2010

topcoder
open

TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

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TCO10 Competition Tracks

TCO10 Production Credits

The 2010 TopCoder Open was not possible without the help and dedication from our talented TopCoder members. All the graphics you see onsite and the amazing TCO10 website were done by the TopCoder and Studio community. A special thanks goes to all the members who helped make the TCO10 great!

TCO10 WEBSITE

Logo Design
[rhorea]
[sigit.a]

Icons Design
[djnapier]

Storyboard Design
[leben]

UI Prototype
[leben]

Leaderboard Coding and Navigation Edits to the Prototype
[AjJi]

Content Coding
[invisiblepilot]

Wordpress Skin Coding
[dweng]

Assembly
[isv]

TCO10 GRAPHICS

Sponsor Banner
[oninkxronda]

TCO10 Banner
[kristofferrouge]

Table Top Graphic
[djnapier]

Program Designs
[djnapier]

T-Shirt Design
[djnapier]

Competitions Description Flash Video
[r1cs1]

TCO10 REVIEWERS

Logo Contests
[rhorea]

Icons Contest
[rhorea]

Storyboard
[greenspin]

UI Prototype
[invisiblepilot]
[selvaa89]
[bohuss]
[YeGGo]

Assembly
[snow01]
[cyberjag]
[BeBetter]

Founder's Letter

It's my great pleasure to welcome each of you to this year's 2010 TopCoder Open. It's hard to believe that this tournament marks a full decade of TopCoder onsite competitions. It has been a wonderful experience and a true privilege to meet so many incredibly talented people during that time.

The past year has presented challenges with which we are all familiar. I'm glad to say that as both a community and a company we've been equal to the task at hand and are well positioned to take advantage of whatever the global economic climate has in store for us. Since we last met onsite our Community has been prodigious in creating new competitions, designing new technologies and building better solutions for our clients. Our model has never been stronger. One needs look no further than towards our continuously growing member count and our quality client base.

Algorithmic focus has always been a fundamental strength of TopCoder – and the role of numbers and proficiency in using and analyzing them has never been more important than in today's world – challenges facing the global economy, technology innovation, the development of new medicines and even the very environment of our planet depend upon solutions derived from successfully harnessing numbers and applying algorithms. You have demonstrated your mastery in this field and this event is in no small part recognition of your skills and your potential to have an enormous impact on our collective future.

I would be remiss not to underscore the impact and role that our Studio members and their solutions have upon TopCoder and our clients. Your creativity, vision and abilities turn the abstract into real application and help make TopCoder a powerful marketplace of ideas. I congratulate you and wish you continued success.

Finally, as you enjoy your time here in Las Vegas I would ask each of you to take just a moment to look around at your fellow finalists and recognize that you are all winners simply by making it here onsite. You are Masters in this TopCoder universe.

Jack Hughes,
Founder

Tournament Schedule

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010

7:00 PM   –   8:00 PM   Welcome Reception   Montego Ballroom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010

7:30 AM   –   9:00 AM   Breakfast   St. Thomas

8:30 AM   24 Hour Marathon Match Final   Montego Ballroom

8:30 AM   –   12:00 PM Studio Design Competition Semifinal 1   Montego Ballroom

12:00 PM –   1:30 PM   Lunch   St. Thomas

12:30 PM –   2:00 PM   Mod Dash Competition Final 1   Montego Ballroom

2:30 PM   –   6:00 PM   Studio Design Competition Semifinal 2   Montego Ballroom

6:00 PM   –   6:45 PM   Facebook Tech Talk and Dinner   St. Thomas

7:00 PM   –   9:30 PM   TCO10 Amazing Race ★   St. Thomas

★ TCOTweetTrek and the Minute to Win It Challenge as part of the **TCO All in Challenge** will be taking place all throughout the week.
Stop by the **TCO All in Challenge** table in the Arena for more details!

! Please note all competition rounds here include 30 minute set up time.

Tournament Schedule

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010
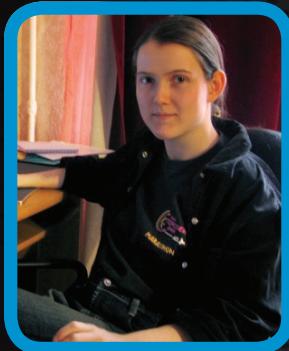
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	St. Thomas
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Mod Dash Competition Final 2	Montego Ballroom
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Algorithm Semifinal 1	Montego Ballroom
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Demystifying Payment Processing on the Web with PayPal's Praveen Alavilli	St. Thomas
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch	St. Thomas
12:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Algorithm Semifinal 2	Montego Ballroom
1:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Studio Design Competition Final	Montego Ballroom
5:00 PM – 5:45 PM	Experimental Innovation with NASA with Dr. Karim Lakhani, Harvard Business School and Dinner	St. Thomas
6:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Algorithm Wild Card Round	Montego Ballroom

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	St. Thomas
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Mod Dash Competition Final 3	Montego Ballroom
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch	St. Thomas
1:00PM – 3:30 PM	Algorithm Final	Montego Ballroom
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Winner Announcements and Awards Ceremony	
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Closing Reception	

Meet The Bloggers

For this 2010 TopCoder Open, we provided commentary from day one.
Thanks to our dedicated team of bloggers.

Mariia Mykhailova UKRAINE

I'm a TC addict. Most people who know me believe that TopCoder is my main employer as well as my whole life. However, I do have a (boring) daily job as a banking software developer, as well as some non-TC hobbies. I enjoy learning new programming languages, preferably esoteric and marginal, and utilize this fancy in Progopedia project.

I write a lot of stuff in Russian, including fairy tales about princesses and dragons.

I love theater, and can miss an SRM for a good play (doesn't sound like a real TopCoder, er?). And my most recent hobby is laptop decoration using stained-glass paints - I'm not skillful enough yet, but really enthusiastic.

[Nickolas]

Justin Gasper USA

I started doing TopCoder component design competitions in 2004 and went full time as a TopCoder competitor in December of 2005. I am currently still a full time TopCoder member, but my time is now spent exclusively on copiloting, although I keep an eye on architecture competitions to see if one comes up looks interesting. In my free time I enjoy golfing and carry a 5 handicap.

This past year I have spent a considerable amount of time renovating an old building into a bakery for my wife Julie and an apartment where we now live.

[Ghostar]

The Digital Run

Congratulations to the winners of the Digital Run. The Digital Run is an ongoing contest offered to active competitors in Design, Development and Studio competitions. The Digital Run is tied directly to TopCoder's revenue as the member community is the driving force in the growth of TopCoder.

Read more about the Digital Run at www.topcoder.com/dr.

DESIGN WINNERS

[MiG-29]

[argolite]

[AleaActaEst]

DEVELOPMENT WINNERS

[pinoydream]

[utlovey]

[PE]

[isv]

[j3_guile]

[Yeung]

[Zulander]

STUDIO WINNERS

[jflipp]

[djackmania]

[aspnetFlex]

[abedavera]

[quesks]

[donot6]

Design Competition

OVERVIEW

The 2010 TopCoder Open Design Competition brought together competitors from many of our design-oriented tracks: Architecture, Component Design, Conceptualization, Specification, and Testing Scenarios. Competition was fierce, with more than 20 competitors earning over 1,000 placement points. Designers were required to document their solutions to varying problems, from system design down to test case implementation. The top bracket of designers each submitted over ten projects!

This year saw impressive TCO debuts from new designers – iogy, faeton and mekanizumu all broke into the top ten on their first major outing! However, this year was dominated by heavy hitting veterans – past winners Standlove, AleaActaEst and saarixx all made strong runs at the top spot. It was frequent finalist argolite who took the championship, submitting over 30 projects for over 12,000 points!

Congratulations to argolite, our 2010 TopCoder Open Design Competition Champion!

Design Champion

Michael Paweska CANADA

[argolite]

I work fulltime on TopCoder components, participating in Design and Architecture tracks. When I'm not sitting by the computer, I like to watch tv, play video games, or read a good book, but above all, I like to do walks and hiking, and generally get outside. I live in Toronto, Ontario, where the winters are getting warmer, spring and fall have become just memories, and summer has been renamed the oven season. Just like everywhere else.

A combination of determination and luck got me through the TCO10. I began the TCO with intent to be in the top 2, and set aside the time for 4 months to make it work. I think there is no other way to do it. So for that period of time, it became an overtime effort, having everything revolve around it. It became important to look out for projects that offered many competitions (such as the Ilium and COBOL projects), and try to dominate them for TCO points. Things went very well, and I also had several fortuitous competitions where no one else submitted, allowing me to garner all the TCO points for them.

Oleksandr Kuvshynov UKRAINE

I'm a student in Linnaeus University in Sweden now. This is my second higher education. First education, I obtained in Ukraine, my native country. At the same time I worked as an Architect\Senior Software Engineer on several mobile/desktop projects. My hobbies are cycling, rallying, snooker/pool playing, and competing in TopCoder contests. I did not participate in TopCoder competitions on regular basis, so I was not sure that I'll pass, but, fortunately, I managed to win enough competitions to make it onsite. I was completely sure that I wouldn't be able to be in a very high position in the ranklist because of guys who work on TC full-time and who are much more experienced than me. I tried just to get onsite, money winnings were not so important for me.

[abkqz]

Piotr Paweska CANADA

Hailing from Canada. I love working for TopCoder in my free time. My favorite pastimes include a good book, good movie, and definitely some great music. I hope to find the time to get back to guitar playing like I used to. This was a marathon TCO – 4 months of various competitions. I simply tried to be consistent and gain good points each month. Unfortunately in the last month I got very sick so could not really compete, but the previous 3 months paid off with enough points to still get 3rd place. Consistency paid off!

[AleaActaEst]

Bramandia Ramadhana INDONESIA

I am from Indonesia, living in Singapore. My hobby is coding and designing. I still like to play games and meet people. In the last few weeks, I have new hobbies – watching video lectures on YouTube.

[bramandia]

Emanuele Caruso ITALY

I love sports, especially snowboarding and cross-country mountain biking. After taking my last exam in IT engineering in early June, I did as many TCO10 projects as possible to qualify and climbed from almost 0 points to 7th place. This will be my second TCO onsite finals.

[caru]

Dan Lazar ROMANIA

[DanLazar]

Oleksandr Stashuk UKRAINE

I am from Ukraine, currently a 3rd year student of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, my biggest interest is definitely programming. Recently, I've switched from ACM competitions to industry and found it really great, especially here, at TC. The other great thing is playing the guitar and looking for anyone at the onsite event for making a jam session. This was a pretty short TCO for me, as I competed only month and a half instead of four. But thanks to other competitors, copilots, PMs and, of course, my girlfriend, it was really fun and enjoyable. The other motivation was to be interviewed by Facebook at onsites. Can't wait to get there.

[faeton]

Bogdan Iorga ROMANIA

I'm a graphic designer from Bucharest. I like skiing, hiking, and taking photos. I just tried to do well in the Digital Run competition. I didn't but the points summed up and I made it past the threshold for TCO.

[iogy]

Aiman Ashraf INDIA

I am from New Delhi, India. I am a software freelancer. I spend most of my time daydreaming about progressive social and economic ideas. Other than that I spend time trying to discover new music or playing badminton. I worked on a few architecture contests to make it as a finalist. This will be my second TCO onsite finals.

[kurtrips]

Yue Tang CHINA

I'm from Chengdu China. I currently work soley on TopCoder projects and I enjoy the free time it brings to me. My favorite hobby is basketball. I'm currently spending 3 afternoons every week in a gym with a coach who trains me so that one day I can be a 3-pointer shooting machine. Working on TopCoder makes this dream possible. I didn't aim for any ranking for the TCO10. I simply participated in contests as they emerged. It turns out that I am lucky enough to be among the top fifteen.

[mekanizumu]

Sergey Andreev RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I am from St. Petersburg – the cultural capital of Russia. I have MS and PhD in CS and EE. Reading of classical literature, listening to traditional Russian music, and wood-crafting are my hobbies.

[MiG-29]

[saarixx]

Olexiy Sadovnikov UKRAINE
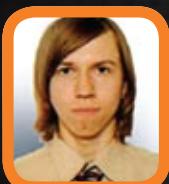
I am from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. When I have a free time, I usually play badminton or count/table tennis, watch Formula-1 racings, or play computer games. Also my hobby is cooking – often I like to surprise my family with delicious dishes. I didn't have an aim to become a TCO10 finalist. Competing in design software contests is my full-time job, thus I worked as usual.

[Standlove]

GuanZhuo Jin CHINA

I'm from China and I do component designs. I have problem where I work for a long time continuously, so I guess I'm lucky to end up with a 2nd place. I like the kind of things that you can do alone (e.g. reading).

[Urmass]

Eugene Yesakoff UKRAINE

I am from Kyiv, Ukraine. I'm quite into music and I play guitar in a band. The TCO10 was not very hard, though I thought it would be.

[xin135]

Hainan Ning CHINA

I come from China. I graduated from Nanjing University last year and now I'm a programmer. I like reading novels in my spare time. I just participated some design contests tried my best in each contest during the TCO10.

Development Competition

The 2010 TopCoder Open Development Competition brought together competitors from our development contests: Assembly, Component Development, Prototypes, and Testing Suites. Developers were required to implement designs in each of these tracks, over a broad variety of technology platforms including cutting-edge web and mobile offerings. Our most prolific developers submitted on a huge number of projects – akinwale turned in 40 submissions, while iversonLv turned in a whopping 54!

Bringing prototypes into this year's TCO also allowed our Studio web developers a foothold – quesks made the top 10 exclusively submitting prototypes, and iversonLv heavily favored HTML and JavaScript projects. Still, our hardcore coders put in a great showing with both Java and .NET developers making the top slots – Yeung favoring almost entirely .NET and BeBetter preferring Java. In the end, Yeung managed to secure the win by netting over 14,000 points!

Congratulations to Yeung, our 2010 TopCoder Open Development Competition Champion!

Development Champion

Yang Lee CHINA

TopCoder is my full time job now. I live in Zhongshan, a small city in China. I like to sleep, watch movies, and travel. I made it to the TCO thanks to Ilium. This was a huge project and it was a little complicated. So not many people were competing. Ilium is my lucky charm in TCO 2010.

[Yeung]

Akinwale Ariwodola NIGERIA

[akinwale]

My name's Akinwale and I'm from the south western part of Nigeria. I'm currently a freelance software developer and I spend most of time participating in TopCoder contests. I also do mobile application development for Nokia devices, but I plan to be a developer for other mobile platforms. I've always been interested in game development so I'll be shifting my focus to that eventually, after I earn enough money from developing business applications.

When I'm free, I like to play video games, watch movies, catch up on TV shows and chat with friends. I also cycle and I like to play football (soccer) occasionally for exercise. Regarding my favorites things, I'll just list a few: Favorite music: Trance and Alternative, Favorite book: Ultimate Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Favorite movies: Collateral, Serenity, Inception, Favorite TV shows: Burn Notice, The Mentalist, Jeremiah, House.

Wei Wang CHINA

[BeBetter]

I love designing/programming. I play with my 2 naughty boys in my spare time. The TCO10, as before, was long tough process and I'm glad it's over!

Guiqiang Zhang CHINA

[FireIce]

I am a Software Engineer with 4 years work experience. I am coming from Hangzhou, China (A beautiful place everyone should visit). I like movies, traveling, basketball and eating). It is really surprised to be a finalist for Development. I just did component development contests as usual in my spare time – approximately 4-5 contest per month. Since I did it, I always try to make my submissions perfect to win the first prize. That makes me accumulate enough TCO points to be a lucky finalist.

Kun Chen CHINA

[flexme]

I come from China. I am a college student at Zhejiang University. My major is computer science. I like coding, electronic products, and watching movies. It's really lucky that I advanced to TCO10 onsite event. I played with SRMs at TopCoder 2 years ago. But algorithm competitions are much more different. This year, I tried to play with development competitions and found it's interesting and has large payments. So I used all the rest of my time to work for development competitions and made it as a finalist.

Wenhui Xing CHINA

I'm an undergraduate student from China. I first attended SRM competitions, but then I found software competitions are more attractive. They provide competitive payment in China and flexible working hours. I like to watch live sports (Barclays English Premier League, NBA, NFL, MLB and IAAF diamond league) and play computer games (Warcraft III, StarCraft II and Dota) in battle.net.

[iRabbit]

Rumi Lu CHINA

Hi everyone, my name is Lu Rumi, please feel free call me iversonLv or iverson. I'm from Canton, China. TCO10 is a big battlefield for guys from all over the world to compete – it's a big platform for us to enhance abilities. Winning at the TCO10 means not only money and honor but it is also a turning point in my life. For me, I almost stayed up 24 hours 7 days a week in the last 4 months. I had to plan my limited time to handle all ongoing contests – it was hard, tiring, but now I get the best return to travel the US and to attend TCO big onsite events.

[iversonLv]

Franklin Guevarra PHILIPPINES

[j3_guile]

Sergii Dymchenko UKRAINE

I'm freelance web-developer from Ukraine. In my spare time I like to play music (bass guitar and blues harp). The TCO10 wasn't easy because TopCoder is Java-oriented, and I don't really know Java. So I had to compete in wide range of various non-standard competitions.

[kit1980]

Gang Cheng CHINA

I come from Huazhong University of Science and Technology. I'm hunting for a job in Computer Science. It's really exciting to be a TCO finalist. I'm looking forward to meeting all the great competitors. This year's TCO wasn't that easy for java programmers. Component development is highly competitive while the placement points are relatively lower. Fortunately, after participating in several assembly contests, I was able to advance to the finals. When not working, I love sports and Dota.

[mumujava]

James Marquez PHILIPPINES

I'm a 32 year old guy from the Philippines. I am a project manager and do PHP, CSS, and jQuery stuff. I love to think of web mashups and build it when time availability permits.

[quesks]

Sandaruwan Gunathilake SRI LANKA

I'm Sandaruwan hailing from Sri Lanka. I co-founded a startup with few friends and I'm working on it during the day time. Aside from working on challenging problems, I enjoy traveling, going on hikes, and occasionally playing multiplayer video games. I've been doing lot of web development related activities in my startup – the expertise gained from that was quite helpful in doing the development competitions. Another possible reason for being a finalist is that I actually competed on some components this year instead of procrastinating.

[sandaruwang]

Jianchang Shen CHINA

I am living in a city called Hangzhou in China where there is a beautiful place called "West Lake". I usually listen to music by my MD player when I am working, and I like walking to the nearby park at night. The TCO10 is a great Competition. There were too many UI Prototype contests for us to work on, and I almost worked most of the days in April and May. In other words, I earned more prizes than the last year.

[soso0574]

Sebastian Dragomir ROMANIA

I'm a CS student from Bucharest, Romania. In my spare time I play video games, chess, and tinker with all sorts of stuff to see what makes them tick. I competed for a few weeks in April, then took a 2 month break. In July, I was lucky to be the only submitter for an HTML5 assembly contest that had a lot of points, and that helped secure my position in the top 15.

[velorien]

Kun Yang CHINA

I'm a graduate student in Zhejiang University, China. I like writing programs and playing RTS games such as Warcraft 3 and Starcraft 2. I worked on several software assembly contests to become a TCO10 finalist.

[yext]

Studio Design Competition

OVERVIEW

TopCoder Studio challenges top creative talent from around the world to present their best concepts to clients searching for new design solutions. Designers compete in engaging design contests for cash prizes, along with placement points that accumulate for the opportunity to win larger cash awards in our monthly Studio Cup and annual TCO tournaments. Competitions include logo design, web design, software front-end UI, print design and more.

By tapping into a pool of creative people with multiple specialties, our clients benefit from new approaches and innovative concepts from a global community. Our competitors are here not just to win prizes, but to learn new skills, consult with peers, and earn the chance to be called one of the best designers in the world.

TCO10

The online Studio TCO10 round included 18 weeks of design competitions covering a wide range of web, application UI and graphic design challenges. There were 47 TCO-eligible competitions that awarded points to the top five placements and tallied at the end of the online round. Ten competitors with the highest scores were then invited to attend the onsite finals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This year, there will be two semifinal rounds followed by the final championship round. Each semifinal round will have five competitors. The three highest placing competitors from each semifinal round will be announced during lunch Wednesday, October 13 and will advance to the championship round.

At the start of each round of the competition finals, the finalists are given the same design challenge specifications and select tools they need to complete their designs. Once each round of the competition ends, the final designs are judged and scored. Each round gives points to the top placements. The competitor with the most points from the final championship round will be the TCO10 Studio Champion.

GUEST JUDGES

Nathan McClain
Chicago, USA
www.arcww.com

Nathan McClain has been working in the creative arts for nearly 15 years with experience in digital media, advertising, print making, and photography. Nathan's favorite pastimes are engaging in conversation beyond his capacity and setting land speed records.

In his spare time he has a rewarding career at Arc Worldwide as a creative director. Arc Worldwide is the marketing arm of the Leo Burnett Corporation with clients ranging from Coca-Cola. Procter & Gamble, Allstate, Blackberry, Miller-Coors, and many others.
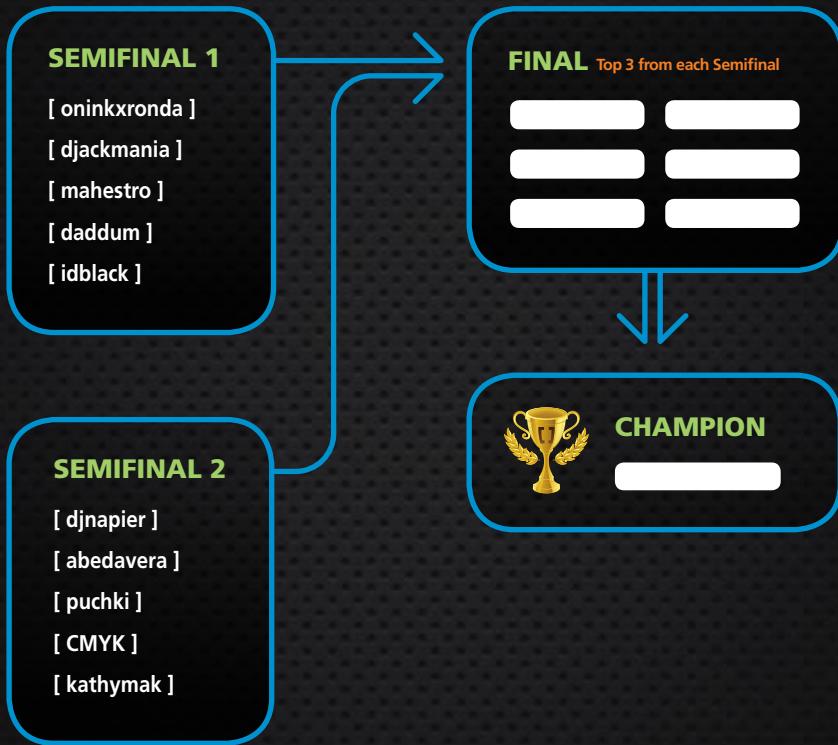
Melissa Foetsch
New York City, USA

Melissa Foetsch is a User Experience Design practitioner based in the Greater New York City area. She is currently the lead Information Architect supporting IBM's Cloud Computing initiative.

In addition to many years of agency and software industry expertise, Melissa is also a traditionally trained graphic designer with an eye for good design.

Bracket

SEMIFINAL 1

[oninkxronda]

[djackmania]

[mahestro]

[daddum]

[idblack]

SEMIFINAL 2

[djnapier]

[abedavera]

[puchki]

[CMYK]

[kathymak]

FINAL Top 3 from each Semifinal

CHAMPION

Junius Albertho INDONESIA

I'm Indonesian and an ordinary graphic designer that just wants to try something different and wants to learn much more. My favorite thing is the TCO event every year, yeah! My hobby is Photography but the sad thing is that I don't have much time for it.

The TCO10 is the "prize" of our hard work in a year. Great concept, fresh ideas, keep up to date, simple, and good time management are the most important things to get that "prize". Another great thing at this event is that I can see my progress and other talented designers and of course traveling to the city!

[abedavera]

Ann-Sophie Green DENMARK

My name is Ann-Sophie Green and I live in Copenhagen, Denmark. I work as an Interactive Art Director at a web and dialogue agency.

With my full-time job and the TCO10 online competitions, I have spent most of my waking hours in Photoshop and Illustrator the last couple of months. It was a hard couple of weeks with a lot of late hours of work. But it was definitely worth every minute!

[CMYK]

Mahmud Mahmud Zaenudin INDONESIA

Hi, I'm daddum. I come from Indonesia. Now I'm working at SANYO Electronics Indonesia as a Senior Engineer. My favorite activities are listening to javanese music, reading novels, and playing with my daughters in water boom. I usually do online contests in my home at the night or on holiday but sometimes I did them in my office – hehe!

[daddum]

Tri Joko Rubiyanto INDONESIA

I'm from Jakarta, Indonesia and am father to my 2 whiz-kids. I spend my spare time playing Wii with Giga and peekaboo with Ghalvan. I thought the Studio TCO10 online competition was the toughest ever; it was 16 weeks!!

I started the contest full-speed but extremely decreased my participation in the end. I didn't compete in any TCO eligible contest in the last 8 weeks. Lucky for me, I still had the points for the top 14.

[djackmania]

Dale Napier AUSTRALIA

I am currently running my own design business in Brisbane, Australia specializing in Graphic and Web Design. I think design has a place and solution in every aspect of life, so sometimes it's hard to switch off my brain from analyzing little things!

After having such a good time at TCO09, when it ended I was determined to earn a spot at this year's TCO. Juggling TCO contests with my own clients proved to be challenging; some contests I really wanted to enter, but just simply did not have enough time to dedicate to them so I'm really happy to be attending TCO again.

[djnapier]

Seeta Kaur INDONESIA

I'm studying till now and came from Indonesia. My favorite thing is any gadget for hearing music and watching movies. My hobbies are watching movies, listening to fine music, and playing with my pet.

TCO10 is a wonderful chance to expand experience and skill. Being a finalist for me is not easy, while studying for my bachelor degree, managing other freelance work and following the competition felt like there is never enough time for me, but I'm so glad I can make it as a finalist after all – I can't wait to see the senior members in studio.

[idblack]

Ka Ying Mak HONG KONG

I was born and brought up in Hong Kong, a small yet fascinating city in my eyes. Influenced by my computer teacher, I developed my interest in programming and web design since my junior secondary school days. After receiving my college degree, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, from the Chinese University of Hong Kong last year, I started my research and development career.

My daily job is to develop information systems and I am currently working on an online fleet management system. In my leisure time I love to sing, play my piano and construct my personal website. I am also interested in photography and interior design. I always think that these hobbies complement programming perfectly.

[kathymak]

Luis Milan VENEZUELA

I'm a computing engineer who eats, breathes and lives the Web. I love everything related to Web/Internet applications development, from the very beginning (design) and implementation (coding, launching, and marketing). I like innovation and challenges – that's why I like TopCoder a lot, we have the chance to prove our skills and also get benefits from competition. I'm from a very small town, Valle de La Pascua. It's located in Guarico state, Venezuela.

I'm working with my own company creating genuine and creative solutions for massive targets and for clients too; most of them based on software. I feel very good doing work with my team. I like to learn new stuff everyday and put them into practice; that's why you can find me always reading, researching, and practicing techniques about software development and design. One of my favorite hobbies is photography. It's a relaxing process when I do outdoor shots; it's the best. Also like to play games, to play guitar, and to listen music at very high and harmful volumes! jaja ;)

[mahestro]

Nino Rey Ronda PHILIPPINES

I'm from Manila, working for Bluewire as senior designer with a great interest and passion for graphic design, web, and print. My hobbies are photography, reviewing the latest gadgets and technology online, traveling, playing computer games, playstation3, and playing guitar during internet down time.

[oninxkronda]

Sunita Das INDIA

I am a Freelance Web Designer based out of Mumbai, India. I have been in this industry for over a decade and I completely love it. These days my new found passion has been ceramics and pottery; and like Web Design, I intend to have fun with pottery too.

TCO10 happened when I shifted my base from Bangalore to Mumbai. It was a major challenge, as I was adjusting to the new place along with TopCoder contests. My main intention was to take part in as many contests as possible to keep floating in the top 14. With all that that I had to put up with in the past few months, I am glad that I have made it to the final.

[puchki]

My (X) turns Facebook walls
into shopping malls

People spend hours a day on Facebook, and this captive social audience of over 500 million users is why so many brands have created a presence on Facebook.

My (X) is social shopping on Facebook. Payvment has enabled more than 30,000 Facebook storefronts since launching at PayPal X Innovate developer conference in Nov 2009 - and is helping to open over 200 new storefronts on Facebook daily.

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Christian Taylor
CEO & Founder, Payvment

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Mod Dash Competition

OVERVIEW

The 2010 TopCoder Open Mod Dash Competition ran online from April – July. The top ten competitors with the highest points after the online round get to compete in the onsite Championship!

The onsite Mod Dash championship will consist of three rounds. Each round will consist of 6 consecutive Mod Dashes. Competitors will have 10 minutes to solve the presented bug or enhancement. The first competitor to correctly solve the problem will win the Mod Dash and 100 points. But there's a catch – each competitor who successfully solves the Mod Dash AFTER the winning submission will reduce the winner's score by 10 points.

At the end of three rounds, the competitor with the most points will be the 2010 TopCoder Open Mod Dash Champion!

Bracket

FINAL

[2PaVeL]

[hohosky]

[humblesunflower]

[Margarita]

[rac_]

[rst9288]

[supercharger]

[TeCNoYoTTa]

[Yueng

CHAMPION

Pavlo Liapota UKRAINE

I am programmer from Ukraine. Now I am studying in Sweden. I like to research new things. I began to earn the money in the Mod Dash Competition and in 1 month the TCO10 was started. It gave me a big push to fix bugs. This is my first TCO finals.

[2PaVeL]

Kan Luo CHINA

I am from China and now I am working as a freelancer. I spend part of my time on TopCoder, and the rest on my own project. I like watching movies and sports games. In my spare time, I am on a local soccer team, and I play on weekends. For the Mod Dash competition, I think it's all about speed and accuracy. You need to find the wrong place as quick as possible and fix the codes accurately like a surgery.

[hohosky]

Wenjie Su CHINA

I'm from Beijing, China. I am looking forward to the TCO10 to compete and have a great time with all the other competitors. My favorite hobby is traveling. I am going to graduate, and try to find a job as a computer engineer. Perhaps, I will go to the US for a PhD next year, but I'm not very sure. I'm excited to be a finalist in the TCO10 and to compete with the best programmers from all over the world.

[humblesunflower]

Margaryta Skrypachova UKRAINE

I like computers and studying computer sciences. Also I like TopCoder and travelling (very much!). I've completed my full studies at my home country Ukraine and now I study as a master student at Linnaeus University in Sweden. I also like such kinds of activities that involve (high) speed – windsurfing, cycling, roller-skating etc. It was quite hard for me to advance this year, as I had many major changes in my life – graduation from home university, moving to another country, and some more. But recalling how amazing it was at TCO09, I put all my remaining efforts (and vacations) on advancing and did it!

[Margarita]

Radek Czyz POLAND

My name is Radek and I live in Cracow (Poland). I work in one of the corporations as a software developer. I like to participate in IT competitions, because it allows me to concentrate on what I like and what I want to learn. My hobby is having holidays on the cost of companies that arrange onsite finals in interesting places. I decided to try, but I didn't think it would be possible for me to gather required amount of points and get to finals.

[rac_]

Rakshit Trivedi INDIA

[rst9288]

I am Rakshit. My TopCoder handle is rst9288. I hail from the beautiful city of Rajkot situated in the state of Gujarat in India. I am currently working as a research intern on a research project in database systems and information engines. I aim to pursue my masters at one of the best graduate schools. My favorite things include various types of coffees, computer games, long drives, and beach walks. My hobbies include playing basketball, playing keyboard, and watching adventure videos and movies.

Pratap Koritala INDIA

[supercharger]

I am from Hyderabad, India. I am a full-time software engineer apart from competing on TopCoder. I love motor sporting and beaches. Over the 4 months of online competition, I spent a decent amount of time fixing bugs. It has been hard to do as I need to do my full-time job too; it included working late nights and going late to the office.

Islam Hamed EGYPT

[TeCNoYoTTa]

My handle is TeCNoYoTTa where TeCNo stands for Technology and YoTTa means 10^24. My name is Islam Farid and I am from Cairo (the capital of Egypt). I love participating in Algorithm and Mod Dash competitions. My dream is to work for a leading international software company and reach ICPC world finals. First, when I heard about Mod Dash I was addicted to it so much that you can find me checking the mail for replies on bug races while I am in the lecture hall or meeting with my friends discussing college projects; but I stopped due to exams. After that mohamede1945 told me about TCO and that Mod Dash was a part of it so I decided to participate a lot to collect points to make it to be one of the Top 10.

Yang Lee CHINA

[Yeung]

TopCoder is my full time job now. I live in Zhongshan, a small city in China. I like to sleep, watch movies, and travel. I made it to the TCO thanks to Ilium. This was a huge project and it was a little complicated. So no many people were competing. Ilium is my lucky charm in TCO 2010.

Marathon Competition

OVERVIEW

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, for the first time, competitors have a grueling 24 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.

Bracket

FINAL

[ACRush]
[ainu7]
[chokudai]
[doudouille]
[irakli]
[jdmetz]
[nhzp339]
[O_O]
[ploh]
[Psyho]
[tpelkone]
[wata]

CHAMPION

TianCheng Lou CHINA

[ACRush]

I'm a second year PhD student in ITCS at Tsinghua University. I've had a dream to be a dual-finalist since TCO08. In the last online-round of the marathon match competition of TCO08, I failed at 22nd place. In TCO09, I was the unlucky 11th guy. This year, in TCO10, I've managed to make it to the finals. Nothing is Impossible! This will be my sixth onsite finals. Good luck to you all and have fun in Las Vegas.

Won-seok Yoo SOUTH KOREA

[ainu7]

I've been a software engineer for about 3.5 years, working in Seoul, where I have lived my whole lifetime. I'm generally interested in weather and climate, and space weather and asteroids too. I like to read blogs and articles treating those kinds of issues, and sometimes I make my own forecast or prediction. I also like to play Starcraft (1 and 2), and I'll be happy if I can play the game at the TCO.

Naohiro Takahashi JAPAN

[chokudai]

I'm junior in college, and researching machine learning. I like making the AI of games (especially, Go, Japanese-chess, and Marjong). If my AI defeats other people, I'm very happy. Last year, I got 3rd place in TCO09 Round 1 and Round 2. But I didn't become finalist. I got 44th place in TCO09 Round 3. I was very sad, and mortified. I thought many competitors didn't spend enough time for Round 1, Round 2, and other Marathon Matches. That's why to become finalist is my resolution of this year. I'm very happy now!

Pascal Pons FRANCE

[doudouille]

My last child grew up and let me sleep a little more than last year (he is 18 months now). And I was able to save enough time for the last qualification round. My hobbies include gardening, cooking, and coding.

Irakli Khomeriki GEORGIA

[irakli]

I'm from Georgia. I work at the Ministry of Finance as a Senior Programmer. For hobbies, I like picnics in nature, swimming, listening to music, playing pool, and some other cool things. I made it to the TCO10 onsite event, because I worked a LOT, and I really wanted to be finalist. This is my first onsite event.

Joshua Metzler USA

[jdmetz]

I competed in the marathon and algorithm tracks of the 2010 TCO. This was my seventh year competing (and not making it onsite) in algorithm, and my fourth year competing in marathon (and third onsite). As a husband and father of three young kids, marathons fit my coding approach pretty well – I can think about the problem throughout the day, then do most of my coding after my kids are in bed at night.

I received a bye from the first online marathon round. The second round was a problem based on Conway's Game of Life, which has sentimental value to me, as I taught myself Pascal (my first non-BASIC language) programming Life. The final online round was the induced subgraph isomorphism problem, which worried me a little bit. Graph problems are not my strong suit, and I also don't consider myself one of the top speed optimizers among marathon competitors. I needn't have worried, however, as I ended the match in second place, which was quite a surprise to me.

Xiaoshi Lu CHINA

[nhzp339]

Although I'm already 27 years old, I often feel I'm still a lazy boy without too much understanding (and the desire to understand) about the whole society. I hate any restriction from freedom and any kind of officialdom. My main hobbies include soccer, basketball, Magic the Gathering, and board games. Almost the same as the last year, I spent quite a lot of time in Marathon round 3 since I know I am not that strong; only enough time can compensate the strength difference. Luckily enough, just like last time, time investment does work on that problem, since a lot of papers are there and many kinds of optimization can be made.

Wei Liu CHINA

[O_O]

Currently I am a professional programmer. I am from China. My favorite things/hobbies include programming competitions, puzzles, movies, Chinese music, and reading (in particular popular science and sci-fi/fantasy/detective novels). I spent quite a few hours in the 3 Marathon rounds, and with the help of some luck made it as a finalist.

Po-Ru Loh USA

[ploh]

I grew up in Wisconsin, went to college at Caltech, and am now at MIT for grad school in applied mathematics. I enjoy dabbling with various hobbies, none too seriously; Ultimate Frisbee, photography, cooking, etc. I barely made the Marathon cut, squeaking in as the last-place advancer on my last-ditch submission five minutes before the end of Round 3. I was pretty lucky – these sorts of stories don't usually end this way.

Przemyslaw Debiak POLAND

I really hate talking about myself, especially since I do it all the time. But I did make it as a TCO finalist by sacrificing my social life for two weeks. This is my fifth onsite event and considering the 24-hour Marathon finals, I'm voting for a masseur to be in the Competition Arena!

[Psyho]

Tuomas Pelkonen FINLAND

My name is Tuomas Pelkonen and I am from Helsinki, Finland. I work for a software company in Helsinki. I also develop iPhone software in my free time and write a programming related blog. I like to play video games and keep myself in good shape by playing basketball, running, and lifting weights. I placed 6th in both the 2nd and 3rd round of Marathon Match competitions. I tried to not spend too much time on the competitions, but ended up spending a lot anyway.

[tpelkone]

Yoichi Iwata JAPAN

I'm 4th year student of the University of Tokyo. When I was a freshman, I met my friend (iwi) and he induced me to the programming contest world. I participated in the Algorithm and Marathon events. This is the first time I can be a finalist for both. An algorithm match after the 24-hour marathon round is really hard work, but I'll do my best.

[wata]

Search

Yandex is a leading Russian search engine and a web portal with the daily audience of more than 19 million unique visitors (as of March 2010) from all over Russia, the CIS and other countries.

World-class technology

Yandex is one of the few nationally developed search systems and a source of homegrown world-class internet technologies.

Our engineers designed and implemented a unique machine learning algorithm MatrixNet (http://company.yandex.com/general_info/technologies.xml). We were the first to launch a vertical search engine. We broke the ground with our proprietary antispam technology, which was the first to be implemented in a mass online service with a million-strong audience. Our own fact extraction mechanism automatically aggregates news for web users. We were a pioneer in contextual advertising in Russia and now we are the industry leader with 78% of the market.

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Algorithm Competition

OVERVIEW

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.

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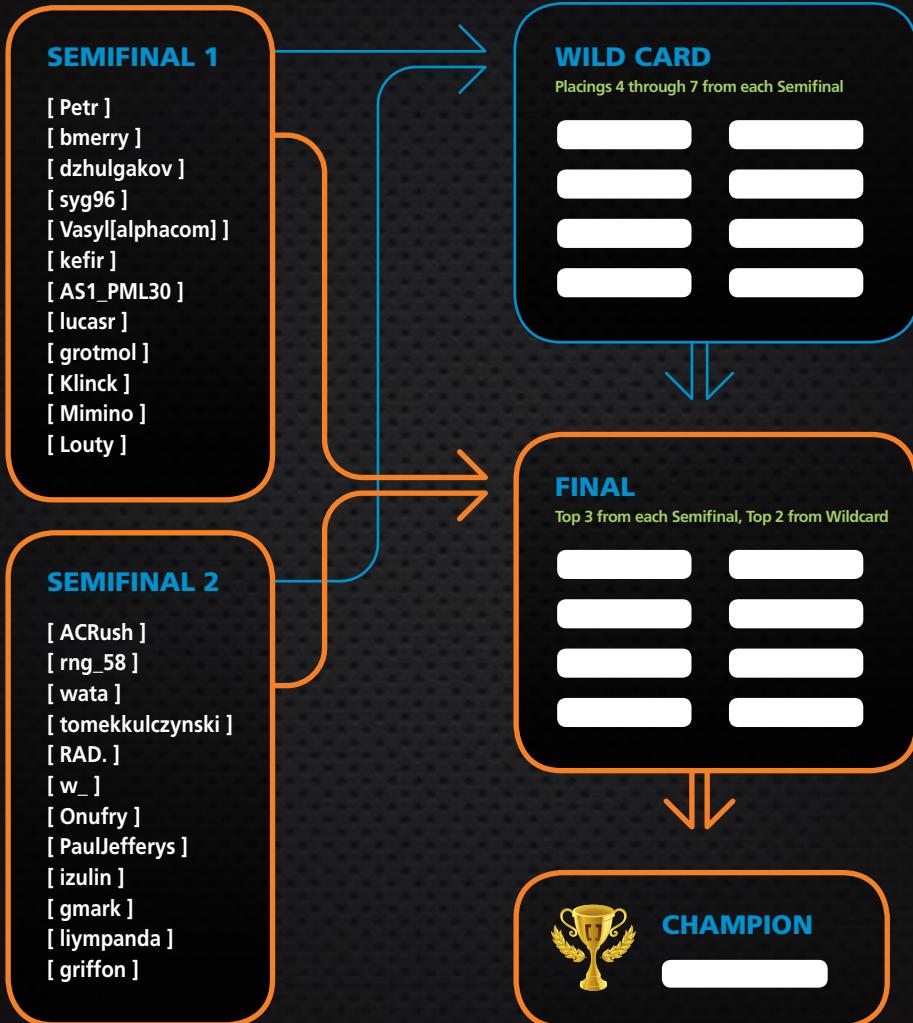
Each score represents the potential points a competitor could earn on that problem. If the text is yellow, the coder is currently working on that problem. If the background is green, it has been submitted and the score is locked. The last column is the total score from all submitted problems.

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.

## SYSTEM TESTING

Scores with a green background and a checkmark passed systests. Those with a red background and an X failed systest. Final column is total score.

Bracket

SEMIFINAL 1

[Petr]
[bmerry]
[dzhulgakov]
[syg96]
[Vasyl[alphacom]]
[kefir]
[AS1_PML30]
[lucasr]
[grotmol]
[Klinck]
[Mimino]
[Louty]

SEMIFINAL 2

[ACRush]
[rng_58]
[wata]
[tomekkulczynski]
[RAD.]
[w_]
[Onufry]
[PaulJefferys]
[izulin]
[gmark]
[liympanda]
[griffon]

WILD CARD
Placings 4 through 7 from each Semifinal

FINAL
Top 3 from each Semifinal, Top 2 from Wildcard

CHAMPION

TianCheng Lou CHINA

I'm a second year PhD student in ITCS at Tsinghua University. I've had a dream to be a dual-finalist since TCO08. In the last online-round of the marathon match competition of TCO08, I failed at 22nd place. In TCO09, I was the unlucky 11th guy. This year, in TCO10, I've managed to make it to the finals. Nothing is Impossible! This will be my sixth onsite finals. Good luck to you all and have fun in Las Vegas.

Arseny Smirnov RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I'm studying at Saint-Petersburg State University. I really enjoy fields of computer science concerned with fast data structures and writing fast-working code. Other time I spend on ballroom and other dances as well as some sports like parkour. I can't imagine my life without good music and books. I wasn't sure would I take part in TCO round 5 till the very last moment. I was a little bit sick and the internet connection was very bad. But at the last minute I eventually decided to participate. Now I see that it was the right choice.

Bruce Merry SOUTH AFRICA

This is my fifth time as an onsite finalist and I just took each match slowly and carefully, not trying to go all out. I'm from South Africa, where I did a PhD in computer graphics. In 2008 I moved to Cambridge (UK) to work on 3D graphics technologies for ARM.

Dmytro Dzhulgakov UKRAINE

I live in Kharkiv, one of the main educational and scientific centers in Ukraine. I was obsessed with Lego as a child – I think that's probably how I became interested in engineering and computers. I wrote my first program in Assembler at the age of 8 for the Intel 8080 chip. Then I switched to Pascal and Delphi and began exploring the beautiful world of algorithms.

I started picking up C++ when I was 16. Now, I'm a fourth year student of National Technical University – Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, where I study Applied Mathematics. This degree offers a great mix of maths, algorithms theory, and practical programming – so it suits me perfectly. As for hobbies, I really enjoy travelling and photography – so thanks to TCO, I can visit Las Vegas.

Grigory Yaroslavtsev RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[griffon]

I am from St. Petersburg, Russia now studying for my Ph.D. in theoretical computer science at Pennsylvania State University. My main hobbies are organizing parties and other events with my friends, teaching, alpine skiing, and soccer. The TCO Algorithm Competition was very tough this year with a lot of online rounds and only 24 onsite advancers – so you had to be very accurate to advance. For me Round 4 was the most challenging, because I managed to finish the 500-pointer with 30 seconds before the end of the coding phase.

Mark Greve DENMARK

[gmark]

I'm from Denmark, and I'm currently doing a PhD in computer science at Aarhus University. In my spare time I like to do various sports such as soccer and table tennis. I also like to go spear-fishing when the weather permits. I spend quite a bit of time on taking part in programming contests. My favorite type of contest is of course TopCoder SRMs. I never really expected to make it as a finalist this year as the odds on the forums only gave me a 1.77% chance to advance to the onsite part.

Øyvind Grotmol NORWAY

[grotmol]

I'm an electronics engineer and proud dad to my three month old son. With my wife born in Brazil, my son in USA, and myself in Norway, we are a truly international family. As of late, my favorite past-time hobbies are changing diapers, bottle-feeding, burping, and the likes. I made it onsite thanks to my wife Cintia, who took care of the baby the night before so I could have some sleep!

Przemyslaw Uznanski POLAND

[Izulin]

I'm from Wroclaw, Poland. I'm just finishing my studies here at University of Wroclaw. This year with lordmonsoon and Rydberg we managed to advance to ACM World Finals, which was our lifetime achievement (Central Europe Region is extremely hard).

As for the TCO10, it is really an accomplishment for me - I didn't even dream of advancing onsite. My plan, minimum, was for top 350 (to get a T-Shirt), and I felt fulfilled with advancing to round 5. The last round was really stressful for me, and after submitting a 250 that barely fit into top 24, I just stopped coding (and challenging) and started praying for 500 to be as hard as it seemed to me.

Wojciech Smietanka POLAND

I'm student at Warsaw University (Computer Science and Mathematics).
I like algorithm competitions like TC, ACM or GCJ. My hobby is playing basketball with people – I hope I will try it once in USA. I wanted to have a cool trip, so I did my best in the TCO. Each TCO Round, I put all my effort into doing nothing till 6pm (TCO Round in Poland), so I could start fully fresh.

[kefir]

Anton Mellit UKRAINE

I am from Kiev, Ukraine. I do pure mathematics as a postdoc in Bonn, Germany.
I like hacking (in a good sense), coding, and riding a motorbike. I knew that the competition would be tough this year; only 24 finalists. So I decided to practice a little bit. I was very unlucky when I finished 25th, but somebody was unable to go and now I am happy again.

[Klinck]

Yiming Li CHINA

At first, I didn't think I would advance to the finals, because 24 spots was too few for me. But after 2-3 rounds many high rated people were eliminated and I found that if I don't make a stupid mistake, I can advance. But stupid mistakes happened in round 4 and 5. Luckily, I still advanced to the final. Thanks for the hard problems.

I come from China. I like TopCoder competitions very much. I also like sports very much like pool, badminton, swimming etc – I'm losing weight these days and have lost over 10 kg in 2–3 months.

[liympanda]

Tianyu Lou CHINA

I come from China, a Master student at Beijing Jiaotong University. My favorite thing is formula car racing. During the TCO10, the first 4 rounds were very easy; just making the code correct is enough. And for me, in Round 5 I needed some luck. I was familiar with the types of 250pts and 500pts. Then I wrote the correct code. Very lucky.

[Louty]

Lucas Agustin Rearte ARGENTINA

[Lucasr]

I'm from Cordoba, Argentina and I'm finishing my studies at National University of Cordoba. I only need to write my thesis to become a Licenciado in Computer Science. I really like sports, especially soccer and table tennis and I play soccer with friends twice a week. After classifying for last year's Algorithm finals, I was very happy and didn't expect to repeat such a difficult achievement, but fortunately here I am. Most stressful part was online Round 5, where after being challenged on my 500 problem, I was so doubtful about whether or not to make a challenge that I couldn't focus on reading any other's code. In the end, not risking a challenge proved to be the correct strategy to advance to the semifinal.

Michal Danilak SLOVAKIA

[Mimino]

I am from Slovakia, but I study at Charles University in Prague, in Czech Republic, where I'm currently finishing my bachelor degree. I started programming when I was 15. In 2007 I have won the Slovak National Olympiad in Programming and also a silver medal at IOI. Since then programming is my biggest passion and TopCoder as well.Advancing in TCO10 has fulfilled my dream. I still remember the final Algorithm round, it was after a big party with only a few hours of sleep and when I opened the 250 problem, I couldn't make myself think about it. Then I somehow solved it and with the 500 problem solved too, I've ended on the 8th place. It was my biggest success in my programming career.

Jakub Wojtaszczyk POLAND

[Onufry]

I'm from Warsaw, Poland, and I've lived here most of my life. I'm a scout leader (for over 10 years now), an activity which makes me feel somehow useful to the world at large. Besides that, I'm in the process of switching workplaces from the University of Warsaw to Google, which is a rather large jump into adventure for me. As hobbies go, I'm pretty standard – I play the guitar, solve CS and math problems, I've played in an amateur soccer team (along with tomekkulczynski, dzwiedziu and several others) last year. Also, being a scout leader in the rover group (that is ages 16-25) I hike quite a lot.

Paul Jefferys UNITED KINGDOM

[PaulJeffreys]

TCO10 was a bit of a mission; I did round one of the algorithm contest in a room just off the hall at my cousin's wedding; round 2 was in the Lake District (a moderately hilly area of England) where it turned out that the house which we had arrived at a couple of hours earlier had some Wi-Fi; rounds 3 and 4 were relatively boring in the sense that I did them at home but I had to fix the router before I could do round 4; and round 5 I had just moved houses the day before & had no signal at my new place so I went to my girlfriend's to use her Wi-Fi but no one was home so in the end I had to find a Starbucks.

Petr Mitrichev RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Petr]

I'm a Software Engineer at Google Moscow. I love Moscow and have never lived anywhere else. I love playing soccer and watching soccer, and I've even been to an English Premier League game this summer!

For TCO10, this time most rounds were less nervous than usually for some reason. I was just carefully coding and then checking and re-checking my solutions. However, in the round where I've got just one problem solved, it was crazy.

Artem Rakhov RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[RAD.]

I am 18 years old. I am the third year student of Computer Science and IT department of Saratov State University, Russia. Main interest of my life is programming. So I participate in ACM, TopCoder, Codeforces and other programming contests. I've done this activity since I was 14 years old.

In 2008, I ranked third in All-Russian programming championship for High School students. This was the first TCO I could participate in. I have worked hard and I go strong in programming activities. That's why I am a finalist.

Makoto Soejima JAPAN

[rng_58]

I started programming about 4 years ago. I like problems that are hard to think but easy to implement. TopCoder problems are perfect for this purpose. I even wrote some problems for TopCoder recently. It's the first TCO for me (I was 17 years old at TCO 09), so I'm very excited. Experiences in math competitions may have helped me to be a finalist.

Stepan Gatilov RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[syg96]

I live in Novosibirsk (big city in the middle of Siberia). I study math/programming at university. My major hobby is programming: olympic, low level + asm + hacking, HPC. The other side of it is playing computer games. The second one is trumpet playing. I've played since childhood and enjoy it a lot. Neighbors do not argue yet.

Tomasz Kulczynski POLAND

I am a student at Warsaw University. I'm from Bydgoszcz, but currently I live in Warsaw most of the year. I've been competing in programming for something like 8 years, including 5 years with TopCoder. Apart from that, I like travelling and sports (I am on an amateur soccer team, do running and climbing).

[tomekkulczynski]

Vasyl Biletskyy UKRAINE

Actually, it was some kind of a surprise for me to make it to the finals and I am really happy with that; just five simple elimination rounds. I'm just an ordinary TopCoder guy. At the moment I'm working on my PhD in Lviv, Ukraine. My hobbies are basketball, tennis, swimming, racing, music, and of course visiting the TopCoder finals. I'm looking forward to see all of you guys there.

[Vasyl[alphacom]]

Witold Jarnicki POLAND

I'm a mathematician from Krakow. Computers were always a hobby. I enjoy playing badminton and old-style point-and-click adventure games. Currently, I'm working as a software engineer at Google. I barely made it through the fourth round of the TCO and I passed the fifth one because of a successful challenge (thanks, jh1).

[w_]

Yoichi Iwata JAPAN

I'm 4th year student of the University of Tokyo. When I was a freshman, I met my friend (iwi) and he induced me to the programming contest world. I participated in the Algorithm and Marathon events. This is the first time I can be a finalist for both. An algorithm match after the 24-hour marathon round is really hard work, but I'll do my best.

[wata]

FROM THE CREATORS OF TCO09

TWO SIDES.
ONE EPIC SHOWDOWN.

TOPCODER *ADMINS*

A [jmpld40]
Jessie D'Amato Ford

B [jwlms]
Jess Williams

C [silvasurfas]
Christina Hamlin

D [adroc]
Adam Morehead

E [mike]
Mike Lydon

F [lars2520]
Lars Backstrom

G [AdamSelene]
Greg Eldridge

H [thx1138]
Travis Haas

I [mystic_TC]
Ivan Miatselski

J [TonyJ]
Tony Jefts

K [t-mac]
Tim MacDonald

L [VolodymyrK]
Volodymyr Kachurovsyi

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