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## Welcome Message

Dear Finalists, Sponsors, Event Patrons, and Attendees,

Welcome to the 2009 TopCoder Open! We couldn't be happier to be at The Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada for the third consecutive year. They have outdone themselves in support of this event this year. We are thrilled about the all new TCO and are delighted with its success so far. With nine competition tracks featured and one new onsite track, the Mod Dash, the TopCoder community has really stepped up. Registration numbers for the event were at an all time high and we hope each competitor that took on a new competition track enjoyed it, learned something fresh, and will continue their efforts going forward.

I must first thank our event partners for helping us put on this tournament. NSA has been a long time event patron for TopCoder tournaments and we value our partnership. I would also like to thank our new sponsors, IEEE-USA, SNIA-XAM and Facebook. Each of these organizations has a lot to offer our members and we hope the community takes full advantage.

As always, the TCO is nothing without our members. I'm simply blown away by how the community has evolved over the years. Not in my dreams could I have anticipated the sense of community that has grown around TopCoder. Thanks to each of you. By way of hard work and dedication, we have a skilled and elite group onsite representing the larger world-wide community of TopCoder. You will see much of their handiwork here.

Finally I want to thank the TopCoder staff who persevered through many obstacles to make this event the success it is today. My sincere gratitude goes out to each and every one of them.

Enjoy the TCO, Las Vegas, and best of luck to all the competitors!

Jack Hughes, Founder

# IEEE-USA Congratulates the 2009 TopCoder open Finalists and all Participants



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## Table of Contents

Welcome Message	Page 1
Schedule of Events	Page 4-5
<b>Online Competitions</b>	Page 6-7
Architecture Finalists	Page 8-9
Assembly Finalists	Page 9-10
Component Design Finalists	Page 11-13
Component Development Finalists	Page 13-15
Specification Finalists	Page 16
AOL/TopCoder Sensations Developer Challenge	Page 18-19
<b>Algorithm Competition</b>	
What Are We Watching?	Page 20
Bracket	Page 21
Finalists	Page 22-26
<b>Marathon Competition</b>	
What Are We Watching?	Page 27
Bracket	Page 28
Finalists	Page 29-31
<b>Mod Dash Competition</b>	
What Are We Watching?	Page 32
Bracket	Page 33
Finalists	Page 34-35
<b>Studio Design Competition</b>	
What Are We Watching?	Page 36
Bracket	Page 37
Finalists	Page 38-40
TopCoder Admins	Page 41

# Tournament Schedule

MONDAY - TUESDAY

## Monday, June 1, 2009

8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Grand Ballroom A
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## Tuesday, June 2, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom F
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Marathon Finals	Grand Ballroom A
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mod Dash Round 1	Grand Ballroom A
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Grand Ballroom F
12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Studio Finals 1	Grand Ballroom A
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Innovating Technical Writing Through Competitions Round Table	Grand Ballroom G
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Specification and Conceptualization Round Table	Grand Ballroom G
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Architecture and Assembly Round Table	Grand Ballroom G
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner and IEEE-USA Presentation	Grand Ballroom F
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Competitor Game Room and Poker Tournament	Grand Ballroom F

# Tournament Schedule

WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

## Wednesday, June 3, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom F
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Studio Finals 2	Grand Ballroom A
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mod Dash Round 2	Grand Ballroom A
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Grand Ballroom F
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Components Round Table	Grand Ballroom G
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	AOL/TopCoder Sensations Developer Challenge Forum	Grand Ballroom G
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Algorithm Semifinal	Grand Ballroom A
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Facebook Feed and Tech Talk	Grand Ballroom F

## Thursday, June 4, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom F
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Mod Dash Round 3	Grand Ballroom A
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	TopCoder Q & A, Featuring Jack Hughes, Founder, and TopCoder staff	Grand Ballroom G
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Grand Ballroom F
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Algorithm Finals	Grand Ballroom A
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS	Grand Ballroom A
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Closing Reception	Grand Ballroom F



# 2009 Online Champions

## ARCHITECTURE

This is the first year architecture competitions have been incorporated in the TopCoder Open. Architecture competitions decompose large systems into modules, modules into components, and provide a detailed technical plan to implement the system. Member Architects draft the blueprint for the production of our client's applications – from user interface technology to database schema, the architect maps the system out for later competition. Architects produce design specifications, and create diagrams detailing interfaces, sequences and entities that drive our software production process. Reviewers perform an in-depth evaluation of how well the architect's plan meets the client's needs, and the soundness of the technical design.

Three strong competitors posted the maximum placement score of 50 points, taking the competition to a tiebreaker based on the review scores. argolite secured second place over Ghostar by a margin of only 0.7 points, coming in at 93.86, including the highest individual competition score amongst the top three with 99.13. That high score couldn't stop first place - Standlove stood head and shoulders over the rest with an average review score of 98.19.

**Congratulations to Standlove, our 2009 TopCoder Open Architecture Champion!**

## ASSEMBLY

While architecture plans and divides the work necessary to implement a system, assembly brings all the pieces together. Assemblers combine components and glue code to create the applications produced for our clients. Their deliverables include the final code base for the application, deployment and configuration guides, and any other initialization and build scripts necessary to construct the system. Reviewers test and inspect the submitted material to ensure that the system performs as required, and that the code is correct and well-written.

This year's assembly track proved to be our tightest competition ever! Eight competitors reached the maximum placement score, and only two tiebreaker points separated first and sixth place. Everyone in the top six had at least one perfect review score, but our champion turned in five perfect submissions! Focusing in on smaller, TopCoder related assemblies seemed to be the strategy for pulky, including work on the site for the TopCoder Open itself.

**Congratulations to pulky, our 2009 TopCoder Open Assembly Champion!**

## COMPONENT DESIGN

Component Design begins with a brief outline of the requirements for an independent piece of code. From there, designers produce a set of documentation that clearly defines how these requirements are to be fulfilled by the component developer. The deliverables include UML diagrams detailing the use cases, the component classes and methods, and the sequences for every complex use case. In addition, the designers provide class and method level documentation and a component specification document. Reviewers verify that the design is feasible, that it meets the requirements, and that it contains all documentation necessary to be developed.

The top ten designers were an interesting mix this year, bringing some fresh faces into the running. Defending 2008 champion Pops came in seventh, and former TCCC champion nicka81 came in second. Gevak, a strong algorithm competitor, made a very strong first run at the Design title, placing third with 44 points. Placing first with the maximum score of 50 was saarixx, for his first TCO title! Saarixx made an incredibly strong showing, averaging a near perfect 99.25 in his reviews.

**Congratulations to saarixx, our 2009 TopCoder Open Design Champion!**

## COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

The Component Development track takes the output of a Component Design competition and produces a working implementation of the design. In addition, the development competitor delivers a full suite of unit tests and thorough class and method level documentation for the code. Reviewers write their own test suites and review the code to ensure that the implementation follows the design and that it meets all of the original requirements.

The 2009 TopCoder Open was the year of the newcomers for the Development track. The top ten included former champions hefeng and romanoTC, and past finalist Orange\_Cloud. However, the rest of group were first time finalists, including all of the top three: assistant, Hacker\_QC, and myxgyy! Competition was fierce – Web Notes Section 1.0 included five of our top ten developers! The top three turned in impressive performances with high average review scores, but our champion turned in the maximum placement score of 50 for the win!

**Congratulations to assistant, our 2009 TopCoder Open Development Champion!**

## SPECIFICATION

The Specification track covers two competitions: Conceptualization and Specification. Both competitions elicit and document requirements from our clients. Using our collaboration forums, members and client stakeholders discuss the core business issues and features that new systems must incorporate. Conceptualization brings members and clients together to explore and document new ideas. Clients fill out a questionnaire that identifies the basic goals and describes the scope for the system. Members delve into these ideas and create a Business Requirements Document (BRD). Each member submits a detailed process map, enterprise context, and core use cases for the new system. The member's BRD presents their individual take on the system and the business case for building it. Clients screen submissions to identify valid and invalid business elements, and member reviewers perform a detailed review to select a winner. Specification competitions dive into the detailed requirements for a smaller piece of the system described in the conceptualization – producing an Application Requirements Specification which covers the detailed use cases for the system.

Specification was another amazingly close race for the championship. Our top two competitors showed incredible stamina and talent – MiG-29 made 30 submissions during the tournament, and AleaActaEst made 27! Together, they turned in more submissions than the architecture winners combined! Both easily achieved the maximum placement score of 50 points, but AleaActaEst, a regular finalist at the TopCoder Open, seized his first championship by 1.7 points! That's an average review difference of only 0.3 points!

**Congratulations to AleaActaEst, our 2009 TopCoder Open Specification Champion!**



**Piotr  
Paweska**  
[AleaActaEst]  
Canada

"This year I had no real plans to compete," says AleaActaEst, "So I did a bit of everything... as it turns out I qualified both in Specification and Architecture track... which is cool." Born in Poland and raised around the world, AleaActaEst now lives in Canada. He says the most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas is, "Meeting all the TopCoder members that I have not met in person before... and meeting the TopCoder staff who make all this happen."



**Michael  
Paweska**  
[argolite]  
Canada

A full time competitor for TopCoder, argolite hails from Toronto, Canada. He can speak English, Polish and a bit of Spanish and he hopes to learn more in the future. He is most excited about going to Las Vegas to meet all the TopCoder Project Managers and other competitors.



**GuanZhuo  
Jin**  
[Standlove]  
China

A freelancer who works full time for TopCoder, Standlove hails from China. Standlove can speak two languages; Chinese and English. He says he is not quite good at English and likes Chinese better as he can see the beauty in this language. About Las Vegas, Standlove says, "The only thing I know about Las Vegas is gambling, but it's not the thing I like. However, going to Las Vegas is a new experience to me, the 'NEW' itself is exciting enough."



**Stepan  
Bedratiuk**  
[the\_best]  
Ukraine

This is the first trip to the USA for the\_best and he is looking forward to meeting many people in real life and maybe playing in the casino. About the TCO, the\_best says, "I took sixth place on Architecture competition. This is new competition for TC and there are not many guys competing in it. So it wasn't very difficult to be in Top 6. I just submitted 5 projects."



**Justin  
Gasper**  
[Ghostar]  
United States

Ghostar says this about his trail to the TCO finals, "I got to the TCO onsite event by participating in architecture competitions, both system and module architecture. The system architectures were new, and I was wary of trying them at first, but I ended up winning 4. I wish I had tried them out a bit earlier." Ghostar is most excited about going to Las Vegas for the food. "There are so many different choices of restaurants, from fast food, to gourmet, it's overwhelming. My wife and I are definitely looking forward to going to Rosemary's again."



**Lucian  
Viorel Baci**  
[saevio]  
Romania

From Cluj, Romania, saevio has two TopCoder shirts his favorite is the one with Thomas Edison's quote on it. "Wise words," says saevio. "I was very interested in the architecture competitions since they were launched on TopCoder. I started competing in these competitions right from the start and throughout the TCO and this got me to the TCO."



**Acton  
Wang**  
[BeBetter]  
China

"I have been waiting for this event. I thought the TCO09 Assembly Competition would attract less people so I decided to participate in it. It turns out it was probably the most difficult one if you look at the end result because a lot of assemblies were given. I hope that I could be better next year," says BeBetter from China who is looking forward to Las Vegas to meet and talk other peers."



**Zheng  
Zhang**  
[oldbig]  
China

From China, oldbig says, "I really didn't have much time for the TCO, since I had job to do. I picked up some easy assemblies and I feel very lucky that I advanced." Having more than ten TopCoder shirts, oldbig says the TCCC04 one is his favorite."



**Ninghai Huang**

[PE]

China

PE is from the Jiangsu Province in China and attends Zhejiang University. He can speak three languages: Chinese(Putonghua), Chinese(Dialect) and English. Chinese(Putonghua) is his favorite because all Chinese speak it. Right now, PE is not working so he has full time be competing on TopCoder and that is how he did so well winning a trip as a Mod Dash Finalist and as an Assembly winner.



**Jess Muhi**

[pinoydream]

Philippines

"This is my first time to go to the United States so everything about this trip is exciting but most of all I would be able to meet the people behind TopCoder as well as my fellow competitors," says pinoydream. His most embarrassing moment was submitting an unfinished component wishing it would pass review. Obviously he failed the review.



**Michael Paweska**

[argolite]

Canada

Winning spots as an Architecture Finalist, Design Finalist and numerous Digital Run trips, argolite says, "I was not sure how to approach the competition. I have been working on competitions straight since September, and felt fatigued by the time the competition started, so I was not sure if competing was useful here. But I tried it in two tracks - design and architecture. I got 4th place in design, and should place high in the architecture. As such I will qualify on both tracks."



**Bramandia Ramadhana**

[bramandia]

Indonesia

"I started doing component design since end of 2006 and I always love it. I was the design finalist of TCCC07 and I was hoping to repeat it on TCO09. I believe I was lucky this time since there weren't many components posted. That requires a different strategy. When I was in 9th position, I was worried if there would be more components posted which could change the standing. But there weren't. Finally, I am happy that I can make it!" said bramandia about the TCO09.



**Pablo Wolfus**

[pulky]

Argentina

From Argentina, pulky says, "I've only competed in the Assembly track. I've done mostly projects for TopCoder's internal applications. It has been very stressful because I always knew the competition would be very tight, so it was crucial not only to win but also get a very high score. I've probably spent the twice the time I'd normally spent in each project, testing and reviewing the code and documentation again and again." Everything about Las Vegas is exciting, pulky says.



**Evgeniy Retyunskiy**

[retunsky]

Russian Federation

"I can speak Russian (which is my native) and English. Nothing can replace my native language, but English opens a door for me to another culture and gives me the ability to speak to people from other countries. So they are different and I love both," says retunsky from Russia. He is excited to go to Las Vegas to meet people from TopCoder and visit the famous Las Vegas!



**Emanuele Caruso**

[caru]

Italy

If caru could have any gift branded with the TopCoder logo he would want a breakfast cup, "So I can remember I am a TopCoder when I wake up," he says. From Codogno, Lodi, Italy, caru is most excited about going to Las Vegas to compete in the poker tournament. He made it to the TCO by trying to submit five design components which he did and ended up placing 5th.



**Alexey Zhevak**

[gevak]

Russian Federation

From Ufa, Russia and an employee for CNXN, Inc., gevak says, "I spent 50 hours per component plus the nervous appeals phases. Luck smiled upon me for the first and last components, when rivals with 100% reliability didn't make a submission." Out of the 14 TopCoder t-shirts gevak has, his favorite is from the TCO03 with the world map and finalist's handles.





**Radu  
Ioanitescu**

[Indemar]

Romania

From Bucharest, Romania, Indemar says his most embarrassing TopCoder moments were his first two years of designs. "I forgot to submit a design once," he said. "There was some error and I just closed the browser thinking everything was ok and then when I logged in to see if the reviews were ready... surprise." The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas for Indemar is Las Vegas. He heard that the casinos are truly impressive; and of course, the algorithm finals.



**Marian  
Furdui**

[Mafy]

Romania

"I did not plan to be on the finalists list at the beginning of the TCO 09 because I expected more high rated designers involved. After submitting three Java components, it turned out that it was enough to be on the top ten, and now I enjoy it!" says Mafy. Hailing from a small village from the Alba region of Romania called Sohodol, Mafy is excited to go to Las Vegas to meet other TopCoder members and staff. He is also excited to see the city.



**Olexiy  
Sadovnikov**

[saarixx]

Ukraine

As for his road to his TCO09 Design Championship, saarixx says, "The last two years I competed in the TCO Marathon Competitions with varied success (In 2008 I failed in the last online round and didn't get to the finals). This year I decided to compete in the Design track of TCO. And luckily for me, 5 of 6 of my design submissions became winning ones and got quite high scores. Thus I actually won the TCO after only two weeks of competing. These two weeks were really fortunate for me." He goes on, "It won't be my first visit to Las Vegas (thanks to TopCoder), thus I'd like to see some new fascinating shows and meet interesting people there."



**GuanZhuo  
Jin**

[Standlove]

China

A freelancer who works full time for TopCoder, Standlove hails from China. Standlove can speak two languages; Chinese and English. He says he is not quite good at English and likes Chinese better as he can see the beauty in this language. About Las Vegas, Standlove says, "The only thing I know about Las Vegas is gambling, but it's not the thing I like. However, going to Las Vegas is a new experience to me, the 'NEW' itself is exciting enough."



**Nikolay  
Archak**

[nicka81]

China

As for embarrassing moments, "I advanced to the Algorithm Finals in TopCoder Open 2005 but did not solve any problem (not even the easy) during the final round. That was very embarrassing although I also won the design competition in the same event." If nicka81 could get any gift branded with the TopCoder logo, he wants a big bag full of cash with the TopCoder logo. His road to the TCO09 finals went well as nicka81 got second place in the TCO design competition. This year, he noted, it was definitely not easy due to an impressive performance by all other competitors.



**Tim  
Roberts**

[Pops]

United States

"This year was very different from prior years - more tracks, different format and a lot less opportunities," says Pops from Cary, North Carolina. "This year my time was more cramped than ever (making this year's format extremely difficult for me) and I tried to pick less popular projects. Unfortunately those turned into long projects (and very late nights) that consumed even more of my time - so I wasn't much of a competitor this year. My kudos goes to saarixx for putting in the time and effort for his fabulous scores - a well deserved win in such a difficult year."



**Yanbo  
Wu**

[assistant]

China

From China but studying at the University of Adelaide, assistant says, "I had really good luck to get to the top of the list - liuliquan didn't register for the TCO for the component he beat me. And I had a good strategy to choose components - only choose those hard ones so less people would submit. But the downside of this strategy is that I had to spend more time than my competitors. Anyway, I managed to perform my strategy perfectly and won all the components I registered for, got 50 within 3 weeks and left 3 weeks watching others competing. That was a pretty enjoyable moment."



**Ke  
Wu**

[EveningSun]

China

From SouthEast University in China, EveningSun is from Nanjing City in the JiangSu Province of China. He can speak English and Chinese and prefers Chinese. EveningSun thinks TopCoder is interesting and can learn a lot from all the competitions.





**Chao  
Qin**

[Hacker\_QC]

China

"The TCO09 competition was terrific," said Hacker\_QC. "Two years ago, I attended Apple WWDC 2006 at San Francisco with the assistance of my university. I was impressed by the land-view and academic environment there. On the returning plane, I told myself that I would come back one day. Now I'm happy that I've fulfilled my word. The most exciting thing is that going to Las Vegas proved that I can go anywhere in the world with my hard work. This is really beyond my wildest dream! If you check my profile, you can see I'm an ordinary guy with just a green color in both algorithm and development. But, just as Barack Obama said, 'Ordinary people can do extraordinary things'."



**Feng  
He**

[hefeng]

China

As a freelancer from China, hefeng is looking forward to the TCO09 to attend the great event and meet the top guys. As for his road to the TCO finals, he says, "Oh, I haven't competed in development for a long time, so it really took me some time to get familiar with it again." hefeng has a lot of TopCoder t-shirts but his favorite is the black TCO07 one.



**Yuxiang  
Meng**

[myxggy]

China

From China, myxggy is excited to go to Las Vegas as it will be his first trip to Las Vegas and America. As for his most embarrassing moment at TopCoder, that would have to be getting third place in the TCO09 when he thought he could have gotten second place. As for his trek at becoming a TCO finalist, he says, "I got 2 first places and 3 second places. It is to be regretted that I lost the first place for Examination Manager and FEPS Explorer Reports Generator components."



**Nikita  
Rybak**

[Orange\_Cloud]

Russian Federation

"You know you're TopCoder when... TCO questionnaire asks you 'How many languages can you speak' and your first thought is about programming languages. But if you're talking about conventional, old-fashioned languages, I can speak Russian and English fairly well. I'm also learning Portuguese right now, so it's my favorite. Like a new baby, it gets all love," says Orange\_Cloud.



**Guang  
Yang**

[iKnown]

China

From Shanghai and Tongji University, this is iKnown's first time to come to the USA. "I feel really excited that I can have the opportunity to see so many brilliant guys in person," he says. He also hopes to get his first TopCoder t-shirt at the onsite event and thinks anything with the TopCoder logo is cool.



**Zhijie  
Liu**

[morehappiness]

China

"Well, first of all, I should thank TopCoder for giving me a great chance to challenge and show myself. So excited! I remember the hard time I had writing the primary part of the components. It really seemed that I can NOT solve the problems. But I had to think it over; otherwise, I will lose it definitely. After carefully thinking, the problems do NOT exist any more. It's truly another exciting moment! After each competition, I learned a lot, especially from the reviewers. I will do my best to be a good developer. And I will get to Las Vegas by plane to meet the greatest designers and developers."



**Romano  
Silva**

[romanoTC]

Brazil

"I competed in component development," says romanoTC from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While doing my full time job and having 3 kids, it is a bit (just a bit) difficult to find time to compete, but I was lucky to choose my competitions. I chose the ones I thought fewer developers would submit. The last one, I ended up submitting alone." This year, romanoTC hopes to ride all of Stratosphere's toys in Las Vegas.



**Sebastian  
Dragomir**

[velorien]

Romania

From Bucharest, Romania, velorien says this about his TCO trek so far, "To tell you the truth, I messed up in the beginning of the competition. I had forgotten to actually register for TCO before registering for a component competition and lost some points. I was upset over missing something so obvious, but I managed to quickly recover and end up in the top 10. Overall it was a nice challenge, and am looking forward to competing next year as well." He is excited for Las Vegas to see all the sights, meet the other competitors, and let's not forget travel by plane; it's a first for velorien.



**Piotr  
Paweska**

[AleaActaEst]

Canada

"This year I had no real plans to compete," says AleaActaEst, "So I did a bit of everything... as it turns out I qualified both in Specification and Architecture track... which is cool." Born in Poland and raised around the world, AleaActaEst now lives in Canada. He says the most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas is, "Meeting all the TopCoder members that I have not met in person before... and meeting the TopCoder staff who make all this happen."



**Sergey  
Andreev**

[MiG-29]

Russian Federation

MiG-29 is from St. Petersburg working as a freelancer. About the TCO09 he says, "It was a difficult competition - the Specification track was for about 2 months. We saw many tough contests and professional competitors as well. It started with 6 AOL SDC concepts, posted at the same time for a very short schedule. Next, the specifications for those competitions and more and more - about 20 contests I was involved in. Some pure luck, constant submitting in most concepts/specs and I am going to the TCO'09 onsite."

## 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](http://www.topcoder.com/dr).

### Design Trip Winners:

[ AleaActaEst ]  
[ argolite ]  
[ DanLazar ]  
[ dmks ]  
[ fabrizyo ]  
[ humblefool ]  
[ MiG-29 ]  
[ saarixx ]  
[ Standlove ]

### Development Trip Winners:

[ BeBetter ]  
[ elkhawajah ]  
[ j3\_guile ]  
[ liuliquan ]  
[ moavenat ]  
[ moon.river ]  
[ moonli ]  
[ PE ]  
[ shen75 ]  
[ waits ]  
[ Yeung ]

### Studio Design Trip Winners:

[ bohuss ]  
[ googlesmkm ]  
[ JGeeks ]  
[ leben ]  
[ RatsOnParade ]





# AOL / TopCoder Sensations Developer Challenge

## Q SENSATIONS OVERVIEW

The AOL / TopCoder Sensations Developer Challenge is both software development and graphics design competitions crowdsourced through the TopCoder Platform. This year's focus is centered entirely on web accessibility. From around the globe, TopCoder Members with varying skill-set and disciplines worked with the leading accessibility advisors to design and build two highly anticipated web applications for the accessibility community, all through competition.

Global competition kicked-off late January and carried through early June with both applications making their first debut here at the 2009 TopCoder Open in Las Vegas, Nevada. The competitions ranged from initial Idea generation (Ideation) to complete application assembly and deployment.

Members competed for top placement and prizes to be the few awarded a trip to the TCO09 and to be a part of TopCoder's first crowdsourced web accessibility challenge. Two products came out of Ideation and were injected into the TopCoder Platform for creative design and software development My Parents E-mail Client and Accessible Walking Directions.



## ACCESSIBLE WALKING DIRECTIONS

Individuals who are visually impaired or blind have little to no web mapping options available to them today. It's terribly difficult for members of this community to find points of interest let alone usable directions on the internet. The concept of using a map for those who are sight enabled seems almost second nature. For those who are sight impaired, tools like this are of little value. Solving for this need is a perfect example of how the TopCoder methodology can bring light to an underserved community.

The Accessible Walking Directions is a full functioning web application that's been accessibility focused and enhanced. The idea resulted from Ideation. It was then followed by a storyboard competition that organized how the information would best be laid-out and used by screen reader applications.

The storyboards then moved into prototyping which allowed for AOL and its advisors to test the layout meanwhile the technical specification, architecture and component development (truly the guts of the application) where worked on simultaneously. As both Prototype and Component production ended they merged in one of the final steps called assembly. All of which were driven through crowdsourcing and competition.



## MY PARENTS E-MAIL CLIENT

Managing e-mail can be challenge all on its own even more so for those who have not grown up with the technology. The majority of e-mail applications today rely on the users to have a very solid understanding on how computers and contemporary applications work today. With the added layers of varying complexity and esoteric computer idioms this detracts those who are elderly and or cognitively challenged from using such an application. Solving for this need is a perfect example of how the TopCoder methodology can bring light to an underserved community.

My Parents E-mail Client is a full functioning web application that's been accessibility focused and enhanced. This idea originated from an Ideation contest. It then flowed into a wireframe and specification competition that organized how the information would best be laid-out and used.

The storyboards then moved into prototyping which allowed for AOL and its advisors to test the layout meanwhile the technical specification, architecture and component development (truly the guts of the application) where worked on simultaneously. As both Prototype and Component production ended they merged in one of the final steps called assembly. All of which were driven through crowdsourcing and competition.



# Algorithm Competition

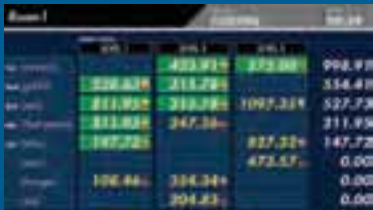
WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?

$O(n)$

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.

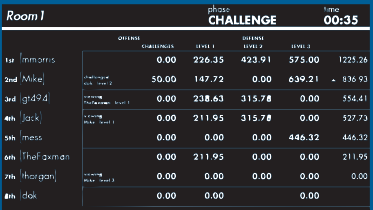
## Scoring Details



Problem	Score	Status
Problem 1	998.98	Green
Problem 2	334.34	Yellow
Problem 3	197.78	Red

### Coding Phase:

Each score represents the potential points a competitor could earn on that problem. If the text is green, 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	Challenge	Score
Challenge 1	0.00	226.35
Challenge 2	50.00	147.72
Challenge 3	0.00	238.63

### 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 Test	Score	Status
System Test 1	998.98	Green
System Test 2	334.34	Yellow
System Test 3	197.78	Red

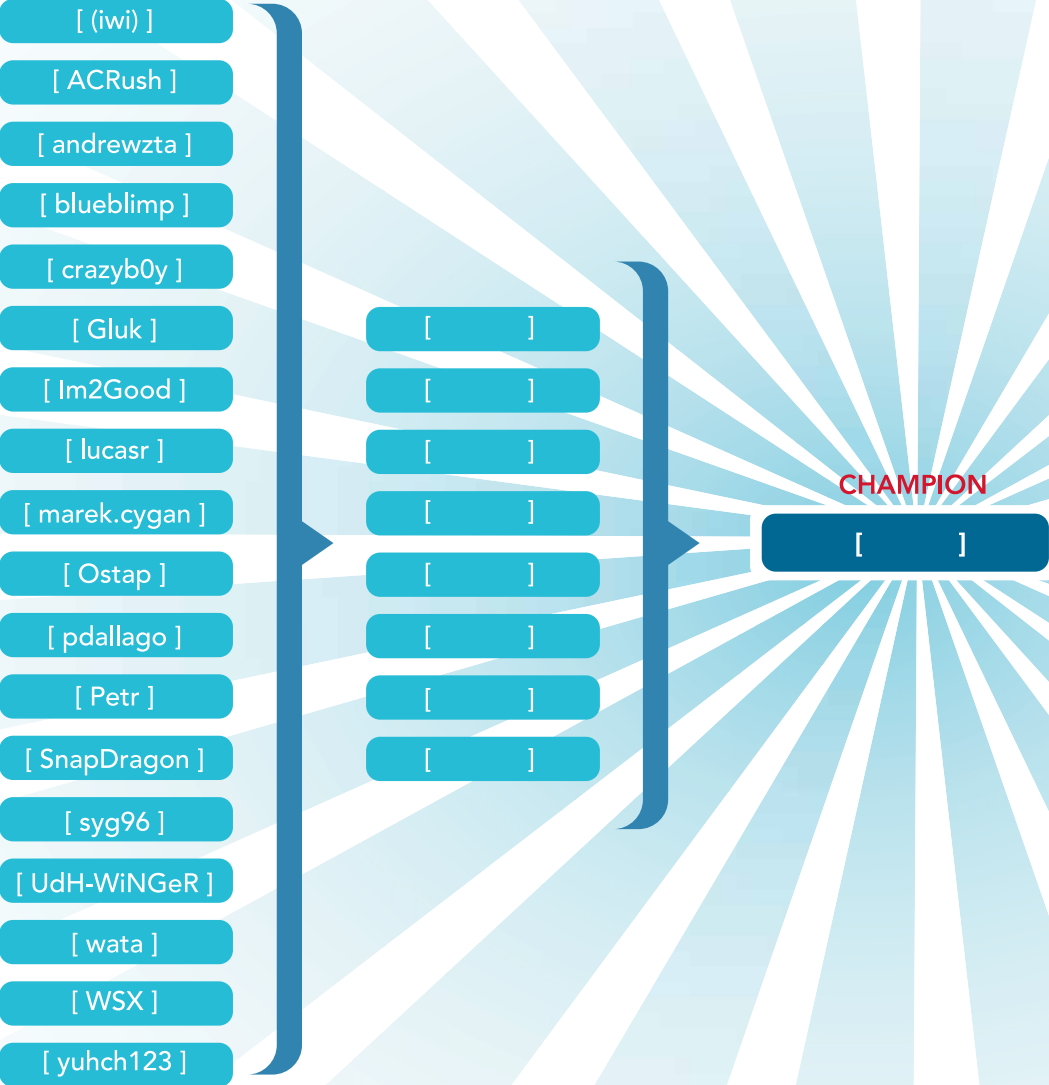
### System Testing:

Scores with a green background and a checkmark passed system tests. Those with a red background and an X failed system test. Final column is total score.

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.

## Algorithm Bracket





**Takuya Akiba**

**[(iwi)]**

Japan

(iwi) is from Tokyo, Japan and studies at the University of Japan. He is looking forward to going to Las Vegas to meet and compete against world famous coders. (iwi) says, "I thought that solving two problems each round would probably be enough to get to onsite, and I attempted to solve two problems. So I didn't solve any difficult problems. I feel really lucky."



**TianCheng Lou**

**[ACRush]**

China

From China, ACRush attends Tsinghua University. His most embarrassing TopCoder moment was during the final round of the TCO08 when it was his first time for getting a negative score. However this TCO, he won 3 out of 5 of the Algorithm rounds and is looking forward going as far as possible and having a good trip. Interesting factoid about ACRush is that he's got about five TopCoder shirts with the TCCC06 being his favorite.



**Bin Jin**

**[crazyb0y]**

China

Changzhou High School student from Changzhou, China and reigning TopCoder High School Champion, crazyb0y is excited to meet other TopCoder members in Las Vegas like Petr and Snapdragon. As for his road to the TCO09 onsite event, crazyb0y says, "I passed the first three rounds as expected, but just one day before round 4, I got a headache. Fortunately I passed this round. The final round was really challenging. I made a mistake during the challenge phase, lost 25 points, and was ranked 22 before system tests. Luckily some others failed on the 250 and I got an onsite ticket."



**Andrii Grynenko**

**[Gluk]**

Ukraine

"I participated in algorithm competition. It's the third time I advance to the TCO finals, and I think this one was the hardest, as I had to become one of 18. I think the main reason I succeeded is that problems in the last round were lucky for me," says Gluk from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University in Ukraine. The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas, Gluk says is having fun there with his friends.



**Andrey Stankevich**

**[andrewzta]**

Russian Federation

"It was a tough competition," says andrewzta, "I was competing in round 5 from Novosibirsk where I was one of the organizers of Russian Olympiad in Informatics. It was 11:00 p.m. local time, and I was working since the early morning. So it was really exciting for me to get to top 18." From St. Petersburg, Russia, andrewzta works for St. Petersburg State University, ITMO.



**Malcolm Sharpe**

**[blueblimp]**

Canada

Studying at the University of Waterloo and from Surry, British Columbia, Canada, blueblimp is excited for the onsite competition as it's a step up in intensity from online competition. "My odds to get to the on-site this year were not high because there are fewer advancers than last year, but I knew I had a chance because I have placed in the top 18 before," says blueblimp. "I needed some luck to beat the odds: in round 4, I needed a challenge to advance, and in round 5, I solved only the 1000."



**Rune Fevang**

**[Im2Good]**

Norway

Im2Good's most embarrassing TopCoder moment's was realizing that he was probably responsible for starting one of the most annoying threads in the history of the TopCoder Round Tables. He says, "I tried to stay calm and make sure I got every problem I delivered right. With four minutes to go in round 4, I was almost sure I was out. Luckily I hit jackpot with a couple of desperate late challenges to scrape together enough points to advance."



**Lucas Agustin Rearte**

**[lucsr]**

Argentina

From Cordoba, Argentina and the Universidad Nacional de Cordoba, lucsr is excited to go to Las Vegas. He knows it's an interesting place and will get to visit some casinos as well as meet people from other countries. "I know for sure it will be fun," he says. Out of all the TopCoder shirts he has, lucsr likes the TCO08 one best.



**Marek  
Cygan**  
[marek.cygan]  
Poland

"I handle online rounds differently than the usual SRMs because the ultimate and only goal is to advance to the next round. I always have to convince myself that rating and high place are not important since accuracy and flawlessness are of greater significance. Fortunately I followed this strategy and advanced to the TCO09 finals," says marek.cygan. He continues, "Participating in the onsite competition is even more exciting than the online rounds. Besides the competition, I will have a chance to spend a few days with my wife and my friends in a few interesting places in the US."



**Ostap  
Korkuna**  
[Ostap]  
Ukraine

In going to Las Vegas, Ostap will be breaking his record for the longest flight he has ever made from his home town of Lviv, Ukraine where he studies at BIT Impulse. Ostap told TopCoder if he could have any item branded with the TopCoder logo, he would want a Hummer with the TopCoder logo on the front. Ostap can speak Ukrainian, English, and Russian. Also, he can count from one to five in Romanian and say a few phrases in Chinese and Georgian. Of course, Ukrainian is his favorite!



**Derek  
Kisman**  
[SnapDragon]  
Canada

"With only 18 slots available, my current inconsistency, and my woeful lack of practice, I wasn't really expecting to make it to the onsite. Fortunately, I somehow made it through all 5 online rounds without any major errors. The real prize, for me, is the trip to Las Vegas, so I'm quite happy!" says SnapDragon. "I love everything about Las Vegas!" he continues. "It's like Disneyland for adults. I love seeing the shows, visiting the attractions, wandering through the casinos, and playing Blackjack for long hours for minimal stakes."



**Stepan  
Gatilov**  
[syg96]  
Russian Federation

From Novosibirsk State University in Novosibirsk, Russia, syg96 said it is like a miracle for him to be one of the 18 finalists. "The toughest one was the last round. It concurred with the All-Russian Olympiad in Informatics held in Novosibirsk. I was making tests for it that day," said syg96.



**Pablo  
Dal Lago**  
[pdallago]  
Argentina

From Cordoba, Argentina, pdallago's most embarrassing TopCoder moment happened during this TCO. "I locked myself out of my own house... about fifteen minutes before the start of round 5! Luckily, I was able to get back in before the start of the contest," he says. "This year I went into the competition expecting very little of myself," he continued, "the number of finalists had been decreased and I didn't have a lot of time to train. However, as rounds went by I grew more aware of the chance I had to reach the finals so I started training more. Needless to say, by the end of the coding phase for round 5 I was so excited I was barely able to stay focused for the challenge phase."



**Petr  
Mitrichev**  
[Petr]  
Russian Federation

"I got more and more nervous with each Elimination Round," said Petr. "In the beginning of March, I stumbled upon an airline discount, where tickets from Moscow to Vegas were sold very cheaply, but the discount only lasted for several days. I decided to buy those cheap tickets, so that TopCoder will reimburse me if I advance, or I would just go by myself if I didn't. I think that helped ease the pressure." Petr has lived in Moscow, Russia his whole life and is excited to compete in the Algorithm Finals in Las Vegas!



**Vladislav  
Isenbaev**  
[UdH-WiNGeR]  
Russian Federation

A student at SPbSU ITMO in Russia, UdH-WiNGeR speaks Russian and English but his favorite language is Java. This will be his first trip to the US. About his road to the TCO09 finals, he says this:

```
for (int i = 1; i <= 5; ++i) {
    advance_to(round[i+1]);
}
```



**Yoichi  
Iwata**  
[wata]  
Japan

University of Tokyo student and Tokyo native wata's most embarrassing TopCoder moment was when he misunderstood a problem statement and submitted too fast. For wata, the most exciting thing about being a TCO finalist is meeting the other competitors. "I have been practicing with my ICPC teammate kita\_masa, my rival (iwi), and many other competitors. Thanks to them, I could get to the onsite," says wata.





**Jan Oravec**

[WSX]

Slovakia

WSX attends Comenius University and is from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. His most embarrassing TopCoder moments would have to be Telling friends about how perfect his solutions are before system tests, just to realize shortly after that all of them failed. As for his trip to the TCO, WSX says this, "I finished 21st in the last online round. It didn't seem very likely that 3 contestants out of 18 wouldn't be able to attend finals... 2 weeks later, I've got mail from Jessie."



**Huacheng Yu**

[yuhch123]

China

"We had an interesting Round 2," says yuhch123 from Tshinghua University in China. "Since there is no network connection in our dormitory, we had to go to a company 3km away from the dorm. We got there at 11:00 p.m. (Round 2 was going to start at midnight) and put our bikes in a public bicycle parking area. After the competition, when we wanted to get the bikes and go back, but found the parking area was locked and would open in the morning! We had to take a taxi home and walked back in morning!"

# Marathon Competition

WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?

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 Bracket

[ AlexanderL ]

[ jdmetz ]

[ KOTEHOK ]

[ maniek ]

[ nhzp339 ]

[ prober ]

[ Psycho ]

[ roma ]

[ wleite ]

[ zibada ]

CHAMPION

[ ]



**Oleksandr Lobas**

[AlexanderL]

Ukraine

"I didn't actually plan to advance to the onsite final. My aim was to win a t-shirt. I didn't spend much time on the R3 task during the first week and made my first submission in the middle of the second week. I expected to be at 25th-50th place and was really excited to see my first submission at second place. At that moment I realized that my chance to win a trip to Vegas was high. I devoted a whole day and night to improve my solution and fortunately I managed to take first place in R3 and advance to the final," says AlexanderL who hopes to win a million dollars in Las Vegas.



**Joshua Metzler**

[jdmetz]

USA

"In the marathon tournament, I put in enough effort to place around 30th in round 2. For round 3, I spent most of my free time over two weeks working on the problem. I was excited to be in the top 5 going into the second week, but had vivid memories of being in a strong 1st position in the final online round in 2007 going into the second week and barely qualifying in the last onsite spot. I somehow managed to eke out the points I needed to hang on and qualify in 6th place. I need to thank my wife for spending more time than usual with our kids to give me extra coding time (and for putting up with me for the two weeks)."



**Andrey Lopatin**

[KOTEHOK]

Russian Federation

KOTEHOK has seven TopCoder competition shirts and a lot of sponsor/other shirts. His favorite is the TCHS07shirt because it was the first TCHS and a student from St. Petersburg, where KOTEHOK is from and works, became the champion. KOTEHOK said this about the TCO09 Marathon Match, "It was a very hard marathon match and it had required to optimize all parts of my code to reach the almost impossible performance. It's like very fast driving beyond the speed abilities of a car."



**Marcin Mank**

[maniek]

Poland

From Warsaw, Poland, maniek says it is pretty embarrassing that sometimes he can't keep his hand off the challenge button which gives pretty bad results on his rank. As for his trip to Las Vegas, "Everything is exciting for a newcomer like me," he says. "I especially look forward to meeting all the top TopCoders, and seeing what Vegas (or USA in general) is like." What was maniek's game plan for the TCO? He says, "My plan was to get just enough points to advance to the next round. In the third round I had a 34 hour coding session, with 2 hour sleep break."



**Xiaoshi  
Lu**

[nhzp339]

China

"I took part in both Algorithm and Marathon and was eliminated in Round 3 of the Algorithm track. For Marathon the last round was quite fierce, I was quite sure that, for my ability, working not hard enough = direct elimination. So I just spent a lot of time in that round, this plus great luck made me a finalist this time," said nhzp339. "I am excited to go to Las Vegas to communicate with a lot of great coders and TopCoder staff."



**Shanyu  
Zhao**

[prober]

China

"This is my second time qualifying for TCO marathon finals in three years. I think many including myself would not expect this to happen given my ranking among so many other big names. In Round 3, many have vaguely thought of almost all of the winning strategies but either assumes they're too "simple" to work or briefly tried them out without success. Luckily I'm the kind of guy who always built up a solution from intuition and I was surprised to see how well my intuitive solution worked. So if in one word to describe how I got to the finals, that word must be 'lucky'," said prober.



**Wladimir  
Leite**

[wleite]

Brazil

Part of the Brazilian Federal Police Department, wleite hails from Sao Paolo, Brazil. He says, "I was seeded #6 for Marathon Matches, so I got a bye in the first round. The second round was relatively easy, since I needed to be only in top 100 (I finished at #19). The third round was a completely different story. The level of competition was insanely high. After a stressful first week of competition, I realized that my approach wouldn't work. I started to write a new solution from the ground and fortunately it was enough to put me at #5 and grant me a place onsite."



**Dmitriy  
Trofimov**

[zibada]

Russian Federation

"I've advanced to the Marathon finals after a very tough fight in last elimination round. During the last four days of the competition, three times I was nearly kicked out of advancing in the top 10, and three times I managed to come back. The funny fact is that I barely made it to this last round, having the 100th preliminary rank with 100 advancing places in round 2," said zibada of his trek to the TCO09 finals. If zibada could have anything branded with the TopCoder logo, he would ask for his own personal orbital ion canon.



**Przemyslaw  
Debiak**

[Psyho]

Poland

"I've missed the algorithm finals due to my inability to write correct Dijkstra after 4 years of competing. On the other hand, I wouldn't make it in the marathons if not for this mistake. Three days before the end of last round, it looked that for sure I'll miss the finals, so I decided to put much more work into it. I devoted those last 3 days entirely to the competition, while sacrificing a lot of sleep. During the following week, I've slept for around 12-14h a day," says Psyho.



**Roman  
Koshlyak**

[roma]

Ukraine

From Kiev National University in Ukraine, roma has a lot of TopCoder t-shirts and his favorite one is a clean one. Having never been to Las Vegas before, roma is most excited to see the city. As for getting to the TCO finals, it was all about training, competing, and advancing for roma.



# Mod Dash

WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?

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 2009 Mod Dash Champion!



## Mod Dash Bracket





**Alejandro Marcu**

[cucu]  
Argentina

"Competing in Mod Dash required a lot of sacrifice," says cucu. "When I was not very well ranked, I couldn't be picky at all, so when the RSS feed reader rang (maybe while I was watching a movie or about to go to sleep), I hurried to start working in the bug race whatever it was." The most exciting part about going to Las Vegas for cucu is meeting all the competitors, TC staff, and going out in Las Vegas.



**Nanda Firdausi Muhammad**

[enefem21]  
Indonesia

From Indonesia, enefem21 talks about his most TopCoder embarrassing moment. "Well... maybe TCO'07. I came late because of a visa problem so I couldn't take part at the first appeal phase. After getting the visa, there was a struggle with the ticket. If everything was on plan, I'd have been in Vegas just in time for second appeal phase but being Indonesian forced me to follow longer procedure in the airport so again I'm late for the second phase. The third component, I didn't submit... so the appeal phase is just useless. Well, ten days after the TCO, I got my master degree and my US visa is for 5 years so I don't have any difficulty in the next onsite tournaments."



**Olexiy Sadovnikov**

[saarixx]  
Ukraine

As for his road to his TCO09 Design Championship, saarixx says, "The last two years I competed in the TCO Marathon Competitions with varied success (In 2008 I failed in the last online round and didn't get to the finals). This year I decided to compete in the Design track of TCO. And luckily for me, 5 of 6 of my design submissions became winning ones and got quite high scores. Thus I actually won the TCO after only two weeks of competing. These two weeks were really fortunate for me." He goes on, "It won't be my first visit to Las Vegas (thanks to TopCoder), thus I'd like to see some new fascinating shows and meet interesting people there."



**Cesus Kintanar**

[ShindouHikaru]  
Philippines

"The Mod Dash is an interesting format, because it calls on a very varied set of skills. Mini-competitions and tasks that hail from every other competition track (from Conceptualization, to Studio, to Development and Testing) find their way into the Bug Races. If you'd observe the finalists, you might notice that most have carved a niche of tasks to specialize in. It will certainly be interesting to see how things will turn out in the finals," says ShindouHikaru. From Zamboanga City in the Philippines, ShindouHikaru says, "I've got enough to make it through the entire week wearing nothing but TopCoder shirts. My favorites are the ones from last year - it seems that the shirt quality improves every year. Just like TopCoder!"



**Margaryta Skrypachova**

[Margarita]  
Ukraine

From Ukraine and the Kharkiv National University of Radioelectronics, Margarita says, "This will be my first trip to the USA, this fact alone is very exciting, and Las Vegas is a place I have always wanted to visit; and, of course, to take a look at top coders and compete with them!" As for her trip to the TCO finals, Margarita says, "I am finalist in Mod Dash competition, and still don't know what 'mod dash' means :). I chose Flex & Java bugs and was working on them; happily there were lots of such tasks. I was working on this pretty much so the main thing was not to break into the top of rank list, but stay there."



**Ninghai Huang**

[PE]  
China

PE is from the Jiangsu Province in China and attends Zhejiang University. He can speak three languages: Chinese(Putonghua), Chinese(Dialect) and English. Chinese(Putonghua) is his favorite because all Chinese speak it. Right now, PE is not working so he has full time to be competing on TopCoder and that is how he did so well winning a trip as a Mod Dash Finalist and as an Assembly winner.



**Zhiming Xie**

[will.xie]  
China

From Shanghai and working from Motorola, will.xie has three TopCoder shirts and can speak English and Chinese. The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas is to gamble. About the TCO, he says, "When I saw that Mod Dash was a part for TCO, I thought there was a good chance for me to go to TCO. Then I watched each bug posted and analyzed which ones could be done with highest efficiency. My purpose was to earn the highest points using the least amount of time. Finally, I advanced."



**Yang Li**

[Yeung]  
China

Yeung is from China and has many TopCoder t-shirts. He has no favorites and likes them all. He can speak English, Chinese, and Cantonese. Chinese would be his favorite language. If he could have anything branded with the TopCoder logo, he would choose an iPhone.

# Studio Design Competition

WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?



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.

## TCO09

The online Studio TCO09 round included 8 weeks of design competitions covering a wide range of web, application UI and graphic design challenges. Points were awarded to the top five places of

each TCO-eligible competition 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.

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.

There are two championship rounds held onsite for Studio during TCO09. At the start of each round of the competition finals, the finalists are given the design challenge specifications and the appropriate tools they need to compl

ete 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 Bracket







**Junius  
Albertho**

[abedavera]

Indonesia

The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas for abedavera from Indonesia is the reunion with his beloved community. About the TCO, he says, "TCO09 is the real competition! We must understand the goal for each contest, brainstorm, find a great idea, never waste time, and time management to find the best strategy to beat all contest deadlines."



**Tri Joko  
Rubiyanto**

[djackmania]

Indonesia

"Eight weeks of the TCO09 Studio competition made me exhausted!" says djackmania from Jakarta, Indonesia. The most exciting thing about Las Vegas he says is the Jackpot Machine. "All TopCoder moments are always fun," says djackmania who would love a TopCoder branded laptop backpack.



**Wenze  
Hu**

[foxyhu]

China

From Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, foxyhu is most excited about going to Las Vegas so he can take a heli tour over the Grand Canyon and Las Vegas. "The online session of TCO09 Studio Competition was kind of Marathon - tough and endless," says foxyhu. "Honestly, sometimes, I thought to give up. I think I am just lucky to get a TCO09 ticket. So many excellent competitors competed for only 10 positions; I am just lucky."



**Luis Eduardo  
Millan Gonzalez**

[maestro]

Venezuela

"The most, most, most exciting part of my trip to Las Vegas is being in the US, a way new and different place to me," says maestro from Venezuela. "But there are plenty more exciting things too, like the city; it's a wonderful, crazy city. Also I'm excited I'll meet up with my fellow members, people from different countries, and we'll share our cultures and stuff. And very important, I'm sure that this TCO will be great again; the TC staff is amazing and we all have fun. I can be assured of that!"



**Dale  
Napier**

[djnapier]

Australia

From Brisbane, Australia, djnapier says, "I've only been a fully active member of TopCoder since January 2009. I had won a few contests by the time TCO registration came about and initially didn't register. After realizing it wouldn't hurt to register, I quickly found out if I put some effort in, I could make it to the finals. I came quite close to just missing out on the Top Ten but luckily one contest near the end saved my chances and now I'm here!"



**Yijun  
He**

[Elizabethhee]

China

Elizabethhee is from China and says, "Since I took part in TCO08, I know the onsite competition is so exciting. I can talk with TC admins and other members from the whole world. We can also learn the different cultures of each other. It is a valuable experience. I appreciate TopCoder for providing a precious chance for us. I competed for two months in the TCO09 online competition. It lasted longer than last year. But I finished the whole online competition because joining the onsite competition is pretty exciting, although it was quite tough."



**Nino  
Rey Ronda**

[oninkxronda]

Philippines

The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas for oninkxronda from Manila, Philippines, is the free trip, staying at The Mirage, taking new travel photos, and having a chance to compete in the TCO09 final round. "It was a tough competition this year," he said, "I found it hard managing my time since I have a regular eight hour job. I just chose some short/quick contests to have TCO points and make it to the onsite round."



**Arif  
Widianto**

[oton]

Indonesia

The most exciting thing about going to Las Vegas is just getting to Las Vegas again for otton. "I was lucky because someone in top 10 of the leader board (and he is a friend of mine) could not attend," says otton who will be attending from his home in Jakarta, Indonesia. Speaking Javanese (native traditional), Indonesian, and English, otton says Javanese, of course, is his favorite.



**Maureen**

[sweetpea]

Indonesia

"The competition for getting into studio's top ten list was really tough!" says sweetpea who is from Indonesia and studies at Nanyang Technological University. "So many contests were posted and I did my best to participate in almost all of them. I won some contests and earned the points. I am really thankful to the clients for picking my designs! The final result, I am really glad that after the seemingly never-ending 8 week battle, I managed to be in the top ten."



**Tricia**

[Tricia\_Tjia]

Indonesia

Studying at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore but hailing from Jakarta, Indonesia, Tricia\_Tjia says her most embarrassing TopCoder moment is when she missed her flight. About the TCO09 she says, "There were very tough moments! Time management was important and I had to be organized so I chose some contests that I had the potential to win and practiced my beauty sleep too!"



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