correctness. After System Tests are finished the results are displayed on the Arena scoreboard and the winners are declared.

Room 1		phase: CODING			time: 00:29
		POINT VALUE:			
		LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	
1st	[mmorris]		423.91	575.00	998.91
2nd	[gt494]	238.63	315.78		554.41
3rd	[Jack]	211.95	315.78	1097.35	527.73
4th	[TheFoxyman]	211.95	247.56		211.95
5th	[Mike]	147.72		827.33	147.72
	[mess]			473.57	0.00
	[thorgan]	108.46	354.34		0.00
	[dak]		204.83		0.00

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

Room 1		phase: CHALLENGE				time: 00:35
		DEFENSE		CHALLENGER		
		CHALLENGER	LEVEL 1	DEFENSE	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
1st	[mmorris]	0.00	226.35	423.91	575.00	1225.26
2nd	[Mike]	challenged [dak Level 1]	50.00	147.72	0.00	639.21 - 836.93
3rd	[gt494]	viewing [TheFoxyman Level 1]	0.00	238.63	315.78	0.00 554.41
4th	[Jack]	viewing [Mike Level 1]	0.00	211.95	315.78	0.00 527.73
5th	[mess]		0.00	0.00	0.00	446.32 446.32
6th	[TheFoxyman]		0.00	211.95	0.00	0.00 211.95
7th	[thorgan]	viewing [Mike Level 3]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 0.00
8th	[dak]		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 - 0.00

The Scoreboard during Challenge Phase: The first column is the last action that a coder made. If the text is green the challenge was successful, if red, it was unsuccessful. The "Challenges" column shows the total points earned from the challenge phase. Each of the defense columns shows the coder's score for each submitted problem. If the score is yellow, it is being viewed. If green, it was defended successfully. If red, it was challenged. The name of the challenger will appear under the score. The last column is total score.

Room 1		phase: SYSTEM TESTING			time: 00:00
		LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	
1st	[mmorris]	2X 35	4✓ 91	5✓ 00	998.91
2nd	[mess]			4✓ 32	421.32
3rd	[gt494]	2✓ 63	3X 78		238.63
4th	[Jack]	2✓ 95	3X 78		211.95
5th	[Mike]	1✓ 72		6X 21	197.72
6th	[dak]		✓		187.22
7th	[TheFoxyman]	2X 95			-25.00
8th	[thorgan]				-25.00

The Scoreboard during System Testing: Scores with a green background and a checkmark passed systems. Those with a red background and an X failed system. Final column is total score.



Rating: 2138 Country: Japan

Takuya Akiba [iwi] I attend the University of Tokyo in Japan. My favorite part of TopCoder is its sophisticated system and its cool UI, which makes us feel as if we're playing a game. My favorite hobbies are playing with Farmer John on PKU JudgeOnline, viewing video clips on Nico Nico Douga (a popular video sharing website in Japan), and doing DTM (composing music with computers and electrical instruments). I'm looking forward to tasting the excitement of TopCoder's onsite events and I'd like to talk with various coders.



Rating: 2455 Country: Romania

Liviu Ciortea [_efer_] I am from Bucharest and go to the Politehnica University of Bucharest. I got introduced to algorithms and programming in high-school, but I was more into mathematics back then. Just before entering university I started competing on TopCoder and that played a big part in the development of my problem solving and coding skills, as is kind of obvious from my rating graph. I've competed and won a few prizes in some national contests, three ACM regionals, in the last of which my team managed to solve all problems, a few 24-hours contests, and was a top-6 finalist last summer in the Embedded Development section of ImagineCup, held in South Korea.



Rating: 2092 Country: Canada

Igor Naverniuk [Abednego] My handle, Abednego, is the name of a fairy tale character who walked through a wall of fire. I'm from Vancouver, Canada and my favorite hobby is pretending as if I can play the guitar. The best part about TopCoder, are the people I get to meet. This will be my third TopCoder onsite finals. It's time to win.



Rating: 3477 Country: China

TianCheng Lou [ACRush] Currently, the nightmare of the TCO07 is still clear in my mind. When the coding phase started, it seemed good. Then I left one bug in the medium problem, and I got lost in the hard one. Finally one bad challenge ticked me out of the tournament. I'm most looking forward to the trip I won to Las Vegas as part of the TCO08 and I'll be traveling from Shandong, China. I will be competing in my favorite part of TopCoder, Algorithm.



Rating: 2773 Country: China

Yi Yang [ahyangyi] I am from Wuhu, China and I attend the middle school attached to Anhui Normal University. My favorite part of TopCoder is the algorithm competitions. My other favorite hobbies are badminton and football. I won the IOI 2007 Gold medal, China National OI 2006 and 2007 Gold Medal. I'm looking forward to this TCO08 being a great experience.



Rating: 2379 Country: Russian Federation

Alexey Samsonov [Alexis] My handle is just my name written in some kind of "Roman" style. I just like how it sounds. My home town is Yekaterinburg, Russia and my favorite part about TopCoder is how it gives you a lot of great opportunities, interesting experience and strong training in a very friendly atmosphere. I don't have a lot of experience in programming competitions and was not really successful before, but this year is going great. I've made it onsite to the TCO, TCCC and will compete in the ACM ICPC this April.



Rating: 3085 Country: Russian Federation

Andrey Stankevich [andrewzta] My favorite part of TopCoder is solving problems and I'm most looking forward the TCO08 to meet friends at the great event. TopCoder onsite events are always great fun, and the competition part, of course. I am a coach of ACM ICPC teams at SPbSU ITMO, my teams have 4 gold medals at World Finals during 6 years of coaching. The success of your students is actually much more exciting than your own success.



Rating: 2792 Country: Indonesia

Ardian Kristanto Poernomo [ardiankp] I am 23 years old, Indonesian, currently pursuing PhD degree in Computer Engineering in NTU, Singapore. My programming competition journey begins at IOI 2001, even though I didn't manage to get a medal. I don't have many notable achievements, but to name some of them: winning GICJ 2005 and 2006, qualifying to ICPC World Final 2007, 2005 TCO semifinalist and 2006 TCCC finalist. I don't do anything much other than doing-something-at-lab (on week days) and going-out-with-my-girlfriend (on week ends) now. But I think my favorite hobby is playing music.





Rating: 2479 Country: Latvia

Aleksandrs Saveljevs [asaveljevs] The community that TopCoder managed to bring together is my favorite part of TopCoder. Everything else is just a consequence - great matches, great editorials, and high quality of everything TopCoder does. A trip to Las Vegas should be exciting in itself. Another thing I am looking forward to is to see great people code. I've been to Google Code Jams many times, but I've been too busy working on my own solutions. This time I will have at least two semifinals to enjoy the process from outside. Another interesting thing is probably that one of my favorite programming languages is Common Lisp. (NOTE to whom it may concern: if you are a Lisp company, and you are reading this, and I don't happen to know about you for some reason, don't hesitate to offer me a job!)



Rating: 2128 Country: United States

Bohua Zhan [bhzhan] I was born in China and moved to the US during middle school. Currently I'm a freshman studying math at MIT. As for accomplishments in programming, I went on the US team to IOI in 2006 and received a silver medal, and currently I'm on the MIT team to this year's ACM ICPC. My favorite part about TopCoder is the need to think very quickly and clearly in the algorithm matches, and being able to think deeply in the marathon. I'm looking forward the TCO08 and the competition and possibly the activities before and after it. I guess it would be very different from other contests I went to.



Rating: 2734 Country: Canada

Malcolm Sharpe [blueblimp] I grew up in Surrey, BC, Canada, but I crossed the country to attend university. I'm now a second-year Mathematics student at the University of Waterloo. In 2006, I was on the Waterloo ACM ICPC team that competed in Tokyo, where we placed ninth. My favorite part of TopCoder is the thrill of the competition. Favorite hobbies include games, e.g. Set, Guitar Hero, various other video/board/card games. I'm most looking forward to the TCO08 to compete in-person for a place in the championship round.



Rating: 3228 Country: South Africa

Bruce Merry [bmerry] My hometown is Cambridge, UK. I took part in the IOI from 1996 to 2001, attended UCT until 2007 (obtaining a PhD in Computer Science), and I'm now a software engineer at ARM. My favorite part of TopCoder is exercising my brain and my favorite hobby is reading. Talking to the other contestants and of course a chance at the big prize is what I'm most looking forward to being a TCO08 finalist.



Rating: 3025 Country: Russian Federation

Sergej Kopeliovich [Burunduk1] "Burunduk" in Russian means chipmunk. My teammates (team's name is "Burunduchki" (chipmunks)) are Burunduk2 and Burunduk3. I'm 19 years old, live in St. Petersburg, Russia and the last two years I've studied at St. Petersburg State University. In my life there are two passions - volleyball and Olympiad programming. In this year, my team will take part in ACM-ICPC World Finals. I'm looking forward to the TCO to reach the final part of the competition and of course meet friends and have fun.



Rating: 2372 Country: Russian Federation

Yury Petrov [Burunduk2] I'm this year's ACM ICPC finalist and TCHS'07 champion and I'm from St. Petersburg State University, Russia. My favorite part about TopCoder is the competing. Favorite hobbies include outside programming, mathematics, reading and cooking. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 for the experience and meeting the community.



Rating: 2887 Country: Poland

Marcin Michalski [cyfra] My handle, 'cyfra' in English it means 'digit'. It's been my nickname since primary school. I'm a student at Warsaw University; my hometown is Gdynia, Poland. I've been taking part in TopCoder for about 4 years, and this will be my 6th onsite. I've managed to take the 7th place twice before. My favorite part about TopCoder is the great algorithmic tasks. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 finals to win some money playing black jack. My favorite hobby is skiing.





Rating: 2592 Country: Ukraine

Dmytro Korzhyk [dmytro] I'm from Vinnitsa, Ukraine. I graduated with MS in Computer Science last fall. Now I work as a software engineer in financial software outsourcing. I have competed in programming contests since high school. During my university years, I've been a finalist of ACM ICPC, TCO, TCCC, and GCJ. In the future, I want to get a doctorate degree and work as a professor or a researcher. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 because I'm going to explore the Red Rock Canyon.



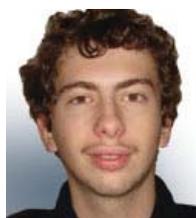
Rating: 2200 Country: Poland

Damian Karasiński [eonx] I'm student of mathematics and computer science at Warsaw University since October 2007. Last year, (when I was attending High School) I've won a silver medal in Polish Olympiad in Informatics. My favorite part about TopCoder is the fact that certainly every once/twice a week/2 weeks there is a challenging contest, in which I am able to check my skills with people from the whole world. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 to see other contestants in real life, to see Las Vegas and to compete in a TopCoder round with other people around me.



Rating: 2927 Country: Poland

Eryk Kopczyński [Eryx] Eryx is also a heavy anti-armor missile, a sand boa, the ancient name of Erice on Sicily, and it's based on my first name, changed so that it looks more interesting ('x' is not used in Polish except in mathematics). If I created an operating system, I would call it Eryx too, I guess. Many things are great about TopCoder: a great community, a chance to have fun solving algorithmic problems (and sometimes other things, a thrill of competition, and, last but not least, a chance to get money and trips for free...)



Rating: 2632 Country: Russian Federation

Roman Satyukov [falagar] My handle is the name of a character from a computer game and book. TopCoder is my favorite hobby. My favorite part about TopCoder is participating in algorithm competitions and onsite events. I'm looking forward to meeting some of my friends and participate in an interesting competition at the onsite finals. I'm a student at St. Petersburg State University of Information Technology, Mechanics and Optics and my best achievement, I think, is gold medal at ACM World Finals 2007.



Rating: 2716 Country: China

Wenjie Fu [fuwenjie] I'm a student at Carnegie Mellon University but my hometown is Shanghai, China. I have been to a lot of events, just like many other TopCoders have, such as IOI, IMO, ACM-ICPC, as well as some online versions like USACO, CEOI, ISPC, etc. My best accomplishment in TopCoder tournaments was being a finalist in TCO06. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 and a chance to win the \$15,000!



Rating: 2581 Country: Russian Federation

Ivan Kazmenko [Gassa] I'm a third year graduate student at SPbSU, Russia. My interests lie mostly in the fields of math and computer science, with a bias towards contests on math and programming. As for achievements, my proudest ones are top places in Al Zimmermann's Programming Contests series - 3rd place in Polyhedra and 1st in Words Search. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 to communicate with other finalists. My hobbies include programming for fun and for competition, playing computer games and reading books.



Rating: 2987 Country: Poland

Pawel Gawrychowski [gawry] I'm currently pursuing my PhD at the University of Wroclaw in Poland. My handle is just a prefix of my family name. Not very original, I know. The best part about participating in TopCoder's contests is that I can compete with (and learn from) the very best competitors from all over the world. And, well, sometimes my performance is not that bad (ok, that doesn't happen really often). My favorite hobby is reading, mostly SF books. As a TCO08 finalist, I'm eager to check if my 35.6% chances of getting through the semifinals are enough to make it...



Rating: 2711 Country: Ukraine

Andrii Grynenko [Gluk] I'm from Kyiv, Ukraine. My main hobby is maybe computer science but I also like some sport activities and spending time with my friends. Since high school I've been interested in algorithmic programming competitions, so after two IOI participations I entered university and of course started competing in ACM ICPC and TopCoder. My favorite part about TopCoder is the very fast SRM matches and the design competitions, which are sometimes quite interesting.





Rating: 2651 Country: Norway

Oyvind Grotmol [grotmol] I work for Medallia and am from Oslo, Norway. I have been fond of competing since I was a kid, in chess, mathematics, physics, and in later years in programming. My master is in electronics. The thrill of matching brains against talented programmers around the world is the best part about TopCoder. At the TCO08, I'm looking forward to the competition itself, which is very exciting and gets the adrenaline pumping.



Rating: 2225 Country: China

Rui Li [hyyylr] I was born in Mainland China and am now living in Hong Kong, taking a CS PhD degree in HKUST. My research interest is in the database field which has a lot of algorithm problems. I started programming contest in 1997 and have won a lot of prizes in Olympiad informatics competitions within China. I then studied four years for a Bachelor degree at Tsinghua University. The last two years I joined in a lot of TopCoder competitions. I was the finalist of Google Code Jam 2006 but failed to be in the list of TopCoder finals many times. This year I'm somehow lucky to join the finals. I now serve as a coordinator of HKUST ACM/ICPC team. This year, I will take a team of three undergraduate students to join ACM/ICPC World Final 2008 in Banff, Canada. I also won the nomination prize of prestigious professors in TCCC 2007 but unfortunately I wasn't able to show up at the event.



Rating: 2691 Country: Norway

Rune Fevang [Im2Good] My favorite part of TopCoder is challenging my mind. Every so often a problem pops up that is very hard for me, but still within my reach. There is nothing as satisfying as that sudden "Eureka!" moment. Finally everything falls into place, and you just know you have solved the problem. I'm looking forward to this TCO08 and meeting all the other finalists. I was a spectator for last years TCO from home, and it really doesn't compare to actually being there, discussing the problems with everyone else. Including this tournament, I've participated in the semifinal round of 6 of the last 7 major TopCoder tournaments (TCCC, TCO). I have still yet to make a final round however, so I'm hoping to make this one count!



Rating: 2482 Country: Japan

Yusuke Konishi [inazz] inazz = inazuma + zz. Inazuma means lightning bolt in Japanese, and zz comes from the shape of a lightning bolt symbol. I attend the University of Tokyo and I am from Miyazaki, Japan. I like gaming very much. Civilization, Counter Strike, Cossacks, Sangokushi Taisen, Legend of Zelda, Mario brothers, Kirby, etc... For me, TopCoder is a kind of online puzzle game with a taste of real-time strategy. I have participated in ACM/ICPC as team Makegumi, and we won 1st prize in Japan Domestic 2006, 2nd prize in Asia Regional Manila 2006, Japan Domestic 2007, 3rd prize in Asia Regional Tokyo 2007. Also I'm interested in esoteric programming languages like BF, unlambada, or befunge. They made me so excited that I composed an original one called "Super NAND Time!!", which have only one kind of operator, NAND.



Rating: 2128 Country: Poland

Przemyslaw Uznanski [izulin] Last year, my ACM team was ranked 7th in central European ACM regionals. I won Champion at International de Jeux Mathematiques et Logiques 2008, in Paris in August 2007. About myself: I love my student life, University of Wroclaw - free love and cheap alcohol, hours spent daily on coding or playing the computer games. I love my studies at the institute of computer science (especially lectures taught by gawry). TopCoder algorithm is my religion as it is to many of my friends. I spend free time drinking beer with gawry, Mateusz87, MB_, Mateuszek and many other wonderful people from our University. My job is to teach younger students in high school algorithmic and mathematics - students like wixor, bardek, 7ania7, wojtekdh, jasiemarc. And all my achievements I dedicate to my inspiration - Kate.



Rating: 2849 Country: Poland

Jakub Radoszewski [jakubr] I'm a student and a teaching assistant at Warsaw University. I have been competing in programming competitions for about 8 years now. I was at the onsite finals of TCO06, TCO07 and TCCC07, and also at the Google Code Jam 2006 in New York. I competed a few times at the ACM ICPC regionals, taking 2nd place twice at the Polish Academic Team Programming Contest and once 2nd place at the Central European Regional Contest. I am also a member of the Main Committee of the Polish Olympiad in Informatics and participate in organizing both polish (POI, Algorithmic Engagements) and international competitions (CEOI04, IOI05, BOI08).





Rating: 2520 Country: Netherlands

Jan Kuipers [Jan_Kuipers] I'm from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. I have master's degrees in physics and math and I am pursuing a physics PhD right now. I have attended lots of onsite finals of algorithm competitions. My major accomplishment is my victory in last year's TCO algorithm competitions of course! I'm looking forward to meeting up again with a lot of good friends from all over the world and having a good time hanging out in Vegas.



Rating: 2477 Country: Poland

Jan Jezabek [Jasko] I am currently a PhD student at the Jagiellonian University. My main research interests are scheduling and on-line algorithms. I had some minor achievements in the Polish Olympiad in Informatics, ACM Regionals and Algorithmic Encounters (a Polish programming competition). I like pizza and beer. I like the hard problems at TopCoder. Even if I figure out the solution half an hour after the contest ends, it is always very rewarding. I like collecting old hardware and software. And I enjoy teaching a lot, but that is obviously not a hobby.



Rating: 2906 Country: Australia

John Dethridge [John Dethridge] I'm from Melbourne, Australia. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 to compete, and chat with all the other competitors. The best part about TopCoder is the competition. I love the game! Favorite hobbies include playing board games, playing video games, and playing laser tag. I won the 2002 TopCoder Open and a gold medal in the ACM programming contest. I currently work for Google in Silicon Valley.



Rating: 2293 Country: Poland

Daniel Czajka [kedaizd] I'm a typical student from Poland attending AGH University of Science and Technology. I live in Cracow. I spent most of my time programming and partying with my friends. I have been competing in programming contests since high school. So far I was the on International Olympiad in Informatics, on site finals of Google Code Jam and I advanced to ACM ICPC World Finals this year. I always wanted to see Las Vegas so I'm looking forward to the finals.



Rating: 2426 Country: Ukraine

Anton Mellit [Klinck] I am from Kiev, Ukraine. My favorite hobby is electronics. I have participated a lot in mathematical competitions. I received grand first prizes on IMC 2000 and 2001. I like to do research in math. I like to solve difficult problems. I solved the problem my advisor gave me for my PhD thesis, which was an old conjecture in number theory. I'm looking forward to going to the TCO finals to see Las Vegas.



Rating: 2601 Country: Canada

Konstantin Lopyrev [klopyrev] I am from Voronezh, Russia. I'm a first year Co-Op Software Engineering student at the University of Waterloo. Starting in May, I will be on my first Co-Op term working at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce writing software. Some of my achievements include winning the Waterloo Local contest, thus qualifying for the Waterloo ACM team and subsequently winning the ECNA regionals. I will be attending the ACM ICPC World Finals in April. My favorite part about TopCoder is solving all 3 problems during a match, and actually getting them correct. I'm most looking forward to the TCO08 to meeting people. I will be seeing a lot of familiar faces at the competition, some of which are my friends.



Rating: 2562 Country: Russian Federation

Andrey Lopatin [KOTEHOK] KOTEHOK means "Kitten" in Russian, if it is read as Cyrillic word. "Kitten" is derived from ACM team name "Kitten Computing", our team was ACM ICPC World Champion in 2000 and 2001. TopCoder always helps me in self-perfection. I was IOI Silver medalist 97-98, ACM ICPC World Champion 2000, 2001, now I'm the coach of programming teams at St. Petersburg University and the coach and deputy leader of Russian IOI team. My favorite hobbies include volleyball, ping-pong, reading books, attending water parks and more.





Rating: 3158 Country: Netherlands

Erik-Jan Krijgsman [krijgertje] My favorite part of TopCoder is the algorithm matches. They usually have challenging problems and you can compare your own performance with (and learn from) some of the best coders worldwide. After finishing high school in 2002, I started studying Computer Science (later also Applied Mathematics) at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. During the studies, I became interested in programming contests and achieved some great results, such as a gold medal at the ICPC and the second place in the GCJ and TCCC. I've also become involved with a successful startup company, where I'm going to work fulltime after finishing my studies (which hopefully will be pretty soon).



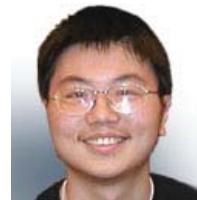
Rating: 2685 Country: Viet Nam

Anh Tuan Khuc [ktuan] I was born and grew up in Vietnam. I'm a first year student in Computer Science. In university, I like Chinese subjects most because it's easy to understand; just memorize. I was one of four high school students to represent Vietnam in IOI 2006 and I got a silver medal. I also advanced to the ACM/ICPC World Final this year. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 finals to be able to travel to the USA and meet famous coders such as tomek and Petr. My favorite hobbies include reading books and sleeping, especially when it's raining and it is cold, and playing computer games with my friends.



Rating: 2245 Country: South Korea

Jin Hyun Kim [lewha0] I am from Seoul, Korea. I'm a graduate student, and my major is CSE and math(as an undergraduate student). I also participated in ACM ICPC since 2004, and I am this year's world finalist. My favorite thing about TopCoder is having a chance to compete with world stars of this field. I have never had the chance to compete in international algorithm or programming competitions until now. Having a contest with people all around the world really satisfies me. And at last, TopCoder gave me a chance for the international competition! My favorite hobby is listening to the J-POP. I am interested in Japanese culture, especially music. I really like the variety of the artists and their music.



Rating: 2929 Country: China

Yiming Li [liympanda] My handle is liympanda because my name is "liym" and my friends call me "panda". I started math competitions and got first prize in Grade 5, and start learning programming in Grade 6. I got my first programming prize at Junior 3. I represented the Shanghai team to attend the NOI'2000 and got first prize, but I failed to advance to the China IOI team. In university, I advanced to the ACM/ICPC World Final 2002 and got fourth place. After that, I started to convert my language from pascal to C++ and started TopCoder competitions.



Rating: 2657 Country: China

Dong Zhou [Loner] I'm from Wuhu City, China and my favorite hobby is basketball. I started to learn on computers when I was 8 years old. From then on, I have been addicted to them. I like the charm of algorithms and often spend hours working on hard problems. I've won two gold medals in the China National Olympiad in Informatics. I'm looking forward to making friends with a lot of great competitors at the TCO08 finals. TopCoder is great because you can learn a lot of interesting things.



Rating: 2557 Country: Poland

Maciej Klimek [maciej] I am from Gorzów, Poland. I started programming a few years ago. Since then I have been a finalist in Polish Olympiad in Informatics three times. I was also 5th at the 2008 TopCoder High School Tournament. My favorite hobbies include playing table tennis and also competing in SRMs. I'm looking forward to seeing Las Vegas.



Rating: 2796 Country: Poland

Marcin Pilipczuk [malcin] I'm looking forward to visiting Las Vegas two weeks before my wedding, which is on 24th of May. That's a place for a bachelor's party! I'm from the University of Warsaw and during secondary school I was mostly a mathematician. I got a gold medal and a silver medal at two IMOs (International Mathematical Olympiad) and one gold at IPhO (International Physics Olympiad). I am finishing maths and computer science at University of Warsaw now. Last year our team - marek.cygan, Filip and me won the ACM ICPC competition. That was the biggest achievement in my life, up to today. My favorite part of TopCoder is the challenge phase.





Rating: 3302 Country: Poland

Marek Cygan [marek.cygan] The most important person in my life is my lovely fiancée, Agatka. We are getting married on June 21st. The most important sport activity in my life is rowing, which I trained since I was twelve for about seven years. During high school I trained several times per week and participated a few training camps per year. My biggest accomplishment in the area of sport was winning National Junior Rowing Championships of Poland in lightweight coxless pair in 2003. When I began studying at Warsaw University I decided to quit rowing at "professional" level and it became only a hobby. Most of my free time has been reserved for deepening my knowledge and preparing for programming competitions. As always beginnings were tough, but thanks to lots of practice I managed to increase my level of problem solving abilities, what ended up with winning Google Code Jam 2005 and ACM ICPC 2007 with Marcin Pilipczuk (malcin) and Filip Wolski (filipek) as my team mates.



Rating: 2888 Country: Netherlands

Mathijs Vogelzang [mathijs] I'm from Groningen, the Netherlands. I like the tension of TopCoder algorithm competitions. The challenge phase adds so much fun to the whole competition, as it makes the whole competition much more interactive; it's no longer just you and the code, but it also matters what other competitors do. I studied medicine, became an MD and did a PhD project on computerizing insulin orders in the intensive care unit. I will defend my PhD thesis in the week after the TCO. Since January I've been working for Google in Zurich. Since moving to Zurich, my favorite hobbies include getting to know Switzerland better: cooking fondue, skiing and walking in the mountains.



Rating: 2817 Country: Georgia

Nicholas Jimshelishvili [nika] I'm from Tskhaltubo, Georgia and I attend Tbilisi State University. In Georgia 'nika' is a very common short form of my name Nikoloz (Nicholas). At the TCO08 finals, I'm looking forward to meeting some great TopCoder members that weren't at the TCCC. I don't want to watch the championship round from the side this time. My favorite hobbies include playing soccer, table tennis and chess. Also I like watching with my friends play soccer and many other sports. During school years I participated in Chess, Mathematics and Informatics competitions and have won Silver and Bronze medals on both IMO and IOI. After entering university I had taken part in only ACM like contests before I was told about TopCoder and quickly started learning C++.



Rating: 2033 Country: Poland

Aleksander Piotrowski [olo] I study at Warsaw University and I'm from Lochowo, Poland. I was in the TCCC06 Finals and now I made it to TCO08 Finals which is my greatest achievement. I also participate in many different programming and mathematical contests. Participating in TopCoder is my favorite hobby and I hope that I will have a great time competing with other contestants at the TCO08 Finals. The great thing about TopCoder is it gives you a chance to meet very interesting people from all over the world.



Rating: 2606 Country: Germany

Robin Nittka [overwise] I'm from Ehingen, Germany. I was mathematics major when I first came into contact with programming competitions via the local ACM team. I went to the world finals twice, one time only as a 'reserve'. I also have been to some TopCoder and TopCoder-like onsite competitions and have won some of the Indian contests teaming up with other TopCoder members from Ulm. I got my diploma one year ago, and since then I am a Ph.D. student, working in the field of evolution equations. Apart from TopCoder competitions, I enjoy Ballroom Dancing.



Rating: 2741 Country: Russian Federation

Pavel Mavrin [pashka] I'm a student of SPbSU ITMO. When I was younger I took part in several programming competitions (IOI, ICPC). Now I take part in organizing such competitions in Russia, and I'm always glad when I can compete by myself. I'm fond of TopCoder and solving hard problems in a short time. TopCoder is my favorite hobby. I'm looking forward to seeing the great challenge of the best coders onsite in Las Vegas.



Rating: 3019 Country: United Kingdom

Paul Jefferys [PaulJefferys] I got into coding via the Maths Olympiad- someone who did it mentioned that there was this thing called the Informatics Olympiad, and it seemed to have really neat problems, so I learned to code so that I could try out for the British Informatics Olympiad team. I guess the highlight of my coding career was winning the IOI, but I was very lucky to do so. I was also pretty pleased to take third place in the Marathon final in the TCCC. Outside of all that, I'm currently a graduate student in Mathematics at the University of Cambridge, and trying to decide between a PhD and a job for next year. I'm really keen to see what Las Vegas is like. I'm also looking forward to the competition itself. And it's always fun to hang out with TopCoder-ish people.





Rating: 3794 Country: Russian Federation

Petr Mitrichev [Petr] I'm from Moscow, Russia and my favorite part of TopCoder is the competition. In my spare time I like to play soccer. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 finals to compete and trying to be the best. I've won a few TopCoder tournaments, received my degree and found a great job at Google.



Rating: 2794 Country: United States

Po-Ru Loh [ploH] I'm a first-year applied math grad student at MIT, not yet sure exactly what I'll be studying, but I'm working on deciding (it'll probably involve computing in some way). I guess I'm a TopCoder veteran now based on my match count, although it feels weird to say that -- I still remember the days not so long ago when I wondered how folks like antimatter and SnapDragon could submit solutions before I'd even started coding! Well, a while ago when I was in better shape I was a target. I certainly never imagined that would happen, especially back when I was blue struggling to reach yellow (and green at first!) -- if there were a slowest-learner record, I'd probably hold it.



Rating: 2946 Country: Poland

Pawel Parys [pparys] I'm a PhD student of computer science at Warsaw University. I'm especially interested in computation theory, regular languages, etc. I won twice at the Polish Olympiad in Informatics and once Polish Mathematical Olympiad and three times in Polish Academic Collegiate Programming Championships. On International Olympiad in Informatics in Korea, I was second. I was twice at ACM finals, we had places 7th and 10th. Recently I've written three interesting publications. My hobbies include traveling and visiting new places on my bicycle. Last year I went to Canada. Two years ago I've ridden along the whole of Norway. I like mountain hiking too. I also like all kinds of puzzles.



Rating: 2792 Country: Poland

Przemyslaw Debiak [Psycho] I am from Gdansk, Poland and currently attend Warsaw University. My handle tries to express how I feel inside. Currently, my favorite hobby is solving puzzles (WPC-style), but I'm looking for something less anti-socializing. What am I most looking forward to as a TCO finalist? A nice soft bed.



Rating: 2725 Country: Russian Federation

Denis Nazarov [Revenger] I am a PhD student at Ufa State Technical University of Aviation and I am working for Google. I have no idea what is my favorite part about TopCoder. Is it the awesome and challenging problems? No. Is it an exciting challenge phase? No. Is it a pleasure to compete with the strongest coders in the world? Is it a trip to Las-Vegas? No, no, no! I liked all of this and the TopCoder algorithm competitions are my favorite programming competition. I can't split TopCoder into parts and choose the part that I like most of all. Traveling is my hobby. I have been to USA, China, Poland, Turkey, and Ukraine. And I have great plans about what countries to visit in the next two years.



Rating: 2373 Country: Ukraine

Roman Rizvanov [Rizvanov_de_xXx] I'm from Kiev and I attend Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. My favorite hobby is sports programming. I'm looking forward to going to Las Vegas to the TCO08 Finals for a chance at the \$15,000.



Rating: 2876 Country: Russian Federation

Alexander Skidanov [SkidanovAlex] I'm from Izhevsk, Russia and I study at Izhevsk State Technical University. All my hobbies are concerned with computer programming. I want to become a really great programmer and so I spend my free time on the computer. I'm living in the small provincial city, and the chance to see Las Vegas was enough reason for me to do all possible and impossible to advance to the finals. I'm the bronze medalist of ACM ICPC 2005. This year I became the NEERC vice-champion and will compete in the April World Finals in Canada. So this spring is really rich in different finals for me.



Rating: 2260 Country: Netherlands

Maks Verver [Soultaker] I attend the University of Twente; I was born in Leiden, but I have lived in Enschede for the past eight years. I don't have a specific hobby that I'm devoted to. I do like the usual stuff, like going to a concert, watching movies, playing (board/card/computer) games. As for the TCO08, I'm looking forward to having fun in Las Vegas, meeting up with some of the best programmers in the world and getting a chance to beat them at their own game!





Rating: 2460 Country: China

Yuqian Li [SpaceFlyer] I was born in Hangzhou, a very beautiful city with a very beautiful lake called the West Lake. In fact, I was not born downtown, but in a small town about 150km away from downtown. There's a larger and more beautiful lake, once a poet said that it's three thousand times as good as the West Lake. The stories and history about that lake is far less than those about the West Lake, but its natural scenery is much better. I like the algorithm contest just as I like the scenery of my hometown. The best accomplishment I have achieved is the golden medal of NOI2006. I'm looking forward to the TCO finals for the travel, contest, and meeting people.



Rating: 3290 Country: Poland

Tomasz Czajka [tomek] I'm from Stalowa Wola, Poland and my favorite part of TopCoder is all the pressure during a tournament final round. I am a three-time winner of TopCoder tournaments, but it hasn't happened for a few years now; looking forward to winning another one. In my free time I like to play Volleyball and in Vegas I'll be able to meet everybody so I'm looking forward to it.



Rating: 3090 Country: Poland

Tomasz Kulczynski [tomekkulczynski] I'm from Warsaw University and I have won IOI'07, BOI'06 and Polish OI'07; had silver medal in IOI'05. Also, I had several other medals at BOIs and CEOs. I've participated in finals of: Google Code Jam'06, TCHS'07, TCO'07, TCCC'07. I have been to International Mathematics Olympiads in 2005 and 2007. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 Finals and the competition itself as well as seeing who is going to win.



Rating: 2983 Country: Ukraine

Vasyl Biletskyy [Vasyl(alphacom)] I attend Lviv National University and I'm from Vynogradiv, Ukraine. My handle is a combination of my name and another one of my handles. The best part of TopCoder is the finals and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the TCO08 Finals! Outside of TopCoder, my favorite hobby is basketball.



Rating: 2842 Country: Russian Federation

Eugene Vasilchenko [venco] venco is my very old login name I made from my initials, my full name is Vasilchenko Evgueni Nikolaevich, and "co" stands for company. I'm respectful programmer in National Center for Biotechnology Information, part of National Institutes of Health. I started to compete in TopCoder 6 years ago. Two times I was in TopCoder finals, and two times in Google Code Jam. My goal at the Finals is to be in the Algorithm final, and to win the Marathon final. Favorite hobbies include reading books, solving problems and playing tennis.



Rating: 2138 Country: Romania

Victor Rusu [victorsb] I am a Romanian high school student in the 12th grade. I have been studying computer science for 4 years and have competed in several national and international competitions. My best result was a bronze medal at CEOI 2007. My favorite part about TopCoder is competing in the arena with some of the best coders in the world and comparing my solutions to theirs. I am looking forward to seeing Las Vegas, one of the most famous cities in USA, and meeting the other competitors.



Rating: 2474 Country: Russian Federation

Vitaly Goldshteyn [VitalyGoldstein] I have taken part in algorithm competitions for more than four years. I have won a gold medal in IOI (2004) and silver medal in ISPC (2007). I'm currently a student at Saratov State University. My favorite hobbies include TopCoder and other algorithm competitions. As a TCO08 Finalist, I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of friends and maybe I'll solve some problems.



Rating: 2588 Country: Ukraine

Vladyslav Simonenko [vlad89] I started programming when I was in my 5th year at school. The only one I was able to get at school was silver medal at IOI 2007. When I entered university, I didn't stop to compete in Olympiads, and somehow I get to TCO 08 finals. I'm looking forward to visiting Las Vegas, and meeting some TopCoders there, which I saw only in photos on their TopCoder profile. I also like listening to some good music, also playing some sports like football or table tennis.





Rating: 2787 Country: Poland

Witold Jarnicki [W_] I am a mathematician that happens to like computers - both as toys and as tools to work with. I think that my biggest accomplishment is that I have been able to balance between those two uses for quite a while. I'm from Krakow, Poland working for Google. At the TCO08 Finals, I am looking forward to having a lot of fun. The onsite finals are a very nice holiday, full of entertaining events.



Rating: 2394 Country: China

Jiangwei Yu [wintokk] I'm from Zhongshan, Guangdong, China and I study at Tsinghua University. I love to join different competitions. For this TCO08 I'm looking forward to competing in more than ONE round. I got the gold medal in China's National Olympiad in Informatics about one and a half years ago before making my debut in TopCoder Algorithm Competitions. I was a semi-finalist both in TCHS 2007 & TCCC 2007. I will try my best to become a finalist in the future...



Rating: 2547 Country: Slovakia

Jan Oravec [WSX] I'm from Comenius University and I'm from Bratislava, Slovakia. In 1996, the first time I was on IRC, I had to choose a nickname. My classmate chose 'QWERTY' so I picked 'WSX' as 'QAZ' looked too lame. I like TopCoder and how it's a real time competition with the best coders on our planet. Hobbies include playing board games, hiking, swimming and IPv6. I'm currently doing research on large scale providerless mobile networks. Achievements: IOI: 1x gold, 1x silver ACM ICPC: gold (in team with misof).



Rating: 2775 Country: Japan

Hiroshige Hayashizaki [xhl_kogitsune] xhl: an abbreviation of "Xiao HuLi", which means a small fox in Chinese. kogitsune: also a small fox (in Japanese). It was originally xhl and kogitsune was added for unique identification. I'm from Chiyogaoka, Kawasaki City, Japan. I was researching compiler for massively parallel machines at the university. Now I've graduated and started a new job as a researcher. I like programming, foxes, games and animes. I was an ICPC 2007 world finalist.



Rating: 2632 Country: Sweden

Jimmy Mardell [Yarin] I guess I'm a typical programming geek from Stockholm, Sweden, who lately has become more interested in software design than in algorithm competitions. I guess this is due to almost five years of working in the industry as a software developer, which have taught me that there are quite a number of other challenges out there besides algorithms. I like competitions very much, and can spend quite a lot of time practicing on obscure things in order to become really good at something. Algorithm programming accomplishments: Winner of Google Code Jam 2003, 2nd place in TCO 2003 and TCCC 2003. IOI gold medalist (1997), 11th place in ACM ICPC WF (2001).



Rating: 2799 Country: China

Ying Wang [Ying] I am currently a third year PhD student in the Institute of Computational and Mathematical Engineering at Stanford. I started coding after I went to college, but then quickly found my love of programming contests. I went to ACM/ICPC world final twice and ranked 8th and 11th respectively. Other accomplishments include a 2nd place in Google global Code Jam 2006, and a 5th place in Microsoft ImagineCup. This is my fourth time advancing to TCO onsite in the last four years. I'm from Shenzhen, China and my favorite hobby is playing soccer. I play two to three times every week.



what are we watching MARATHON COMPETITION



Marathon Matches are tests of endurance as competitors are tasked with submitting and refining solutions to problems with no optimal answer. These competitions last weeks, during which people are constantly submitting new solutions for scoring.

During the onsite event, competitors have 9 hours to come up with the best solution to a problem. They are given a few example test cases for local testing along with a description of the problem to solve. Competitors may submit their solutions against the example cases for debugging and analysis. Once they are happy with a submission they may submit it against a series of unknown test cases. Their solution is scored against these cases and is added to the leaderboard. Competitors will know where they stand on the leaderboard, but not how they did on individual test cases.

Once the submission phase is over the competitor solutions are run against a new set of test cases, often numbering into the thousands. The scores are then calculated and a winner is declared. It is not uncommon for a competitor to move up or down the leaderboard on the more exhaustive system tests so the final results can be very exciting as competitors finally learn how they did.

MARATHON COMPETITION BRACKET

Final Round

[bhzhan]

[brinky]

[delicato]

[doudouille]

[lquadrat]

[paranoia]

[Psyho]

[rahulgarg123]

[RatonulBolnav]

[tpekkone]

[venco]

[wata]



CHAMPION



Rating: 1787 Country: United States

Bohua Zhan [bhzhan] I was born in China and moved to the US during middle school. Currently I'm a freshman studying math at MIT. As for accomplishments in programming, I went on the US team to IOI in 2006 and received a silver medal, and currently I'm on the MIT team to this year's ACM ICPC. My favorite part about TopCoder is the need to think very quickly and clearly in the algorithm matches, and being able to think deeply in the marathon. I'm looking forward the TCO08 and the competition and possibly the activities before and after it. I guess it would be very different from other contests I went to.



Rating: 1975 Country: Germany

Daniel Brinkers [brinky] My hometown is Ebermannstadt, Germany and I attend Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen Nuremberg. My handle is an abbreviation of my family name. I was called "brinky" by some guy in high school. I didn't like it first but I've gotten used to it. Now I use it as nickname in forums and chats. Besides programming, my other favorite hobby is riding my mountain bike. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 so I can make millions with my prize money in the casino. Actually, I'm really looking forward to a nice problem and a interesting discussion about it after the competition.



Rating: 1797 Country: Sweden

Magnus Jedvert [delicato] In Sweden, delicato is the name of a famous cookie. I used to eat a lot of these cookies when I played computer games with my friends, which gave me my nickname and also my handle. I'm from Gothenburg, Sweden and I attend Chalmers University of Technology. Outside of school, my favorite hobby is programming. :) My favorite part of TopCoder is the challenging Marathon problems that are provided and I'm excited to solve more as a TCO08 finalist and have the opportunity to travel to USA and Las Vegas.



Rating: 2397 Country: France

Pascal Pons [doudouille] My hometown is Antony, France which is south of Paris. I work for a French national mapping institute called IGN. Outside of work, my favorite hobby is cooking. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 finals in Las Vegas and meeting the other competitors.

Rating: 1740 Country: Switzerland

Micha Riser [lquadrat] I grew up in a small town in Switzerland, and moved to Zurich to study computer science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. I finished with a master thesis in cryptology in 2005. Since then, I have been working as engineer and technical consultant. I currently work for Carrara Engineering GMBH, and my hobbies are listening to music and going to concerts. My handle is a complicated way of writing "-1": "i" the imaginary unit squared: $i^2 = i*i = -1$. I'm excited to be a finalist in the TCO08 and to compete with the best programmers from all over the world.



Rating: 2203 Country: United States

Michael Skinner [paranoia] I'm a fourth year student in the computer science program at the University of Washington. After graduation I plan on taking a few months off and then going to work for Google in one of their Seattle area offices. I won the 2007 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge Marathon Match competition and hope to have the same success in Vegas. Aside from computer related things, I'm quite into music. I spend a fair amount of my time listening and whenever I have free time I try to make some of my own. I think the best part of the TCO is a good excuse to take a week off from school and relax (when I'm not competing).



Rating: 2487 Country: Poland

Przemyslaw Debiak [Psycho] I am from Gdansk, Poland and currently attend Warsaw University. My handle tries to express how I feel inside. Currently, my favorite hobby is solving puzzles (WPC-style), but I'm looking for something less anti-socializing. What am I most looking forward to as a TCO finalist? A nice soft bed.





Rating: 1733 Country: India

Rahul Garg [rahulgarg123] I grew up in Delhi and am presently a graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Washington in Seattle. When creating my handle, it's just the concatenation of my first name, last name and an arbitrary suffix "123". I chose such an "interesting" handle when I stumbled upon the TopCoder website one fine day and it would not let me view a problem statement without registering. Now I'm addicted to TopCoder and stuck with this handle. I mostly do the SRMs (and an occasional marathon if I'm feeling lucky). I like the short format of the SRMs which is unlike other programming competitions.



Rating: 2201 Country: Romania

Victor Marian Prodan-Formunda [RatonulBolnav] My handle is a song title from a very little known rock band called Scleroza (sclerosis) and it has something to do with a raccoon. I started programming at the age of 15, on ZX-Spectrum and my first project was a Civilization clone written in Z80 assembly. I attended many programming competitions during the high school and won the first prize at the National Olympiad in Informatics. I studied Computer Science at University Politehnica of Bucharest, specialized in Artificial Intelligence and Computer Graphics and received an Engineer's Degree in 2003. I am really looking forward to meeting some extraordinary people at the TCO this year.



Rating: 2487 Country: Finland

Tuomas Pelkonen [tpekkone] I am a 29 year old software architect from Finland. I graduated from Helsinki University of Technology in 2004. I have been working in the software industry for 8 years. First I was at SSH Communications Security, then at Navicore (Navigation Software), then briefly at Recoil Games, and now at Codento (A small subcontractor company). I got an automatic entrance to university by competing in a nation wide mathematics competition as a senior in high school. I placed 6th in the competition. I am looking forward to having fun in Las Vegas and meeting brilliant people from other countries.



Rating: 2418 Country: Russian Federation

Eugene Vasilchenko [venco] venco is my very old login name I made from my initials, my full name is Vasilchenko Evgueni Nikolaevich, and "co" stands for company. I'm respectful programmer in National Center for Biotechnology Information, part of National Institutes of Health. I started to compete in TopCoder 6 years ago. Two times I was in TopCoder finals, and two times in Google Code Jam. My goal at the Finals is to be in the Algorithm final, and to win the Marathon final. Favorite hobbies include reading books, solving problems and playing tennis.



Rating: 2489 Country: Japan

Yoichi Iwata [wata] I currently attend the University of Tokyo and live in Ichinomiya, Aichi, Japan. My favorite part about TopCoder is that we can learn from each other by reading others' source code. I have been practicing with my friend (iwi), and both of us could become TCO08 finalist, so I'm very happy. This is my first trip abroad, so I'm looking forward to everything!



what are we watching

STUDIO DESIGN COMPETITION



Overview

TopCoder Studio design competitions require competitors to design graphics for software applications, the Web, apparel, and print mediums. Rounding out the entire creative development process, Studio members also conceptualize storyboards (focusing on layout and placement of design elements) and prototypes for software applications and Web sites.

During a competition, competitors receive specification requirements that explain the scope of the project and describe any elements that must be incorporated in their design. Once competitors have completed a design, they upload their work to the Studio website where their submissions are screened against the project specs. Passing submissions are then presented to the client for winner selection.

At the TCO

The online portion of the 2008 TopCoder Open tournament consisted of 28 individual design competitions covering a wide range of application, web and graphic design challenges. Points were awarded to the top six places of each competition and tallied after the completion of the online portion. Those competitors with the highest scores were then invited to attend the onsite finals in Las Vegas, Nevada. Finalists will compete in three individual rounds onsite.

At the start of each round of the competition finals, the finalists are given the challenge specifications and the appropriate tools they need to complete their designs, but they are not allowed to bring sketches or any preparatory materials. Once each round of the competition ends, the final designs are presented to the client for judging. Each round gives points to the top placements. The final placement points from each round are then combined at the end of the rounds to determine the overall winner.

STUDIO DESIGN COMPETITION BRACKET

Final Round

[abedavera]

[djackmania]

[dogsoldier39]

[Elizabethhee]

[foxyhu]

[maestro]

[Maraqja]

[oninkxronda]

[oton]

[sweetpea]

[Tricia_Tjia]

[vlad_D]





Country: Indonesia

Junius Albertho [abedavera] My name is Junius Albertho and I love graphic design. My favorite hobby is playing video games like Warcraft, DotA and Counter Strike. I'm really looking forward to the TCO08 and my favorite part of the tournament is meeting everyone in Las Vegas for the final round trip.



Country: Indonesia

Tri Joko Rubiyanto [djackmania] I'm from Jakarta, Indonesia and I'm currently working for Unitrend, an advertising agency. Outside of work, I really like watching the English Premiere League and surfing the internet to get connected to the other side of the world. I'm also very proud of being a father to my son. My favorite part of TopCoder is looking at paid status on my PACTs. I'm excited to meet and compete directly with the other great TopCoder Studio competitors from around the world at the TCO.



Country: Canada

Adrian Nadjiwan [dogsoldier39] I'm from Cape Croker Indian Reserve, Ontario, Canada and "Dog Soldiers" are the preminent warrior society of the Cheyenne Native Americans. I'm of Ojibway heritage, not Cheyenne, but I can still relate. I've been using DogSoldier as an alias since 1997. My favorite hobby is to play first person shooter video games like Half-Life 2, Bioshock and Crysis. I'm really looking forward to going to Las Vegas because I've never been, and I enjoy the competition process because it pushes me to do my best. I never had a chance to visit the US, until I became a TopCoder. For that, I am very grateful. Well, that and the money I've won.



Country: China

Yijun He [Elizabethhee] I'm from Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China, and my handle is my English name plus my family name. I work for the GMC Technology Inc, but when I'm not working I'm designing, listening to music and traveling. I love all things about the Arts. I'm looking forward to the TCO and I'm excited to have the opportunity to improve my design skills and to be able to communicate with other talented designers from all over the world. I'm most proud of being able to devote myself to my design career and using my talent in the great TopCoder community.



Country: China

Wenze Hu [foxyhu] I'm from Lanzhou, China and my handle is a combination of the fox, which is a kind of smart animal although in some cases it is related to something not good, and HU, my family name. So, my handle reads as "Smart HU". I work for Tsinghua, but many days I daydream about becoming a cartoonist or an animator. My favorite part about TopCoder is the Studio contests and how they combine design, user experience, usability and programming together. It's fascinating, really.



Country: Venezuela

Luis Millan [mahestro] My hometown is Valle de la Pascua, Guarico, and my handle means "teacher" in Spanish with an extra character which is the "h" between "a" and "e", ma"h"estro. I am an expressive, simple and optimistic person. My hobbies are watching movies, listening to music, tasting foods and making wallpaper designs. I like to have fun, make friends and compete, that's why I'm always practicing and learning new things. I have learned to be patient, quick and aggressive when I'm working in TopCoder competitions. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 with victory in mind and I'm excited to have an unforgettable experience and lots of fun.



Country: Poland

Iwona Bielecka [Maraqa] I'm from Warsaw, Poland and the meaning of my handle is a passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*). I'm attending the Military University of Technology and my favorite hobby is photography. I consider myself a photographer aspiring to be a graphic designer and I'm hoping to take some nice shots of Las Vegas by night when I'm there for the TCO08. My biggest accomplishment is surely being a finalist of: Imagine Cup 06, TCO 07, TCCC 07, now TCO 08 and also winning the Imagine Cup 07 in the Photography Invitational.



Country: Philippines

Nino Rey Ronda [oninkxronda] I work as a senior web designer for iWebmasters, and my hometown is Manila in the Philippines. My TC handle is my name, Nino to Onin, and Ronda is my family name. I added the "kx" in the middle to make it more unique. My hobbies are photography and playing computer & PSP games. My favorite games are NBA Live and FightNight. I have a 17 month old daughter and a loving wife who supports me in every thing I do. My biggest accomplishment so far is being the Designer of the Month last February 2008 in TopCoder Studio, and making it to the Top 10 in the Studio Design Competition leader board which gave me the chance to go to Las Vegas to compete in the championship round for the TCO08.



Country: Indonesia

Arif Widiyanto [oton] I'm from Jombang, a little town in East Java and my favorite hobbies are reading, traveling, coding computer programs and spending time with my daughter and wife (if it's okay to call that a hobby). I became interested in graphic design during my first job as a programmer. I don't regret changing careers, because it's so fun, and I enjoy the color it brings to my world. Being a web designer (and developer) and programming as hobby is a great achievement for me.



Country: Indonesia

Maureen [sweetpea] I'm attending Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. I was born in April and Sweetpea is April's Birthflower, which is why I chose the flower to be my handle. My hobbies are graphic design and playing the piano. I really enjoy participating in TopCoder Studio because it gives me amazing rewards for doing something I like. I'm excited to be a finalist at the TCO08 and having the chance to meet all of the other creative designers.



Country: Indonesia

Tricia [Tricia_Tjia] My hometown is Jakarta, Indonesia and I'm attending the Nanyang Academy of Fine Art. My handle is my name Tricia and Tjia comes from my father's name. My hobbies are watching movies and playing sports like swimming and tennis. I have lots of ambitions in my life and I always like to try new things so I can learn something from it. I believe there'll be a way in everything once we put effort into it. I like to see everything in a positive way and just keep going. My favorite part about TopCoder is the competitions and meeting other members. Different countries, different culture, different styles—I love all of the differences!



Country: Romania

Vlad Dumitriu [vlad_D] Hi. I'm Vlad and I'm Romanian, but now living in the USA. I'm a freshmen at California State University East Bay. I enjoy playing the guitar—even though I don't know much. My handle stands for my first name and I enjoy being a TopCoder member because I can meet new people with the same interests. I'm looking forward to the TCO08 and plan to do my best. My accomplishments are being finalists at the TCHS 2007 and also at TCCC07 in Studio.



TopCoder
ADMINS
TELL US
SOME
THING
WE DON'T
KNOW



[AdamSelene] Greg Eldridge, Architect **Favorite movie of all time:** Happy: O Brother, Where Art Thou? Sad: Dare mo shiranai **When I'm not working I'm:** Playing poker or Rock Band. **The one website I hit every day:** fark.com [ASilva] Annemarie Silva, Member Payments Specialist **Favorite movie of all time:** Preachers Wife **When I'm not working I'm:** Going to school, or spending time with my family **The one website I hit every day:** My online course class [bettylee74] Cheun Haas, Print Graphic Designer **Favorite movie of all time:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off **When I'm not working I'm:** Doing arts & crafts with my 2-year-old son **The one website I hit every day:** designboom.com [Bolastyle] Abimbola Ijagbemi, Web Designer **Favorite movie of all time:** Coming to America **When I'm not working I'm:** Studying for my masters degree. **The one website I hit every day:** theregister.co.uk [cjoakes22] Carolyn May, Event Coordinator **Favorite movie of all time:** Shawshank Redemption and Field of Dreams **When I'm not working I'm:** Fixing up the house to prepare for the new baby **The one website I hit every day:** expedia.com [cucu] Alejandro Marcu, Software Architect **Favorite movie of all time:** The Simpsons Movie **When I'm not working I'm:** Dancing **The one website I hit every day:** Google [Denis] Denis Horgan, Vice President, Community Development **Favorite movie of all time:** SpaceBalls **When I'm not working I'm:** DOES NOT COMPUTE **The one website I hit every day:** Anything is possible at zombo.com [dok] Greg Paul, CIA - Chief Internal Architect (haha) **Favorite movie of all time:** Fifth Element **When I'm not working I'm:** Cycling, playing with my son or learnin' about the internets **The one website I hit every day:** reddit.com [hohosky] Kan Luo, Component Manager **Favorite movie of all time:** Trainspotting by Danny Boyle (UK, 1996) **When I'm not working I'm:** Read, play soccer with my friends, swimming, run with my iPod and Nike plus along the river, play Halo 3, help my mom clean the house. **The one website I hit every day:** douban.com, a Chinese site where you can share your ideas on books, music, movies, blogs, and find friends who have the same flavor with you. [invisiblepilot] Kim Jones, Studio Contest Administrator **Favorite movie of all time:** Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind **When I'm not working I'm:** Surfing / Blogging / Flickr-ing / Hitting Art Shows **The one website I hit every day:** thedailyshow.com [ivan_metelsky] Ivan Miatselski, Algorithm Problem Writer/Tester **Favorite movie of all time:** American Beauty **When I'm not working I'm:** spending time with my wife **The one website I hit every day:** google.com [Ivern] Javier Fernandez-Ivern, Component Manager **Favorite movie of all time:** Seven Samurai **When I'm not working I'm:** Climbing, if I

can. **The one website I hit every day:** software.topcoder.com/review ! [jmpld40] Jessie D'Amato Ford, Event Manager **Favorite movie of all time:** The Princess Bride, No more rhymes and I mean it! Anybody want a peanut? **When I'm not working I'm:** Reading, writing or out in my garden **The one website I hit every day:** reddit.com [jwlms] Jess Williams, Director of Studio **Favorite movie of all time:** Raising Arizona **When I'm not working I'm:** playing the Wii with my kids **The one website I hit every day:** wired.com [lbackstrom] Lars Backstrom, Marathon Match Coordinator **Favorite movie of all time:** Death Race 2000 **When I'm not working I'm:** traveling **The one website I hit every day:** digg.com [leadhyena_inran] Nate Dean, Algorithm Competition Manager **Favorite movie of all time:** No real favorite of all time, but my current favorite is Memento. **When I'm not working I'm:** Swimming, reading, karaoke **The one website I hit every day:** reader.google.com [Mess] Dave Messinger, Chief Architect **Favorite movie of all time:** Tombstone **When I'm not working I'm:** Watching sports **The one website I hit every day:** profootballtalk.com [mike] Mike Lydon, CTO **Favorite movie of all time:** Airplane! **When I'm not working I'm:** Spending time with my son **The one website I hit every day:** TopCoder, CNN, CNET news--the usual suspects [Mural] Diego Belfer, Internal Developer **Favorite movie of all time:** Black Cat, White Cat **When I'm not working I'm:** Taking care of my newborn baby Luka **The one website I hit every day:** slashdot.com [ntrefz] Nick Trefz, Web Graphic Designer **Favorite movie of all time:** The Shawshank Redemption **When I'm not working I'm:** Videogames, biking, drawing **The one website I hit every day:** joystiq.com [olexiyo] Olexiy Oryeshko, Algorithm Coordinator **Favorite movie of all time:** The good, the bad and the ugly. **When I'm not working I'm:** That never happens. **The one website I hit every day:** nba.com [Pulky] Pablo Wolfus, Internal Developer **Favorite movie of all time:** Scent of a Woman **When I'm not working I'm:** Probably playing with my daughter **The one website I hit every day:** Argentinean newspaper websites [thx1138] Travis Haas, Network Dude **Favorite movie of all time:** The Big Lebowski **When I'm not working I'm:** taking my son to look at tractors **The one website I hit every day:** cyclingnews.com [TonyJ] Tony Jefts, Director of Software Operations **Favorite movie of all time:** The Godfather **When I'm not working I'm:** For the most part I'm spending time with family and friends or working around the house. In the summer you can find me wakeboarding and waterskiing. I sneak away for some snowboarding in the winters. **The one website I hit every day:** pandora.com [visualage] Qi Liu, Algorithm Competition Arena Developer/Administrator **Favorite movie of all time:** Any new movie that IMDB rates more than 8. **When I am not working, I am:** most likely eating/sleeping/browsing Internet. **The one website I hit every day:** Besides topcoder.com/tc, it would be wenxuecity.com, a Chinese news website.

Notes

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient with a stylized globe in the center. The globe is white with a blue outline and contains the text 'Open AIM'. The 'AIM' is in white, bold, uppercase letters inside an orange oval. The globe is surrounded by a circular border of binary code (0s and 1s) in a lighter blue color. The overall theme is digital and global connectivity.

Open **AIM**

Whether you're on the web, desktop or mobile device, Open AIM provides free tools and solutions that can power up your community.

dev.aol.com/aim

AOL
DEVELOPER
NETWORK

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TopCoder Open 2008
May 11th - 15th
Mirage Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada



Answers That Matter.

NSA

