

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

9:00am - 11:00am Algorithm Semifinal Room 1
9:00am - 6:00pm Marathon Match Finals
10:00am - 11:00am Developer Forum
11:00am - 12:00pm UBS Presentation
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 2:00pm VeriSign Presentation
2:00pm - 3:00pm Developer Forum
1:00pm - 2:30pm Component Design & Development 1
3:00pm - 4:00pm NSA Presentation
4:00pm - 6:00pm Algorithm Semifinal Room 2
6:30pm - 10:00pm TopCoder Evening Event

Thursday, June 28, 2007

9:00am - 11:00am Algorithm Semifinal Room 3
9:00am - 6:00pm Studio Graphic Design Finals
11:00am - Noon DRW Presentation
Noon - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 2:30pm Component Design & Development 2
4:00pm - 6:00pm Algorithm Wildcard Round
6:30pm - 10:00pm AOL Evening Event

Friday, June 29, 2007

9:00am - 10:30am Component Design & Development Appeals Final
11:00am - Noon AOL Presentation
Noon - 1:00pm Lunch
1:30pm - 3:30pm Algorithm Championship Round
3:30pm - 4:30pm Champion Announcements and Awards Ceremony
7:00pm - 9:00pm Closing Reception

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Founder's Message Page 1
Schedule of Events Page 2

Component Competition

What Are We Watching? Page 4
Brackets Page 5
Design Finalists Page 6-9
Development Finalists Page 10-12
Review Board Page 13

Developer Forums Page 14

Algorithm Competition

What Are We Watching?..... Page 17
Brackets Page 18-19
Semifinalists Page 20-43

Marathon Match Competition

What Are We Watching?..... Page 44
Finalists Page 45-46

TCO Bloggers Page 47

Studio Design Competition

What Are We Watching?..... Page 48
Finalists Page 49-50

Digital Run Competition Page 51

TopCoder Admins Page 52-53



What are We Watching? Component Competition

Component Design

TopCoder Design Competitions require participants to design a software component. Starting from a requirements specification, they produce a full set of design documentation: UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification document which contains algorithm descriptions, exception handling, and documentation.

Design Relation		phase: APPEALS			time: 00:00
		Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3	Avg. Score
1st	Coder 8	99.51 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	55.51 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	85.69 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	80.24
2nd	Coder 1	71.92 <small>P: 1 S: 0 F: 0</small>	49.77 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	93.53 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	71.74
3rd	Coder 4	82.42 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	82.25 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	38.46 <small>P: 1 S: 0 F: 0</small>	67.71
4th	Coder 3	40.78 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	67.52 <small>P: 1 S: 1 F: 1</small>	79.26 <small>P: 1 S: 1 F: 0</small>	62.52
5th	Coder 5	91.93 <small>P: 1 S: 0 F: 1</small>	38.20 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	55.15 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	61.76
6th	Coder 2	44.82 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	64.05 <small>P: 1 S: 0 F: 1</small>	68.58 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	59.15
7th	Coder 7	48.64 <small>P: 3 S: 0 F: 1</small>	32.25 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	82.13 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	54.34
8th	Coder 6	37.40 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 1</small>	56.12 <small>P: 2 S: 0 F: 1</small>	53.88 <small>P: 0 S: 0 F: 0</small>	49.13

The Scoreboard during the Appeals Phase: Each column represents the score from that reviewer, with the last column being the average. If the score is yellow, there is a pending appeal. If it is green, the last appeal was successful. If it is red, the last appeal was unsuccessful. Below each score is a line with "P: x S: x F: x", indicating the number of pending, successful, and failed appeals.

Design		phase: RESULTS						time: 00:00
		Relation		XSD2DDL		DataView		Total Pts.
		Avg. Score	Wager	Avg. Score	Wager	Avg. Score	Wager	
1st	Coder 1	71.74 <small>2nd</small>	63	80.23 <small>1st</small>	11	71.54 <small>2nd</small>	26	55
2nd	Coder 7	54.34 <small>7th</small>	62	70.08 <small>2nd</small>	13	80.07 <small>1st</small>	25	39
3rd	Coder 8	80.24 <small>1st</small>	12	63.06 <small>4th</small>	63	57.01 <small>6th</small>	25	31
4th	Coder 4	67.71 <small>3rd</small>	59	61.66 <small>5th</small>	20	69.27 <small>3rd</small>	21	30
5th	Coder 5	61.76 <small>5th</small>	28	63.86 <small>2nd</small>	37	68.95 <small>4th</small>	35	25
6th	Coder 3	62.60 <small>4th</small>	57	49.47 <small>6th</small>	27	55.02 <small>7th</small>	16	20
7th	Coder 2	59.15 <small>6th</small>	64	42.48 <small>7th</small>	21	63.78 <small>5th</small>	15	16
8th	Coder 6	49.13 <small>8th</small>	26	33.19 <small>8th</small>	15	52.00 <small>8th</small>	59	11

The Scoreboard showing Final Component Results: Each pair of columns is the final score for the component and the coder's wager on that component. Underneath the score for each component is the place that they got within that component. The last column is the total wagered points earned.

Each competitor's submission goes through a review process that includes an initial screening and, if the submission passes screening, a full review by a three person Review Board. The competitors have a chance to appeal their review scores and, once all appeals are answered, the winner of the competition is announced. After the winner fixes any remaining problems with their submission, the competition ends and the design is prepared to become the basis for a future development competition.

All design and review work of the TopCoder Open Design Finals took place online. At the onsite event, the competitors will first see their review scorecards and the appeals phase will take place.

Component Development

TopCoder Development Competitions require participants to implement a previously designed software component. Their starting point is the winning design submission, which includes UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification document, which contains algorithm descriptions, exception handling, and documentation. They are required to provide a full implementation of the design, as well as a full suite of unit tests for their implementation and documentation.

Each competitor's submission goes through a review process that includes an initial screening and, if the submission passes screening, a full review by a three person Review Board. The competitors have a chance to appeal their review scores and once all appeals are answered the winner of the competition is announced. After the winner fixes any remaining problems with their submission, the competition ends and the implementation becomes a part of the TopCoder software catalog.

All implementation and review work of the TopCoder Open Development Finals took place online. At the onsite event, the competitors will first see their review scorecards and the appeals phase will take place.

Component Competition Bracket

During the onsite design and development finals, the competitors will be asked to perform appeals on three components they worked on during the three online final rounds. Before each of the three appeal rounds, they will wager points on the component for the round. The number of points they will receive for that round will equal the points wagered, divided by their placement in the component. The Design and Development competitors with the most points after all three projects have finished appeals will be the winners of the 2007 TopCoder Open Component Competitions.

Champion

AleaActaEst

argolite

bendlund

kakarotto

kyky

oldbam

Pops

sql_lall

Design Competition

Champion

cnettel

enefem21

hefeng

PE

tyrian

wolve

Development Competition





AleaActaEst

Piotr Paweska

Hometown:

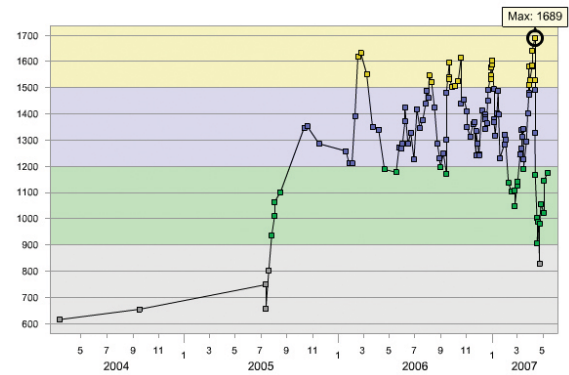
I currently live in Toronto, Canada but I have lived in many countries: Poland, Iraq, Jordan, Austria, Cyprus. I am to a great extent from all those cities. :)

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Well you must try it all :) But the hot dog vendors are a good quick fix with sausages in a variety that befits Toronto.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I never aspired to be a programmer and always thought that I will be a professional musician. My dad introduced me to computers when I was in my early teens and I liked it. Ultimately it was easier to get a job doing computer stuff than music so I gave computers a serious try. The best thing that I learned when I was about 14 was how to code some time slicing algorithms (via interrupts) so that a single processor with no thread support (hey it was like Sinclair QL with a Motorola 68008chip) could show me the current time in a quasi-window while I was doing other stuff... Wow, I was amazed, and yet now it's nothing, times change eh?



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 5

Current Rating

1175

Rating Percentile

57.46

Current Ranking

57

Number of Ratings

129

Highest Rating

1689

Country

Canada



argolite

Michael Paweska

Hometown:

Toronto, Ontario but born in Wroclaw, Poland.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Toronto has a rich variety of international food. I would say to try them all. That's what I have been doing for a while, and my list is still long. All the food is good.

Favorite Hometown Season:

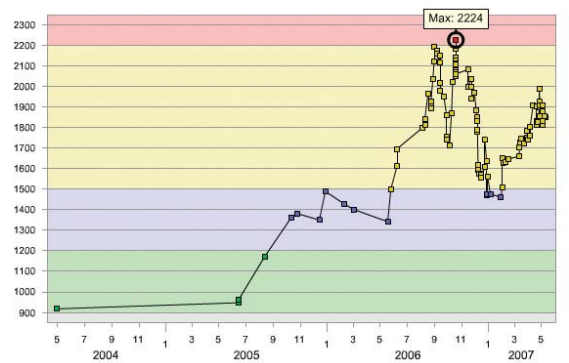
Late spring is good, as it is a nice interlude between the awful cold and the unbearable heat. The temperature would be in the 20s (Celsius), and there is a nice breeze. Then again, that's when the allergies get bad.

Famous Hometown Person:

I could not really name anyone in particular.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Overall, it was not until late in college that I switched to software engineering (from Physics and Mathematics), and that was at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. I did not really face any study-related issues in getting my degree.



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 7

Current Rating

1848

Rating Percentile

88.81

Current Ranking

15

Number of Ratings

107

Highest Rating

2224

Country

Canada



bendlund

Ben Lund

Hometown:

Cincinnati, Ohio

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

The local dish is Cincinnati style chili, which is spaghetti with spiced ground beef, and optionally beans and onions.

Famous Hometown Person:

W.H. Taft, Jerry Springer (former mayor), Pete Rose, Charles Manson.

Favorite Hometown Season:

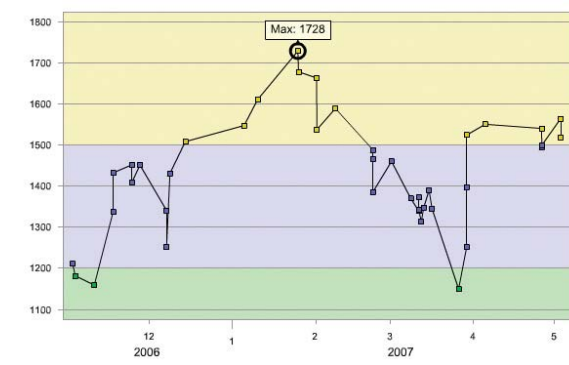
April and May, 60-80F on average.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

My favorite thing about Cincinnati is that there are several large parks in the city. It's easy to get to a good sized forest from the city center.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I grew up programming at home, first on the C64 and later on "IBM compatible" PCs. Classes at school were pretty limited and not very helpful. I participated in math contests in high school, and there were other very smart and mathematically inclined people in my school.



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 2

Current Rating

1518

Rating Percentile

78.36

Current Ranking

29

Number of Ratings

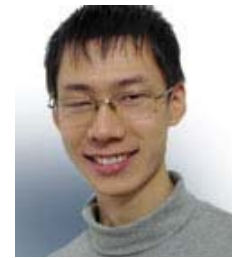
41

Highest Rating

1728

Country

United States



kakarotto

Keren Dong

Hometown:

Beijing, China.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Beijing Roast Duck

Famous Hometown Person:

Beijing has been the capital of China for a long long time; so many emperors were born and lived here.

Favorite Hometown Season:

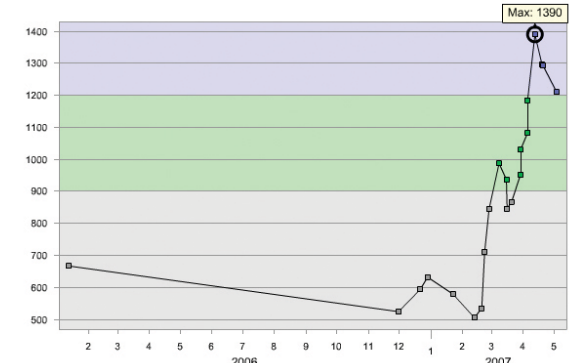
The autumn and the average temperature is about 20 degrees centigrade.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

As the capital of China for about one thousand years, Beijing has precious culture treasures.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I got my bachelor degree from the Computer Science department of Tsinghua University, which is one of the best universities in China, so I just feel good when learning knowledge of programming, and there are many aspiring talents in my classmates, here should be the best place to grow up to be a programmer in China.



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 3

Current Rating

1210

Rating Percentile

61.19

Current Ranking

52

Number of Ratings

22

Highest Rating

1390

Country

China



kyky

Sergey Kalinichenko

Hometown:

Kyiv (AKA Kiev), the capital city of Ukraine

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Borsch and Chicken Kiev

Famous Hometown Person:

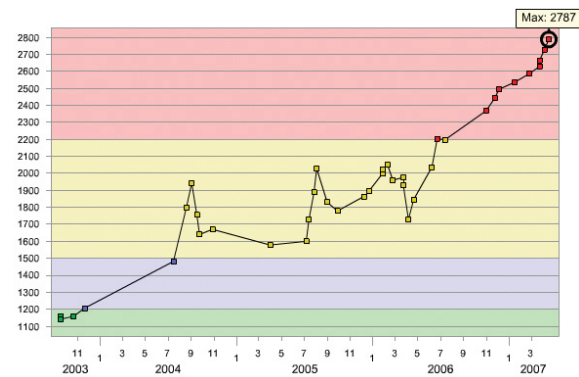
Many famous people were born in Kiev. Yuri Dolgoruki, the founder of Moscow; Igor Sikorsky, inventor of helicopter; Milla Jovovich, actress; Vladimir Horowitz, pianist; Mikhail Bulgakov, writer; Golda Meir, former prime minister of Israel; Oleg Blokhin, famous striker and the soccer coach who lead the Ukrainian national team to world cup's quarterfinals in 2006.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

You can develop fluency in two languages, Russian and Ukrainian, without much effort.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Getting access to a computer in Kiev was hard in mid-eighties. I was lucky because my school bought several Apple-II clones, but I got very little computer time because there were many students who needed to use the computer as well. Even getting a 5 1/4 disk was a challenge.



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 4

Current Rating

2787

Rating Percentile

99.25

Current Ranking

1

Number of Ratings

40

Highest Rating

2787

Country

United States



oldbam

Rostyslav Slipetsky

Hometown:

I am from Uzhgorod, which is a town in Western Ukraine. However, now I study and live in Kyiv.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

All the guests must taste food 'Bograch' in the 'Deca u Notaria' Korchma-an old little Ukrainian restaurant.

Famous Hometown Person:

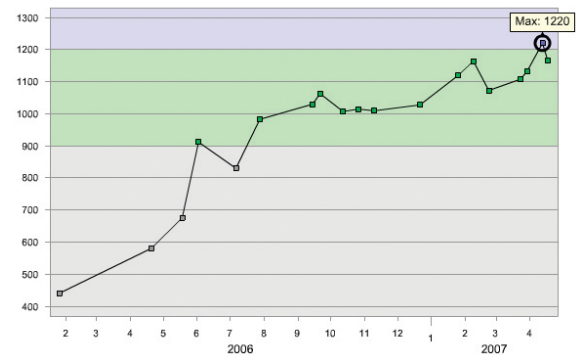
Uzhgorod is situated in a very picturesque place. If you want to have a rest you take your car and in half an hour you can sit on the ruins of an old castle and have a look on mountains, rivers, and the little villages between them. If you live in such a place you will just keep away from becoming famous and enjoy your life! :-)

Favorite Hometown Season:

It's June-July-August, when it is already not so cold to go hiking with tents and swim in the mountain rivers. Average temperature is +23-27 Celsius.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I had no programming experience at home. I started with programming when I went to Kyiv to college.



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 1

Current Rating

1166

Rating Percentile

56.72

Current Ranking

58

Number of Ratings

19

Highest Rating

1220

Country

Ukraine



Pops

Tim Roberts

Hometown:

Cary, NC

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Bar-B-Que (not to be confused with barbecue) and sweet tea

Famous Hometown Person:

Clay Aiken

Favorite Hometown Season:

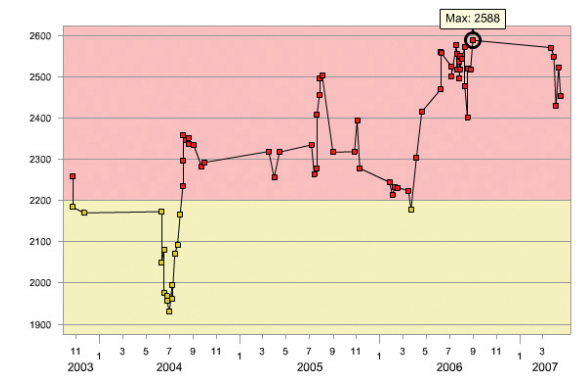
Spring, about 72 degrees Fahrenheit

Best Thing About My Hometown:

A very, very short winter

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

When I grew up Altair, TRS80s and later Apple's were just being created. My dad was a professor at Purdue so I had exposure growing up through my dad and what he brought home (mainly a paper terminal access to a DEC).



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 5

Current Rating

2452

Rating Percentile

98.51

Current Ranking

2

Number of Ratings

74

Highest Rating

2588

Country

United States



sql_lall

Patrick Coleman

Hometown:

Adelaide, South Australia

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Haigh's Chocolates, and possibly a Pie floater for those with more extreme tastes.

Famous Hometown Person:

Howard Florey (penicillin pharmacologist) and NASA Astronaut Andy Thomas among others.

Favorite Hometown Season:

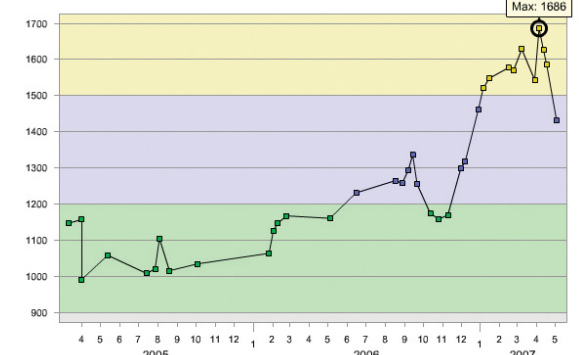
Autumn, when most trees go brown / red. Average temperature is about 20 Celsius (70 for those still using Fahrenheit)

Best Thing About My Hometown:

It's relaxed, not over crowded, there's little crime, good food...there's lots of things, it's hard to pick a single one.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Programming isn't taught at high school - the only coders are those who teach themselves above the usual workload. At university, there are some courses though general IT is more popular, the number of people who do algorithm contests for fun is unfortunately quite small. But we're working on it...



Highest Score 0 - 100



TOTAL WINS: 2

Current Rating

1431

Rating Percentile

73.13

Current Ranking

36

Number of Ratings

36

Highest Rating

1686

Country

Australia



cnettel

Current Rating: 1678
Rating Percentile: 93.08

Current Ranking: 22
Number of Ratings: 38

Highest Rating: 1753

Country: Sweden

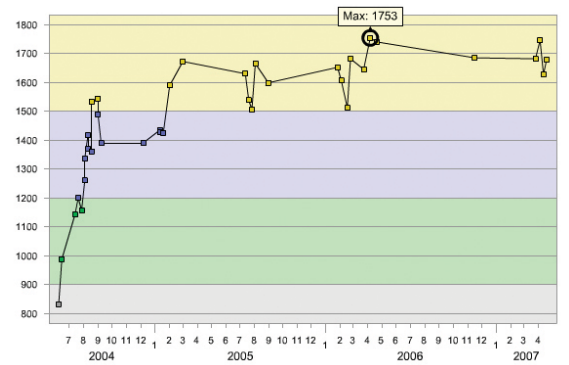
Carl Nettelblad

Hometown: Uppsala, 70 or so km north of Stockholm

Famous Hometown Person: Uppsala is the oldest Swedish university, which means that there are quite a lot of historical figures and scientists who have lived here, like Carl Linnaeus, Anders Celsius (you know, the temperature unit...), Anders nostrum (giving rise to the unit $= 10^{(-10)}$ meters). The second secretary-general of the UN, Dag Hammarskjöld, also spent most of his youth and adolescence here.

Best Thing About My Hometown: Everything is within the range of biking... at least if you're somewhat generous in the definition of biking distance.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: I've never really learned about programming through courses. Of course, they've sometimes honed my skills (mostly in university), but my development as a developer and a coder was a quite solitary task. I met no one at my own level before high school, and as an anecdote I was the teacher, rather than a student, in the elective offered in C++ programming there...



Highest Score 0 - 100

Submissions: 4 97.04

TOTAL WINS: 3



enefem21

Current Rating: 1044
Rating Percentile: 44.02

Current Ranking: 178
Number of Ratings: 15

Highest Rating: 1288

Country: Indonesia

Nanda Firdausi Muhammad

Hometown: Bandung, Indonesia

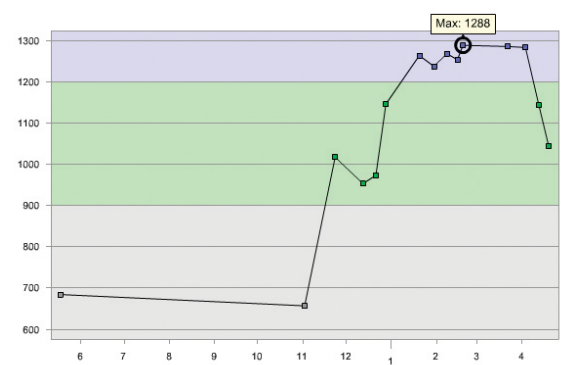
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Lalapan; it's mixed vegetables just like a salad but without any delicacy.

Famous Hometown Person: Hmm... I guess nobody.

Favorite Hometown Season: All year, Bandung is a tropical city so the temperature is stable at 28 Celsius.

Best Thing About My Hometown: It's the coldest province capital in Indonesia. The people are nice and kind. The food is great. The price is relatively cheap.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: In Bandung there are many good programmers, thanks to the best technology university in Indonesia. It's very nice to program without worrying about it being too hot and sunny. :)



Highest Score 0 - 100

Submissions: 4 90.74

TOTAL WINS: 3



hefeng

Current Rating: 1630
Rating Percentile: 91.19

Current Ranking: 28
Number of Ratings: 23

Highest Rating: 1738

Country: China

Feng He

Hometown: Qinghai Hainan, China

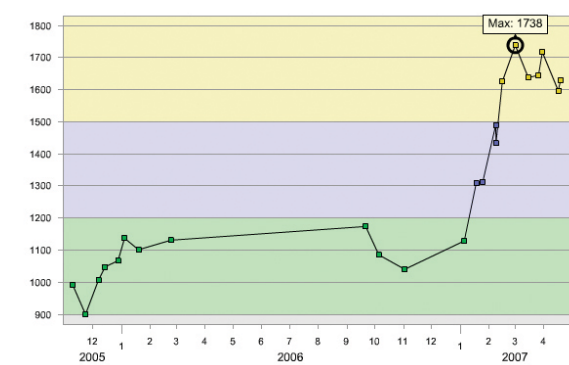
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Seafood

Famous Hometown Person: None so far as I know. One day may be me if I win and am champion.

Favorite Hometown Season: Chinese New Year holiday, it's usually in February. It's the most southern place in China, so the weather is always warm, more than 24 degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown: Nice landscape and weather; living there is very comfortable.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: I'm the lucky one who came into contact with computer and internet at the year of 1996, which is quite early comparing with other Chinese youths with the same age like me. Before most of my friends knew what the computer was like, I had aimed to be a good programmer. I learned everything myself, from the beginning to now and never had any programming course.



Highest Score 0 - 100

Submissions: 4 96.73

TOTAL WINS: 2



PE

Current Rating: 1931
Rating Percentile: 98.74

Current Ranking: 4
Number of Ratings: 33

Highest Rating: 2019

Country: China

Ninghai Huang

Hometown: Hang Zhou

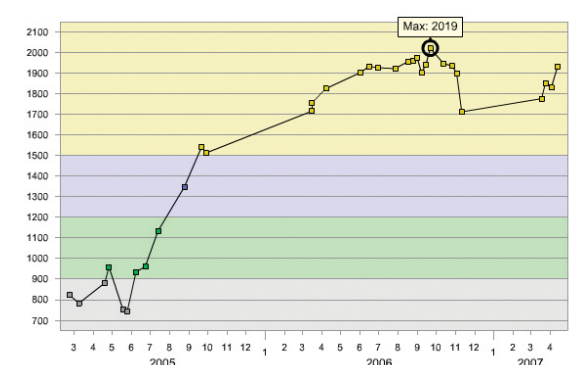
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Rice

Famous Hometown Person: No one

Favorite Hometown Season: Jan or Feb, the Spring Festival. About twenty degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown: It is a quite peaceful town.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: Just as magicpig said: make everything perfect. It is impossible in some way, but I have tried.



Highest Score 0 - 100

Submissions: 4 99.22

TOTAL WINS: 4



tyrian

Current Rating: 1247, Rating Percentile: 68.87

Current Ranking: 99, Number of Ratings: 12

Highest Rating: 1247

Country: India

Thirukumara Shunmuganathan

Hometown:
I am from Tirunelveli, TamilNadu, India.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
South Indian dishes must be tried. They are really delicious and mouth watering. Especially, the dish Halwa must be tried which is unique here.

Famous Hometown Person:
APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India. Vishwanathan Anand, the Grand Master of Chess.

Favorite Hometown Season:
November to January would be the favorite time. The average temperature would be around 20 degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Education is given more importance; the city is also called as Southern Oxford of India.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
As stated above, it is considered to be very rich in education. I was given the opportunity to code and think in computer programming languages in my schoolings, so I really didn't face any obstacles to become a programmer.



Submissions: 4, 95.83

TOTAL WINS: 0



wolve

Current Rating: 954, Rating Percentile: 34.28

Current Ranking: 209, Number of Ratings: 3

Highest Rating: 954

Country: Austria

Wolfgang Ebner

Hometown:
Perg, Austria, a small town in upper Austria with approximately 7000 residents.

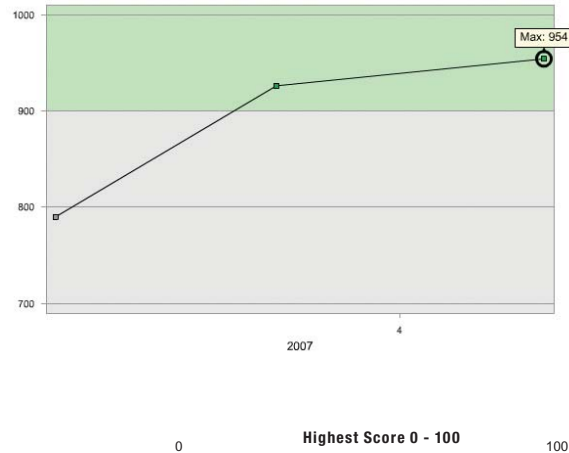
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Of course a "Viennese Schnitzel".

Famous Hometown Person:
None that I remember.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Winter, 5 degrees Celsius.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's very quiet here. I like the silence.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I'm an autodidact. I started programming with my brother on a Commodore 64. There were no other programmers in town and so we learned all by ourselves.



Submissions: 1, 85.97

TOTAL WINS: 0

REVIEWBOARD

Design Reviewers

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



adic

Adrian Nicolae Carcu
Country Romania
Algorithm Rating 1864
Design Rating 2379
Development Rating 1820
TC Earnings \$141,871.81



Luca

Codrut-Lucian Lazar
Country Romania
Algorithm Rating N/A
Design Rating 1812
Development Rating N/A
TC Earnings \$108,848.17



zjq

Jian Qiang Zheng
Country China
Algorithm Rating 1728
Design Rating 1442
Development Rating 1445
TC Earnings \$51,034.01



agh

Oleg Pestov
Country Russian Federation
Algorithm Rating 1544
Design Rating 1411
Development Rating 1398
TC Earnings \$12,388.08



Savior

Shi Chen
Country China
Algorithm Rating 2170
Design Rating 1161
Development Rating 1555
TC Earnings \$4,437.69



TheCois

Francois Bonin
Country Ghana
Algorithm Rating 1358
Design Rating 1228
Development Rating 819
TC Earnings \$45,184.64

Development Reviewers

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

DEVELOPER FORUMS

All finalists and spectators are welcome to participate in the interactive discussions. Learn about TopCoder's real world experience in the following areas:

Wednesday, June 27 10:00 AM

Security in Group Developed Software



One critical challenge IT management faces as it adapts to an increasingly global workforce is how to protect its company's proprietary information from being copied or exploited. As system information is distributed across a global workforce, it becomes much more difficult to manage and secure this proprietary intellectual property.

The apparent risk this poses to a company's most sensitive systems has created a perception of risk, causing many traditional IT organizations to avoid a strategy using a distributed global workforce for anything beyond run rate development. This hesitation prevents IT organizations from fully benefiting from the proven advantages of globalization. This discussion will explore how the TopCoder Software Development Methodology protects sensitive client information at each phase of its unique software engineering process.

Wednesday, June 27 2:00 PM

The Power of Communities—And Its Future!

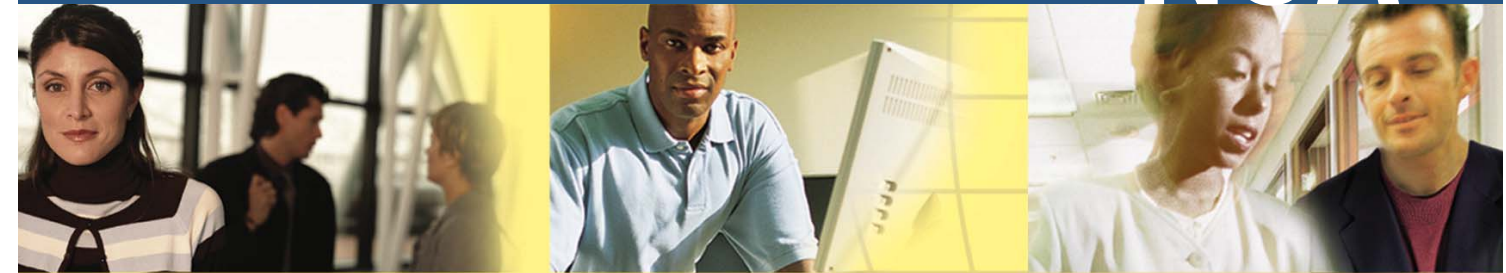


Communities can hold enormous power and exert significant influence – far more so than any one individual – IF, managed and channeled correctly. We will examine the concept, and reality, of Community Power - looking at the sources and structures that influence the creation and growth of communities, strengths and weaknesses of communities, how to manage/channel this community power towards producing value, and the future of

communities. And wrap this around, of course, how companies will, and currently do, benefit from the every expanding power and influence of the TopCoder community.

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What are We Watching? Algorithm Competition

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

The Coding Phase tasks competitors with solving 3 problems of increasing difficulty in 85 minutes. Their knowledge of algorithms, programming language proficiency, and problem solving skills are tested in a high pressure environment where each second spent coding results in a lower score. Problems this year have included parsing equations in polish notation, calculating optimal voting strategies for political parties, avoiding defects in chip placement, determining the failure point of containers under pressure. After finishing the Coding Phase, the coders have an opportunity to compete head-to-head in the Challenge Phase.

During the Challenge Phase coders can submit inputs that attempt to “break” another coder’s submission. Coders analyze the code for each submission looking for potential bugs. Once they believe they’ve found a mistake they must craft a set of inputs that will cause the submission to fail. If the challenged program returns a wrong result, the challenger gets 50 points and the defendant’s score for that submission becomes zero. If the returned result is correct, the challenger loses 25 points.

Once the Challenge Phase is over coders wait in suspense while a series of System Tests run on each program. The System Tests determine if a solution is correct or not. If a solution fails on of the system test cases, it is re-scored to zero. Once the System Tests are finished the results are displayed on the Arena scoreboard and the winners are declared.

The 48 semi-finalists represent the best of the best in a record setting field of participants. More than 1800 coders qualified for the 2007 TopCoder Open. Each semi-finalist had to fight through one sectional round and three overall rounds to advance. The semi-finalists have been split into three rounds of 16. The top two scorers from each semifinal will advance to the finals, and places 3-6 will advance to a Wildcard round. The last two finals spots (for a total of 8) will be filled with the top two finishes in the Wildcard. Once the finalists have been chosen it will all come down to the finals: 100 minutes of competition that determine who will be the champion of the 2007 TCO Algorithm Competition.

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

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

Room 1		Phase: CHALLENGE				Time: 00:35	
		OFFENSE	DEFENSE				
		CHALLENGES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3		
1st	[mmorris]	0.00	226.35	423.91	575.00	1225.26	
2nd	[Mike]	challenged [Jack - level 3]	50.00	147.72	0.00	639.21	
3rd	[gt494]	viewing [TheFaxman - level 1]	0.00	238.63	315.78	0.00	554.41
4th	[Jack]	viewing [Mike - level 1]	0.00	211.95	315.78	0.00	527.73
5th	[mess]		0.00	0.00	0.00	446.32	446.32
6th	[TheFaxman]		0.00	211.95	0.00	0.00	211.95
7th	[thorgan]	viewing [Mike - level 3]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8th	[dok]		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

The Scoreboard during Challenge Phase: The first column is the last action that a coder made (challenged, viewing, etc.). If the text is green the challenge was successful, if red, it was unsuccessful. The “Challenges” column is the total points the coder has earned from the challenge phase. Each of the defense columns shows the coder’s score for each submitted problem. If the score is yellow, someone is looking at it. If it is green, it was defended successfully. If it is red, it was challenged. The name of the challenger will appear under the score. The last column is total score.

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

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

*Leading private industry survey. In the U.S., securities underwriting, trading and brokerage activities and M&A advisor activities are provided by UBS Securities LLC, a registered broker/dealer that is a wholly owned subsidiary of UBS AG, a member of the New York Stock Exchange and other principal exchanges, and a member of SIPC. ©UBS 2007. All rights reserved.



Algorithm Competition Bracket

**Final
Round:**



Champion

**Wildcard
Round:**



**Semi-Final
Rounds:**

	<p>Room 1:</p> <p>ACRush Eryx liympanda Ying Per cyfra JongMan lovro</p> <p>lars Jan_Kuipers Vasyl(alphacom) xhl_kogitsune w_ Tomy xOberon gunnark</p>	<p>Room 2:</p> <p>tomek misof marek.cygan gawry bladerunner tomekkulczynski jakubr Astein</p> <p>marian Vitaliy VitalyGoldstein abikbaev dmytro gevak msg555 wleite</p>	<p>Room 3:</p> <p>SnapDragon andrewzta ploh bmerry Revenger darnley falagar tmyklebu</p> <p>Vedensky pashka Gluk Andrew_Lazarev nicka81 HiltonLange ltdtl java</p>
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abikbaev

Alexandr Bikbaev

Hometown:
Ekaterinburg (before 1990 named Sverdlovsk)

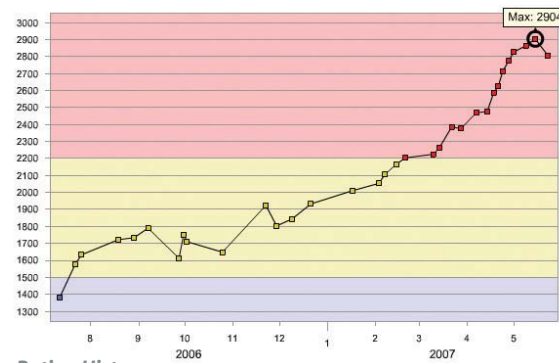
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Stewed aubergines with cheese

Famous Hometown Person:
Yuri Prilukov, Pavel Datsyuk, Boris Yeltsin.

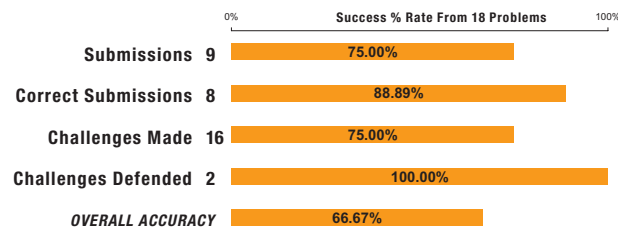
Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer; average temperature about 10 centigrade degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
All other cities seem to be clean.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
In this city, if you want to be programmer, you must to study almost everything yourself, because here are not many cool people or good courses in university or somewhere else.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

AVERAGE POINTS: 868.21

Seed 87 Rating Percentile 99.869

Current Rating 2807 Number of Ratings 33

Current Ranking 25 Highest Rating 2904

Country Russian Federation



ACRush

TianCheng Lou

Hometown:
Beijing, China.

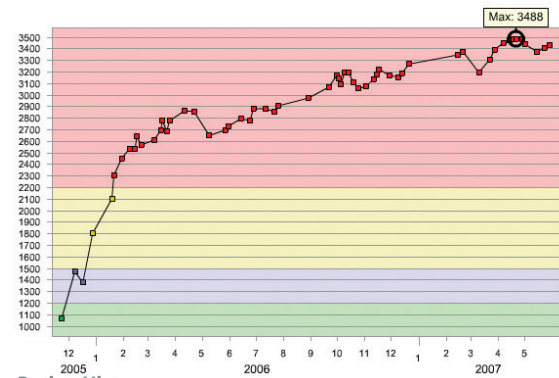
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Jiaozi and zhongzi, which is the most popular Chinese food.

Famous Hometown Person:
None.

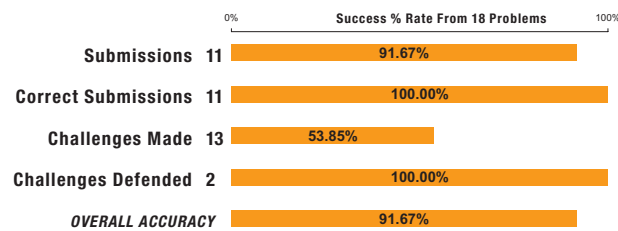
Favorite Hometown Season:
Autumn is the best time; the temperature is about 15 centigrade-degree.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Attending all kinds of programming competitions. We can meet a lot of friends there.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

AVERAGE POINTS: 1173.33

Seed 2 Rating Percentile 99.984

Current Rating 3408 Number of Ratings 57

Current Ranking 3 Highest Rating 3488

Country China



Andrew_Lazarev

Andrew Lazarev

Hometown:
Saratov

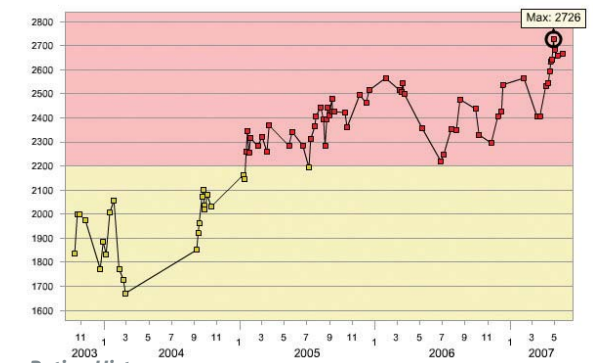
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Russian food: red-beet soup, pelmeni (Russian ravioli), slapjacks.

Famous Hometown Person:
Yuri Gagarin, Nikolai Chernyshevsky, Roman Abramovich.

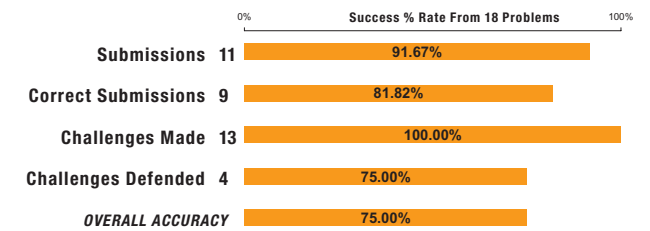
Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer, +25 degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
For the first visit - sight-seeing (Victory park with the heavy war machines, Kirov avenue, City park...) For residents - picnic outside the city (on the Volga river or in the forest).

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
When I was starting Saratov didn't even have computer science faculty in the University. Nowadays, things are much better. The University has very good computer science courses. Two IT companies with world-known names have branches in Saratov. And more and more often people from Saratov take prizes on programming competitions like TopCoder, ICPC, TTU.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

AVERAGE POINTS: 929.92

Seed 83 Rating Percentile 99.791

Current Rating 2667 Number of Ratings 81

Current Ranking 40 Highest Rating 2726

Country Russian Federation



Andrewzta

Andrew Stankevich

Hometown:
St Petersburg, Russia

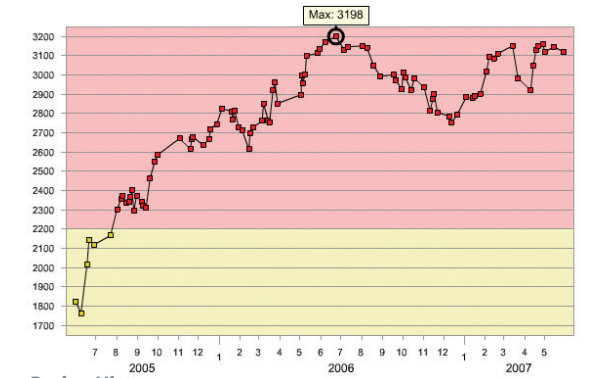
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
I would recommend traditional Russian food, like "bliny" - pancakes, various soups, and meat-based dishes.

Famous Hometown Person:
I think too many people to list them all in such a small text area.

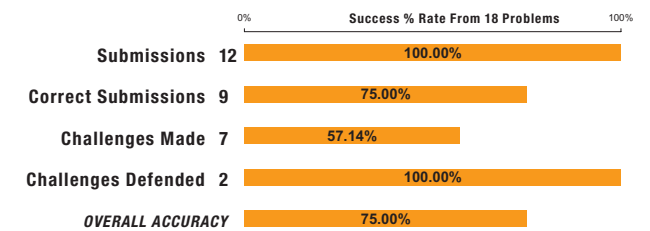
Favorite Hometown Season:
I prefer summer. Average temperature... well, about 20 degrees Celsius, but "volatility" is very high.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Our city is big on one side, but it is smaller and much less crowded than Moscow. I like such big but not busy towns.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
St Petersburg is a big city, so there are a lot of clubs, additional education centers, etc. However in schools in Russia computer science still has unsettled program, and those who would like learn programming and computer science need to look for some alternative ways to do it.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

AVERAGE POINTS: 916.45

Seed 9 Rating Percentile 99.979

Current Rating 3146 Number of Ratings 92

Current Ranking 4 Highest Rating 3198

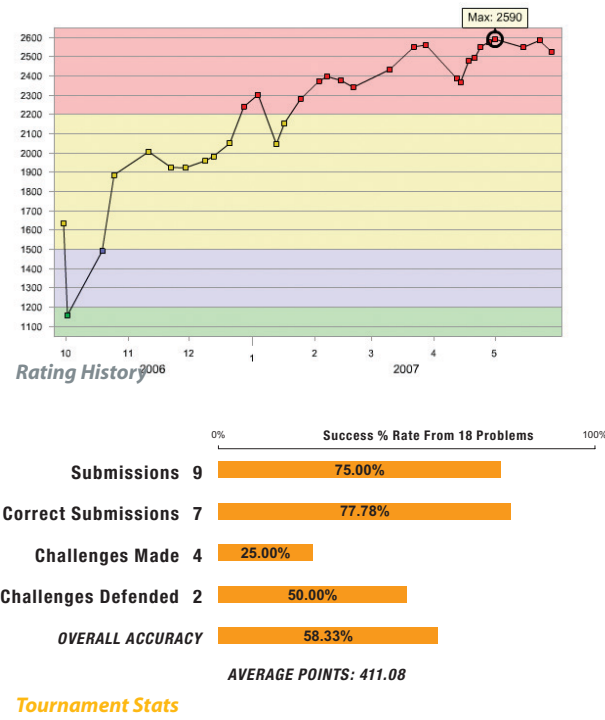
Country Russian Federation



Astein

Jin Ho Kim

Hometown:
Seoul, Korea
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Bulgogi, Kimchi, and also... Noodles.
Famous Hometown Person:
Ji sung Park, Se-ri Pak and Tae Hwan Park (I don't know why they has same first name). They are famous sportsman.
Favorite Hometown Season:
I like summer, despite temperatures of above 30 degrees at that time.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
I don't know... It's a boring hometown. :(
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Many people in my hometown have negative idea about programming. Especially, there are only 2 subjects about algorithm in my university. I think if there are more subjects about algorithm, programmers will increase.



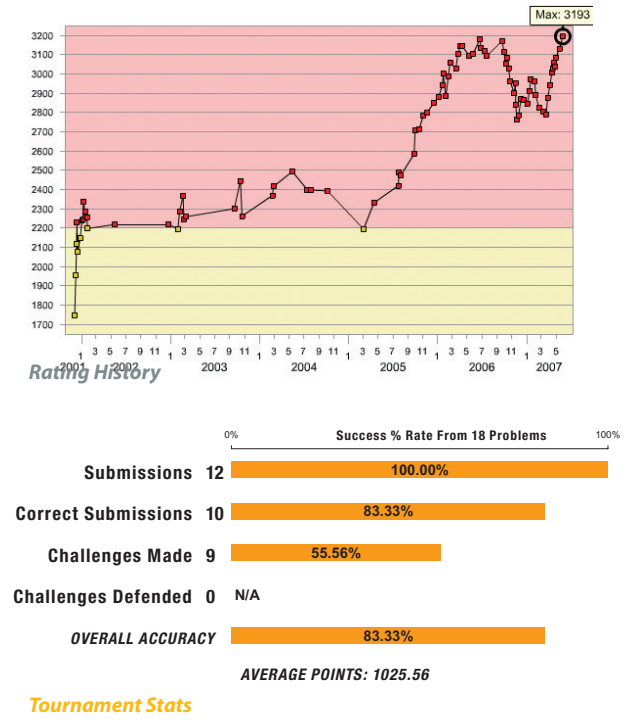
Seed	49	Rating Percentile	99.702
Current Rating	2583	Number of Ratings	31
Current Ranking	57	Highest Rating	2590
Country	Republic of Korea		



bmerry

Bruce Merry

Hometown:
Cape Town, South Africa
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Everything.
Famous Hometown Person:
Yes.
Favorite Hometown Season:
Early summer, when the temperature is about 27C.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
The beautiful environment.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I was always interested in programming from a young age, and was encouraged at school and university. It wasn't until I started participating in Olympiads that I met other programmers with the same passion, though.



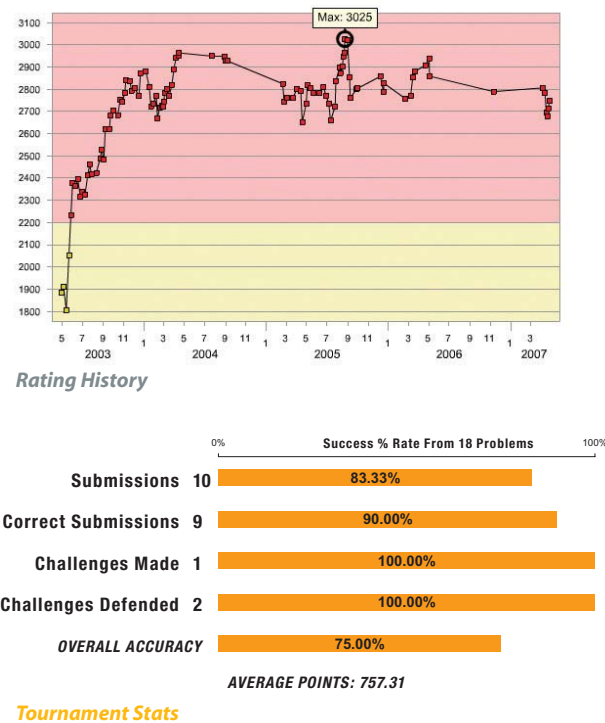
Seed	16	Rating Percentile	99.974
Current Rating	3130	Number of Ratings	85
Current Ranking	5	Highest Rating	3181
Country	South Africa		



bladerunner

Oleksandr Grushetsky

Hometown:
Kiev, Ukraine
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Borsch, vareniki, salo
Famous Hometown Person:
Andriy Shevchenko (one of the best soccer players), Milla Jovovich (actress) and Mikhail Bulgakov (writer) are from Kiev.
Favorite Hometown Season:
May - when everything is green. Kiev is especially beautiful when chestnut trees and lilac are blooming. The average temperature then is about 22 degrees C.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
That you can always be proud of the beauty of your home city, and be happy to invite friends from the other countries to visit it knowing that they will like it.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
When I was studying, Computer Science only started to be popular in Ukraine, and Internet only started to appear there, so it was not that easy to get advanced knowledge and prepare for programming competitions. But now there are plenty of resources and places to study.



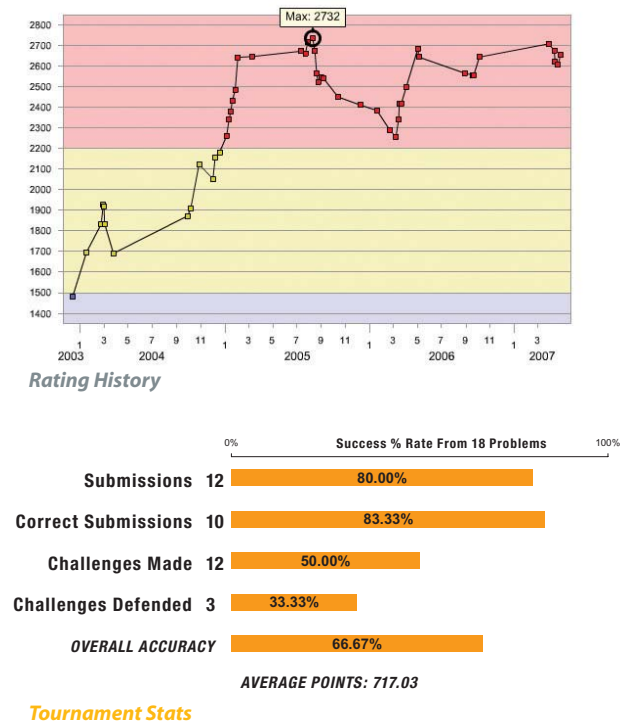
Seed	24	Rating Percentile	99.838
Current Rating	2747	Number of Ratings	100
Current Ranking	31	Highest Rating	3040
Country	Ukraine		



cyfra

Marcin Michalski

Hometown:
Gdynia - the city in northern Poland.
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Of course some of the best Polish food, and the best pizza I've ever eaten in one of the restaurants.
Famous Hometown Person:
My town is quite young (it has only 80 years), so I don't know anyone "world" famous from there.
Favorite Hometown Season:
Of course summer. My town is by the sea, so when the weather is fine you can go swimming or lie on the sandy beach.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
My town was perfect to grow up in. It is not that huge, but thanks to the nearby sea the climate is perfect.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I was lucky as one of the best secondary schools in Poland is in Gdynia. Thanks to that I was able to attend many computer science classes and that gave me a great start.



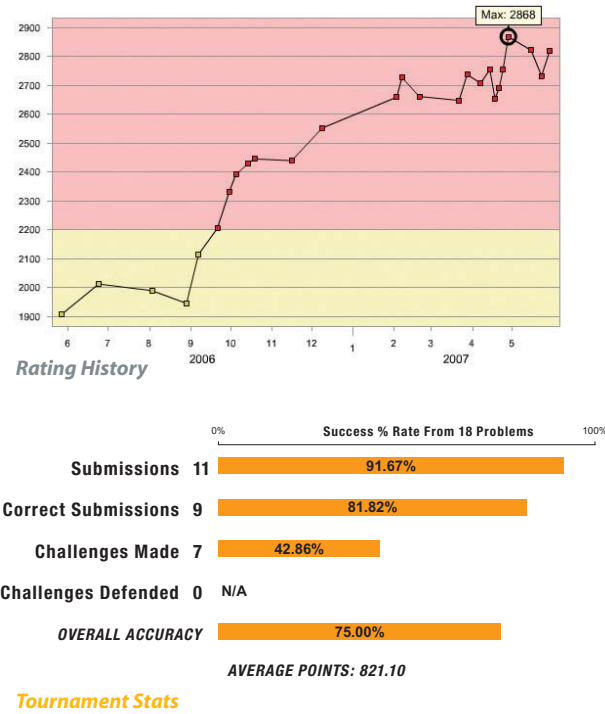
Seed	29	Rating Percentile	99.781
Current Rating	2652	Number of Ratings	49
Current Ranking	42	Highest Rating	2732
Country	Poland		



darnley

Mikhail Dvorkin

Hometown:
St. Petersburg, Russia
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Borsch, pancakes
Famous Hometown Person:
Yes :)
Favorite Hometown Season:
Autumn; about 10 C.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's the "cultural capital" of Russia and the most beautiful city in the world!
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Saint Petersburg is sometimes called the capital of Russian programming, deservedly enough, because of its vast opportunities for programmers of all professional levels. Prospective students from throughout Russia move to our city for education and employment; say, about a quarter of my fellow students in SPbSU ITMO came from other cities and even countries.es.



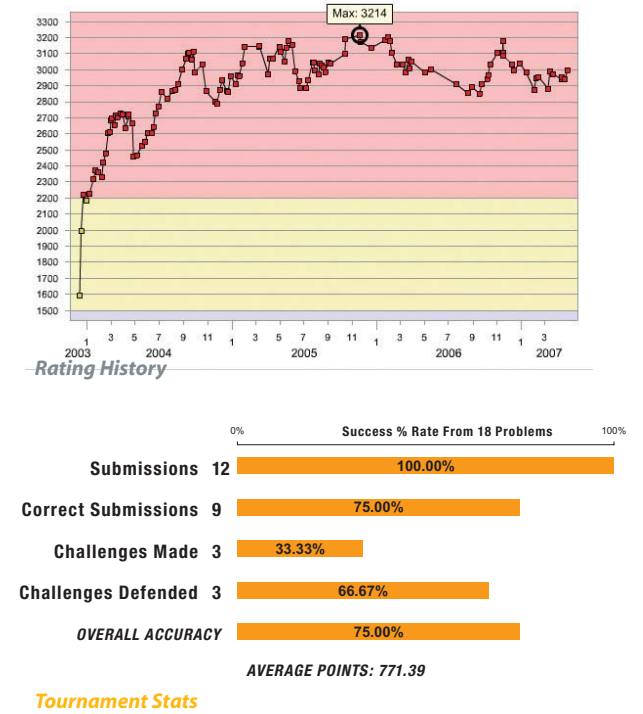
Seed	27	Rating Percentile	99.833
Current Rating	2732	Number of Ratings	25
Current Ranking	32	Highest Rating	2868
Country	Russian Federation		



Eryx

Eryk Kopczyński

Hometown:
Warsaw
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
I don't think there is any food specific to Warsaw. But there are lots of good Polish foods.
Famous Hometown Person:
Warsaw is a big city, and lots of famous persons are from or work/worked here. One of the most famous in the world is Maria Skłodowska (Marie Curie).
Favorite Hometown Season:
Every time of year has its own advantages.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
Easy access to everything: shops, education, transport, nature... For example, you don't have to move to study at Warsaw University.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
At our university one can learn mathematics and computer science at a high level. We also have very good high schools and very good extra courses for gifted Polish high school and primary school students. Anyways, learning programming as a child is different now than then.



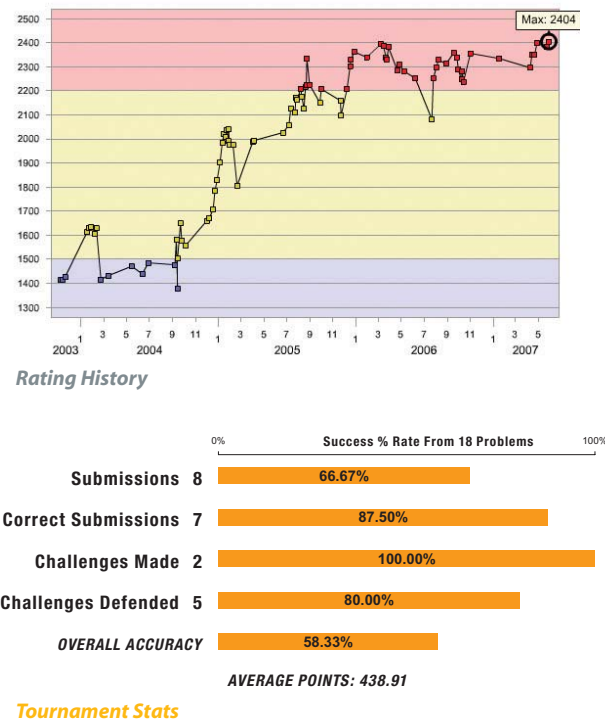
Seed	11	Rating Percentile	99.958
Current Rating	2996	Number of Ratings	128
Current Ranking	8	Highest Rating	3214
Country	Poland		



dmytro

Dmytro Korzhyk

Hometown:
I am from the city of Vinnytsia, which is situated in central Ukraine on the river Southern Bug.
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
They must try my mom's borscht and holubtsi. Of course, both with Smetana.
Famous Hometown Person:
Nikolay Pirogov, the father of field surgery, had a manor here. His embalmed body still lies in Vinnytsia. Also, Adolph Hitler built his "Werewolf" headquarters near Vinnytsia.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's neither in eastern nor in western Ukraine. It's neither hot nor cold. Living is neither cheap nor expensive. Vinnytsia is a well-balanced city.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
At 7, I entered elementary school. There was a subject named "Informatics" where we mostly played some car racing game and another one where a young mom had to chase her mischievous children around the house. Eventually I learned different algorithms, languages, design patterns, networks, multithreading, databases, etc.



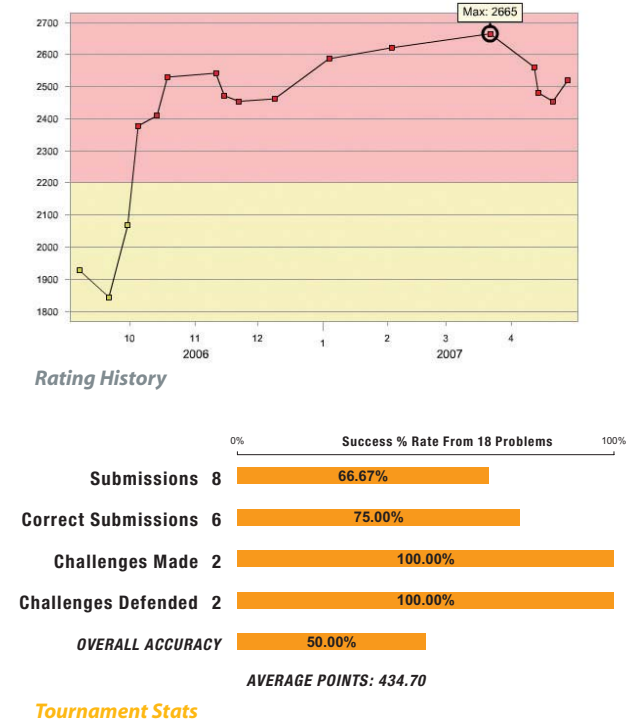
Seed	99	Rating Percentile	99.462
Current Rating	2381	Number of Ratings	86
Current Ranking	103	Highest Rating	2397
Country	Ukraine		



falagar

Roman Satyukov

Hometown:
I am from Saint-Petersburg, Russia.
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
I think they must try Blintz. Also they must try Russian Pelmeni.
Famous Hometown Person:
Joseph Brodsky, Alexander Blok, Dmitri Shostakovich, Grigori Perelman.
Favorite Hometown Season:
My favorite time of year is summer, and the average temperature is about 20C.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
There are a lot of interesting things in Saint-Petersburg: museums, palaces and some other buildings.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Programming is now growing up in Saint-Petersburg. Some big companies, such as Google, already have opened their offices in Saint-Petersburg. And there are a lot of programming courses now, but when I was in school it wasn't so good with programming. However there were some good programming courses in my school and I didn't have any serious obstacles that time.



Seed	38	Rating Percentile	99.640
Current Rating	2519	Number of Ratings	17
Current Ranking	69	Highest Rating	2665
Country	Russian Federation		



gawry

Pawel Gawrychowski

Hometown:

I was born in Wroclaw (and I have spent most of the last 23 years here).

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

The only thing that comes to my mind right now is this restaurant Brajt (it's near the town square) where I can order pierogi with some vodka.

Famous Hometown Person:

Two obvious candidates would be Max Born and Hugo Steinhaus. And if they're not as famous as I think, Manfred von Richthofen was born in Wroclaw, too.

Favorite Hometown Season:

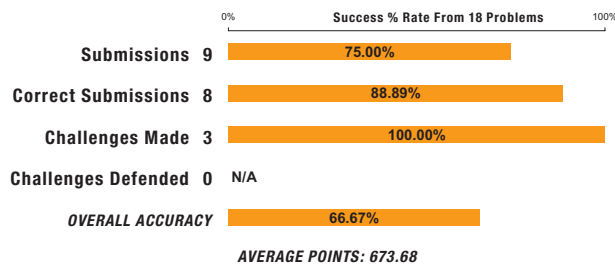
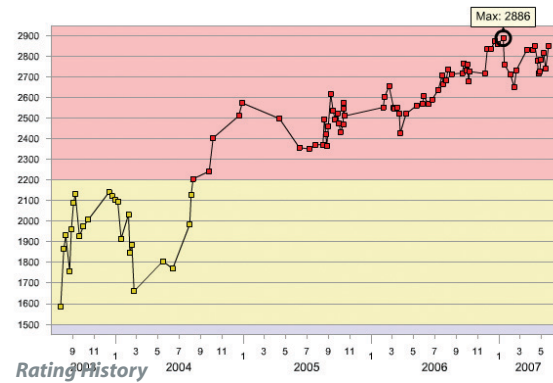
Warm autumn is my favorite time of the year (here it's usually 10-15 C then).

Best Thing About My Hometown:

Some say that Wroclaw is "the meeting place" (though some also add that most of those meetings are in traffic jams).

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I'm not even sure if I'm a programmer (or if I have finally grown up. In fact I'm quite sure I haven't). Or if I'd like to.



Tournament Stats

Seed: 20, Rating Percentile: 99.906

Current Rating: 2849, Number of Ratings: 93

Current Ranking: 18, Highest Rating: 2886

Country: Poland



Gluk

Andrii Grynenko

Hometown:

Kyiv

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Vareniki, Borsh, Mlinci

Famous Hometown Person:

As Kyiv is about 1500 years old it would be impossible to list all famous people who were born here.

Favorite Hometown Season:

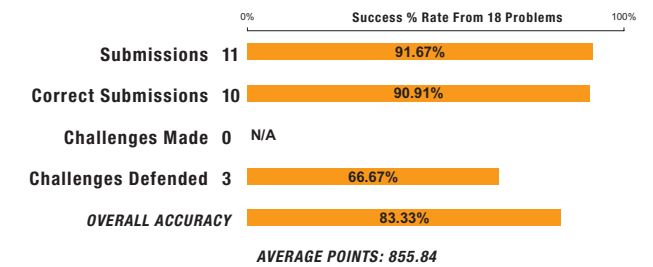
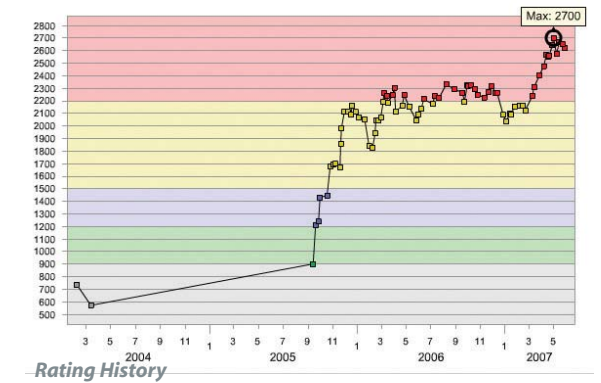
Spring, temperature is about 10 C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

That you can see all this beauty every day.:

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I think it is nothing special to become a programmer here. There're many other programmers here and programming is quite popular education here.



Tournament Stats

Seed: 82, Rating Percentile: 99.770

Current Rating: 2649, Number of Ratings: 77

Current Ranking: 44, Highest Rating: 2700

Country: Ukraine



gevak

Alexey Zhevak

Hometown:

Ufa

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Chak-chak

Favorite Hometown Season:

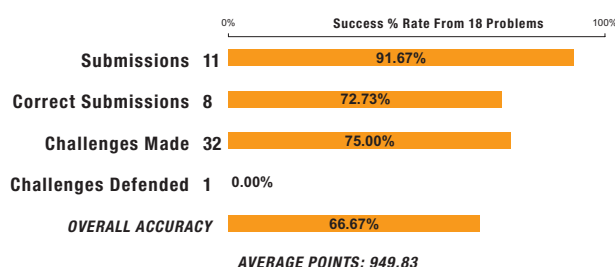
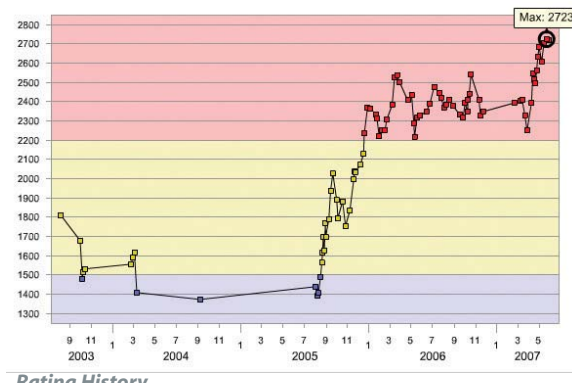
Summer. About 20C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

Ufa is not the worst place to born, because there are a lot of worse places in the world. Definitely.:

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Most of the talented programmers usually leave Ufa to study in Moscow or SPb universities. Those who stay, obtain an excellent chance to advance to ACM finals and to make other achievements (in software development, computer science and so on).



Tournament Stats

Seed: 125, Rating Percentile: 99.817

Current Rating: 2723, Number of Ratings: 86

Current Ranking: 35, Highest Rating: 2723

Country: Russian Federation



gunnark

Gunnar Kreitz

Hometown:

Stockholm, Sweden

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Vegan Asian food at Lao Wai and Malaysia

Famous Hometown Person:

Many, most likely.:

Favorite Hometown Season:

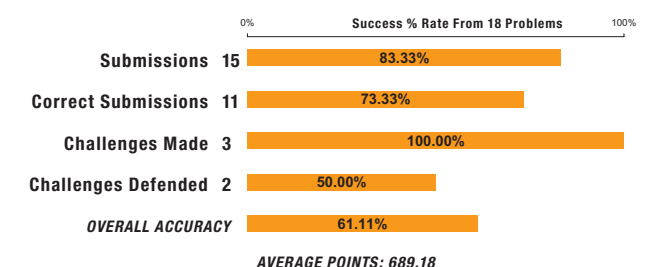
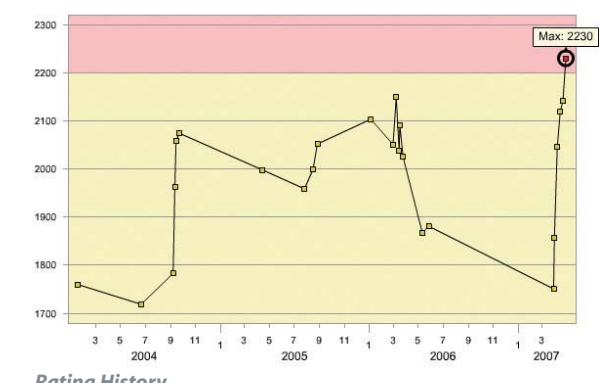
Late spring/early summer (May-June). Average temperature is rising due to global warming, currently 15-20 (59-68 F).

Best Thing About My Hometown:

It's close to home, obviously.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Sweden in general is a nice country for aspiring programmers, I think. Most secondary schools offer some programming courses, and KTH is a great university.



Tournament Stats

Seed: 342, Rating Percentile: 99.080

Current Rating: 2230, Number of Ratings: 25

Current Ranking: 176, Highest Rating: 2230

Country: Sweden



HiltonLange

Seed	119	Rating Percentile	99.457
Current Rating	2377	Number of Ratings	135
Current Ranking	104	Highest Rating	2601
Country	South Africa		

Hilton Lange

Hometown:
Johannesburg

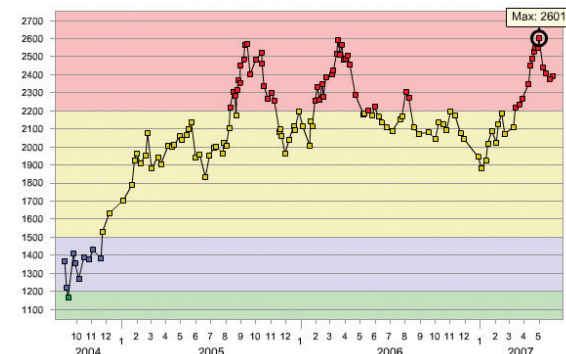
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Boerewors, which literally means "farmers sausage". It's the highlight of any South African braai. (Barbecue)

Famous Hometown Person:
Nelson Mandela

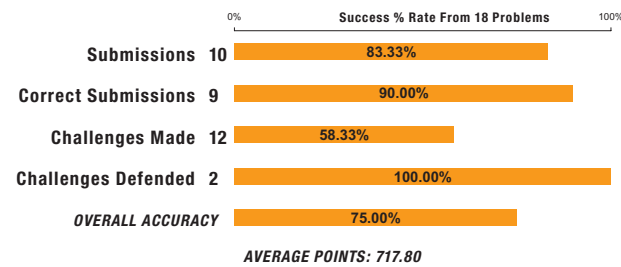
Favorite Hometown Season:
Beautifully crisp highveld winters have sunny skies every day, chilly evenings with the temperature occasionally dipping down to freezing, and lovely warm days in the mid twenties. Perfect weather!

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Diversity. It's a cliché in this country, but it really is a privilege to live in such a melting pot of different cultures, especially when they're still learning to understand one another and work together.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Education opportunities are excellent in South Africa. Well rounded traditional schooling, and many computer science courses in university. My biggest obstacle was the lure of a job before I'd finished my studies!



Rating History



Tournament Stats



jakubr

Seed	33	Rating Percentile	99.864
Current Rating	2803	Number of Ratings	83
Current Ranking	26	Highest Rating	2894
Country	Poland		

Jakub Radoszewski

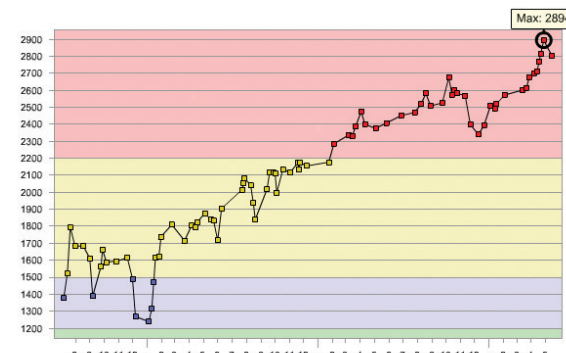
Hometown:
Poznań (Poznan) in Poland

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Saint Martin's sweet croissant, which is famous throughout Poland. Some time ago it was baked only on the 11th of November (Martin's name-day). Now you can buy it everyday (and also in other Polish cities), but still the finest croissants are baked on 11.11.

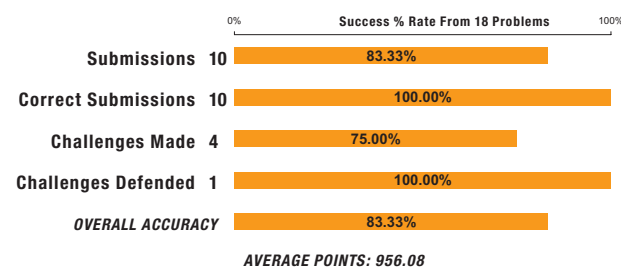
Favorite Hometown Season:
I especially like early autumn ('gold Polish autumn', due to sunny weather and colorful leaves). It is about 15-20 C then.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Poznan is big and beautiful, so living here is a pleasure. It is equally close to Warsaw (where I am studying) and to Berlin (in Germany) and is also an advantage.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I started programming in high school, in a computer science and mathematics class. I am very grateful of my great informatics teacher and classmates (f.i. szymcio), who showed me many aspects of programming, some algorithms and introduced to problem archives on the Internet.



Rating History



Tournament Stats



Jan_Kuipers

Seed	72	Rating Percentile	99.728
Current Rating	2616	Number of Ratings	125
Current Ranking	52	Highest Rating	2925
Country	Netherlands		

Jan Kuipers

Hometown:

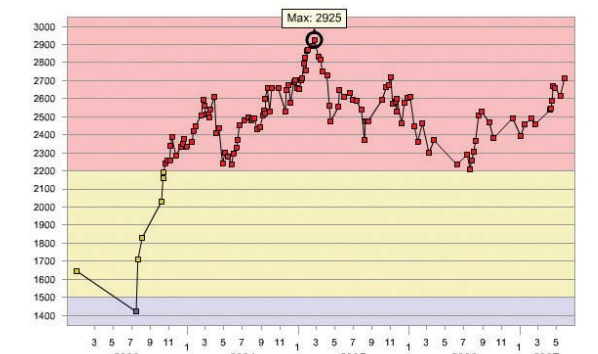
I'm from Utrecht, right in the centre of the Netherlands. Utrecht is cozy medium sized city, with a large student population and a nice downtown area.

Famous Hometown Person:
Pope Adrianus VI (1459-1523)

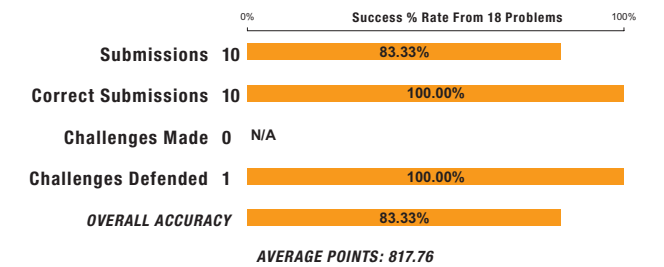
Favorite Hometown Season:
The best time of the year is mid-summer. If you're lucky, temperatures are around 25 (perhaps even 30) degrees centigrade and it's not raining.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Well, it's not too big and not too small... Downtown city you can walk from A to B, and the rest of the town can be covered by bike. There's plenty of stuff to do, so that you never get bored.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
My programming career began at age six, when my father followed a computer programming course. From there, I started coding on a commodore 64. My first encounter with algorithms wasn't until the age of 18 in the Dutch Informatics Olympiad, and that's when I began participating in competitions.



Rating History



Tournament Stats



JongMan

Seed	30	Rating Percentile	99.796
Current Rating	2670	Number of Ratings	69
Current Ranking	39	Highest Rating	2760
Country	Republic of Korea		

JongMan Koo

Hometown:

Seoul, capital of South Korea.

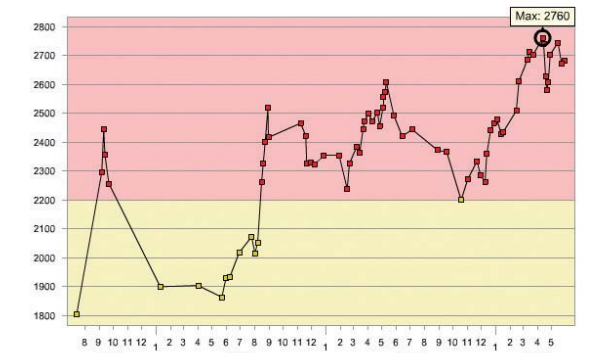
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Kimchi and Bulgogi are famous. Also, Bos-sam - steamed pork wrapped with Kimchi. They're one of my favorite Korean foods.

Famous Hometown Person:
Ban Ki-moon, the current UN Secretary. Strictly he's not born in Seoul; however he lived in Seoul for a long period of time.

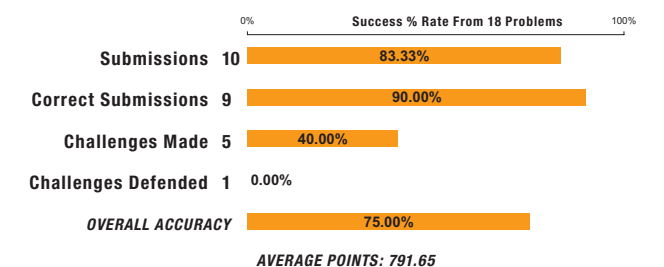
Favorite Hometown Season:
Around September, the weather's cool, with gentle breezes and blue sky. My school hosts a sports competition with Korea University - which is regarded as the best & greatest collegiate festival.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's a large and crowded city packed with lots of entertainment.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
In my high school days, my programming contest career was, kind of, pathetic. So my parents kept telling me to give it up and go medical school or something - however, I resisted and insisted on doing CS. So here I am.



Rating History



Tournament Stats



lars

Lars Hellsten

Hometown:
Toronto, Canada.

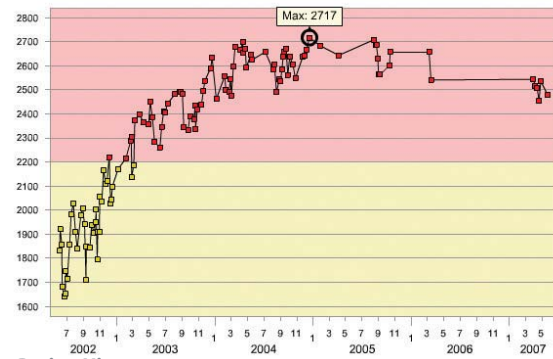
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Greek food during the Taste of the Danforth street festival.

Famous Hometown Person:
Mike Myers is probably the most famous.

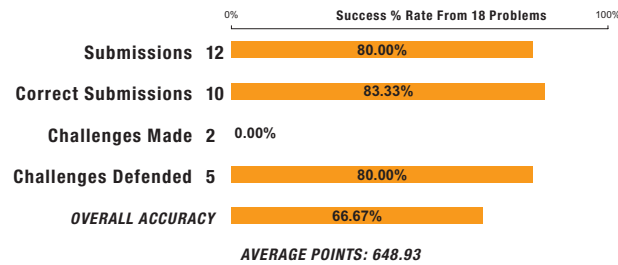
Favorite Hometown Season:
Spring, 10-20C normally.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Hunting moose with my pet beaver.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I taught myself to program from a young age. The CS curriculum prior to university was poor compared to other subjects like math. But overall my upbringing was privileged compared to most people in the world!



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 52 Rating Percentile 99.577

Current Rating 2479 Number of Ratings 120

Current Ranking 81 Highest Rating 2717

Country Canada



lovro

Lovro Puzar

Hometown:
Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

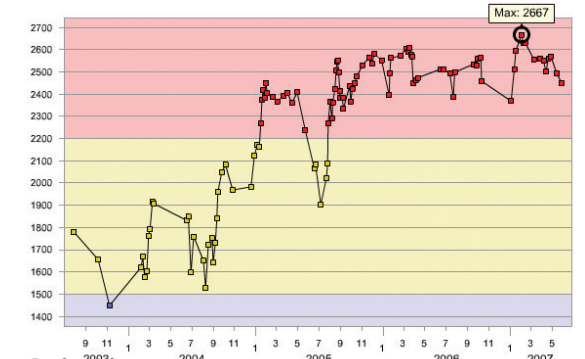
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
They would find a variety of European cuisine, most notably a mixture of Mediterranean and continental. Try everything!

Famous Hometown Person:
Me! Uh, but I guess people are more likely to have heard of, say, Janica Kostelic.

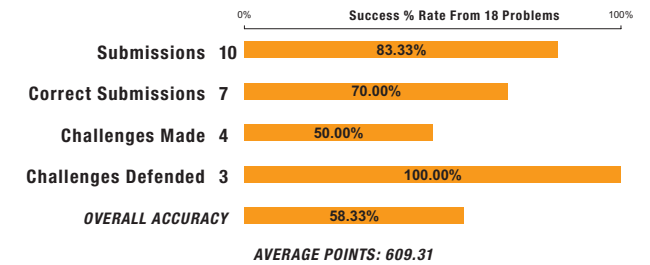
Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer. Although my town isn't on the coast, it's a short ride to get there and have fun. It gets hot though, with temperatures in the 90s.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Everything being within walking distance or connected by public transportation, thus not having to drive at all. Not that it seems to matter to most people, as traffic is still a nightmare.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I'd say the biggest boost came in primary school, when our principal let kalinov's talent and mine develop. Today there is a group of people in the city committed to training kids who show an interest in competitive programming.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 50 Rating Percentile 99.592

Current Rating 2493 Number of Ratings 106

Current Ranking 78 Highest Rating 2667

Country Croatia



liympanda

Yiming Li

Hometown:
Shanghai

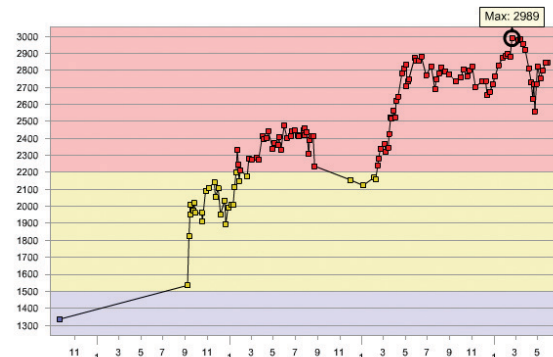
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Steamed stuffed bun by small bamboo food steamer.

Famous Hometown Person:
There is many many. As I know, Daopo Huang is one of them. She improved the textile in China.

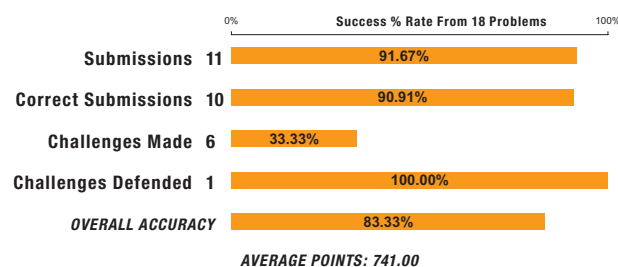
Favorite Hometown Season:
I think it's spring. About 20C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
I think many many things in Shanghai are the best. e.g. the education, the food, the climate and the people.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I started to learn programming from middle school. From Teacher Gui, Teacher Yao, Teacher Yu and Teacher Wang (time order). I learned a lot from them. There are no courses during the secondary school. All these I learned out of school. Fuwenjie is in the same high school with me and 1 year younger than me and a little more powerful than me. We represented the Shanghai Team at the NOI'99



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 12 Rating Percentile 99.901

Current Rating 2844 Number of Ratings 126

Current Ranking 19 Highest Rating 2989

Country China



Itdtl

Hooyeon Lee

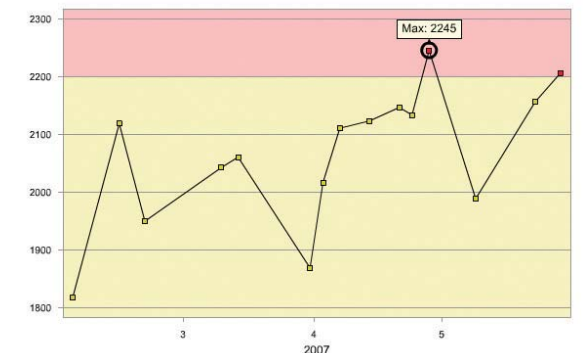
Hometown:
Seoul, Korea

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Bulgogi: thinly sliced marinated beef, cooked on a grill. Bulgogi means "fire meat". Jokbal or pig's feet served with a red salted shrimp sauce. Sannakji or live octopus. Sannakji is served live and still moving on the plate.

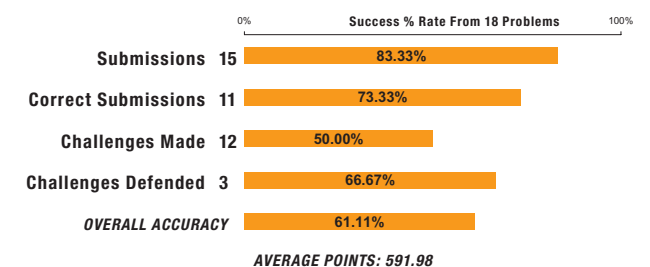
Famous Hometown Person:
Rain, the singer

Favorite Hometown Season:
Between May and October, but visit Korea during the summer. It will be amazing.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
The food. Especially, when you have A BUNCH OF dishes. Once you experience traditional Korean food, you can never forget. Trust me. Many of my foreign friends really love Korean food and I am proud. :) *Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:*
Most middle/high schools in Korea do not provide a technical course like programming, so I utilized websites of various OI, in order to improve my programming skills and knowledge in algorithms.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 227 Rating Percentile 98.798

Current Rating 2156 Number of Ratings 14

Current Ranking 230 Highest Rating 2245

Country Republic of Korea



marek.cygan

Marek Cygan

Hometown:
Bydgoszcz.

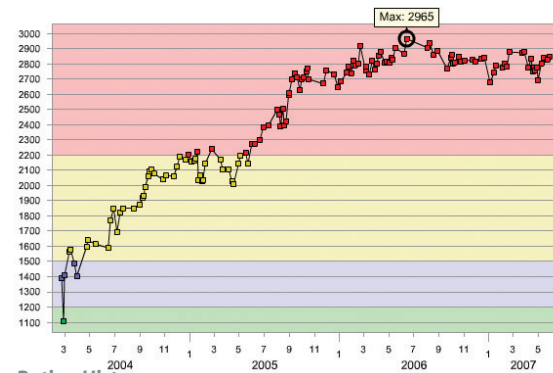
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
A cake made by my fiancé.

Famous Hometown Person:
Marian Rejewski, mathematician and cryptologist, member of the Polish mathematicians group, which broke the Enigma cipher.

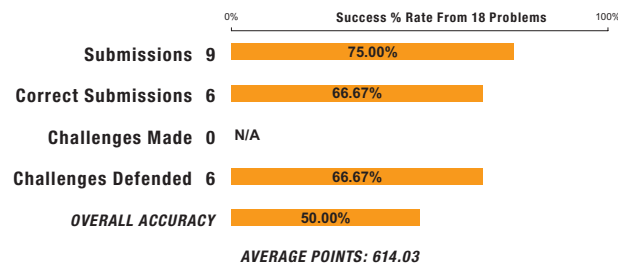
Favorite Hometown Season:
Late summer, the average temperature is around 20 Celsius degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
There are strong rowing clubs in Bydgoszcz.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I had good mathematics and computer science teachers in the high school I graduated from. I had the possibility to attend faculties, which made me interested in computer science.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 14 Rating Percentile 99.8903

Current Rating 2827 Number of Ratings 137

Current Ranking 21 Highest Rating 2965

Country Poland



marian

Marian Dvorsky

Hometown:
Kosice, Slovakia

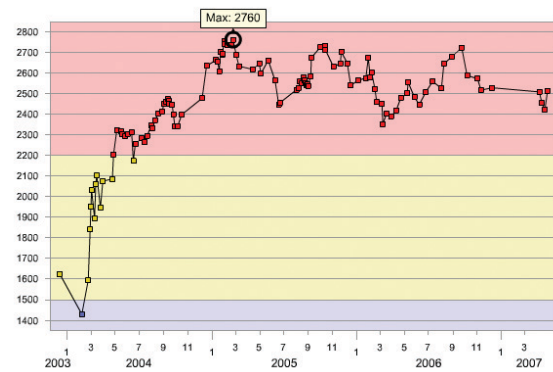
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Bryndzove pirohy

Famous Hometown Person:
Martina Hingis, Swiss tennis player, was born in Kosice.

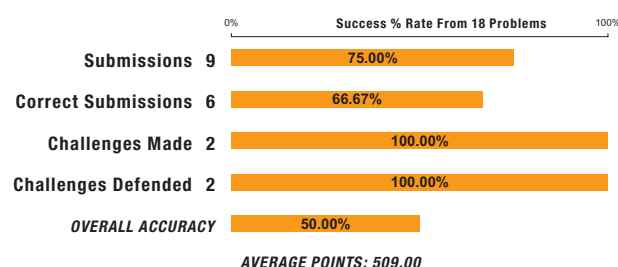
Favorite Hometown Season:
Spring, around 20C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
That I can be proud of what the city looks like. The city center is really beautiful.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
My father was a programmer when I was a kid. I used to observe him while he was working, and wanted to do the same. I went to a high school class focused on math, physics, and computer science, where I met friends with similar hobbies like I had.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 54 Rating Percentile 99.6238

Current Rating 2513 Number of Ratings 112

Current Ranking 72 Highest Rating 2760

Country Slovakia



misof

Michal Forisek

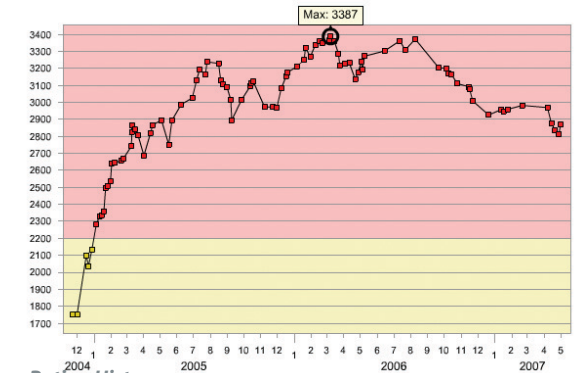
Hometown:

Born in Ruzomberok, grown up in Poprad, and now living in the Slovak capitol Bratislava. This covers almost the entire Slovakia. I like them all.

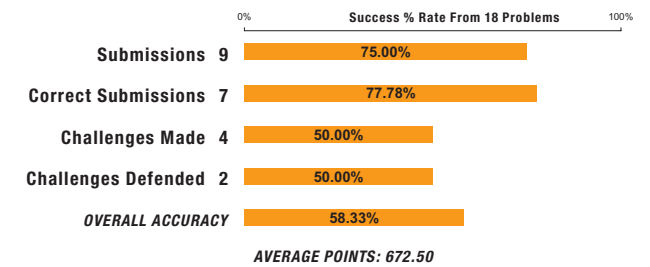
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
The Slovak national food is potato dumpplings with "bryndza" sheep cheese.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
The best thing about the town Poprad where I grew up was surely the nature. Poprad is located in one of the most beautiful parts of Slovakia, right at the base of our tallest mountain range, the High Tatras (2655m), and several kilometers away from the national park Slovak Paradise. Come and see what makes them so special to me.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
The town where I grew up was pretty small, and I was one of just a few future programmers my age. The school wasn't much help, I learned most of the basics by myself, but later I learned many new things thanks to our Slovak programming competitions and the related camps.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 10 Rating Percentile 99.9112

Current Rating 2870 Number of Ratings 90

Current Ranking 17 Highest Rating 3387

Country Slovakia



mark

Mark Gordon

Hometown:
Livonia, Mi

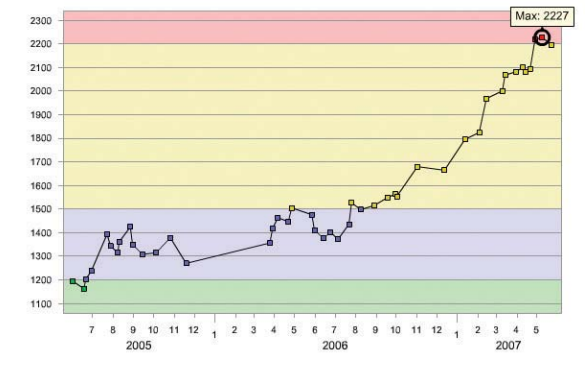
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Bates is our signature restaurant although I haven't been there much myself.

Famous Hometown Person:
No one really, just Sara Combest. :)

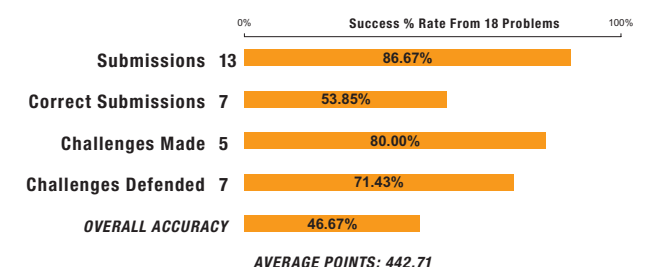
Favorite Hometown Season:
Anytime but winter. It's usually around the 60s and 70s in the spring/fall and 80s and 90s in the summer. (In Fahrenheit)

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Me, of course :) Actually that's a hard question to answer. I think I could be sitting in front of my computer all day trying to figure out what the number one thing from Livonia is.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
During my high school years (I am still in high school) the magnet program I am involved in offered a few computer science classes. I can't say they helped me much with algorithms because the AP people are more interested in if you know what polymorphism is.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 192 Rating Percentile 98.9393

Current Rating 2196 Number of Ratings 45

Current Ranking 203 Highest Rating 2227

Country United States



nicka81

Nikolay Archak

Hometown:

I am from Saint Petersburg, the second largest city in Russia and its former capital.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

I would recommend Georgian cuisine, for example, braised lamb and chakhokhbili.

Famous Hometown Person:

Fyodor Dostoevsky, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Vladimir Nabokov, Vladimir Putin, Grigori Perelman.

Favorite Hometown Season:

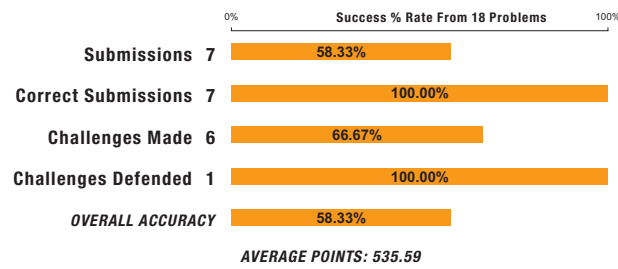
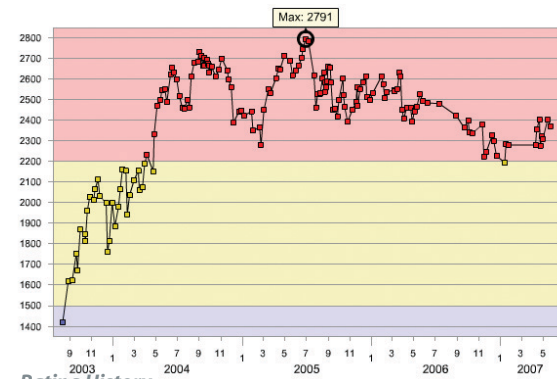
Saint Petersburg is one of the northernmost cities, so weather is usually cold and nasty. My favorite is summer when the average temperature is about 70 F.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

"White Nights" when even after midnight the sun does not descend below the horizon enough for the sky to grow dark.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

CS only recently emerged as an independent discipline in Russia. Traditionally it was dominated by math. For example, in the high school I had many math subjects but no CS ones. It was the same way in the University until the 3rd year even though I was in the CS department.



Tournament Stats

Seed 116 Rating Percentile 99.42

Current Rating 2369 Number of Ratings 164

Current Ranking 111 Highest Rating 2791

Country Russian Federation



pashka

Pavel Mavrin

Hometown:

I grew in Togliatti, a town on river Volga (about 7*10^5 citizens). Last 5 years I live in St.Petersburg. Here I have found profession, friends and wife. So now I think that I am from St.Petersburg.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Try traditional Russian pancakes, ravioli and vodka. But don't go too far!

Famous Hometown Person:

Olympic champion Alexei Nemov hails from Togliatti. And a huge number of famous people hail from St.Petersburg.

Favorite Hometown Season:

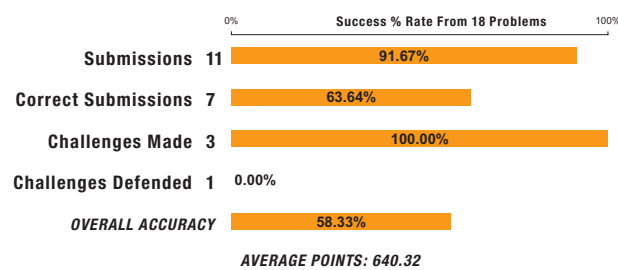
Togliatti has a continental climate and is about 20C in summer and -15C in winter. St.Petersburg has not a climate at all. You can see snow in May and grass in January.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

It's hard to describe. You must visit a town to feel its spirit.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

My mother and father were programmers; my older brother is a programmer. There was no way to me to become not a programmer.)



Tournament Stats

Seed 61 Rating Percentile 99.7492

Current Rating 2636 Number of Ratings 49

Current Ranking 48 Highest Rating 2636

Country Russian Federation



Per

Per Austrin

Hometown:

Born and raised in Karlstad in western Sweden. Since 2000 I live in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Surströmming (fermented herring). The fact that you're not allowed to bring it on a plane, even in the checked baggage, kind of says it all. For less courageous stomachs, the traditional Swedish smorgasbord is perhaps a better (and not as smelly) option.

Favorite Hometown Season:

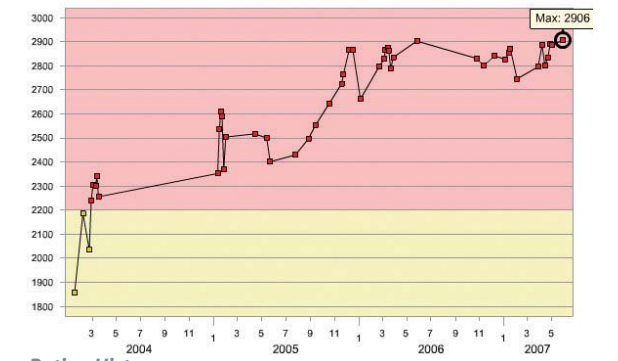
Whenever life is looking good. It can be any time -- nobody knows in advance!

Best Thing About My Hometown:

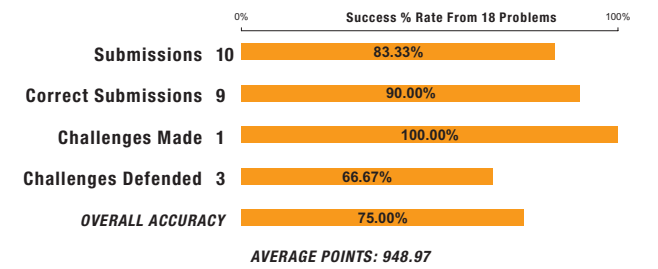
There are few things which beat walking home through Stockholm on a warm summer night, just as the sun is rising.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

The computer-related courses I had during high school were mostly fairly pointless. I did learn programming at an early age, but I knew next to nothing about algorithms until I started at KTH, my university. There, I did learn a lot.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 23 Rating Percentile 99.9216

Current Rating 2885 Number of Ratings 47

Current Ranking 15 Highest Rating 2902

Country Sweden



ploh

Po-Ru Loh

Hometown:

Madison, Wisconsin (USA).

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Cheese! Ice cream!

Favorite Hometown Season:

I like both spring and fall -- it's pretty outdoors and a comfortable 70 degrees or so. Uh, 70 degrees Fahrenheit, that is, for you foreigners.)

Best Thing About My Hometown:

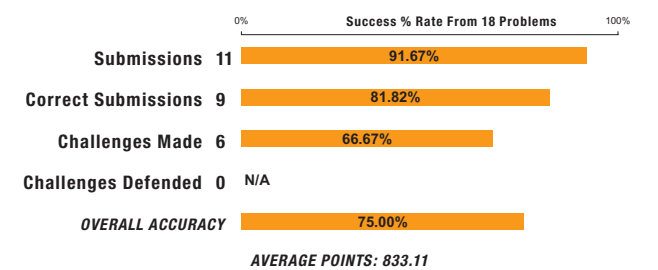
It's a nice place to grow up: safe, quiet but not overly so, friendly, etc.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Well, I didn't exactly grow up a programmer and I wouldn't say I qualify as one now. => My focus has always been math. Anyway, my hometown offered me plenty of opportunities; the public schools are quite good, and I was also able to take courses at the University of Wisconsin.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 14 Rating Percentile 99.9478

Current Rating 2961 Number of Ratings 178

Current Ranking 10 Highest Rating 3114

Country United States



Revenger

Denis Nazarov

Hometown:

I am from Ufa. It is located between Europe and Asia near Ural Mountains. So, Ufa's nature is very beautiful.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

They should try "Chack-chack". It is very famous delicacy in my city.

Famous Hometown Person:

There are many famous people from my hometown. For example, Yuri Shevchuk (a famous Russian artist) was born in Ufa.

Favorite Hometown Season:

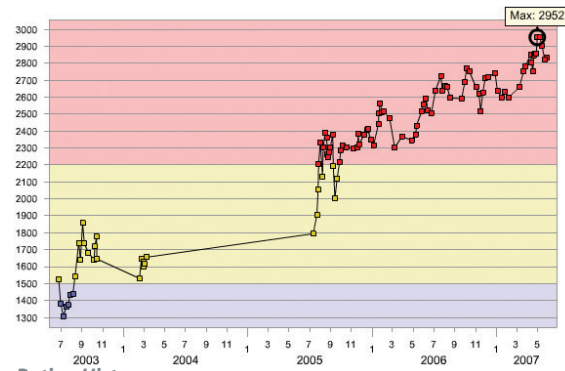
Summer is my favorite time of year. The average temperature is 22 C in summer.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

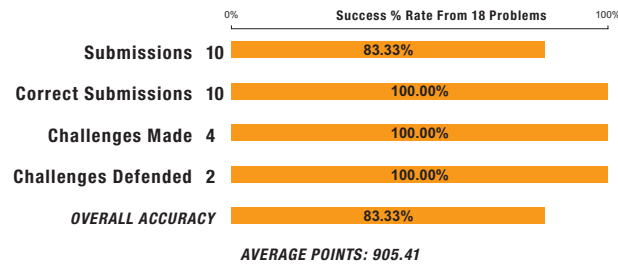
Hmm... It is not very large and like it.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Julius Caesar once famously claimed that he would rather be the first in command in a village than the second in Rome. It is the complete explanation why it is better to grow up to be a programmer in Ufa for me.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed: 25, Rating Percentile: 99.8798

Current Rating: 2821, Number of Ratings: 103

Current Ranking: 23, Highest Rating: 2952

Country: Russian Federation



SnapDragon

Derek Kisman

Hometown:

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Our steak and ribs are fantastic. :)

Famous Hometown Person:

Bret "The Hitman" Hart lived down the street from me. :). According to Wikipedia, James Gosling (creator of Java), Todd McFarlane (creator of Spawn), and Elisha Cuthbert (Jack's daughter in 24) were born in Calgary. Canada's Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, lives in Calgary.

Favorite Hometown Season:

I like the season known as... what was it again? Oh, yes. "Summer".

Best Thing About My Hometown:

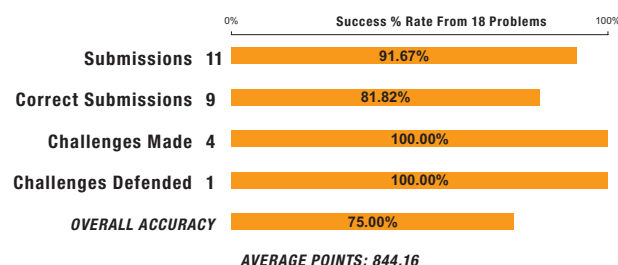
It helps you appreciate the weather everywhere else.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

There was actually a fairly well-run Calgary computer competition. So I was kept fairly motivated to program through my formative school years. I was almost entirely self-taught, of course; in those years, high-school programming courses were pretty bad.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed: 5, Rating Percentile: 99.9634

Current Rating: 3015, Number of Ratings: 145

Current Ranking: 7, Highest Rating: 3402

Country: Canada



tmyklebu

Tor Myklebu

Hometown:

Whistler, BC.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Something expensive, probably --- the cheapest restaurant food one could buy in 2001 was roughly \$11 for a small plate of noodles. ("Restaurant food" here refers to the decent stuff, not pizza or McDonald's. Pizza isn't particularly cheap, either.)

Favorite Hometown Season:

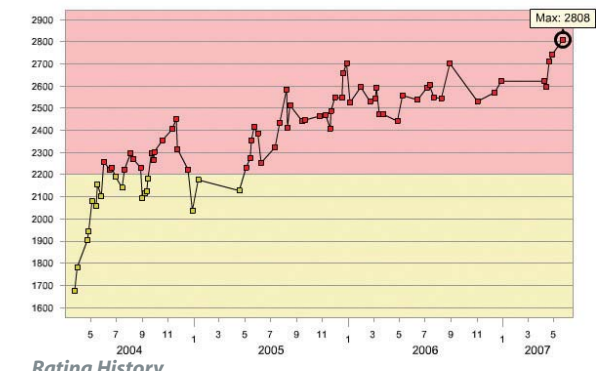
Winter, when it is usually around -5 in the valley.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

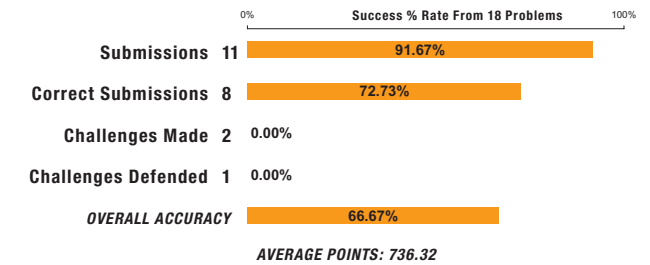
I can ski without looking more an idiot than I usually do.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I played with QBASIC in grade four, then hardly touched programming again until about thirteen. I started caring about programming around the age of fifteen. (This quickly stopped when I started taking Waterloo's terrible CS courses as to satisfy degree requirements.)



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed: 42, Rating Percentile: 99.8746

Current Rating: 2808, Number of Ratings: 76

Current Ranking: 24, Highest Rating: 2808

Country: Canada



tomek

Tomasz Czajka

Hometown:

Stalowa Wola, Poland

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Pierogi

Famous Hometown Person:

Myself

Favorite Hometown Season:

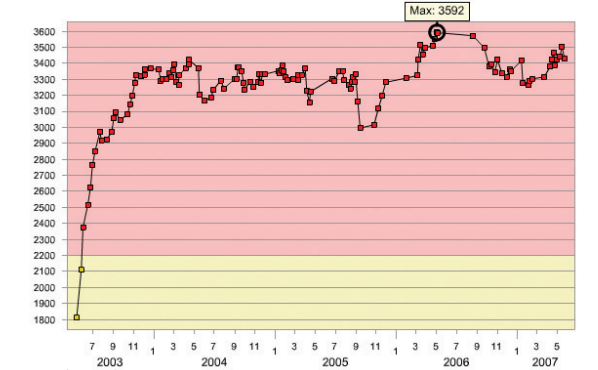
Summer, 30 C

Best Thing About My Hometown:

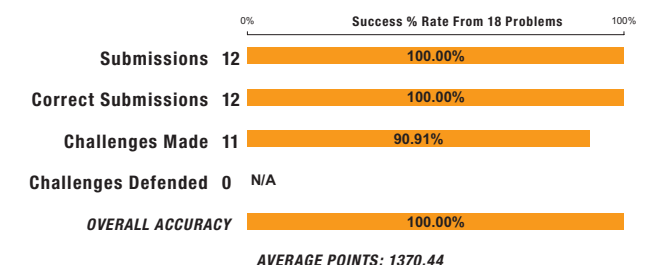
It's exotic.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I never learned to program at school at all. My coder education was first at home, then at high school Olympiads and Polish Children's Fund scientific camps for kids. Mostly I learned by myself by playing with my computers and reading books.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed: 3, Rating Percentile: 99.9895

Current Rating: 3427, Number of Ratings: 125

Current Ranking: 2, Highest Rating: 3592

Country: Poland



tomekkulczynski

Tomasz Kulczynski

Hometown:

Bydgoszcz, Poland

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

We don't have any special food in here. Just let them try some typical Polish food, like "bigos".

Famous Hometown Person:

Marian Rejewski, one of the mathematicians to broke the Enigma code.

Favorite Hometown Season:

Winter, about 0 C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

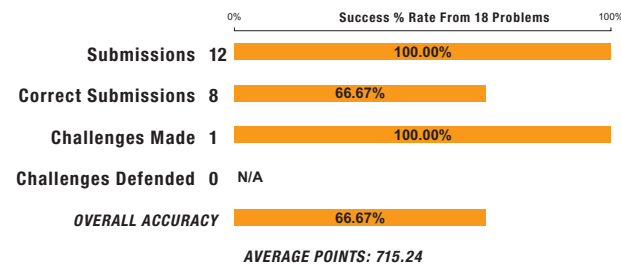
I just like it. The best thing is that you can do everything you like here. It's one of bigger cities in Poland.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

My school helped me a lot. When I was 13 or so, I started to learn programming there, and it was then it all started. We've had a good informatics teacher at school. There are some other people in here who learned it like me, but not many.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 27 Rating Percentile 99.885

Current Rating 2826 Number of Ratings 52

Current Ranking 22 Highest Rating 2857

Country Poland



Tomy

Tomas Lloret Llinares

Hometown:

La Vila Joiosa, in the SE of Spain, by the Mediterranean Sea

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Some kind of rice with fish. There are several different such dishes, like seafood paella or black rice (it gets its color from calamari ink).

Favorite Hometown Season:

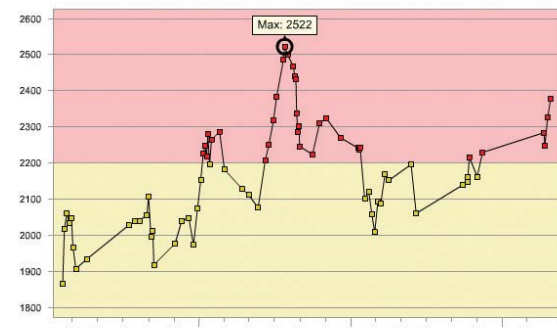
With only 30 cloudy days a year and temperatures ranging from 10C to 30C, it's nice to go back home any time in the year.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

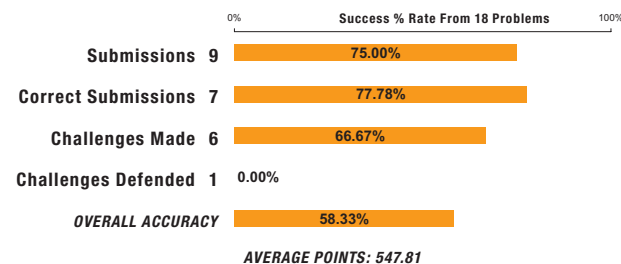
It's not too big so you can walk anywhere but there's still pretty much everything you may need.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I had participated in a couple secondary Mathematical Olympiads and knew about the Spanish Olympiad in Informatics. I could code simple programs back then and I practiced with some sample problems. I've been (self) learning since then and I think I studied CS because I liked that kind of problem.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 131 Rating Percentile 99.4566

Current Rating 2377 Number of Ratings 74

Current Ranking 104 Highest Rating 2522

Country Spain



Vasyl(alphacom)

Vasyl Biletsky

Hometown:

Lviv

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Vareniks

Famous Hometown Person:

Ivan Franko

Favorite Hometown Season:

Spring, about 20

Best Thing About My Hometown:

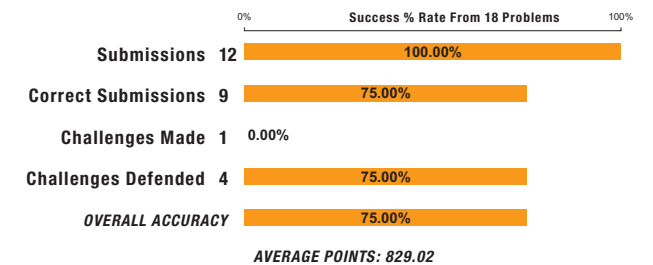
Being from my hometown is the best thing. :)

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

Here in western Ukraine Lviv is the best place for young programmers to grow up.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 72 Rating Percentile 99.8589

Current Rating 2789 Number of Ratings 60

Current Ranking 27 Highest Rating 2840

Country Ukraine



Vedensky

Kyrylo Vedensky

Hometown:

Kiev, Ukraine

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Borsch, varenyky

Famous Hometown Person:

bladerunner :) If I knew... All famous people I know about from Ukraine are not from Kiev...

Favorite Hometown Season:

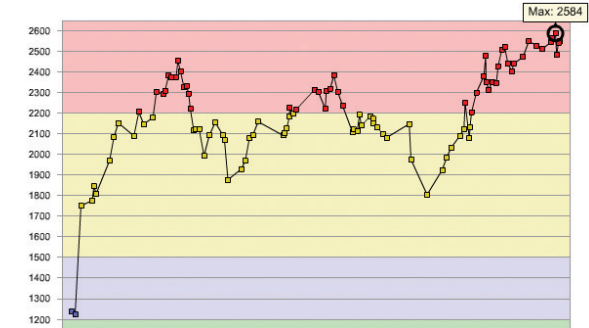
Every time is my favorite. For now it is spring and 10-20 C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

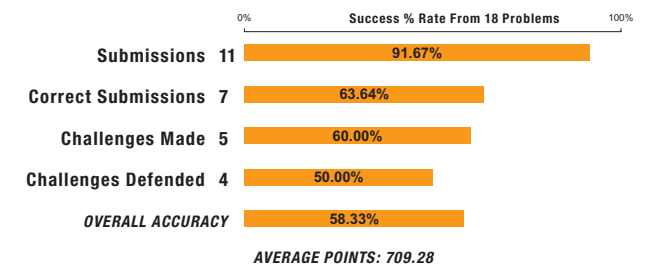
Just being from my hometown - east or west, home is best.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

For me the main thing was competition - in school and in university there were people to compete with - it is interesting to do things not just good, but better.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 58 Rating Percentile 99.6708

Current Rating 2548 Number of Ratings 100

Current Ranking 63 Highest Rating 2584

Country Ukraine



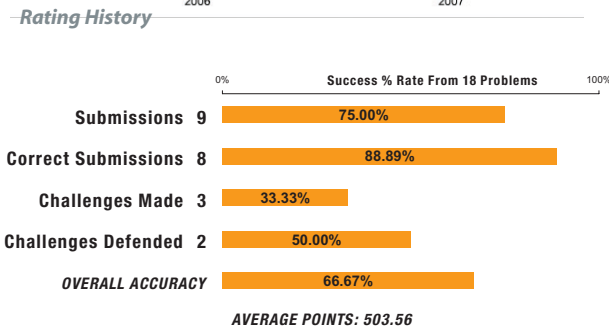
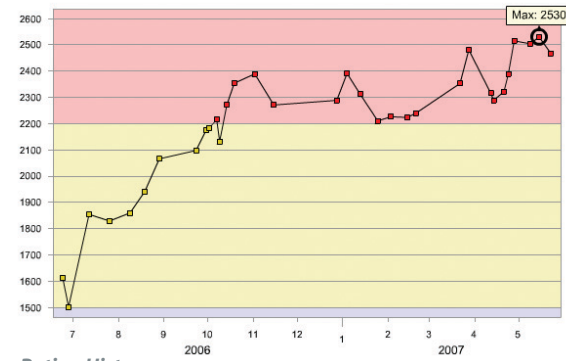
Vitaliy

Vitaly Valtman

Hometown:
St. Petersburg
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Borsch, Korushka
Famous Hometown Person:
Our city is 2nd biggest in Russia; so many famous people were born here. And it was the capital of Russia for about 200 years.

Favorite Hometown Season:
It is winter. The average temperature is about -15 degrees.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
There are a lot of good people here.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I don't work as a programmer now, but here are a lot of companies, where I can work as a programmer.



Tournament Stats

Seed 67 Rating Percentile 99.5663

Current Rating 2468 Number of Ratings 33

Current Ranking 83 Highest Rating 2530

Country Russian Federation



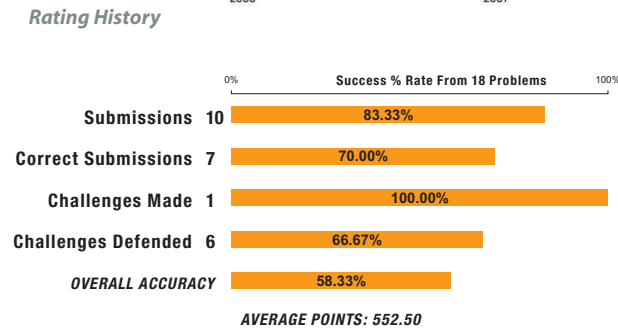
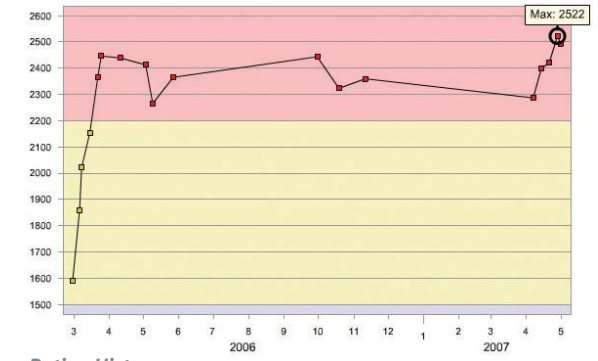
W_

Witold Jarnicki

Hometown:
Krakow (the English name is Cracow).
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
"Zurek" and "pierogi"
Famous Hometown Person:
Jan Matejko, a famous Polish painter; great mathematicians Stefan Banach and Salomon Bochner; talented actors Helena Modrzejewska and Jerzy Stuhr (voicing Donkey in the Polish dub of Shrek); Robert Kubica, the first Polish F1 driver.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Late summer/early fall (August-October).
Best Thing About My Hometown:
Remaining aware of over 1000 year long academic, architectural, and cultural heritage, the city does not "live in the past" and is open to modern ideas, science, and technology.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
My elementary school organized the local Olympiads. There was no talk of computer science, but there was an Olympiad in mathematics. I think that about one third of my high school class had some interest in advanced computer programming.



Tournament Stats

Seed 92 Rating Percentile 99.5977

Current Rating 2494 Number of Ratings 18

Current Ranking 77 Highest Rating 2522

Country Poland



VitalyGoldstein

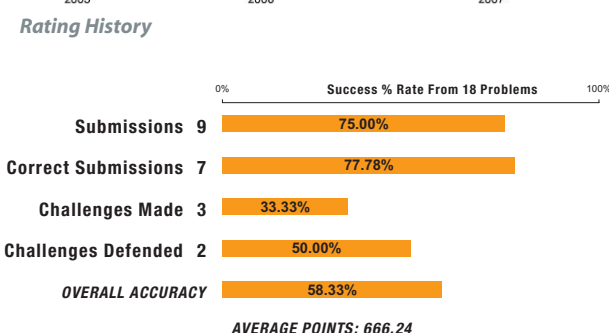
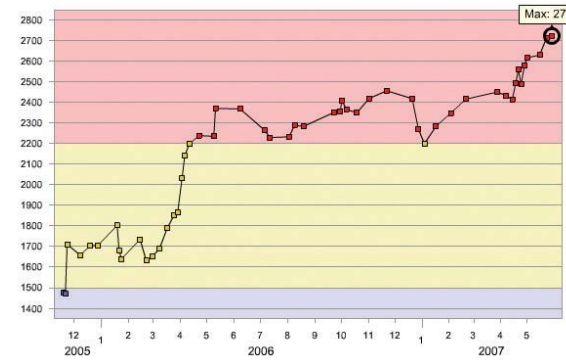
Vitaly Goldshteyn

Hometown:
Saratov, Russia
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
First of all he (or she) must try national Russian food: borscht, Russian ravioli (pelmeni), pancake with red and beluga caviar. Saratov famous for "Saratov kalatch" and fish soup.

Famous Hometown Person:
TopCoder members from Saratov usually say "Ogon!" (Fire!), when everything is successfully, and "Palevo" (difficult to translate) otherwise.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer, about 25 degrees centigrade.
Best Thing About My Hometown:
Volga river and park of the "Victory" are the best sights in Saratov.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
There are a lot of people want to be a programmer in Saratov. They start to study programming in secondary school. Saratov State University help pupils and students to become programmers. Saratov has great success in algorithm competition in TopCoder, ACM and IOI (school international Olympiad).



Tournament Stats

Seed 75 Rating Percentile 99.8119

Current Rating 2710 Number of Ratings 51

Current Ranking 36 Highest Rating 2710

Country Russian Federation



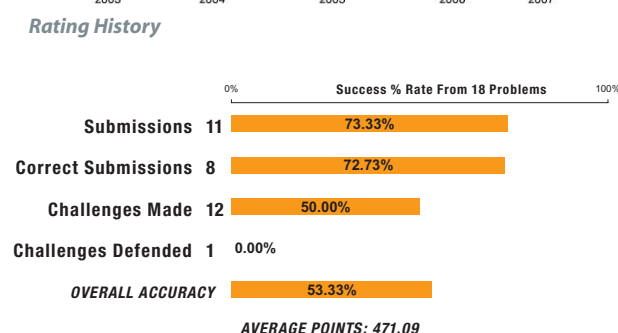
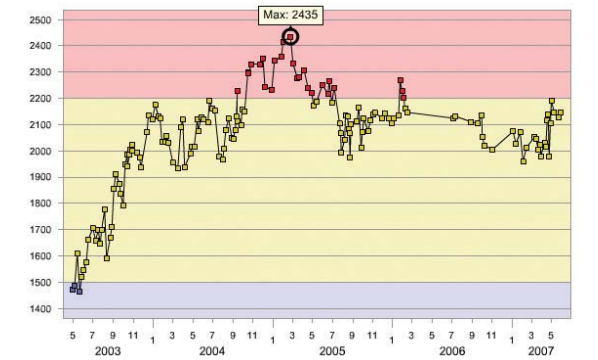
wleite

Wladimir Luiz Caldas Leite

Hometown:
Sao Paulo/Brazil
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Sao Paulo has the best restaurants in Brazil. My suggestion is a steakhouse or good pizzeria.
Famous Hometown Person:
For those who like car racing, like me, I will take three great pilots born in Sao Paulo: Ayrton Senna, Emerson Fittipaldi and Felipe Massa.

Favorite Hometown Season:
I prefer the winter, when we have an average temperature of 20C (68F).
Best Thing About My Hometown:
Sao Paulo is a multicultural city with significant ethnic diversity. So I think people from here know things from many different countries without ever being there.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
When I entered college (in 1990), programming was an unusual profession and there were few computer engineering schools and even less job opportunities. So entering in a good school and starting my first job were two big challenges.



Tournament Stats

Seed 252 Rating Percentile 98.6989

Current Rating 2126 Number of Ratings 153

Current Ranking 249 Highest Rating 2435

Country Brazil



xhl_kogitsune

Hiroshige Hayashizaki

Hometown:

Kawasaki City, a million-person city near Tokyo. It is known as an industrial city and as a 'bed town'.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

My favorite Teriyaki shop named "Amabo", though it is outside the city. (Teriyaki is a Japanese fish-shaped cake)

Famous Hometown Person:

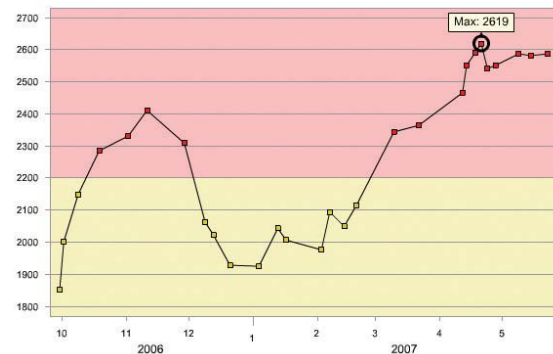
Taro Okamoto, an artist, who made "Tower of the Sun," the symbol of Expo 1970 held in Osaka, Japan.

Favorite Hometown Season:

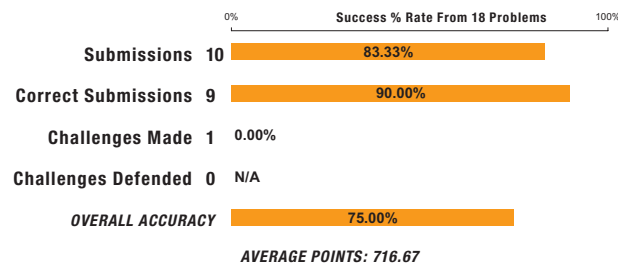
Spring. It's a calm and warm season. In spring, fragrant breeze blows and flowers bloom. Japanese plums, cherry blossoms and dogwoods.

Becoming A Programmer in My Hometown:

I was first interested in computers when playing Nintendo. During my early high school years, I learned programming from senior students and made some game programs in a computer club. Since then, there have been many brilliant programmers around me. I've learned a lot from them, directly and indirectly.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 90 Rating Percentile 99.7126

Current Rating 2357 Number of Ratings 28

Current Ranking 55 Highest Rating 2619

Country Japan



xOberon

Yuriy Znovyak

Hometown:

Kiev

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Vereniki

Famous Hometown Person:

None

Favorite Hometown Season:

Late spring, early summer 22-27C (~65F)

Best Thing About My Hometown:

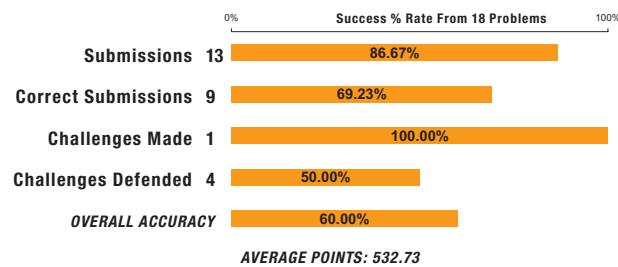
It's the capital

Becoming A Programmer in My Hometown:

It was the same as to grow up as advocate.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 145 Rating Percentile 99.3991

Current Rating 2359 Number of Ratings 52

Current Ranking 115 Highest Rating 2483

Country Ukraine



yava

Vladimir Yakovlev

Hometown:

Yekaterinburg

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Of course, sushi! There are a lot of sushi bars here, more than any other national restaurant

Famous Hometown Person:

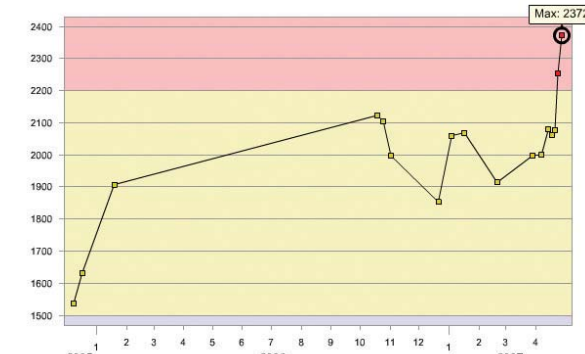
Boris Yeltsin, first president of Russian Federation; Pavel Datsyuk, ice hockey player; Kostya Tsyu, boxer, ex-world champion; Ernst Neizvestny, sculptor

Best Thing About My Hometown:

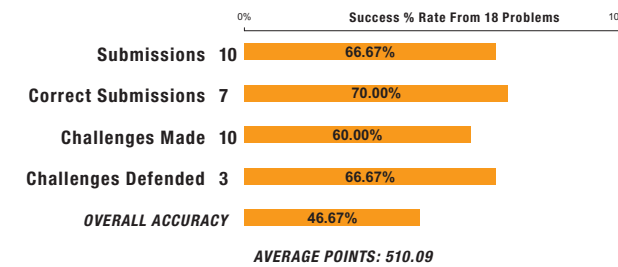
Yekaterinburg is one of the biggest cities in Russia but is not treated as federal city like Moscow and St.Petersburg. This is very good feature: we have all advantages of big city but have no disadvantages of capital megapolis

Becoming A Programmer in My Hometown:

It's not so hard to become a programmer here. There are a lot of opportunities. I started programming in high school, it gave me a lot. My university gave me first skills in algorithmic programming. But the biggest contribution belongs to the icpc-community of my university.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 243 Rating Percentile 99.4305

Current Rating 2372 Number of Ratings 17

Current Ranking 109 Highest Rating 2372

Country Russian Federation



Ying

Ying Wang

Hometown:

Shenzhen

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:

Pot soup and seafood

Famous Hometown Person:

Yundi Li, a young Chinese pianist

Favorite Hometown Season:

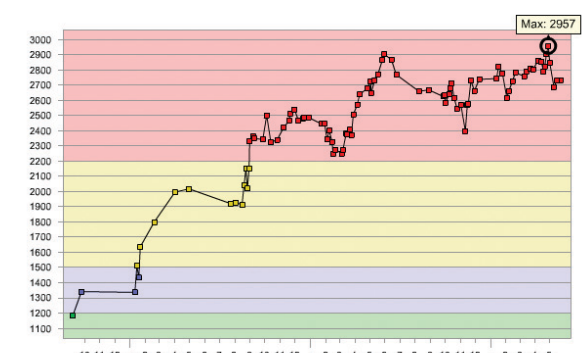
July and August, because those are holidays. Average temperature in summer is about 80F.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

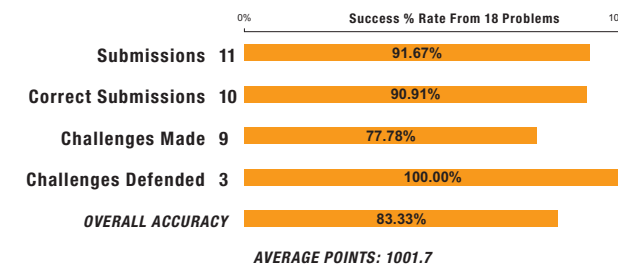
It's one of the most developed city in China, so life is good there.

Becoming A Programmer in My Hometown:

Programming contests was not popular there and I did not know much about programming at that time. I learned most of my skills from the ACM teams after I went to college in Guangzhou.



Rating History



Tournament Stats

Seed 22 Rating Percentile 99.8328

Current Rating 2732 Number of Ratings 94

Current Ranking 32 Highest Rating 2957

Country China

What are We Watching? Marathon Match Competition

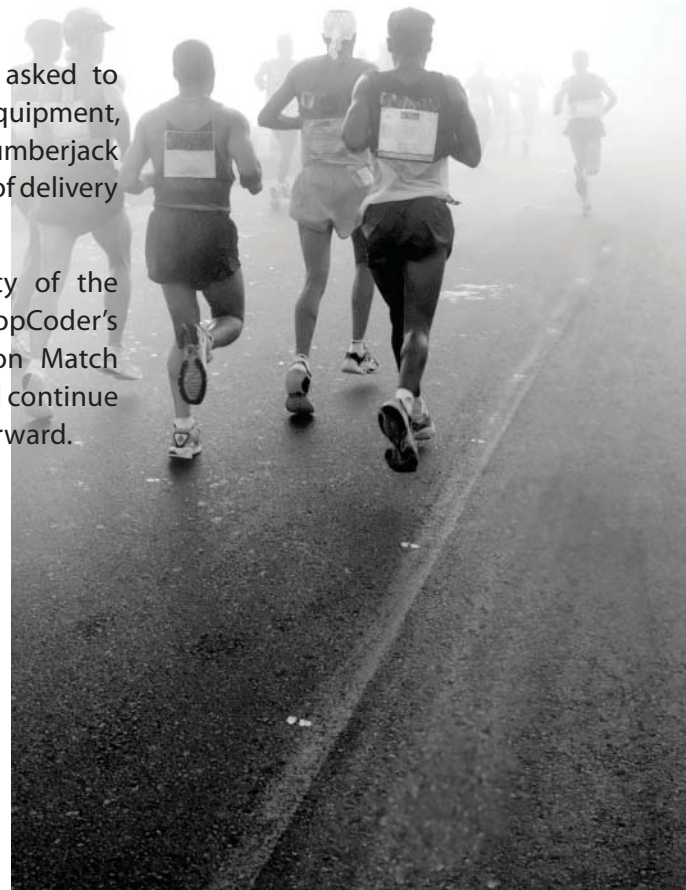
Marathon Matches are tests of endurance as competitors are tasked with submitting and refining solutions to problems with no optimal answer. These competitions last weeks, during which people are constantly submitting new solutions for scoring.

During the finals 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 cases tests, 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.

Past problems used in this tournament include being asked to determine the density of a mountain using basic scanning equipment, playing poker against a series of AI strategies, helping a lumberjack find his way through a forest, and programming thousands of delivery robots to efficiently deliver products in a warehouse.

These problems showcase the creativity and ingenuity of the competitors, which has made them a popular addition to TopCoder's offerings. This is the first tournament with a Marathon Match competition but it has already shown that these events will continue to be a successful part of TopCoder tournaments going forward.



.Invader

Average Place	Best Place
47.25	6

Country
Russian Federation

Spirichev Maxim

Hometown: Monchegorsk, Russian Federation.
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Home-made jam of bilberry and moroshka (may be also caption is slough berry).
Famous Hometown Person: No one in particular, as well in Russia - "privet".
Favorite Hometown Season: I like summer. Average temperature is 25 C in it.
Best Thing About My Hometown: Its name is "Town in beautiful tundra".

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: At first I was learning alone (though hardly learning). I was reading books and magazines. Next I was meeting with a few people. They were taking an interest in programming too. Together we were supporting each other in learning. Also my teacher by informatics was helping me.



doudouille

Average Place	Best Place
17	2

Country
France

Pascal Pons

Hometown: Narbonne (France)
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: A "Cassoulet" (pork, goose or duck confit with white beans) and don't forget to taste local wines (Corbire, Fitou).
Famous Hometown Person: Not really perhaps Charles Trenet (French singer).
Favorite Hometown Season: Summer, air: 25 C sea: 20/25 C
Best Thing About My Hometown: Be near the sea in summer and near the mountain in winter.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: It was like any other child. I got my first computer at 14 and I didn't have any computer science course before college.



grotmol

Average Place	Best Place
110.5	4

Country
Norway

Øyvind Grotmol

Hometown: Oslo, Norway
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: According to the New York Times, the very best sushi restaurant outside Japan is right here in Oslo, called Alex Sushi.
Famous Hometown Person: For programmers, the most famous might be the professors Kristen Nygaard and Ole-Johan Dahl, who in 2002 won both the ACM Turing Award and the IEEE John von Neumann Medal "for the introduction of the concepts underlying object-oriented programming through the design and implementation of SIMULA67".

Favorite Hometown Season: That would be the summer, with a temperature of 300 K on a good day. Being seaside in Norway is underrated.
Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: I didn't start programming until I joined the university. There weren't any programming courses offered in school.



jdmetz

Average Place	Best Place
9.5	4

Country
USA

Joshua Metzler

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: A sandwich from Zingerman's Deli.
Favorite Hometown Season: Spring time, when it is in the mid 60's-70's.
Best Thing About My Hometown: There are always lots of things happening because of the University of Michigan being in town.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown: I grew up programming on my own, at home. My high school offered one programming class that was very basic. I didn't take any computer science classes in college, either.



Marcus Isaksson

Maris

Average Place: 107.5
Best Place: 5

Country: Sweden

Hometown:
Bredaryd

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Since it is a small town you won't find much more than a few standard pizza or Thai food restaurants. I can highly recommend my mother's Rhubarb Pie though. Being in Sweden you would also have to try Swedish specialties like pickled herring.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Mid summer when temperatures ranges from 15 to 25 degrees Celsius. I usually spend one or two weeks with my parents each summer and when the sun shines and the temperature is right I can't think of many places I would rather be.

Best Thing About My Hometown:

It was a great place to grow up. Peaceful and close to the nature.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I was lucky to have a friend's brother to introduce me to programming at the age of nine, when my father bought our first computer. After that I developed my talents pretty much on my own, constantly challenging myself with new games or other programs to implement.



Mateusz Zotkiewicz

Mojito1

Average Place: 50.5
Best Place: 1

Country: Poland

Hometown:
Warsaw

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Sauerkraut Stew, Pork Chop

Famous Hometown Person:
Maria Sklodowska-Curie - Nobel prize winner; Stanislaw Staszic - one of the authors of The Constitution of 3rd May (the world's second constitution).

Favorite Hometown Season:
Spring, 10-20C /50-68F

Best Thing About My Hometown:
You will find your town mates at each single worldwide programming contest.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

The only problem is that I did not grow up to be a programmer. I became a programmer when I was 22.



Shanyu Zhao

prober

Average Place: 46
Best Place: 6

Country: China

Hometown:

I grew up in Wuhan, capitol of Hubei province and the most populous city in central China.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
There are two dishes you must try: Hong Shan Cai Tai, an indigenous vegetable that has a unique taste and tender texture, and Steamed Wu Chang Fish—appreciated by many famous historical figures.

Famous Hometown Person:

Yu Boya, a legendary musician from Wuhan 2000 years ago. Yu Boya played for the last time over the grave of his friend Zhong Ziqi, and then

smashed his flute because the only person able to appreciate his music was dead. This story exemplifies the Chinese ideal of friendship. I hope everybody finds their Zhong Ziqi in their lives. :)

Favorite Hometown Season:

October, the golden autumn of Wuhan, averaging 15-24C/59-75F.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I was not a programmer during my secondary education in Wuhan 12 years ago, though my school provides BASIC programming courses. But I truly enjoyed my childhood: climbing hills, fishing by the lake, boating, picking up mushrooms in the woods...



Alexey Sadovnikov

saarixx

Average Place: 3.75
Best Place: 1

Country: Ukraine

Hometown:

Dniepropetrovsk

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Borsch, vareniki

Famous Hometown Person:
Leonid Kuchma, the Second President of Ukraine. Yuliya Tymoshenko, ex-prime-minister of Ukraine, the leader of Ukrainian opposition.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Unlike many other highly developed cities, Dniepropetrovsk is green one with many parks and public gardens.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

The main problem was that computers and especially Internet connections became affordable in my town too late in comparison with other advanced cities worldwide. Thus I was unable to communicate with other programmers all the time except last 5 years.

TC007 Bloggers Viva... Las Vegas!

For this year's TopCoder Open we wanted two bloggers to join us onsite and give a member's perspective on the competition, the atmosphere and the city of Las Vegas. Those members interested in attending, participated in our TCO Blog It Contest where they submitted an essay explaining why they should be selected as a blogger for the TCO. Our two winners are enthusiastic about TopCoder, possess impressive creative writing skills, and most importantly, will give a detailed account of the entire event. Excerpts from our winners' essays are below, and you can also read their live tournament blogs online at www.topcoder.com/tco07



Petr

Petr Mitrichev

I've never interviewed people. I've never told stories. But I've won the last year TCO algorithm contest—and I've lost this year. Telling whose tie is the best and how everyone was excited at the sponsor talk will never

be my strength—but I can tell for sure how does it feel to see 'System test failed' when you were so close.

How astonishingly worse it is to come 2nd than to come 10th. How big is the excitement during the round so that you hit 'Save' ten times in a row.

How easy it is to choose a wrong, greedy approach when you see everyone submitting the problem so fast. How angry you feel at yourself when you misclick and open the hard problem instead of the medium. How impossible it is to avoid looking at the standings and calculating possible rankings during the challenge phase. How one just hates being interviewed before the round. How important it is to be able to talk to your compatriots in your native language. And, of course, how heavy the \$25,000 cheque is.

Apart from the insider coverage, I'll try to add some professional perspective to the algorithm side of things. For a start, I promise not to mix up challenge phase and system tests :) I'll try to explain what exactly was wrong in the approach to mek has taken and why did it take him so long to implement that solution. I'll shed the light on whether the hard problem from the final round was familiar to the Russian competitors, or were they just all so lucky (moreover, now you'll finally be able to know what are they talking about in Russian all the time!)

From the fans' perspective... Do you know what andrewzta's dog's name is? I do :)



jmzero

David Campbell

I figure I've spent as much time programming as many professional athletes have spent pursuing their chosen sport. Somehow, through all that, I have managed to remain "not all that proficient". If

Canada picked a World Cup team for programming, I would be a very unlikely choice.

It's particularly great, then, that the field at TopCoder is wide enough to accommodate everyone. I don't have to sit on the bench - every SRM I can hit the field and lose fairly and handily to the very top competitors. And not only can I lose to them, I can chat about it with them afterwards. Just now I noticed Petr taking a break from lifting objects with his mind (or whatever he does all day) to answer a new person's "How do I compete?" type post. That's cool, and it's the kind of opportunity you just don't get with other sports or hobbies.

If there was justice in the world, we'd see TopCoders on TV with big endorsement deals and we'd have TopCoder themed video games where you can pretend to be to mek solving problems and fighting evil (again, I'm a little foggy on what he does all day but I assume it involves at least some crime fighting).

I suppose I should say something in here about why you should vote for this entry. I don't really have experience doing reporting or interviews. I have very limited design and artistic skills. Notwithstanding that, I'm excited to meet the competitors and I believe I can do a good job on this. I think I can bring something different in terms of perspective and presentation.

What are We Watching? Studio Design Competition

TopCoder Studio design competitions require competitors to design graphics for software applications, the Web, apparel, and print mediums. Rounding out the entire creative development process, Studio members also build wireframes (basic visual guides suggesting layout and placement of web design elements) and prototypes for applications and Web sites.

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

The online portion of the 2007 TopCoder Open Studio tournament consisted of 17 individual design competitions covering a wide range of web and graphic design challenges. Points were awarded to the top four places of each competition and tallied after the completion of the online portion. Those competitors with the highest scores were then invited to attend the onsite finals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Finalists competing onsite will be presented with their final design challenge during the welcome reception of the tournament. They will receive a packet of information describing the challenge in detail and will have 36 hours to define their approach before the 8 hour challenge on Thursday.

On the morning of the competition finals, the finalists are given the appropriate tools they need to complete their designs, but they are not allowed to bring sketches or any preparatory materials. They will prepare rough concepts during the first few hours of the competition while the Studio panel oversees their progress and scores their designs. At the end of the morning session, the finalists will break for a public feedback session with the Studio panel. This is their opportunity to get opinions and constructive direction so they can refine their work during the afternoon and deliver their final designs at the end of the day.

Once the competition ends, the final designs will be presented to the onsite and online community for a 24 hour vote. The community will determine the winner of this year's 2007 TopCoder Open Studio tournament.

Studio
[TOPCODER]



amiune

No. TCO Contests	Points Earned
5	5

Country
Argentina

Hernan Amiune

Hometown:
Alta Gracia, in the province of Cordoba, Argentina country.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
They must try "asado" (Argentinian barbecue) or the "cabrito a la llama" (young goat (kid)).

Famous Hometown Person:
None.

Favorite Hometown Season:
Summer time is my favorite. The average temperature is 30C.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's a small and quiet place, with very friendly people. You can find here a lot of soccer fans and world rally fans.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I've started programming on a computer numerical control turning lathe at my high school, Renault Institute, at the same time I bought a book, Learning VB in 24hs, and programmed harmless Trojan horses, then I self learned until I enter to college.



FMX

No. TCO Contests	Points Earned
16	10

Country
India

Dhruv Pathak

Hometown:
I'm from originally from Meerut, a town near New Delhi, the capital of India.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
My city is famous for its sweets; some of them were "invented" here. The spicy Indian street-food is also a delicacy to enjoy.

Favorite Hometown Season:
February or September because it is the time when my city has a moderate climate (70 F), the extremes are 40 F in December to 110 F in May.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
The pride of being from the city which played a pioneer role in the war of Indian independence.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
Though programming is a part of curriculum in the high schools, the way it is taught doesn't really infuse zeal for it. For me it was a distant dream, as I was a biology student (I still repent opting for it) in secondary school. Then I changed my direction, I worked hard to get into a premier engineering college, got into Computer Science Major. Though creative things were always a part of me, this is when I started spending time on them i.e. programming and designing.



marajja

No. TCO Contests	Points Earned
16	5

Country
Poland

Iwona Bielecka

Hometown:
Warsaw

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
We have good Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Mexican food :) It's worse when it comes to some origin dishes.

Famous Hometown Person:
After searching the wikipedia I noticed that almost all of the famous polish people hail from many cities in Poland but not from mine.

Favorite Hometown Season:
I like spring because nature is awakened by the sun after cold winter. It's about 15 C during this time of year.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
It's the only city in Poland which has subway (metro).



oton

No. TCO Contests	Points Earned
17	20

Country
Indonesia

Arif Rokhmad Widiyanto

Hometown:
Jombang, a little city at East Java
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Pecel, a mixed vegetable salad with hot peanut sausage.

Famous Hometown Person:
Many Indonesian famous people were born in Jombang. Gus Dur became president. Nurcholish Madjid (1939-2005), Indonesian Islamic intellectual, a proponent for modernization within Islam. Though it is widely known as inspiration of Islamic sources.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
When I was in junior high school at villages; the temperature is warm, so we could play in the farm, yard, and everywhere else.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:
I think it is hard to become a programmer in Jombang. With its traditional lifestyle, it is to become moderate Islamic thinker than a programmer. That's why at 1994 I moved to Malang; learn programming at Telkom High School. At 1997, I moved to Jakarta, starting to work at PT Indosat, and then to various company. I learn design by accident. I'm mostly proficient in Web Development, developing standard-based websites which focus on usability and accessibility.



Michele Damian

SIGCHLD

No. TCO Contests: 13
Points Earned: 5

Country: Italy

Hometown:
I'm from the town of Longarone.
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
They can try every Italian food, but I think that they can't miss the Italian lasagna.

Famous Hometown Person:
No one.

Favorite Hometown Season:
My favorite time of year is summer. The average temperature in this season is 27C equivalent to 81F.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
In my opinion the best thing is the environment. You can ski on the

Dolomites on winter's days and having long walk inside woods on summer's days.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

I don't think it is easy to become a programmer nor find a job as programmer in my hometown. Companies are specialized in fields different from IT and there are few school where you can learn how programming. This is the reason why I move to another city to study.



Tricia

Tricia_Tjia

No. TCO Contests: 12
Points Earned: 24

Country: Indonesia

Hometown:
Jakarta, Indonesia
Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Speaking of food, there's a lot they have to try. But for me one of the best is 'Borobudur Fried Chicken' at North Jakarta. Must try! :)

Famous Hometown Person:
No one. But my family and friends probably do. :)

Favorite Hometown Season:
Time during long holiday season. eg: Christmas. Approximately, the temperature is around 23-29 degree Celsius. No winter here..

Best Thing About My Hometown:

Mostly, they really want to know other's business which is good for some cases because they'll help you in solving problems... :)

Becoming A Designer In My Hometown:

It's good to be a designer though I didn't expect to choose graphic design as a major specialization at the first time but no regret :). There're a lot of talented designer at my hometown, but it's good to make it as a challenge to enhance my skill. I've been learning a lot of things and I feel very excited!



Yiming Liao

yiming

No. TCO Contests: 17
Points Earned: 40

Country: China

Hometown:
Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, China.

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try:
Baked goose. :)

Famous Hometown Person:
Jiuling Zhang, who is a famous prime minister and poet in Tang Dynasty (618AD - 907AD).

Favorite Hometown Season:
Fall, and the average temperature is about 20 degrees centigrade.

Best Thing About My Hometown:
Nature.

Becoming A Programmer In My Hometown:

The atmosphere was great. We started to learn programming basics in elementary school. Afterwards, we had systematic OI training in middle school. During the middle school study, higher-grade students were willing to help lower-grade students with their computer programming skills. The tradition will always keep on.

DIGITAL RUN COMPETITION



This past year marked the introduction of a new form of competition: the Digital Run. In this contest, competitors earn points for every component they pass review in. The year was split into four stages of equal length, and the top five point earners in each stage received cash prizes and a free trip to the TCO. Additionally, the top third point earners (top half in the fourth stage) received cash prizes proportional to the number of points they had earned.

Stage 1 Winners

aubergineanode	Completed Contest Points: 7,060.00	Total Prizes Won: \$29,504.50
AleaActaEst	Completed Contest Points: 5,255.00	Total Prizes Won: \$13,352.85
Pops	Completed Contest Points: 5,200.00	Total Prizes Won: \$10,317.76
Ghostar	Completed Contest Points: 4,080.00	Total Prizes Won: \$5,603.17
real_vg	Completed Contest Points: 3,430.00	Total Prizes Won: \$4,188.45

Stage 2 Winners

argolite	Completed Contest Points: 10,570.00	Total Prizes Won: \$30,287.36
Ghostar	Completed Contest Points: 5,700.00	Total Prizes Won: \$12,851.27
AleaActaEst	Completed Contest Points: 5,455.00	Total Prizes Won: \$9,728.72
Standlove	Completed Contest Points: 4,570.00	Total Prizes Won: \$5,286.02
dplass	Completed Contest Points: 3,385.00	Total Prizes Won: \$3,693.26

Stage 3 Winners

argolite	Completed Contest Points: 11,015.00	Total Prizes Won: \$51,040.98
AleaActaEst	Completed Contest Points: 8,260.00	Total Prizes Won: \$28,279.48
humblefool	Completed Contest Points: 7,535.00	Total Prizes Won: \$19,552.77
Standlove	Completed Contest Points: 6,840.00	Total Prizes Won: \$12,856.13
bendlund	Completed Contest Points: 4,630.00	Total Prizes Won: \$8,640.92

Stage 4 Winners

argolite	Completed Contest Points: 9,015.00	Total Prizes Won: \$48,313.26
ShindouHikaru	Completed Contest Points: 6,595.00	Total Prizes Won: \$26,081.64
AleaActaEst	Completed Contest Points: 6,150.00	Total Prizes Won: \$17,671.28
bendlund	Completed Contest Points: 5,830.00	Total Prizes Won: \$11,376.19
woodjhn	Completed Contest Points: 4,025.00	Total Prizes Won: \$7,711.69

ADMINS: WHERE DO YOU HAIL FROM?

jmp1d40

Hometown: Bristol, Connecticut

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Pizza House's pizzas and grinders. They are the best!

Best Thing About My Hometown: It's a great place to grow up because there are many things for kids and families to do.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Bristol is the home of sports giant ESPN and the oldest theme park in the United States, Lake Compounce.

mess

Hometown: Beverly, Massachusetts

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Nick's Famous Roast Beef

Best Thing About My Hometown: Growing up on the Atlantic Ocean

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Birthplace of the American Navy

bolastyle

Hometown: Garland, Texas, a suburb of Dallas

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Pretty much any barbecue place in the area; right now my new favorite is Big Daddy's Barbecue in Lavon, Texas, just north of Garland.

Best Thing About My Hometown: Garland is quiet and it's easy to get anywhere you need to be.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Mike Judge filmed half of Office Space in Dallas (the other half was filmed in Austin), Owen and Luke Wilson are from Dallas and still live there, and Erykah Badu is from Dallas as is Norah Jones.

dok

Hometown: Fairfield, Connecticut

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: I always make sure to go to A&S Deli for a sandwich and Layla's Falafel for some Arabic Chicken Shawarma

Best Thing About My Hometown: The opportunity to leave and live somewhere else :)

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: To me, Fairfield will always be the former home of Linda Kozlowski of Crocodile Dundee fame, but I also went to school with John Mayer and James Blake

mbnd96

Hometown: Sidney, Maine

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Any of the fresh baked goods from "The Kitchen."

Best Thing About My Hometown: The "town" consists of two yellow blinking lights and two small general stores.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: dok lives in my town. Does he count as famous? :-)

assistant

Hometown: Laizhou, Shandong Province, China

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Sea food, Apple, Grape, Peanuts.

Best Thing About My Hometown: It only takes 10 minutes to walk from my home to the sea, I love the sea, she is like a mother.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Ruimin Zhang, the CEO of Haier Group. He has been on Business Week Cover Story and invited to give a lecture to Harvard Business School.

visualage

Hometown: Guangzhou, China

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: The food from southern China is already famous even for Chinese people. So try as many as you can.

Best Thing About My Hometown: It is near Hong Kong, so you can buy a lot of cheap things. Hong Kong has no import tax.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: A military academy used to be there (more than 50 years ago). Many famous Chinese generals were graduated from there.

aisacovich

Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: The common choice would be the grilled meat. But I would also recommend a very Argentinean dish called "Milanesa Napolitana". It's a breaded and fried thin slice of meat with tomato sauce, ham and cheese over it. Very tasty. Even the name is curious since it means it's a meal from Milan, but done the Napoli way. Two rival cities of Italy.

Best Thing About My Hometown: I guess it's our culture. Argentineans are very weird people, full of contradictions but very kind in essence. Buenos Aires is a very big city and it has endless options to offer to us. You can go sailing on a Saturday morning, spend the afternoon watching world class soccer and attend a wonderful play at night. Buenos Aires never sleeps.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: You mean other than my self? The obvious most famous guys from Buenos Aires are Carlos Gardel and Diego Armando Maradona. There're a few world famous Argentinean guys like el Ché Guevara and Manu Ginobili, but they're not from Buenos Aires.

mktong

Hometown: Radford, Virginia

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: If people visit my hometown, they can visit Macado's - this restaurant features an eclectic array of sandwiches and desserts.

Best Thing About My Hometown: One of the best aspects about Radford is that it's a college town, home to Radford University and 15 minutes away from Virginia Tech.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: A TopCoder onsite finalist, Logan, also grew up in Radford.

tlaisi

Hometown: Amherst, New Hampshire

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: A cheeseburger from the town green during the July 4th parade. or maybe some maple syrup or maple sugar candy.

Best Thing About My Hometown: The village. It's the center of the town, has the oldest houses and buildings in town, and of course, the town green. It's quintessential New England, complete with white church spire. At Christmas time, there's an ordinance that anyone who lives within a mile of the center has to put white lights in all their windows.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Horace Greeley, an editor/journalist and politician was born here; President Franklin Pierce was born in another NH town, but lived in the Amherst village when he was president, in the same house where George Washington had stayed. The current famous person from around here is actually from a few towns over: comedian/actor Adam Sandler is from Manchester, NH.

pulky

Hometown: Mendoza, Argentina. "The land of sun and good wine"

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: The food is really not important while they try the famous Mendoza wine! (and after a couple glasses, nothing else is important)

Best Thing About My Hometown: The "siesta". People take naps between 13 and 15 hrs, always. They leave work, meet their families, sleep an hour or so and then go back to work. Priceless.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: :

- The city is near the Andes mountain range, and after a short trip you can be astonished with the highest peak of the Americas, the Aconcagua mountain. (22,841 feet)

thx1138

Hometown: LaPorte, Indiana

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Grilled corn on the cob dipped in butter

Best Thing About My Hometown: Friendly people

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Charley Finley, former owner of the Oakland Athletics.

ADMINS: WHERE DO YOU HAIL FROM?

cucu

Hometown: Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: They must try our barbeque's. The meat is really good here! Also, the Italian influence is very present in pastas and pizzas. Another thing is the "mate": we put some herbs (yerba mate) in a recipient, throw some hot water and drink it.

Best Thing About My Hometown: I love Buenos Aires vibe. There are a lot of things to do here: shows, cultural activities, places to go out, nice neighbors and parks to walk.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Some of the most famous people from here are Maradona, Gardel and Borges. Something famous about Buenos Aires is the Tango music and dance.

mural

Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: I would recommend an Asado, a special kind of barbecue, it has different cuts of meat, and some guts that you should try.

Best Thing About My Hometown: You really have lot of entertainment places to go.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: I guess the most famous one is Diego Maradona.

mike

Hometown: Granby, Connecticut

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Cheeseburger Grinder

Best Thing About My Hometown: It's very, very rural

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: No, nothing at all really.

lbackstrom

Hometown: Fairfield, Iowa

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Pineapple and sauerkraut pizza

Best Thing About My Hometown: People think I'm a redneck farmer

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Home of transcendental meditation

olexiyo

Hometown: I am from Kherson, Ukraine

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Kherson is famous for its fruits and vegetables, which are incredibly good because of the climate.

Best Thing About My Hometown: The climate - the summer is long and warm and if it is too hot you have Black sea nearby.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Kherson was an important fortress during wars between Russia and Turkey, so plenty of famous generals and admirals have been fighting nearby :)

jwlms

Hometown: Kalispell, Montana

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Huckleberry pancakes.

Best Thing About My Hometown: Travel from my house in any direction and within 15 minutes, you will be standing on the shores of a lake or river.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: One of my favorite artists, Brad Bird (writer and director of Pixar's The Incredibles) was born in Kalispell.

wyy

Hometown: Chengdu, China

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Hot pot <Something terribly spicy.>

Best Thing About My Hometown: There's a lot of pandas.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Sichuan Opera, where people change their faces really fast.

adminbrett

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Peter Luger's, one of the best steakhouses in the city, is in Brooklyn. In addition, we have top notch pizza (Di-Fara Pizzeria) and one of the best Italian delis (John's Deli on Stillwell Ave.). If you are going to John's, call ahead to see if it is Roast Beef day or Turkey day. You will be in for a treat.

Best Thing About My Hometown: Tons of diversity. You see people of all ethnicities from all walks of life. Gives you an interesting perspective.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: There are so many it would be silly to name one.

TheFaxman

Hometown: Norwalk, Iowa

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Norwalk is where gastronomes go to die. I think we have maybe 2 restaurants in the entire town and I wouldn't recommend either.

Best Thing About My Hometown: The small town atmosphere, it's hard not to know most people your age in a town of around 6,000 people.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: We seem to spawn a large number of actors, 2 people I went to high school with have successful acting careers.

ntrefz

Hometown: Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: The Arch Pizza

Best Thing About My Hometown: It's close to TopCoder

mylizatc

Hometown: Cromwell, Connecticut

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Wooster Street Pizza

Best Thing About My Hometown: The farm and the CT river

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: The TPC golf tournament or GHO it's called.

lvern

Hometown: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: Beef and Wine

Best Thing About My Hometown: Great culture and respect for good food

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: Home of the Tango

bettylee74

Hometown: Portage, Michigan

Hometown Food A Visitor Should Try: A chili cheese hotdog and a tall icy glass of rootbeer at the A&W drive-in restaurant.

Best Thing About My Hometown: It's close to nature, and has a nice downtown.

Famous Hometown Person or Landmark: No one from Portage, but Derek Jeter of the Yankees grew up in the adjacent town, Kalamazoo.

My notes from the TCO07

My photos from the TCO07



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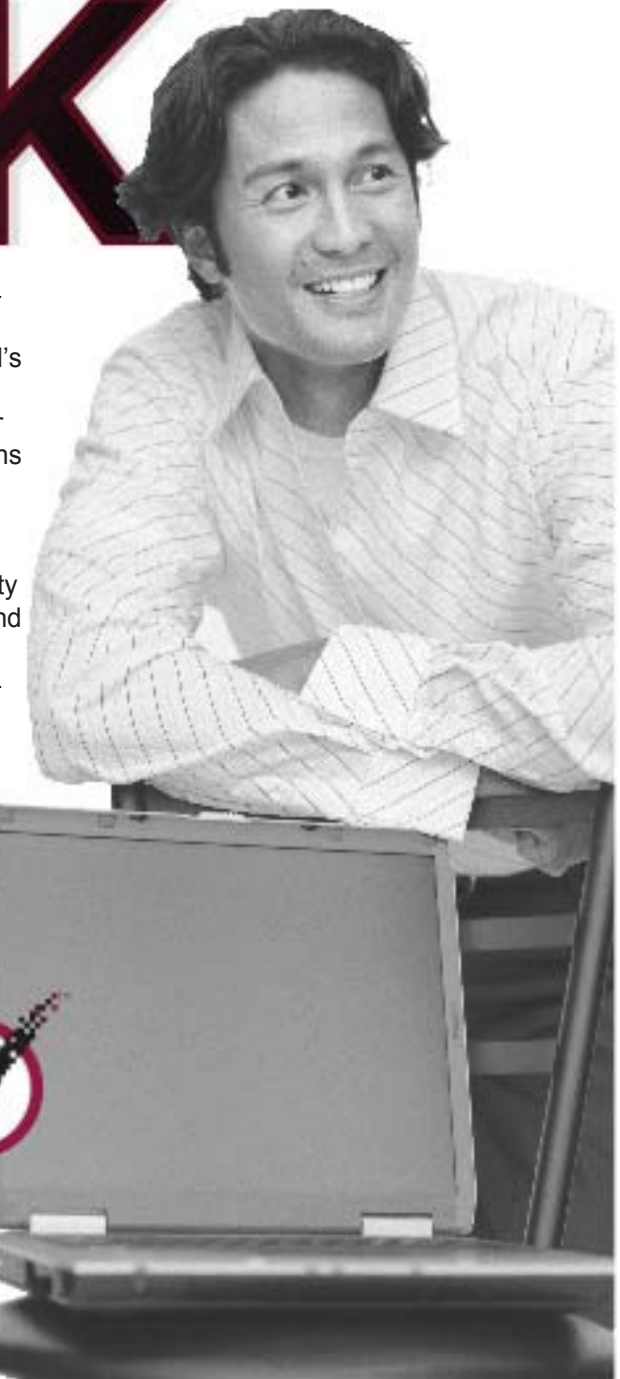
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