2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge
Official Rules and Regulations

No purchase necessary to enter or win.

Overview of the Tournament

The 2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge tournament will take place between February 19, 2002 and April 20, 2002. It will consist of three (3) online Regional rounds and two (2) onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds. The top 16 finishers in the Regional rounds will advance to the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds, being held at the University Park Hotel @ MIT in Cambridge, MA from April 19-20, 2002.

Eligibility

The tournament is open to the following members (i) who are at least 18 years of age, (ii) who have updated their member profile information and certified the accuracy of the information provided to TopCoder, AND (iii) who are matriculated full-time at an accredited US college or university (including accredited colleges or universities in the US territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands):

• All US* citizens
• All Lawful Permanent Residents of the US (i.e., Green Card Holders)
• All non-immigrants** currently residing in the US with a valid Visa

* Including the US territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands)
** Non-immigrants refer to people who come to the US, but not permanently (i.e., they are not permanent residents)

Verifying Eligibility

To officially declare eligibility for, and to be considered for invitation to, the tournament, each TopCoder member must update his/her member profile, and certify the accuracy of all information provided to TopCoder, by Thursday, February 14, 2002, at 11:00pm EST. Members will certify this via their member home page starting Monday, January 21, 2002. Employees of TopCoder, Inc. and Sun Microsystems, Inc., and those involved in the development, production (including prize suppliers), implementation and distribution of this tournament and their advertising or promotion agencies, parent companies, service providers, agents, officers, subsidiaries or affiliates, or any other persons or entities directly associated with the tournament and members of the immediate families and/or persons living in the same household as such persons, are ineligible to enter the tournament.

About the Tournament

Online Regional Rounds

The top 128 rated coders from each of (4) geographic regions (totaling 512 TopCoder members) as of February 14, 2002 who meet the eligibility criteria, will be invited via email to compete in the 2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge. TopCoder will verify your enrollment to ensure you are a full-time student attending an accredited college or university. The regions are defined by the location of the participant's college and are as follows:

Northeast	Southeast	West	Midwest
CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT	AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, Puerto Rico, SC, TN, US Virgin Islands, WV	AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, KS, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, WY, Guam	AR, IA, IL, IN, LA, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI

Every competitor who is invited to compete in an online Regional round must log on to the TopCoder Competition Arena no later than ten minutes prior to the start of the online Regional round. (See below for competition dates and times.) TopCoder members from all over the country may be participating in these rounds, *but all start times will be communicated as Eastern Standard Time, so contestants in different time zones must adjust accordingly.* If a coder does not participate, for any reason, in an online Regional round that they have advanced to, it will be treated as an automatic loss in that round of competition. All competitors who have qualified for an online Regional round will be assigned to a specific room. TopCoder will determine all room assignments prior to the start of each online Regional round, in a manner such that the average competitor rating (as of February 14, 2002) for each room will be similar. The dates and times of the online Regional rounds of competition are further described below, and are as follows:

Round of Competition	Date and Time
Regional Quarter-Finals	
• Northeast	Tues., Feb. 19, 2002 at 8:00pm EST Rain date: Tues., Feb. 26 at 8:00pm EST
• Southeast	Tues., Feb. 19, 2002 at 8:00pm EST Rain date: Tues., Feb. 26 at 8:00pm EST
• West	Thurs., Feb. 21, 2002 at 10:00pm EST Rain date: Thurs., Feb. 28 at 10:00pm EST
• Midwest	Thurs., Feb. 21, 2002 at 10:00pm EST Rain date: Thurs., Feb. 28 at 10:00pm EST

Scoring and Advancing during Online Regional Rounds

After each round of competition, the winners from each of the assigned rooms will be identified and invited to compete at the next level of competition. Coder advancement in all rounds is determined by comparing the total point values from all three phases of the round (see Competition Round Structure) for each coder. In order to advance, a coder must finish with a greater-than-zero point total. The winners will be determined as follows:

Online Regional Quarter-Final
- Up to 128 coders per region (totaling 512) will compete - 32 coders per region (totaling 128) will advance

- The winners of each room will automatically advance (automatic berth) (up to 16)

- The remaining spots (wildcard pool) (32 minus the total number of room winners) will be handed out based on total points across all rooms in the region

Online Regional Semifinal
- 32 coders per region (totaling 128) will compete - 8 coders per region (totaling 32) will advance

- The winners of each room will automatically advance (4)

- A wildcard pool will be used to determine the remainder of the advancers in each region. The remaining spots (4) will be handed out based on total points across all rooms in the region.

Online Regional Final
- 8 coders per region (totaling 32) will compete

- The winners of each region (4) will be crowned Regional Champions, will win $5,000 each, and will automatically advance to the onsite Semifinal round. (NOTE: All Regional Champions must participate in the onsite Semifinal rounds to receive the Regional Championship prize and any other prize won in the Semifinal and Championship rounds.)

- The remaining spots (12) to advance to the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds will be handed out based on total points across all rooms (regardless of region)

- In order to advance, a coder must finish with a greater-than-zero point total. If a room has no contestants who have more than zero points, the automatic berth for that room will be placed into the regional wildcard pool. Any tie in points for an automatic berth in a room or for the last spot of the wildcard pool will be resolved in the following manner:

  o Total points acquired (higher is better) during the rounds of the tournament in which all of the tied participants were presented with the same set of problems
  o If a tie still remains, then by rating (higher is better) as of February 14, 2002
  o If a tie still remains, all tied coders will advance to the next round

Competition Round Structure

Each online and onsite round of competition consists of three phases: the Coding phase, Challenge phase, and System Testing phase. (Note: the format of these competition rounds is similar to the format of the Single Round Matches.)

- The Coding Phase is a timed event where all contestants are presented with the same three questions representing three levels of complexity and, accordingly, three levels of point earnings potential. Points for a problem are awarded upon submission of any solution that successfully compiles and are based on the total time that the problem was open before it was submitted.

- The Challenge Phase is a timed event wherein each competitor has a chance to challenge the functionality of other competitors' code. A successful challenge will result in a loss of the original problem submission points by the defendant, and a 50 point reward for the challenger; unsuccessful challengers will incur a point reduction of 50 points as a penalty, applied against their total score in that round of competition.

- The System Testing Phase is applied to all submitted code that has not already been successfully challenged. If TopCoder finds code that is flawed, the author of that code submission will lose all of the points that were originally earned for that code submission. The automated tester will apply a set of inputs, expecting the output from the code submission to be correct. If the output from a coder's submission does not match the expected output, the submission is considered flawed. The same set of input/output test cases will be applied to all code submissions for a given problem. All successful challenges from the Challenge Phase will be converted into sets of inputs for the System Testing Phase.

Onsite Semifinal and Championship Rounds

The sixteen (16) advancers from the online Regional rounds will participate in the Semifinal rounds of the 2002 Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge being held on April 19th, 2002. Each contestant and one (1) guest of his/her choice will travel to the onsite competition to be held in Cambridge, MA. All contestants must arrive at the University Park Hotel @ MIT in Cambridge, MA no later than 4:00pm EST on Thursday, April 18, 2002.

TopCoder will determine the room assignments for the Semifinal rooms prior to the start of each Semifinal round, in a manner such that the average competitor rating (as of February 14, 2002) for each room will be similar. All those who compete in the Semifinal and Championship rounds will be competing for a range of prizes up to and including the Grand Prize. If a contestant is unable to attend the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds, he/she will forfeit his/her eligibility to receive a prize, and his/her spot in the competition will be given to the next highest overall scorer from the final online Regional round. The dates and times of the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds are as follows:

Round of Competition	Date and Time
Semifinal Room #1	April 19, 2002 @ 8:00am EST
Semifinal Room #2	April 19, 2002 @ 11:00am EST
Semifinal Room #3	April 19, 2002 @ 3:00pm EST
Semifinal Room #4	April 19, 2002 @ 6:00pm EST
Championship Round	**April 20, 2002 @ 1:00pm EST**

In the Semifinal Round, each competitor will compete in one of four (4) rooms of four (4) coders each. The winner in each room will advance to the Championship round.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the structure of the tournament, the coders competing in Semifinal Room #2 may be sequestered for the duration of the Semifinal Room #1 competition, and coders competing in Semifinal Room #4 may be sequestered for the duration of the Semifinal Room #3 competition. Therefore, the coders seeded in Semifinal Room #2 may be required to be at the University Park Hotel prior to the start of the Semifinal Room #1 competition, and coders seeded in the Semifinal Room #4 competition may be required to be at the University Park Hotel prior to the start of the Semifinal Room #3 competition. If the competitor is not present when required, he/she will be disqualified and will not be allowed to compete. More details regarding sequestering will be provided to the 16 semifinalists when those competitors are identified.

The Championship Round will be a single match of four (4) coders. The winner of this round will be crowned the Sun Microsystems and TopCoder Collegiate Challenge Champion and will be awarded the tournament Grand Prize.

First, second, third and fourth place in the Championship round are determined by comparing the total points of each coder, with the highest point value placing first. The winner of the Championship Round will be the coder with the highest point total for the round. In the event of a tie in the Semifinal and/or Championship rounds, the tie will be resolved in the following manner (in order):

- Total points acquired (higher is better) in the 2002 Collegiate Challenge to date
- If a tie still remains, then by rating (higher is better) as of February 14, 2002

About the Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to the sixteen (16) semifinalists who advance to the onsite Semifinal and Championship round portion of the tournament. To advance to the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds, contestants must first successfully compete in the online Regional rounds. TopCoder will pay for reasonable transportation and accommodation costs for each contestant competing in the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds in Cambridge, MA, and a guest of his/her choice. A contestant must be present, in person, at the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds in order to advance or to receive any prizes. Prizes are structured as follows:

Online Regional Final Round: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 (8 coders per region compete in 1 room). The winner of the room (the "Regional Champion") wins the following:

- $5,000 **
- Automatic bid to the onsite Semifinal round

NOTE: All Regional Champions must participate in the onsite Semifinal rounds to receive the Regional Championship prize and any other prize won in the Semifinal and Championship rounds.

Onsite Semifinal Rounds: Friday, April 19, 2002 (16 coders compete - 4 advance). The 16 Semifinalists will be split into 4 rooms. The winner of each room advances to the Championship round. The 12 non-advancing semifinalists will win $1,000** each.

Onsite Championship Round: Saturday, April 20, 2002 (4 coders compete - 1 wins). Within the final group of 4:
- 4th place prize - $5,000**
- 3rd place prize - $8,000**
- 2nd place prize - $25,000**
- Grand Prize (1st place) wins $100,000**

** All prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the final onsite round of competition. All winners must be present at the onsite rounds to receive their prizes. Any and all applicable taxes on prizes, including the cost of having a guest attend the onsite rounds, are the sole responsibility of the prizewinner.

Conditions of Participation

By participating in the tournament, you agree to be bound by these rules and to all decisions of TopCoder, which are final, binding and conclusive in all matters.

Contestants must not cheat. All ideas for any code and/or challenge submitted must be the contestant's alone.

Winners in each round of competition will be those competitors who win the most points in their respective rooms. All decisions relating to the viability of submissions, the ranking of submissions and all other matters pertaining to the tournament shall be within the sole discretion of TopCoder or its designee and shall be final and binding in all respects.

Prizewinners will be notified via e-mail and the U.S. Postal Service within 10 days of the completion of the online Regional Final round that they have won a prize. They will also be forwarded an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability and Publicity Release to be completed and returned to TopCoder prior to advancing to the onsite Semifinal and Championship rounds. Prizes will be presented within 60 days of making an eligibility determination. Unclaimed or undeliverable prizes will not be awarded.

As a condition of participation in the tournament, ALL information provided by you in your TopCoder member profile must be comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date. TopCoder may require you to complete an additional registration form to register for the tournament.

In order to be eligible to participate in the tournament, you must have updated your member profile, and certified the accuracy of the information provided to TopCoder at http://www.topcoder.com by Thursday, February 14, 2002 at 11:00pm EST. Furthermore, you must have completed any and all registration forms required by TopCoder.

As a condition of winning and redeeming a prize, winners will be required to return within 10 days of receipt a completed (i) Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability and Publicity Release, and (ii) IRS Form W-9 or W-8BEN, as appropriate. In completing the Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability and Publicity Release, a winner (i) confirms his/her eligibility, (ii) represents and warrants that he/she has not cheated; that the idea for the code and/or challenge submitted is his/hers alone, (iii) verifies the accuracy of the demographic information submitted, (iv) authorizes TopCoder to publicize the tournament's results, (v) agrees to sign any applicable

forms required by tax authorities, (vi) licenses to TopCoder rights to all information submitted during the tournament (including rights to source code and other executables), and (vii) releases TopCoder from liability arising out of any prize won. The Form W-9 or W-8BEN is required by the IRS for tax reporting purposes. If prize notification is returned as undeliverable, or the winner fails to return the Affidavit, or the W-9 or W-8BEN, as specified, the winner will be disqualified and the prize money won by the disqualified winner will be forfeited. Providing false information in the registration process or in the required forms described in this paragraph will disqualify a winner.

By participating in a tournament and redeeming a prize, a winner releases and agrees to hold harmless TopCoder, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, sponsors (including Sun Microsystems, Inc.), and prize suppliers, and all of their respective directors, officers, employees, representatives and agents, from and against any and all liability for any loss, property damage or damage to person, including without limitation, death and injury, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from or arising out of participation in this tournament, or participation in any tournament-related activity, or the receipt, use or misuse of a prize. TopCoder specifically disclaims all liability associated with, and makes no warranties with regard to, any prize given.

In addition, all prizewinners agree to cooperate with TopCoder's publicity efforts, without further compensation. This includes the agreement to use their name, address (city and state) and likeness for publicity purposes, where legal, for this or similar future tournaments, and to use the statements made by, or attributed to, the winners relating to TopCoder and any and all rights to said use, without further compensation.

TopCoder reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revoke any and all privileges associated with competing in this tournament, and to take any other action it deems appropriate, for no reason or any reason whatsoever, including if TopCoder suspects competitors of cheating, tampering with the entry process, the operation of the Web site, or the tournament process, or otherwise being in violation of the rules. TopCoder reserves the right to cancel, terminate or modify the tournament if it is not capable of completion as planned for any reason, including infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention or technical failures of any sort.

Other
The tournament is void in whole or in part where prohibited by law.

A list of tournament winners by coder handles will be available on the web site at http://www.topcoder.com/, and will be displayed for at least 3 months after the end of the tournament.

This tournament is brought to you by Sun Microsystems, Inc. (http://www.sun.com/) 901 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303 and TopCoder, Inc. (http://www.topcoder.com/) 703 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, CT 06033.