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**TOPCODER**  
**OPEN**



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## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

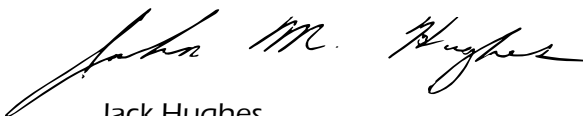
Thank you for joining us at the 2006 TopCoder® Open, Sponsored by AMD. TopCoder is very excited to bring you this tournament in Las Vegas! It will be our first-ever tournament in this city and we're looking forward to having some fun with all the finalists and watching what promises to be our most exciting competition to date.

All 64 finalists have worked hard to make it onsite and we are lucky to be assembling them all for this spectacular event. We have gathered the most talented programmers from all parts of the world, making this truly a diverse event. I welcome those who are coming to their first finals and thank them for their determination and participation. I also want to thank and congratulate our returning finalists. We appreciate your dedication to competition and hope we continue to impress you with our events.

I want to thank our sponsors for their combined efforts in making this tournament a unique one. We are very happy to have AMD join us as a first-ever title sponsor. We're also pleased to have two returning premier sponsors, VeriSign and the National Security Agency (NSA), along with first-time premier sponsor UBS. All of their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the TopCoder staff, as well as those members who build our systems, write problems, review designs and code, as well as those that administer contests. They work solidly to bring the finalists to the championship round, from beginning to end. I could not be more proud of the TopCoder team – employees and members combined.

I'm thrilled to kick off the 2006 TopCoder Open finals. I hope you all have some fun while in Las Vegas. I wish you the best of luck!



Jack Hughes  
Founder, TopCoder, Inc.



# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

## **TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006**

7:00pm - 9:00pm Welcome Reception

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006**

**9:00am - 11:00am** Algorithm Semifinal Room 1  
11:00am - 12:00pm National Security Agency (NSA) Presentation  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm** Component Design & Development Session 1  
**4:00pm - 6:00pm** Algorithm Semifinal Room 2  
4:00pm - 10:00pm Competitor Game Room  
7:00pm - 10:00pm Poker Tournament

## **THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2006**

**9:00am - 11:00am** Algorithm Semifinal Room 3  
10:00am - 10:45am Secondhand Shopping: Efficient Component Reuse  
11:00am - 12:00pm VeriSign Presentation  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch  
**1:00pm - 3:00pm** Component Design & Development Session 2  
3:00pm - 4:00pm UBS Presentation  
4:00pm - 6:00pm Customer Round Table  
**4:00pm - 6:00pm** Algorithm Wildcard Round  
7:00pm - 10:00pm AMD Evening Event

## **FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006**

**9:00am - 11:00am** Component Design & Development Appeals Final  
11:00am - 11:45am Bringing It All Together Using SOA Architectures  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch  
1:00pm - 2:00pm AMD Presentation  
2:00pm - 2:45pm Next Generation Development Round Table Discussion  
**2:30pm - 4:30pm** Algorithm Championship Round  
**4:30pm - 5:00pm** All Champion Announcements  
5:00pm - 6:00pm Media Hour / Press Conference  
7:00pm - 9:00pm Awards Reception



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Founder's Message.....Page 1  
Schedule of Events.....Page 2

## ALGORITHM COMPETITION

Brackets .....Page 4  
Semifinalists.....Page 6

Weirdest SRM Locations.....Page 30  
“Pick Me” Contest Winners.....Page 32  
TCO Developer Forums.....Page 34  
Customer Round Table.....Page 35  
What Are We Watching? .....Page 36

## COMPONENT COMPETITION

Brackets .....Page 37  
Design Finalists .....Page 38  
Development Finalists .....Page 42  
Review Board .....Page 46

TopCoder Admin Staff.....Page 48



# ALGORITHM COMPETITION BRACKET

## FINAL ROUND

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## WILDCARD ROUND

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## SEMIFINAL ROUNDS

### ROOM 1

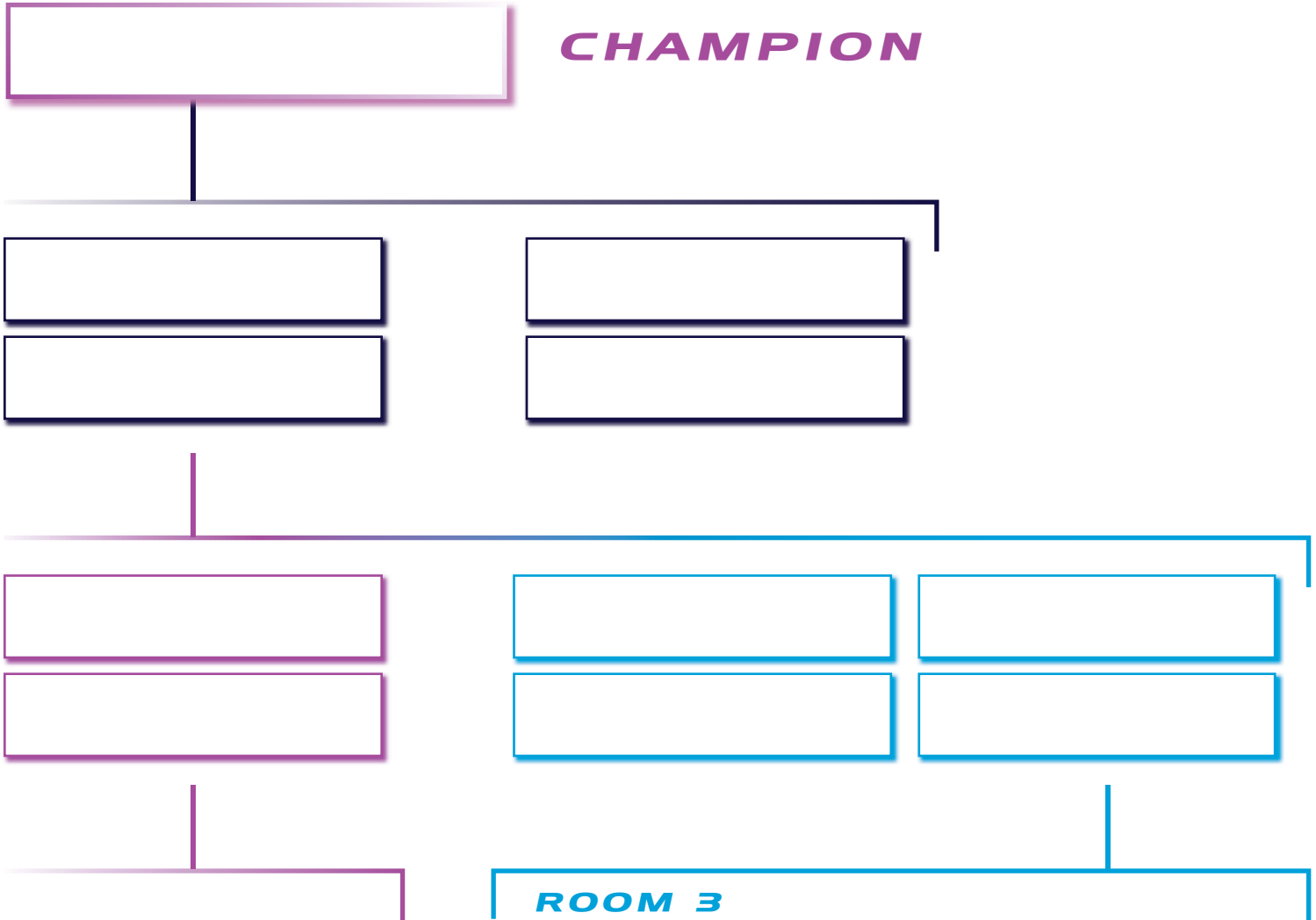
|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>SNAPDRAGON</b>  | <b>MIKEMIRZAYANOV</b> |
| <b>PETR</b>        | <b>OPENGL</b>         |
| <b>KRIJGERTJE</b>  | <b>CYFRA</b>          |
| <b>BLADERUNNER</b> | <b>YING</b>           |
| <b>EGOR</b>        | <b>TOMAL</b>          |
| <b>YARIN</b>       | <b>IM2GOOD</b>        |
| <b>GROTMOL</b>     | <b>BUS</b>            |
| <b>MATHIJS</b>     | <b>DARLAM</b>         |

### ROOM 2

|                  |
|------------------|
| <b>MISOF</b>     |
| <b>ERYX</b>      |
| <b>ANDREWZTA</b> |
| <b>KALINOV</b>   |
| <b>RUBERIK</b>   |
| <b>PPARYS</b>    |
| <b>NICKABI</b>   |
| <b>GEVAK</b>     |



# CHAMPION



- FUWENJIE
- NATORI
- EMBE
- BJARKEDAHLEBERT
- W\_
- M00TZ
- PO
- WDTSENG

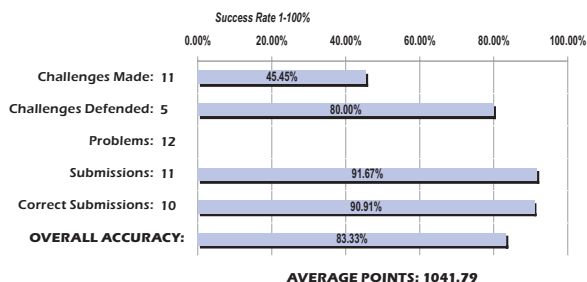
- TOMEK
- JOHN DETHRIDGE
- PLOH
- REID
- MAREK.CYGAN
- HALYAVIN
- ANTIMATTER
- LUCAB

- LIYMPANDA
- JONGMAN
- ULAN
- JAKUBR
- GEPa
- KALMAKKA
- KRZYSAN
- PAWELI2

# SEED 19 ANDREWZTA Andrey Stankevich

**Country** Russian Federation **Current Rating** 2852 **Current Ranking** 16 **Rating Percentile** 99.8884  
**Number of Ratings** 45 **Highest Rating** 2959 **Lowest Rating** 1764

## Tournament Statistics



**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

Hey, I often wake up at 4:30AM, solve SRM, and go to bed again...

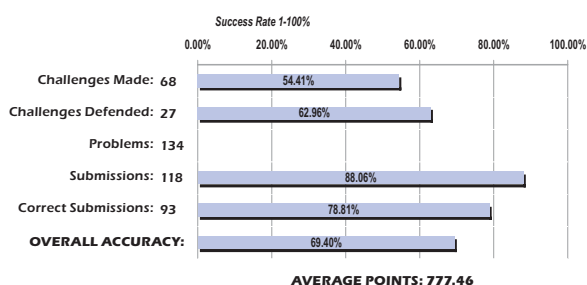
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

My dog.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Petr.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

You can solve any problem, and I am not speaking about programming contests here.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

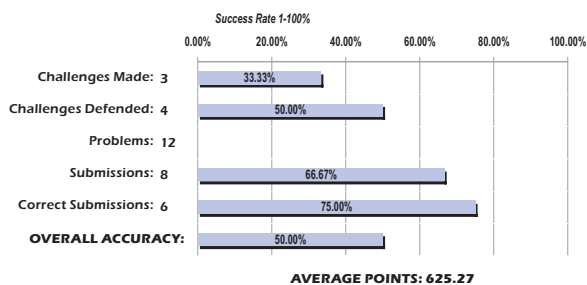
I think our reality is much better than any science fiction.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 21 ANTIMATTER Hubert Hwang

**Country** United States **Current Rating** 2723 **Current Ranking** 25 **Rating Percentile** 99.8256  
**Number of Ratings** 148 **Highest Rating** 2811 **Lowest Rating** 1281

## Tournament Statistics



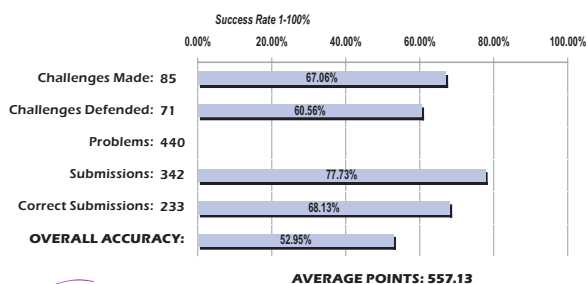
**What are you most grateful for?**

Growing up in an environment that allowed me to become who I am today academically, and having opportunities to learn at my own pace.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

It sounds sappy, but I'd spend time with friends, away from all computers and responsibilities. I'd fly them all over to where I was and spend 24 hours just hanging out.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

They've been pestering me to cut my hair for years, and I've finally done it – my hair is now much closer to the length it is in my five-year-old profile picture. I'm sure they'll be happy to hear it.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Derek Kisman (SnapDragon) – he's ridiculously good at such a large variety of things that I don't think there's any competition – from the people I've met, of course.

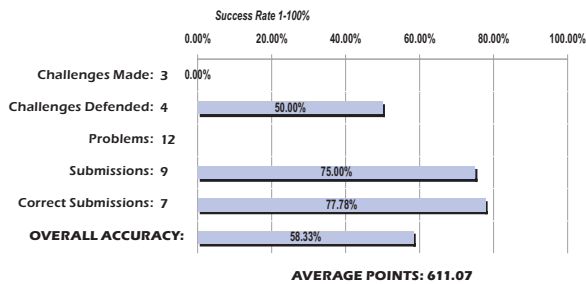




# SEED 117 BJARKEDAHLEBERT Bjarke Ebert

Country **Denmark** Current Rating **2509** Current Ranking **47** Rating Percentile **99.6722**  
 Number of Ratings **21** Highest Rating **2509** Lowest Rating **1720**

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

My grandmother, because she had lived in a wholly different time and could tell "eye witness" stories from the old days.

**What are you most grateful for?**

For having met my wife and for our three wonderful kids.

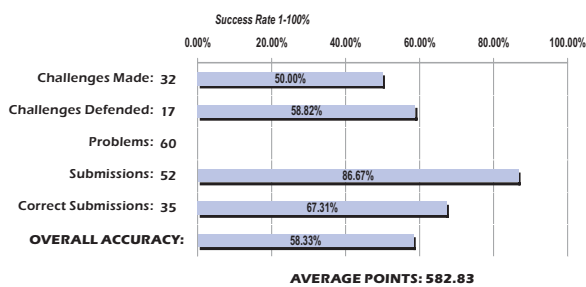
**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

The elevator was almost full of big, heavy people. It stopped at a floor, and a tiny old lady entered. Then it wouldn't start again, and someone said, "maybe overweight". This triggered the tiny old lady to leave the elevator (as if she was the main cause of overweight), and then the elevator worked again.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

"Wow, you are an even greater geek than I am!"  
I think it was meant as a compliment.

## Overall Competition Statistics

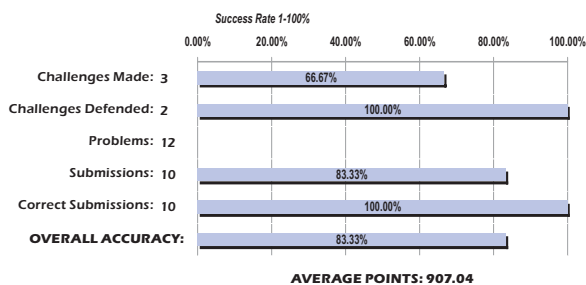


## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 13 BLADERUNNER Oleksandr Grushetsky

Country **Ukraine** Current Rating **2881** Current Ranking **14** Rating Percentile **99.9023**  
 Number of Ratings **90** Highest Rating **3040** Lowest Rating **1806**

## Tournament Statistics



**What are you most grateful for?**

For having great family.

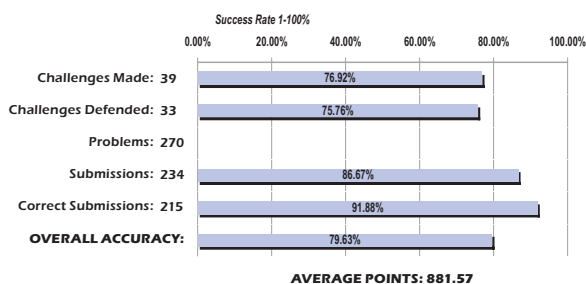
**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Forget about the job, and just go travel around the world.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Cats. I love them.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Math is really important. Solving simple problems helps to solve complex problems.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

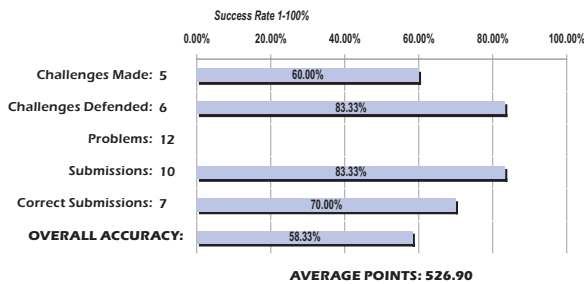
Artificial Intelligence research. Or soccer, if I were really good at it.



# SEED 191 BUS Michal Burger

Country Slovakia Current Rating 2182 Current Ranking 150 Rating Percentile 98.9537  
 Number of Ratings 22 Highest Rating 2182 Lowest Rating 850

## Tournament Statistics



### Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?

A friend of mine - he always says precisely what he thinks, he's not afraid to make fun of people who deserve it and he's always up to something. He keeps doing the most stupid things that he can think of but they're always funny and he's never afraid of anything. What I like the most about him is how he can overcome embarrassment and his ability to do everything in style. He's just a typical good guy from a

Hollywood happy-end movie.

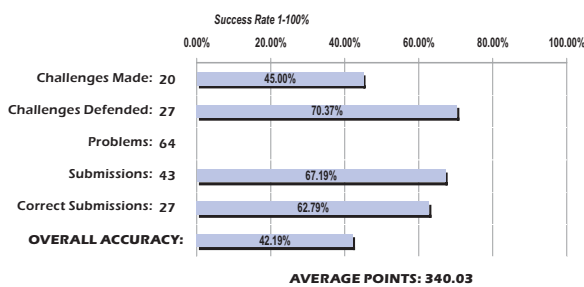
### What are you most grateful for?

For having such supportive parents.

### What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

That I shouldn't let my mom dress me but rather learn to do it by myself. It is surprising how many decisions I've already made based on this tiny little thing I learned in secondary school...

## Overall Competition Statistics

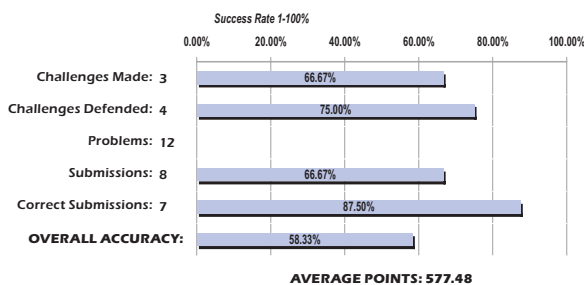


## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 70 CYFRA Marcin Michalski

Country Poland Current Rating 2496 Current Ranking 53 Rating Percentile 99.6303  
 Number of Ratings 38 Highest Rating 2732 Lowest Rating 1482

## Tournament Statistics



### Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?

I've met many interesting people, but the most interesting one was certainly my captain on my first sailing cruise. He had a lot of stories and a lot of adventures.

### What would we find in the trunk of your car?

The last guy asked me the same thing.

### If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?

Fly to the moon and back... this should be possible to do in one day.

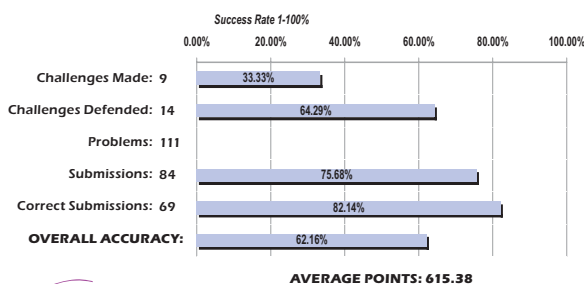
### If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?

Three penguins from Madagascar movie... they were great!

### What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

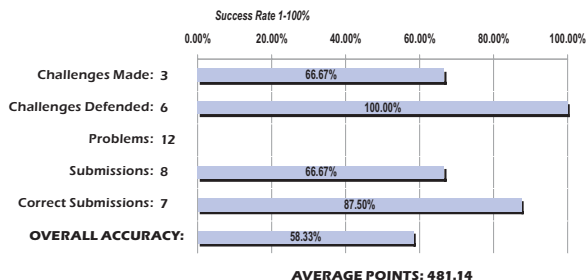
That there is a time for work and time for rest. And don't try to do both at the same time.

## Overall Competition Statistics



Country Russian Federation Current Rating 2051 Current Ranking 216 Rating Percentile 98.493  
 Number of Ratings 24 Highest Rating 2150 Lowest Rating 1517

**Tournament Statistics**



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Vladimir A. Goldich. He has a broad outlook. It is interesting to talk with him about any topic.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would test aviating, formula-1 driving, parachute jumping and diving.

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

I was jumping in the elevator to prove its reliability and it stopped.

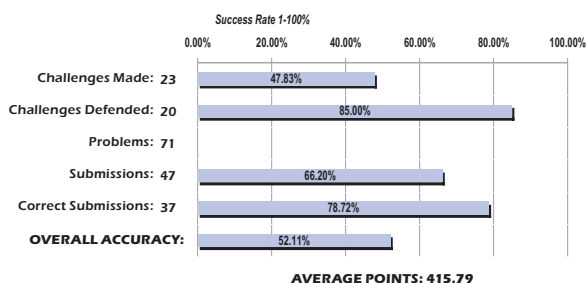
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

My little sister.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

None. Our reality is the best.

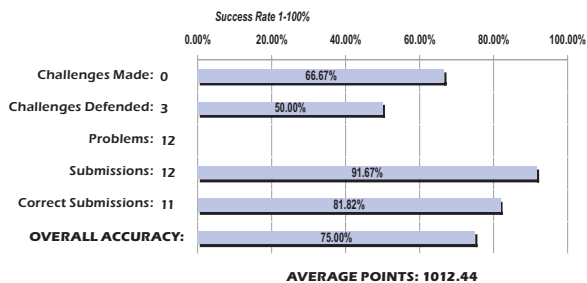
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country Russian Federation Current Rating 2717 Current Ranking 26 Rating Percentile 99.8186  
 Number of Ratings 49 Highest Rating 2718 Lowest Rating 1698

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Vladimir Leonidovich Dolnikov.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

It was the words of my mentor V.L.Dolnikov. He said that if you take part in a complex competition, it shows you that you mustn't focus on the parts that you like and are good at, but rather you must focus on the parts that you don't

like and that you aren't as good at.

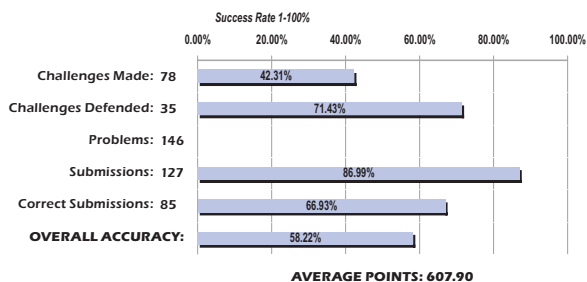
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would go with my Kate to Paris.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

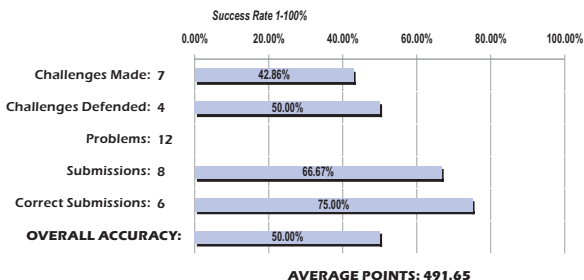
I think it would be "Picnic on the side of the road" by Strugackie brothers. Just because of its end – the main hero, when he reaches some object that will execute any will, asks for happiness for everyone, and no one goes away offended.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



Country **Poland** Current Rating **2340** Current Ranking **92** Rating Percentile **99.3583**  
 Number of Ratings **30** Highest Rating **2543** Lowest Rating **1193**

**Tournament Statistics**



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Mostly increased - thanks to training. :)

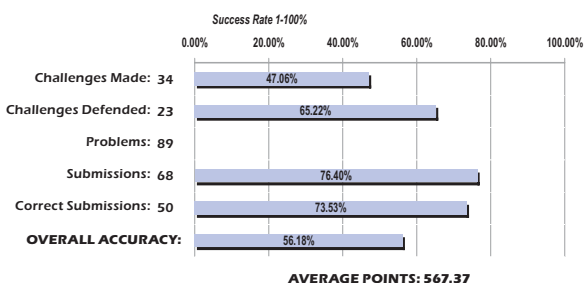
**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

"You are crazy."

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

"The Restaurant at the End of the Universe"

**Overall Competition Statistics**



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Do nothing but rest the whole day.

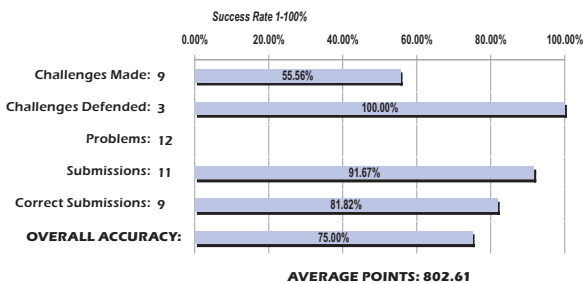
**What are you most grateful for?**

Being born.

**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **Poland** Current Rating **3053** Current Ranking **6** Rating Percentile **99.9581**  
 Number of Ratings **100** Highest Rating **3214** Lowest Rating **1593**

**Tournament Statistics**



**What are you most grateful for?**

I am grateful to people who wrote all the open source software and freeware that I use. I'd also like to thank the sponsors for making the TCO possible.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

I would like us to colonize all the known Universe and become immortal and generally flawless and better, and work happily while the machines do anything that is not fun. Then, we could become

friends with aliens, construct gates that lead to other universes, and discover the meaning of life.

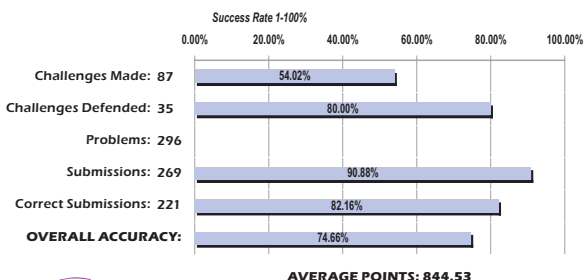
**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

I'd like to be more focused in my scientific work.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

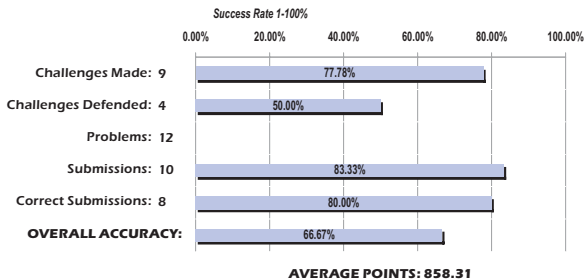
I have learned that you don't have to remember a lot of facts in mathematics and physics. You only have to learn the basic and simple ones, and how to deduce everything else from them.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



Country **China** Current Rating **2266** Current Ranking **118** Rating Percentile **99.1769**  
 Number of Ratings **12** Highest Rating **2490** Lowest Rating **1841**

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would ask for another such day.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

That's a lot. Since I am not smarter than them, I can't tell who is the smartest.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has**

**helped you get where you are today?**

I learned a lot from my teachers, which are all very helpful to me, so I can not tell which one is the most important.

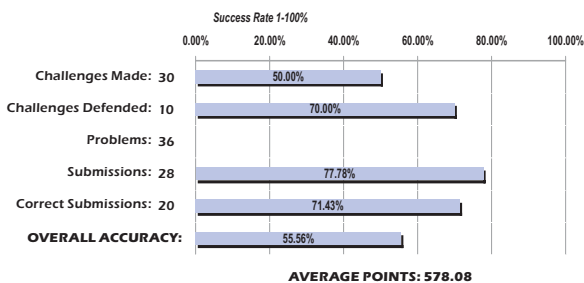
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It changes unpredictably. I can not tell any definite way to improve it.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Another one's smile.

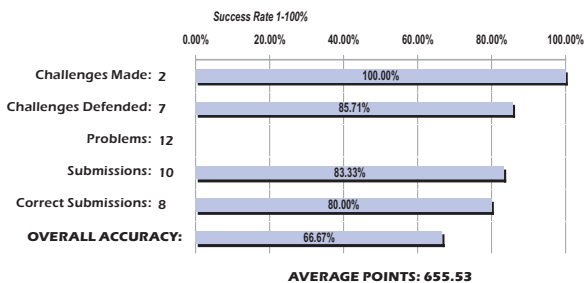
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **Germany** Current Rating **2449** Current Ranking **62** Rating Percentile **99.5675**  
 Number of Ratings **94** Highest Rating **2702** Lowest Rating **1601**

**Tournament Statistics**



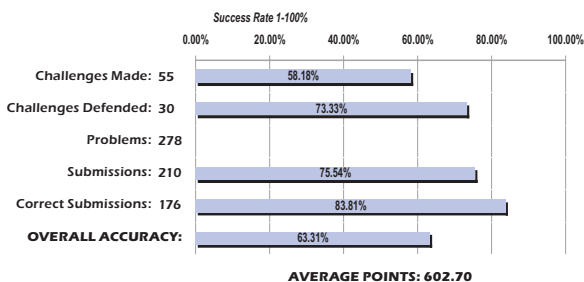
**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Dr. Lance Ware, one of the founders of Mensa (met him some years ago during the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Mensa). What I find interesting about him is that he came up with the idea of initiating such an organization 60 years ago.

**What are you most grateful for?**

For living in the 21st century.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I started yellow, later became red, and I am dreaming of being a target one day (in the far, far future...). What helps me most is practicing and learning from my mistakes.

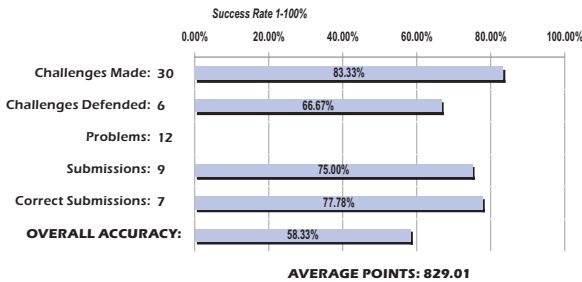
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

To never give up.



Country Russian Federation Current Rating 2503 Current Ranking 49 Rating Percentile 99.6582  
 Number of Ratings 46 Highest Rating 2538 Lowest Rating 1372

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**  
 Have a lot of fun.

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**  
 Mom.

**What are you most grateful for?**  
 Birth.

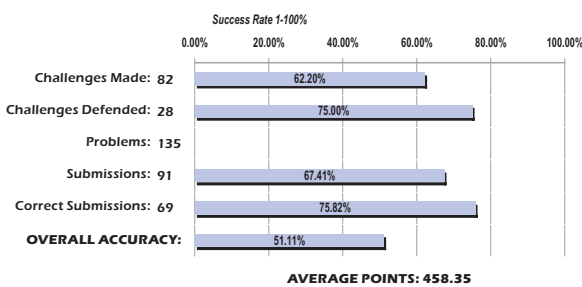
**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Petr ;)

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It had increased greatly after I've installed the plug-in about a half of year ago.

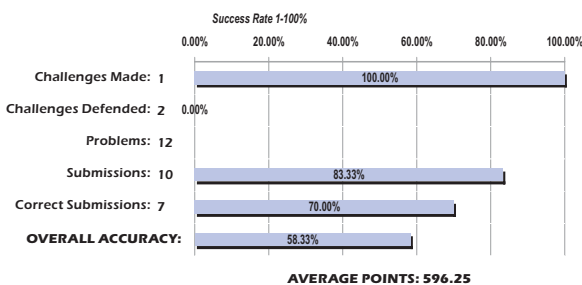
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country Norway Current Rating 2575 Current Ranking 36 Rating Percentile 99.7489  
 Number of Ratings 45 Highest Rating 2575 Lowest Rating 1296

**Tournament Statistics**



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

In relation to programming, it must be Donald Knuth, as he is one of the major contributors to CS.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Someone laughing so hard they cannot control themselves.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Reading and writing. Without it, I would not have been able to answer these questions.

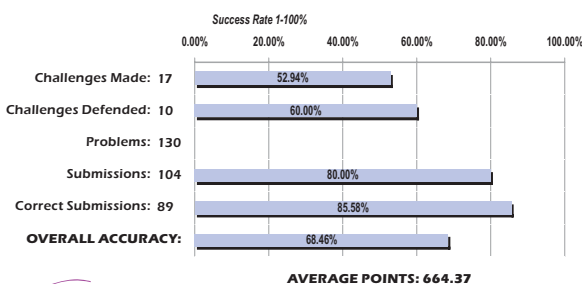
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Donate all that money to humanitarian aid.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Star Wars.

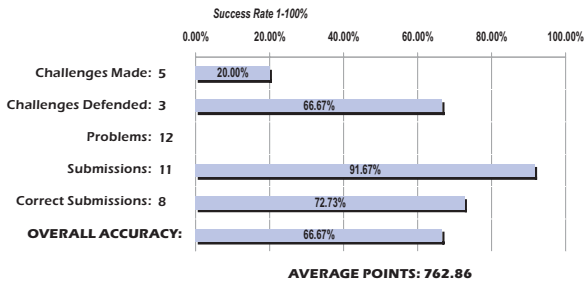
**Overall Competition Statistics**



# SEED 71 HALYAVIN Andrey Khalyavin

Country Russian Federation Current Rating 2657 Current Ranking 29 Rating Percentile 99.7977  
 Number of Ratings 13 Highest Rating 2657 Lowest Rating 1732

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

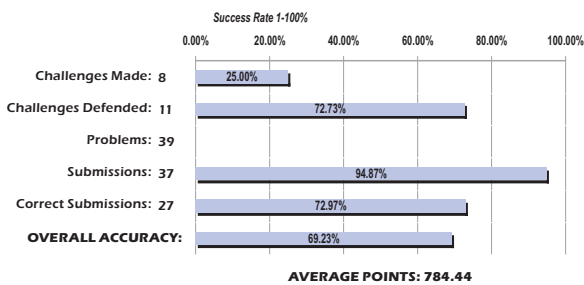
Kanel Below. He is mathematician. He studies some very interesting problems. I like his problems in mathematical Olympiads.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I am relatively new to TopCoder. So my rating only increases. The main problem for me (which I currently solved) - I need to program in C++. I

program in Delphi usually.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Mathematical science is more important than the set of methods used in mathematical Olympiads.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

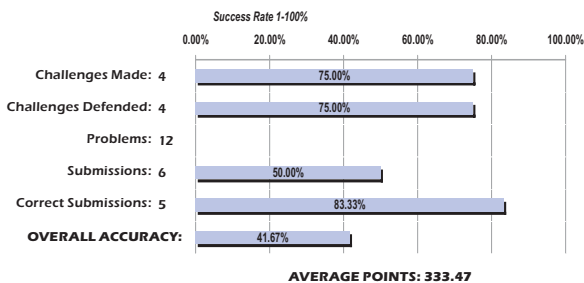
Labyrinth of Reflections by Sergey Lukyanenko.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 58 IM2GOOD Rune Fevang

Country Norway Current Rating 2266 Current Ranking 118 Rating Percentile 99.1769  
 Number of Ratings 97 Highest Rating 2612 Lowest Rating 1313

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would take everyone I know for a day in Disney World, with the entire park for us.

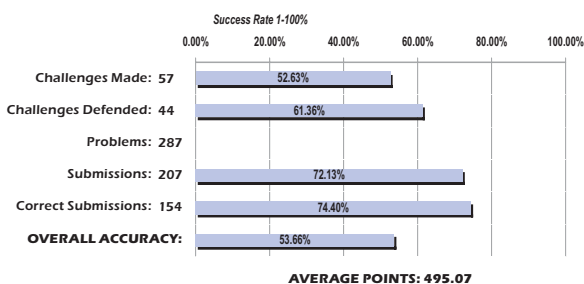
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

To trust myself.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

School.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

That I'm more than just a geek.

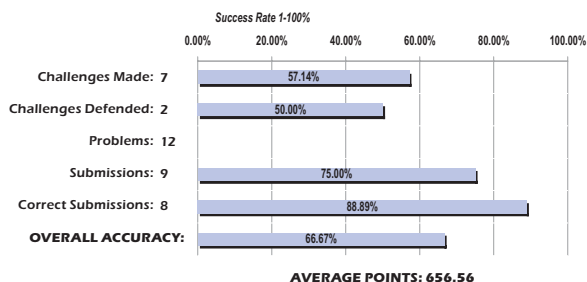
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Star Wars of course! :)

# SEED 72 JAKUBR Jakub Radoszewski

Country Poland Current Rating 2475 Current Ranking 55 Rating Percentile 99.6164  
Number of Ratings 53 Highest Rating 2475 Lowest Rating 1239

## Tournament Statistics



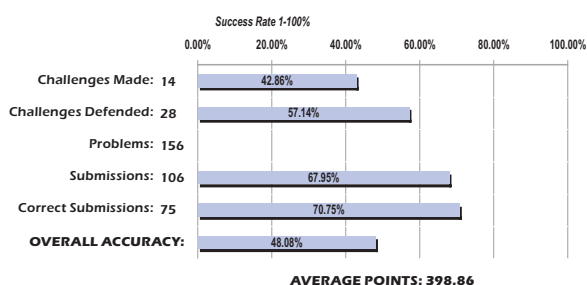
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would visit my uncle in Vancouver and go to beautiful Canadian mountains.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

I always smile when people tell me that something is obvious and I completely do not know why.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Marcin Pilipczuk (handle malcin at TopCoder). He can definitely learn everything he's told and after a short time he will be excessively good at it if he wants.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

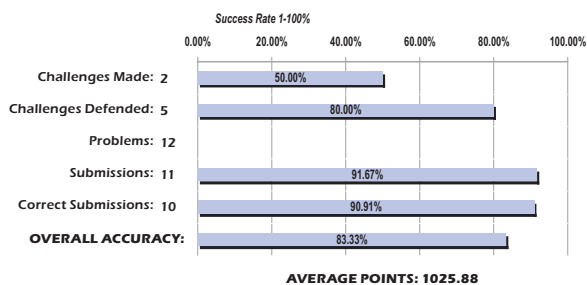
I was taught one important thing: to be concentrated and calm and thanks to this not to make mistakes in things I know how to do.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 9 JOHN DETHRIDGE John Dethridge

Country Australia Current Rating 3015 Current Ranking 8 Rating Percentile 99.9442  
Number of Ratings 129 Highest Rating 3243 Lowest Rating 1897

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Is it someone else's money? Go to the bank and make a deposit!

**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

I'm in Las Vegas!

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

That's just silly. :)

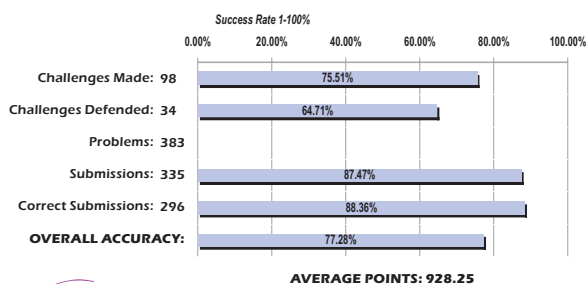
**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

If I was afraid of doing something, it was probably a bad idea anyway!

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I got to the top 10 in a few matches, and mostly stayed there. Doing contests regularly helps you keep up with the competition.

## Overall Competition Statistics

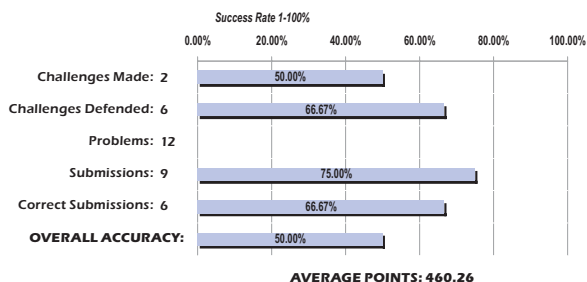




# SEED 57 JONGMAN JongMan Koo

Country Republic of Korea Current Rating 2497 Current Ranking 51 Rating Percentile 99.6443  
 Number of Ratings 33 Highest Rating 2518 Lowest Rating 1803

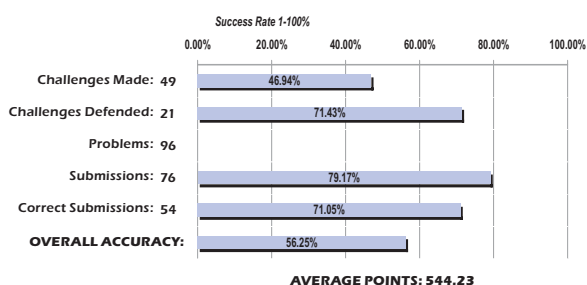
## Tournament Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I luckily won my first two matches, jumping up to something like 2300. I thought "Wow, this is a piece of cake!" ...And I learned that's not true at all, as time passed by. :) Steps to improve? I'll just quote sneman with what he said in TCO 04 leaflet - "constantly pushing yourself to improve in some way."

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Challenging torek's 200-pointer.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

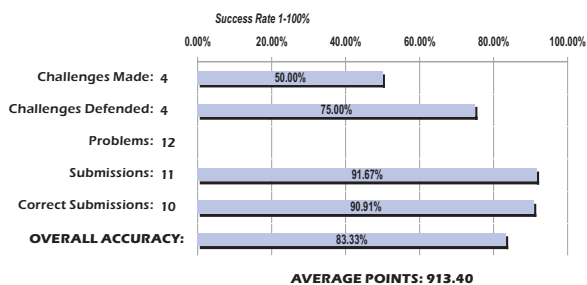
Quarantine (by Greg Egan) comes to mind - where you can download software directly into your brain. But... I think I strongly prefer the present.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 15 KALINOV Luka Kalinovic

Country Croatia Current Rating 2785 Current Ranking 20 Rating Percentile 99.8605  
 Number of Ratings 112 Highest Rating 2947 Lowest Rating 1633

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

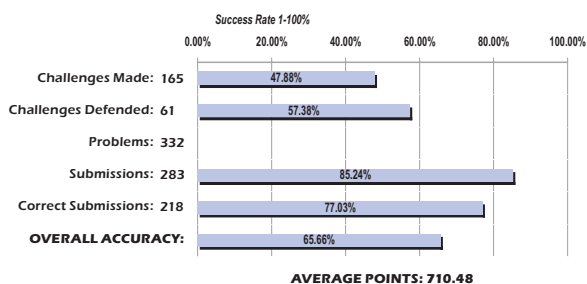
I would throw a big open air concert. I would get all popular bands to play and to hang out with me and my friends backstage.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

It was probably my elementary school teacher. He encouraged me to be individual and creative.

He gave me opportunity to do things I want the way I want, not what was in the program.

## Overall Competition Statistics



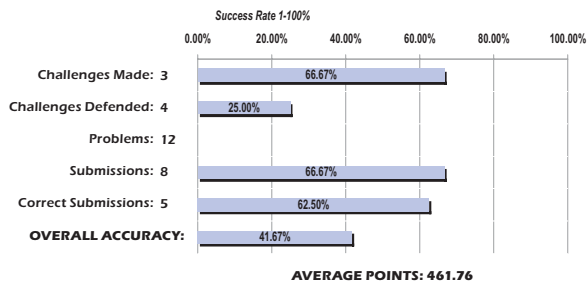
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

My rating has changed a lot over time. Probably most important was becoming red. At that time I was practicing a lot for IOI 2004. After that I started competing on TopCoder more often. Recently I started practicing a lot again and I hope soon there will be a target near my handle :)

# SEED 61 KALMAKKA David Narum

Country Norway Current Rating 2335 Current Ranking 93 Rating Percentile 99.3513  
Number of Ratings 59 Highest Rating 2462 Lowest Rating 1477

## Tournament Statistics



**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

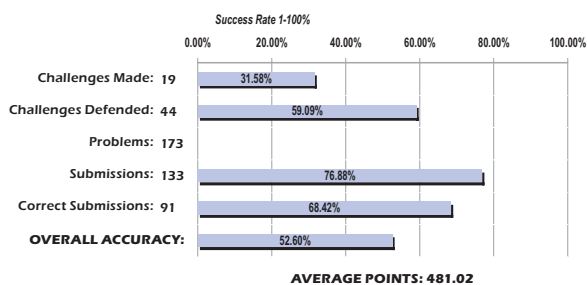
If I want to do something then I do it, regardless of how much it may scare me.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**  
Wild mammals.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

The Sirens of Titan by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. Loathing of a single individual is probably the best way to unite all of mankind.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

I'd like to explore my artistic side more. It's been four years since last I played in a band and I rather miss it.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

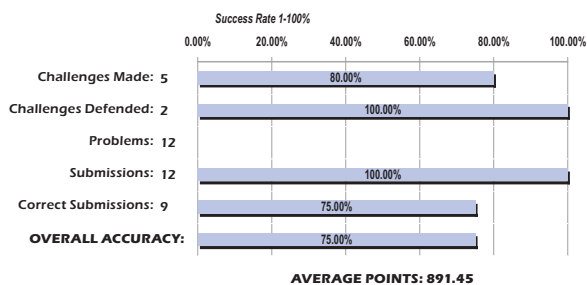
Go to Zaphod's in Ottawa. They've got these great Pan-Galactic Gargle Blasters!

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 7 KRIJGERTJE Erik-Jan Krijgsman

Country Netherlands Current Rating 3035 Current Ranking 7 Rating Percentile 99.9512 Number of Ratings 91 Highest Rating 3112 Lowest Rating 1813

## Tournament Statistics



**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Seeing somebody looking at John Dethridge's code does and trying to figure out what it does.

**What are you most grateful for?**

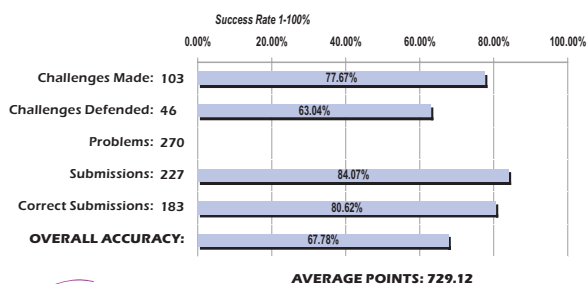
That I'm healthy and that I have the opportunity to do what I want in my life.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

But you're not a nerd! (after telling them I do

programming contests).

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

I don't know much science-fiction stories, but the ones I know usually start or end rather badly, so I'll prefer that none of those stories come true.

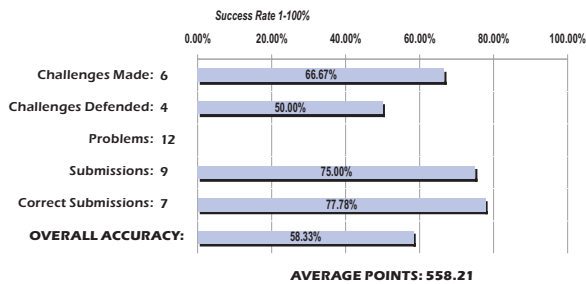
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Do what you like.



Country **Poland** Current Rating **2233** Current Ranking **131** Rating Percentile **99.0862** Number of Ratings **95** Highest Rating **2354** Lowest Rating **1057**

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

The same thing I do every day - try to take over the world ;-)

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

I laugh a lot. Playing with my dog is my first pick, but many other things are really close.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

None - reality is much more interesting than any fiction.

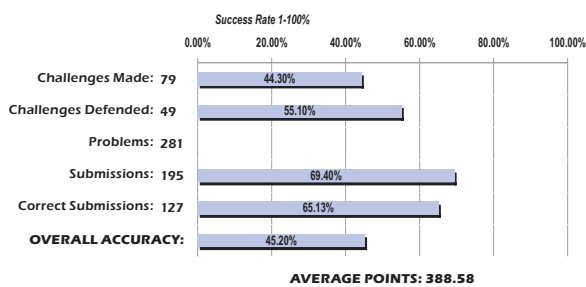
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I started two years ago as a green coder and made my way to red. I've simply been solving a lot of problems. I still have a long way to go.

**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

Whether/when/how/why will humanity be extinct.

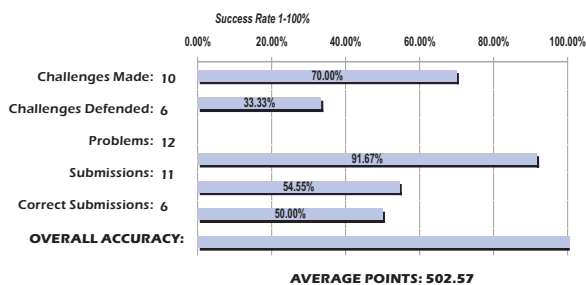
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **China** Current Rating **2619** Current Ranking **33** Rating Percentile **99.7698** Number of Ratings **73** Highest Rating **2619** Lowest Rating **1336**

**Tournament Statistics**



**What are you most grateful for?**

I'm most grateful for TopCoder. I learned a lot from TopCoder.

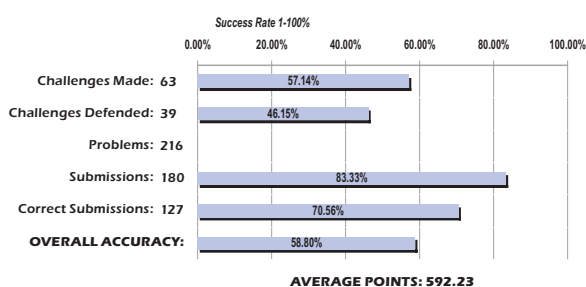
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Travel with friends.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Wenjie Qian.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

My first programming teacher, Teacher Gui, taught me a lot about basic of programming, which helps me a lot today.

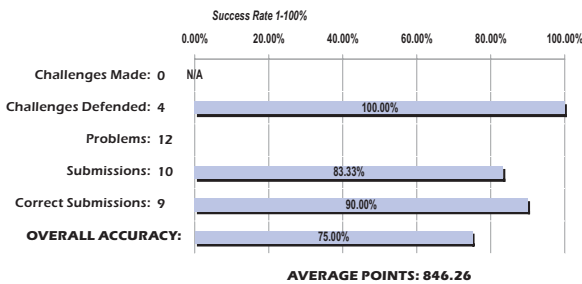
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

I hope the time machine comes true.



Country **Italy** Current Rating **2530** Current Ranking **44** Rating Percentile **99.6931** Number of Ratings **7** Highest Rating **2530** Lowest Rating **1202**

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

I think that would be studying.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

Some people told me I would win a Nobel prize sometime (but I don't think they were sufficiently informed :) ).

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Either time travel or immortality.

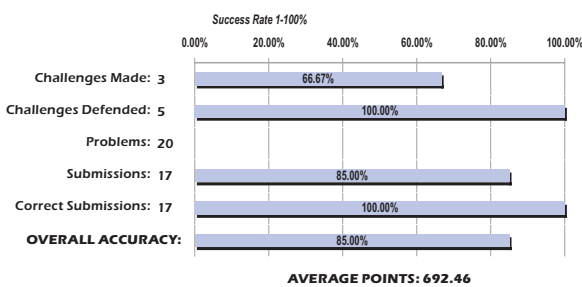
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

I think it's when other people smile at me or kindly talk to me.

**What are you most grateful for?**

I'm most grateful to my parents for raising me.

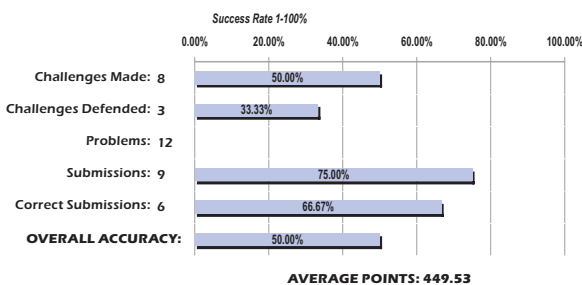
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **Norway** Current Rating **2417** Current Ranking **70** Rating Percentile **99.5117** Number of Ratings **49** Highest Rating **2625** Lowest Rating **1681**

**Tournament Statistics**



**What are you most grateful for?**

Health. Friends. Family. Their health. Interesting stuff to do.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

First I'd buy up all the advertising space I could get my hands on, and not use it. Maybe show art instead. Then I'd go rent the Shuttle.

**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

Hey, I'm in Vegas!

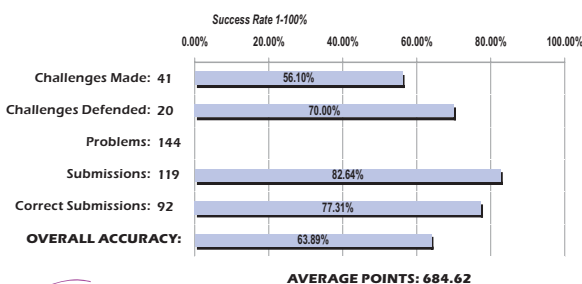
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Contrary to what seems to be public opinion, it's actually OK to know how things work.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

A smile.

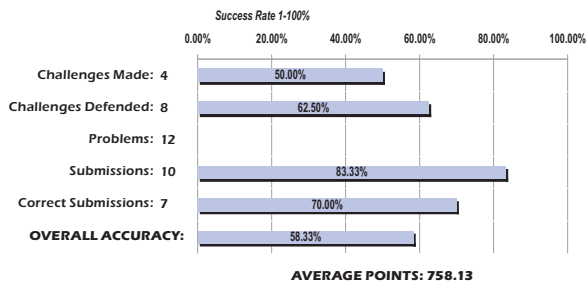
**Overall Competition Statistics**



# SEED 10 MAREK.CYGAN Marek Cygan

Country Poland Current Rating 2853 Current Ranking 15 Rating Percentile 99.8954 Number of Ratings 93 Highest Rating 2920 Lowest Rating 1109

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Take a trip to some exotic place.

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

My girlfriend, if you met her you would know why.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has**

**helped you get where you are today?**

Never give up.

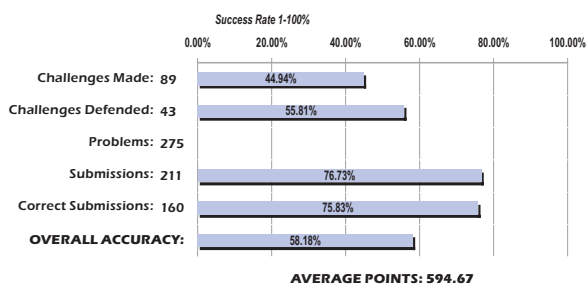
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

My girlfriend's smile.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Some optimistic one, which would make people happier.

## Overall Competition Statistics

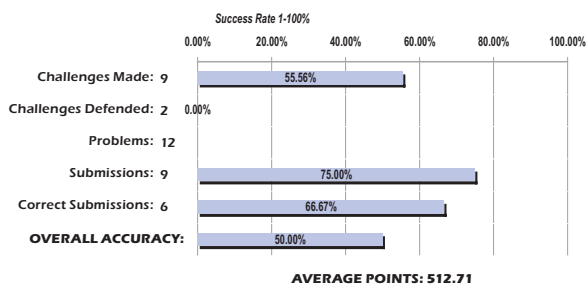


## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 47 MATHIJS Mathijs Vogelzang

Country Netherlands Current Rating 2573 Current Ranking 37 Rating Percentile 99.7419 Number of Ratings 47 Highest Rating 2872 Lowest Rating 1412

## Tournament Statistics



**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

Although I'm interested in questions like "are people fundamentally good or evil?" and "does extraterrestrial life exist?" I'm afraid that knowing the answer spoils all the fun of discussing these questions. Therefore I go for "what will be the best performing stock in the next 5 years?".

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has**

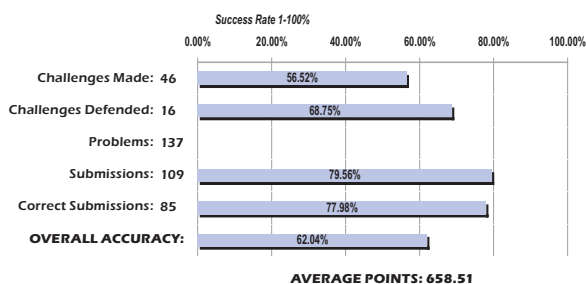
**helped you get where you are today?**

When you do things you like, you (almost always) automatically become good at it.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

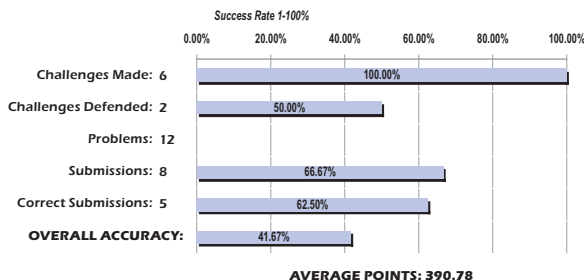
Visit charities and donate lots of money.

## Overall Competition Statistics



Country Russian Federation Current Rating 2453 Current Ranking 60 Rating Percentile 99.5815  
 Number of Ratings 76 Highest Rating 2507 Lowest Rating 1247

**Tournament Statistics**

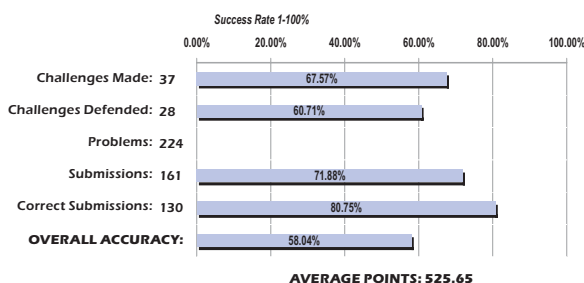


**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**  
 Happiness.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**  
 Love of science.

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**  
 My teacher of the math, as she taught me math.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



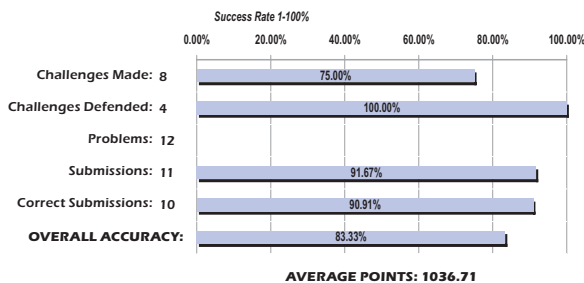
**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**  
 Does God exist?

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**  
 I open Medium before Easy.

**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country Slovakia Current Rating 3227 Current Ranking 4 Rating Percentile 99.9721 Number of Ratings 62 Highest Rating 3387 Lowest Rating 1750

**Tournament Statistics**



**What are you most grateful for?**  
 A boring but sincere answer: For having so many great friends.

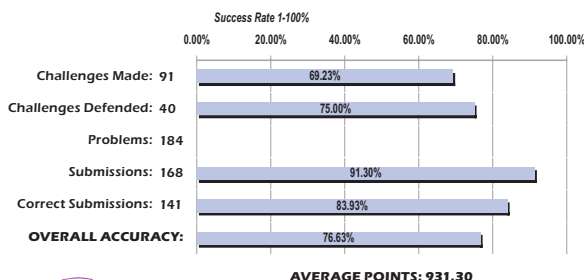
**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**  
 Me and a party of my friends, we once got stuck in an elevator in our college dorm, because on the topmost floor there was a party, and someone turned on the fire extinguisher. I don't know whether it qualifies as funny, it only started to be funny \_after\_ we got out of the elevator,

but the look at the water flowing both down the stairs and the elevator shaft was pretty funny when we were safe.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
 Babylon Five in all its glory. :)

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**  
 It's not really "a thing", but my girlfriend is really good at making me smile. ;)

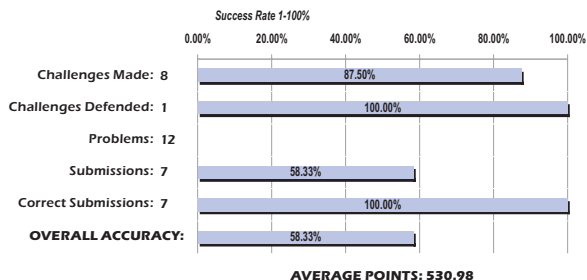
**Overall Competition Statistics**



# SEED 59 NATORI Natori Shin

Country **Japan** Current Rating **2530** Current Ranking **44** Rating Percentile **99.6931** Number of Ratings **70** Highest Rating **2782** Lowest Rating **1632**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Buy Microsoft, Sun, Apple and Adobe, open all sources of all their products and run away.

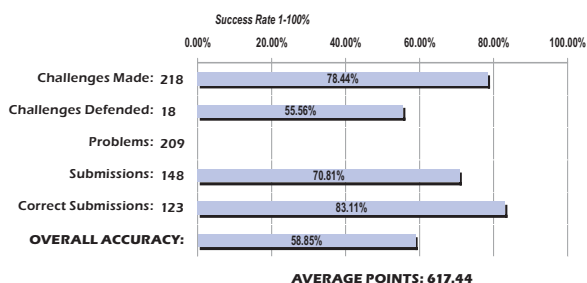
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Canon in D by Pachelbel.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

My father.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Be skeptical.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

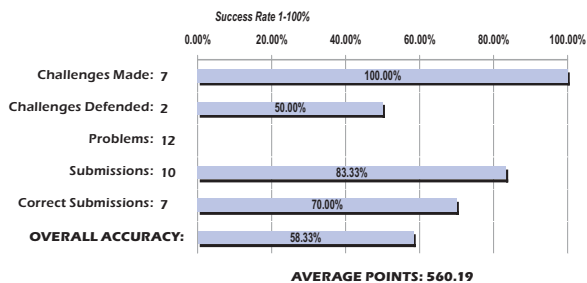
Up, down, up, down... Although I read tons of codes so as to enhance my coding skill, it mainly enhanced my code reading skill only. I started to think that I should change my learning strategy.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 31 NICK81 Nikolay Archak

Country **Russian Federation** Current Rating **2406** Current Ranking **74** Rating Percentile **99.4838** Number of Ratings **132** Highest Rating **2791** Lowest Rating **1420**

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Several friends of mine are astrophysicists and they are very interesting persons to talk with.

**What are you most grateful for?**

Perhaps my answer is not original but I am most grateful to my parents for being born. Without this necessary step I would have never advanced to the TCO finals.

**What would we find in the trunk of your car?**

So many things: inline skates, a pack of beer, a traveler's tent. I even have angel wings (a toy).

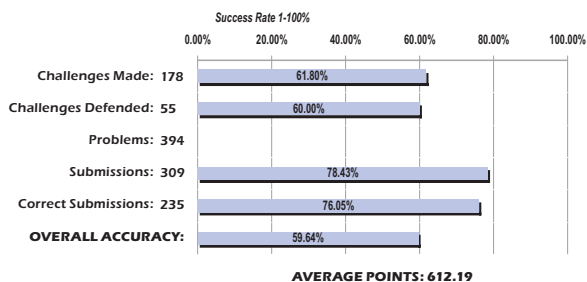
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Solaris.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

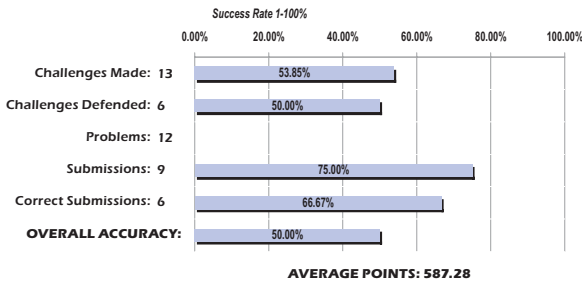
Ryan.

## Overall Competition Statistics



Country **China** Current Rating **2444** Current Ranking **64** Rating Percentile **99.5536** Number of Ratings **28** Highest Rating **2501** Lowest Rating **1245**

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

We can fly.

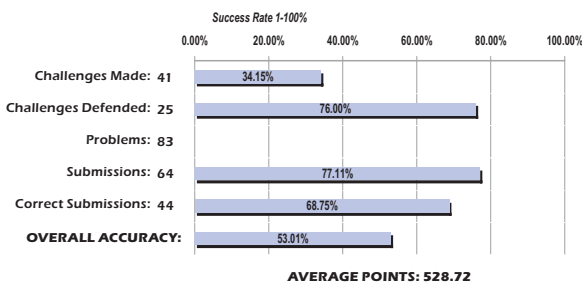
**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Zhou Yuan in Tsinghua University, China.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Forget the sadness, and be happy every day.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

My Chinese teacher. She often told us some interesting history stories.

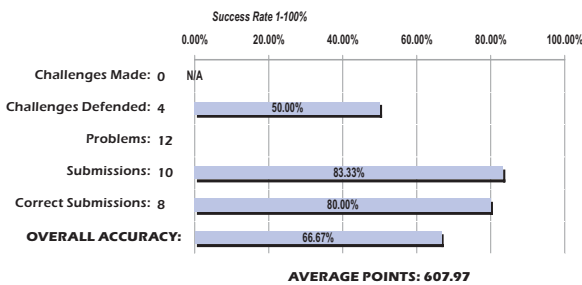
**What are you most grateful for?**

I met a beautiful girl when I entered senior school.

**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **Poland** Current Rating **2113** Current Ranking **177** Rating Percentile **98.7653** Number of Ratings **8** Highest Rating **2113** Lowest Rating **1463**

**Tournament Statistics**



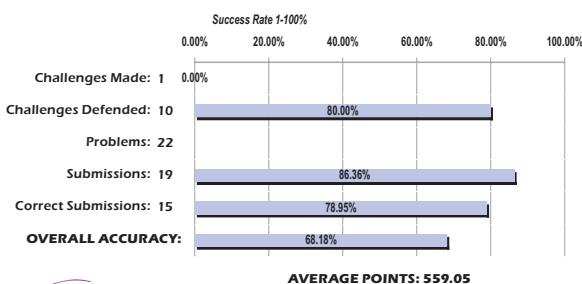
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Stupidity of some people. A couple of years ago I used to get angry with it, but now it makes me smile.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Give me a day and that money and then I'll start to think about it.

**Overall Competition Statistics**



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Lots of practicing using problems from previous TopCoder contests. As I have recently started competing at TopCoder, I had lots of free problems left. My rating has increased since I returned to competition about a month ago.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

Being "out of this world." I know I perhaps shouldn't treat it as a compliment but I liked it so much...

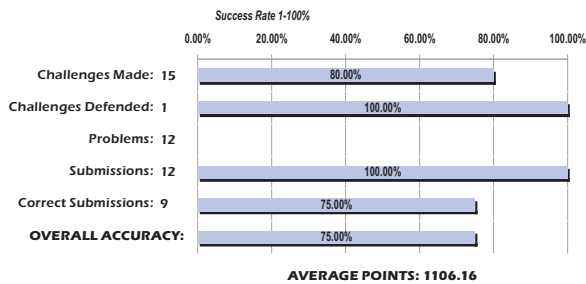




## SEED 4 PETR Petr Mitrichev

Country **Russian Federation** Current Rating **3249** Current Ranking **3** Rating Percentile **99.9791**  
 Number of Ratings **61** Highest Rating **3491** Lowest Rating **1866**

### Tournament Statistics



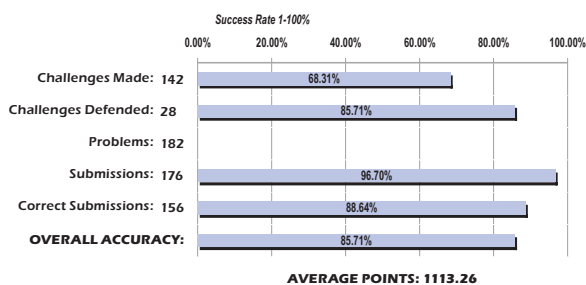
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Go out with my friends.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Well, basically it just reached target-level and then floated around. I don't think my skills have been improved much.

### Overall Competition Statistics



**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

The smile of my girlfriend.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Probably the dynamic programming technique.

**What are you most grateful for?**

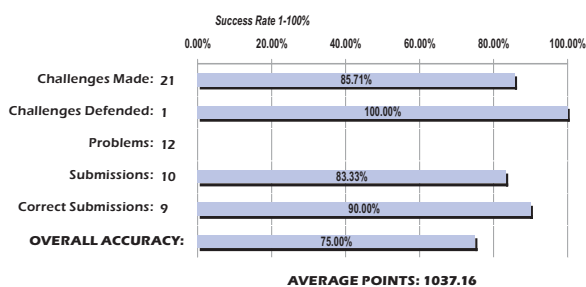
Of course I'm most grateful to my parents for my upbringing and education.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

## SEED 8 PLOH Po-Ru Loh

Country **United States** Current Rating **2801** Current Ranking **18** Rating Percentile **99.8744**  
 Number of Ratings **133** Highest Rating **3114** Lowest Rating **1111**

### Tournament Statistics



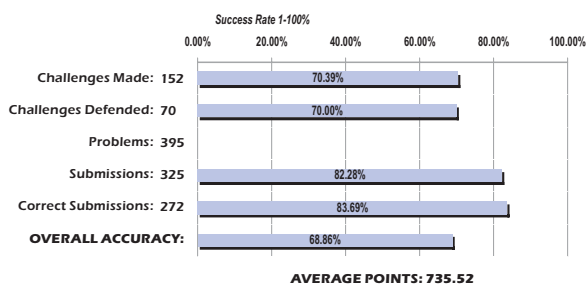
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Probably just relax with friends – a free day is a rare thing!

**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

Well, I've occasionally ditched a class for an SRM. Tsk, tsk.

### Overall Competition Statistics

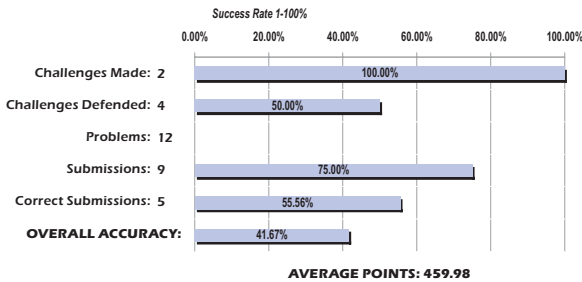


**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

One time I was at a hotel in a group of twenty-odd people, and someone had the brilliant idea of us all getting in an elevator and going up at the same time. The "getting in" part went fine (after some smushing), but "going up" was not quite as successful: we moved up a couple feet... and then the elevator motor quit. Unfortunately, this left us in between floors, and we ended up stuck for around fifteen minutes. Ironically, this group was supposedly a group of "science scholars."

Country **United States** Current Rating **2305** Current Ranking **101** Rating Percentile **99.2955**  
 Number of Ratings **93** Highest Rating **2450** Lowest Rating **1565**

**Tournament Statistics**



**What are you most grateful for?**

Being lucky. That's the only way I advance in these tournaments!

**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

On which date after Jan 1, 2026 will the stock market drop sharply (more than 10%)? Hopefully I would have enough capital to take advantage of that knowledge by then...

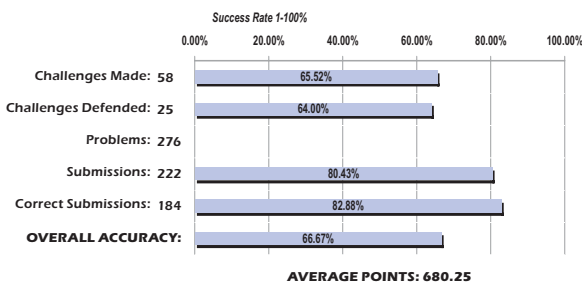
**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

My wife, Debbie. :-)

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

There are many ways to succeed. Develop several of them at the same time, instead of focusing only on one. Somehow, the combination can be more effective, even if the amount of effort required is the same.

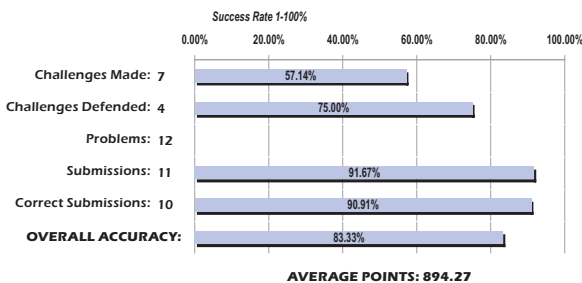
**Overall Competition Statistics**



**ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS**

Country **Poland** Current Rating **2693** Current Ranking **28** Rating Percentile **99.8047** Number of Ratings **49** Highest Rating **2700** Lowest Rating **1569**

**Tournament Statistics**



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I'd like to sleep the whole day.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

At the beginning my rating was about 2000. In august 2004 my rating increased and since then it is in the range of 2500-2700. I don't know why it increased, I wasn't practicing a lot then, rather I

understood that in TC problems I should find the easiest solution and that I should code really carefully.

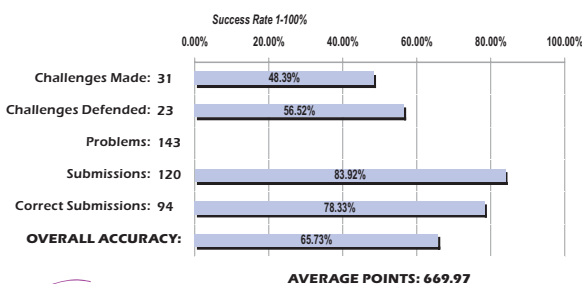
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

The Nine Billion Names of God by Arthur Clarke. There the computer scientists cause the end of the world, because they've generated all the names of the God.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

That to want = to can.

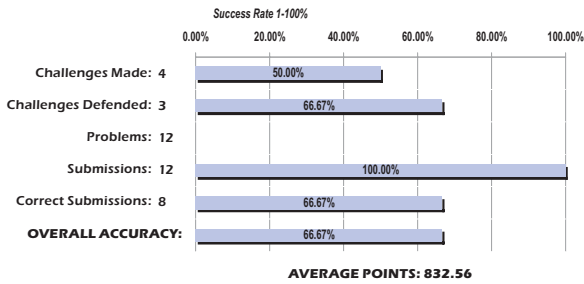
**Overall Competition Statistics**



# SEED 16 REID Reid Barton

Country **United States** Current Rating **2885** Current Ranking **12** Rating Percentile **99.9163** Number of Ratings **64** Highest Rating **3211** Lowest Rating **1860**

## Tournament Statistics



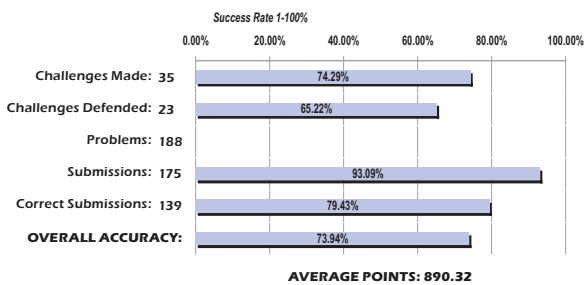
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Practice makes perfect. My rating went up fairly consistently back when I was participating in every SRM. Now that I only compete in the tournaments, I've become a lot less consistent and my rating has dropped.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Music. In particular, the Brahms String Sextet.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

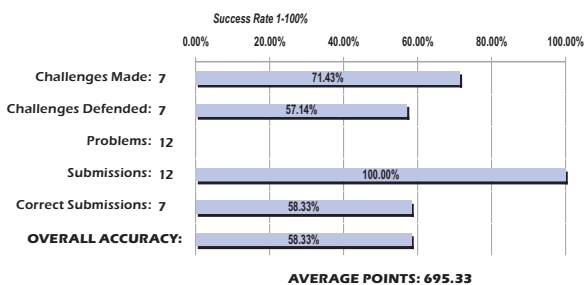
The Riemann Hypothesis. Then I'd sell out, in exchange for eternal fame and fortune.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 41 RUBERIK Bartholomew Furrow

Country **Canada** Current Rating **2801** Current Ranking **18** Rating Percentile **99.8744** Number of Ratings **76** Highest Rating **2801** Lowest Rating **1548**

## Tournament Statistics



**What are you most grateful for?**

Stumbling on a programming contest in second year, and having the next four years of my life revolve pleasantly around the consequences.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It has changed like a heartbeat monitor, and gradually gone up in average over time. I've improved with four years of practice in ACM and TopCoder events. I've also improved by gaining

a modicum of patience: the ability to reflect for a few seconds before starting to code, and another few before hitting Submit, is a marvelous thing.

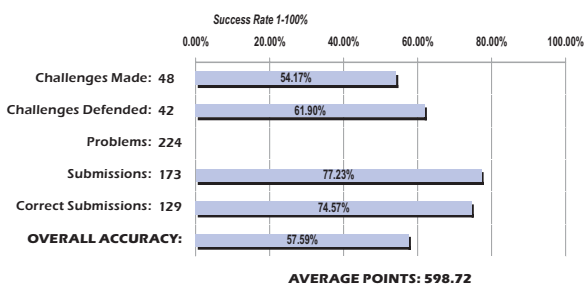
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

No subject is too dreary if approached the right way.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Having picked up at a programming contest. Even more so, the girl I picked up.

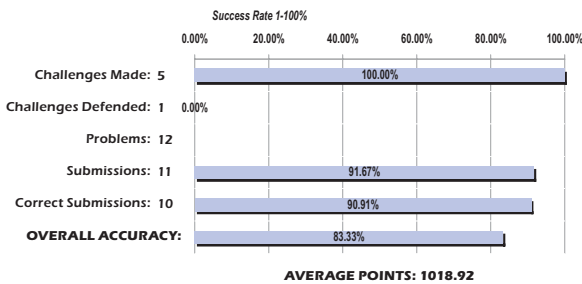
## Overall Competition Statistics



# SEED 2 **SNAPDRAGON** Derek Kisman

Country **Canada** Current Rating **3338** Current Ranking **2** Rating Percentile **99.986** Number of Ratings **131** Highest Rating **3402** Lowest Rating **1693**

## Tournament Statistics



**What are you most grateful for?**

Being intelligent. It lets me speak real well.

**What would we find in the trunk of your car?**

Winter supplies, because here in Calgary you could start a drive in sunshine and end it in a blizzard.

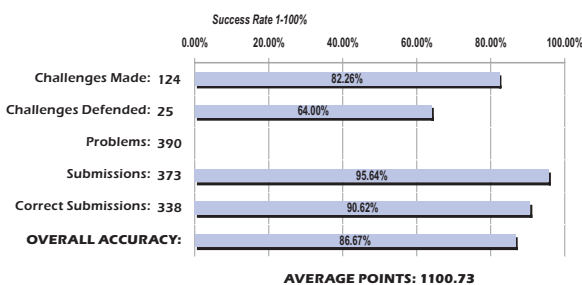
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Well, I started out with a lot of experience from the ACM ICPC (and a lot of TopCoder practice), and maxed out my rating very quickly. Since then it's been a long slow fall from #1 as I forget everything I used to know!

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

That'd probably be Reid Barton. There isn't a math competition out there that he couldn't handily win.

## Overall Competition Statistics

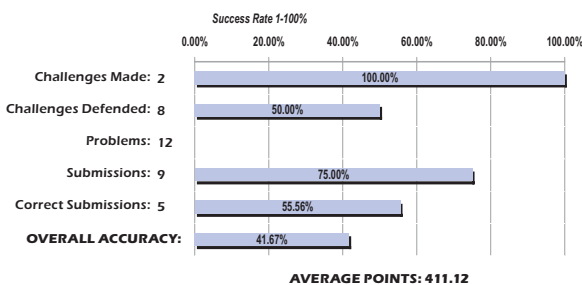


## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 94 **TOMAL** Tomasz Malesinski

Country **Poland** Current Rating **2363** Current Ranking **83** Rating Percentile **99.421** Number of Ratings **26** Highest Rating **2363** Lowest Rating **1301**

## Tournament Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

I used to train quite a lot before other programming competitions I took part in. That allowed me to get rating almost as high as my current. Now I just compete sometimes in a match. And I enjoy programming even outside the competitions.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Good classic rock songs, like Paranoid by Black Sabbath.

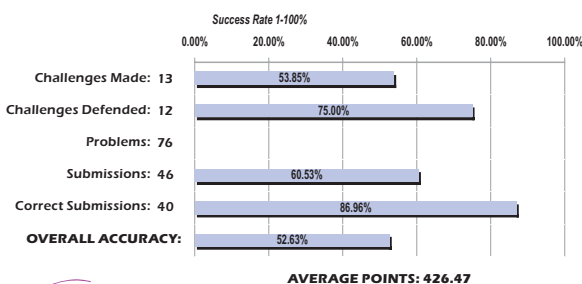
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

The most important thing was that they encouraged me to take part in science competitions.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

Playing the guitar.

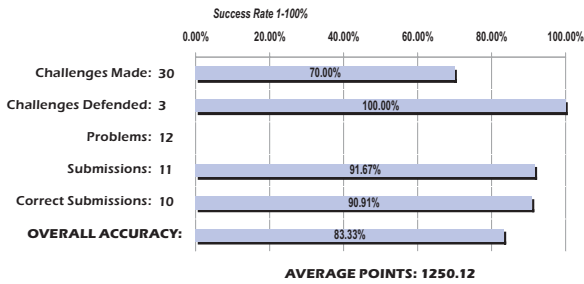
## Overall Competition Statistics



# SEED 3 **TOMEK** Tomasz Czajka

Country **Poland** Current Rating **3496** Current Ranking **1** Rating Percentile **99.993** Number of Ratings **97** Highest Rating **3516** Lowest Rating **1811**

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Ela - likes to spend time with me for some reason.

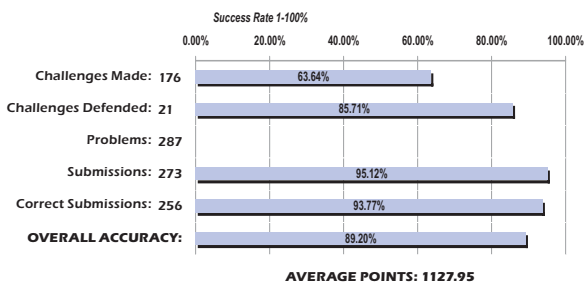
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Do what you feel is good, not what others tell you.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Time travel.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

Pretend to be stuck, call for help through the door, go around through an upper floor and join the people trying to help.

**What are you most grateful for?**

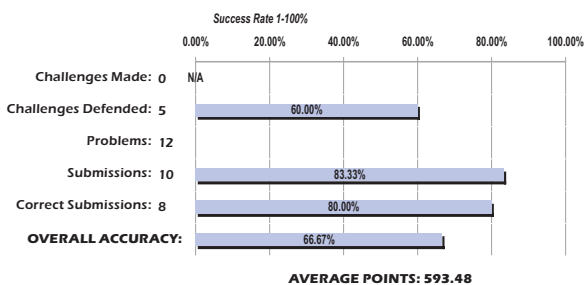
Education.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 76 **ULAN** Ulan Degenbaev

Country **Kyrgyzstan** Current Rating **2428** Current Ranking **68** Rating Percentile **99.5257** Number of Ratings **50** Highest Rating **2442** Lowest Rating **1408**

## Tournament Statistics



**What are you most grateful for?**

For being able to do what I love to do - programming.

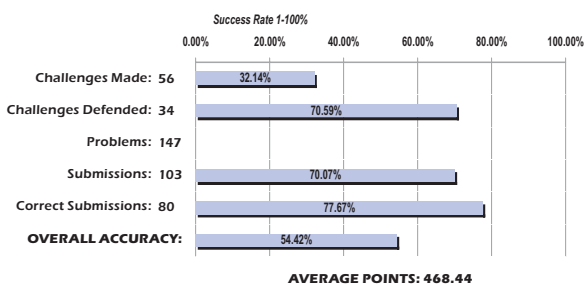
**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Prof. Esen B. Kulumbaev.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Photograph of my friends.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It is rising because I was lucky in recent matches. I did not take any special steps to improve it.

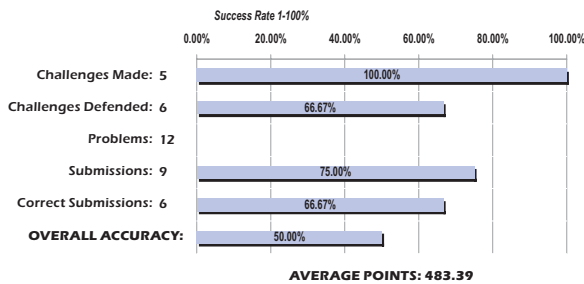
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Strugatsky Brother - "Hard to Be a God".

# SEED 440 W\_ Witold Jarnicki

Country **Poland** Current Rating **2446** Current Ranking **63** Rating Percentile **99.5606** Number of Ratings **6** Highest Rating **2446** Lowest Rating **1591**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**  
Star Trek.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**  
Invest the money. Then I would have more days like that.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to**

**improve?**

It has been increasing. I participated in the events.

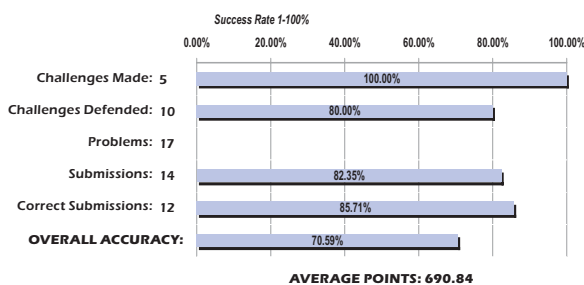
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Do not redo. Improve.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

Research.

## Overall Competition Statistics

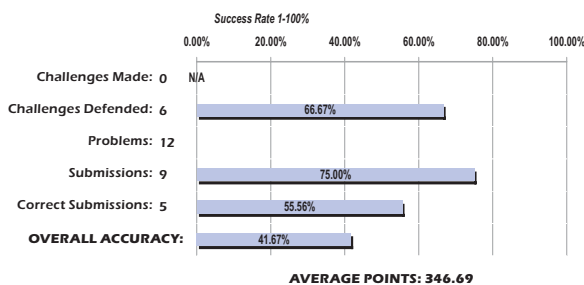


## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 186 WDTSENG Wei-Lung Dustin

Country **Canada** Current Rating **1996** Current Ranking **255** Rating Percentile **98.2213** Number of Ratings **33** Highest Rating **2127** Lowest Rating **1398**

## Tournament Statistics



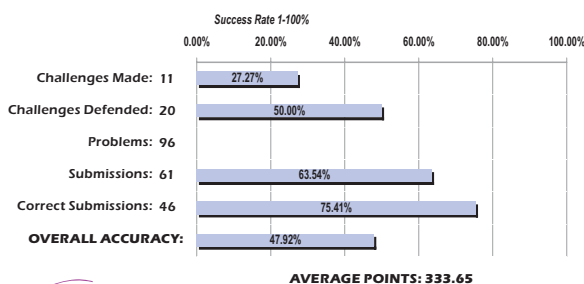
**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

Why did the chicken cross the road? (I might blurt the answer out if I know though.)

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

My TopCoder rating increases in spikes. I credit that to my teammates in the UBC ACM programming team. They taught me a lot.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

It's okay to get something wrong the first try; make sure you improve though.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

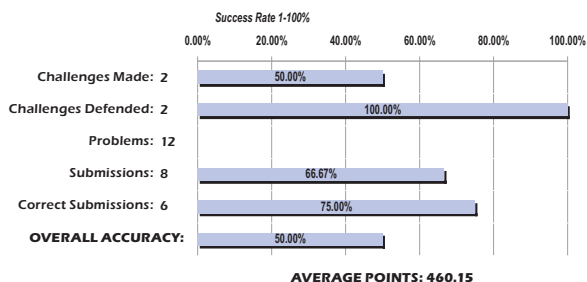
Any science fiction story with teleporters would do.



# SEED 18 YARIN Jimmy Mardell

Country **Sweden** Current Rating **2715** Current Ranking **27** Rating Percentile **99.8117** Number of Ratings **110** Highest Rating **3113** Lowest Rating **1555**

## Tournament Statistics



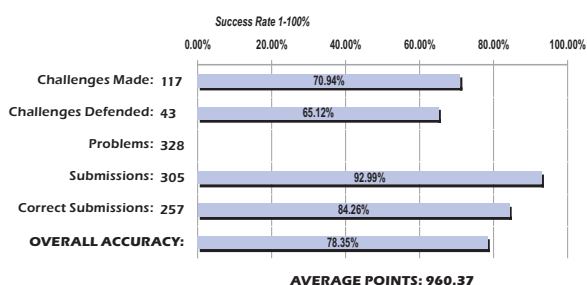
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**  
Spacewalk!

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

My peak was reached fairly quickly since I had years of experience in similar competitions before. However, once I left university and started working full time, I had much less time to

compete and practice. This has caused my rating to decline steadily.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**  
Perhaps dive among great white sharks (with cage and stuff).

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

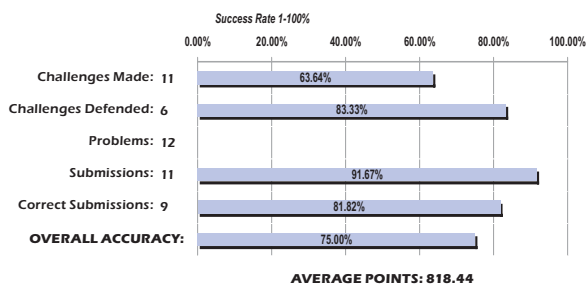
My Google Code Jam 2003 victory.

## ALGORITHM SEMIFINALISTS

# SEED 73 YING Ying Wang

Country **China** Current Rating **2571** Current Ranking **38** Rating Percentile **99.7349** Number of Ratings **46** Highest Rating **2571** Lowest Rating **1182**

## Tournament Statistics



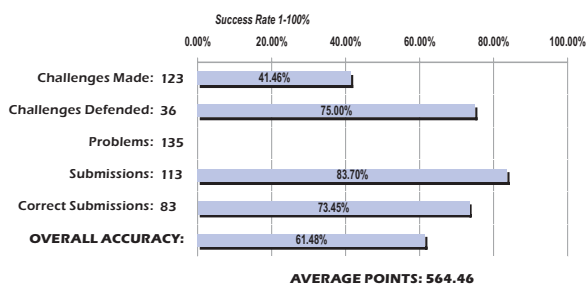
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

My rating is quite steady now. I want to be a target, but I don't have as much time to practice as I was competing in the ACM ICPC.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

A girl in China. I smile every time that I think of her.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Petr. One of my Chinese friends taught him how to play Chinese chess in Shanghai, and he beat my friend immediately after he learned the rules.

**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Be a nice and honest man.

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

My professor. People always laugh when he tells a joke.

# WEIRDEST SRM LOCATIONS

## Where was the weirdest place that you participated in a TopCoder event?

### [Petr]

Once I wrote a SRM from an upper berth in a train moving from St. Petersburg to Moscow at 5am, as usual, with 3 other people sleeping in the same compartment.

### [aboyner]

A year ago, when an internet connection in India was expensive (to me, at least) and unreliable, I used to participate from cyber-cafes near my house. There were quite a few of them, and I'd have to install Emacs, DJGPP, and the JRE nearly each time...

Anyway, the Round 1 of Google Code Jam India was going on, and just as the coding phase was about to end, the connection went off at the place (used to happen quite frequently, so no surprise). And then I had to run to another place to try and submit before time ended, and the JRE wasn't installed there and downloading it in the few minutes remaining was out of the question (average speed about 3 kB/s), so I had to run to another place...

Basically, that's it - I was literally running on the streets because of TC.

(If anyone's interested, I finally logged back into the arena with about 25 seconds remaining in the challenge phase, but I somehow did manage to sneak past that round and make it to the onsite...)

### [covganet]

The last Saturday for TCO06 Round 1, I had to go to a friend's wedding. Both events had to start at the same time, 7:00 PM, and I didn't know what to do! So, I skipped the beginning of the wedding, I left my girlfriend alone there just to go to town and find an internet cafe. But the most interesting thing was to convince the boss that it's safe to install java at one computer. Finally he accepted and I had a chance to advance. After all the wedding was fine!

### [Larry]

Once, I was backpacking through Asia and though I didn't have internet connection most of the time, at some point, I stumbled upon this internet cafe in Hong Kong. It was really, really shady. Everyone's blasting counterstrike (they don't use headphones) and smoking insanely. Suffice to say, it wasn't a very quiet SRM.

After setting up PopsEdit and various local testing packages, I was ready to go. There really were a large number of kids on a school day morning. This was SRM 96, when there was still money, so I figured I could do okay, as my rating was still low enough to make it okay. I almost won too, but (of course) there was some off-by-one error in my 500.

On one end, the cost for the internet usage was cheap, at least financially. Unfortunately, it wasn't so sweet, because during my 1000, there was some commotion about rather I was a "hacker" (TopCoder's green on black Java applet really didn't help). I knew this was a shady place to begin with (I really should've paid attention a little bit more, but I needed my TopCoder fix - I went about a month without TopCoder!) but apparently it was even shadier than I thought (I would definitely not take my kid there).

I basically told them it was a typing game, and that my parents wanted me to learn to type better. I was pretty sure they didn't buy it at all, but it was good enough for them to ignore me for the rest of the SRM.

Okay, so it wasn't really the weirdest place I had an SRM, per se, but it was definitely one of the weirdest story I've experienced in TC.





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# PICK ME CONTEST WINNERS

## Why They Deserved a Trip to Las Vegas to Blog About the TCO!

View the complete winning entries with all their cool links and photos at [www.topcoder.com/contestwinners](http://www.topcoder.com/contestwinners).

**[davidyang]**

**David Yang**

**Top 100 Reasons to “Pick Me”**

100 Technology and Journalism Background

I am recent graduate of UIUC where I double majored in EE/CS and served as editor-in-chief of the Technograph magazine – UIUC’s premier technology publication. During my career there, I interviewed industry luminaries Bill Gates, Dirk Meyer (President of AMD) and Paul Lauterbur/Anthony Leggett (Nobel Prize Physicists 2004). Since then, I’ve continued to pursue writing and editing opportunities. Most recently I’ve talked with business leader Keith Ferrazzi (best selling author of “Never Eat Alone”).

11 Communication and Writing Style

During high school, I was selected to the USA Today All-Academic First Team in 2000 for my “ability to effectively communicate complex technological concepts.” My goal as TopCoder’s blogger will be to convey the excitement, frustration, brilliance and achievement that will radiate from this competition. I’m also technologically qualified to explain all facets of the competition - I’ve interned at places as diverse as Microsoft, AMD and IBM’s Extreme Blue program.

I also think I have a unique writing style that would be interesting to TopCoder readers. My strongest influences are Fitzgerald and Cummings – during college, this culminated in a series of published engineering humor/love poems with titles such as “k-map,” “adjacency matrix” and “Di Ode” (a parody of Shakespeare’s “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day.”)

10 Community Development Experience

While I am no Scoble – I do run several successful forums that encompass everything from consulting lifestyle to an internal company “facebook” with average member counts in the hundreds (my ploy to get Manolo click-throughs with a “Sex and the City” forum never paid off). Running these forums has

taught me that actively engaging your community is the key to building traffic that matters – not only do I spend time writing quality content, but I like to be in the fold and participating actively in comments and reaching out to my most active contributors. This active networking led to me being extensively quoted for a “Wired” article that first reported this Web2.0 mash up craze.

1 I’m fun

Let’s admit, Vegas as a venue has a unique culture unmatched anywhere and I’m willing to bet TopCoder chose Vegas to enable sponsors, organizers and TopCoders have some fun in this neon-light desert adventure. I think I would be a fun, energetic person to have in this group. As evidence, I offer this fact: the thing I’m most famous for at my professional services firm is organizing the largest “Dodgeball” competition in company history (the exact number of competitions is a closely guarded secret).

Most importantly, I realize and appreciate what TopCoder is doing for the programming community with this competition. For this and the above reasons, I think I would make a great chronicler of this momentous occasion. In any event, I do wish the organizing team and TopCoder the best of luck and I hope to see you in Vegas!

**[kawigi]**

**Matthew Reeder**

Where to begin? Do I care about wasting some of my 500 words in the name of artistic style? Nay! Most blog posts are probably around 500 words anyways. Of course, if a [hyperlink](#) is worth 1000 words, I’m already up to 1043.

Let me start by explaining why I think I’d be an appropriate person for this activity. I think you’re looking for someone who knows [how to blog](#). That, of course, means knowing [how to link](#) and when I [don’t have anything appropriate to link](#). You probably also want someone who’s [witty](#), and is [well-known](#)



and [well-respected](#) in the TopCoder community, and also someone who has made [contributions](#) and given [support](#) to your operations since the [day I joined TopCoder](#) in 2004. Maybe it would reduce some overhead if you picked someone who has [written for you](#) in the past.

Then, since it's not something you get to do every day, maybe you should pick me just to get the opportunity to meet me, at least for the part of the TopCoder staff who hasn't already [met me](#). Likewise, I'd like to meet you and the other competitors and spectators. History has me falling flat on my face in [early rounds](#) of the TCO or just [being ineligible](#), preventing me from getting the opportunity to meet the [best in the business](#), and [everyone else](#) that shares my passion for programming, and also [others that may attend](#). And now it looks like I'm up to 25248 words.

Promise: the following paragraphs will have fewer hyperlinks than the last one. Most of those links aren't that useful anyways (and are probably somewhat in excess of what I'd attempt in blogging for the TCO).

For those of you who are female, with me also comes pictures and short videos of the [cutest baby in the world](#) (sorry, I just can't help it when Gwynneth is involved). If I could know sooner, maybe she could even come. Voices of people everywhere would raise entire octaves.

For those of you who coordinate travel, I'm just in Seattle. [Someone](#) must be giving dirt-cheap fares from Seattle to Las Vegas. And while staying in the same place as all the competitors might be fun, it's still an option to stay with some obscure relatives I have in the area.

For those of you who are obsessive compulsive (or just grammar Nazis), I have good spelling and grammar and I usually express myself very clearly when I try to.

For those of you who are interested in legal issues, yes, I can avoid making comments about OCD and Nazis, and any statements that might tie them together.

For those of you who are more into running the contests, I think I would enjoy watching the TCO (even as something more of a reporter than as an administrator or spectator) more than just about anyone, and I have the capacity to understand the problems and solutions.

And if you like round numbers, this is exactly 500 words.

## **[omgrace] Grace Yang**

I'm the perfect candidate to blog about the TopCoder Open for the following reasons:

5. I'm already an expert blogger. You can just visit my current xanga to see: [www.xanga.com/omgrace](http://www.xanga.com/omgrace). I recall facts, funny things people said/did, and I take a ton of pictures so every reader is always entertained. Also, I can make a big deal out of everything...even a programming competition! I'll report on all of the forums and make sure to keep every reader interested in the TopCoder Open.

4. I have a technology background. UIUC is one of the best schools for computer science. I'm a management information systems major, but I've taken some CS courses, including java, asp.net, and VB. That means I'll understand the jargon at the tournament and be able to communicate with everyone in Las Vegas.

3. I'm very responsible and organized. I wouldn't miss any of the deadlines, which means I wouldn't leave topcoder.com readers in the dark about the competition. Also, I had a promising career in broadcast journalism before I switched into a more technology focused major, so I can definitely whip up an article in time for deadlines.

2. I bring in a different perspective. Seriously, how many females actually submit entries to blog for the TopCoder competition? By bringing a fresh face to the table, I'll draw in more interest from the female population – maybe even more female groups to compete in next year's competition! I know you're interested now...

And the number one reason I should be chosen to blog for the TopCoder Open:

1. I'm FUN!! The competition is in LAS VEGAS – if you were competing, wouldn't you want to spend your free time with someone that will always be a good time?

I'm sure you'll have a lot of qualified applicants apply to be the blogger for the TopCoder Open, but if you pick me, it'll be a year none of your readers will soon forget!





# Developer Forums

Sponsored by **AMD** 

Introducing this year's 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:

## Thursday, May 4

**10:00am - 10:45am**

### **Secondhand Shopping: Efficient Component Reuse**

**Presented by Sean Campion, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**

Component based software engineering only works if the components developed are reused on a regular basis. When a library grows very large and diverse it becomes increasingly difficult for designers and developers to locate relevant components. If it becomes too difficult they are likely to decide to redesign / redevelop the functionality themselves, or duplicate it in a similar component, thus negating the advantages of component based software engineering and reuse. The search feature then becomes key, and raises the question: what to search on? Utilizing reuse metric information by tracking who is downloading what components in what applications will provide access to hardened assets to improve quality and time to market.

## Friday, May 5

**11:00am - 11:45am**

### **Bringing It All Together Using SOA Architectures**

**Presented by Rick Jones, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**

In today's IT environments, it is rare that an organization has the opportunity to reinvent itself from the ground up. Often we find ourselves saddled with stovepipe systems, a plethora of technologies, and software purchased but not implemented (shelfware) thanks to our "if it isn't broken, don't fix it" rationale. The conventional wisdom has been to either continue to exist disconnected or to invest heavily in cross-system enterprise integration platforms. The first is inefficient and the second frightens CEOs and CIOs equally due to the risk, scope, cost, and complexity of such endeavors. Both new and legacy solutions, from internal and external sources, are being hidden behind an SOA architecture. This discussion will address the various ways to properly utilize SOA to solve these types of problems.

**2:00pm - 2:45pm**

### **Next Generation Development Round Table Discussion**

**Presented by Andy Lamora, Project Manager, TopCoder, Inc.**

This round table discussion will speak to the implications of next generation development. Find out how the paradigm of User Interfaces changes when considering how to design and build systems using next generation software.



# **CUSTOMER ROUND TABLE**

## **THURSDAY FROM 4PM – 6PM**

The Customer Round Table presents a panel of executives from our customers who will discuss topics and answer your questions that address improving the quality and efficiency of the software development process. This will be followed by a cocktail hour for you to further discuss these issues with your peers.

### **Including Panelists:**



**Robert Longfellow**  
Director of Information Systems,  
Power Technology Division,  
North America



**John Zehr**  
Vice President of Mobile  
Development

**STAGE STORES INC.**

**Jeff Kish**  
Chief Information Officer



**Grady Bryant**  
Director of Common  
Application Framework



# WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?

## Algorithm

TopCoder Algorithm Competitions are fast-paced contests designed to find and reward the quickest 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 is tested in a high pressure environment where each second spent coding results in a lower score. Problems this year have included analyzing a communications network, navigating a maze blind-folded, reconstructing a tree from a matrix, and determining the best bus route to take after heading home from a party. 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 receives 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 any of the system test cases it is re-scored a 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. This year over 2000 coders attempted to qualify for the TopCoder Open. Each semi-finalist has fought through the qualification round and 4 intense online rounds to make it to Las Vegas. The semi-finalists have been split into three rounds of 16. The top 2 scorers from each semi-final room will advance to the finals, and places 3-6 will advance to a Wildcard round. The last 2 final round spots (for a total of 8) will be filled with the top 2 finishers from the Wildcard Round. Once the finalists have been chosen it will all come down to the final round: 100 minutes of competition that determine who the champion of the 2006 TCO Algorithm Competition will be.

## Design

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

Each competitor’s submission 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.

## Development

TopCoder Development Competitions require participants to implement a previously designed software component. Their starting point is the winning design submission that includes UML class, sequence, and use case diagrams, and a component specification 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 2006 TopCoder Open Component Competitions.

## CHAMPION

### DESIGN COMPETITION

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>ADIC</b>           | <b>NICKABI</b> |
| <b>ALEACTAEST</b>     | <b>POPS</b>    |
| <b>AUBERGINEANODE</b> | <b>REAL_VG</b> |
| <b>KYKY</b>           | <b>THINMAN</b> |

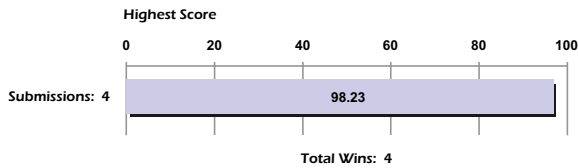
## CHAMPION

### DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>BIOTRAIL</b> | <b>SINDU</b>     |
| <b>CNETTEL</b>  | <b>TRAUGUST</b>  |
| <b>COLAU</b>    | <b>VISUALAGE</b> |
| <b>OODINARY</b> | <b>ZJO</b>       |

Country **Romania** Algorithm Rating **1951** Design Rating **2510** Development Rating **1820**  
Total TC Earnings **\$76,757**

## Tournament Statistics



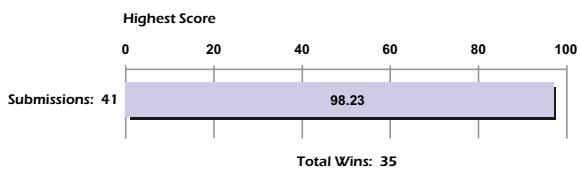
**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

It is roughly the same, with the usual ups and downs. Some serious training is needed but I'm too lazy.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Pilot a fighter jet.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

You have to work if you want to achieve something in life.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Something with AI. I like the idea of smart robots.

**What are you most grateful for?**

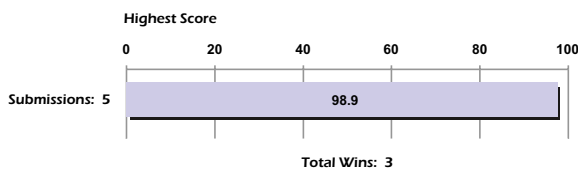
For access to a good education system.

## COMPONENT DESIGN

# ALEAECTAEST Piotr Paweska

Country **Canada** Algorithm Rating **776** Design Rating **1554** Development Rating **1589**  
Total TC Earnings **\$7,278**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Enroll in an acting school.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

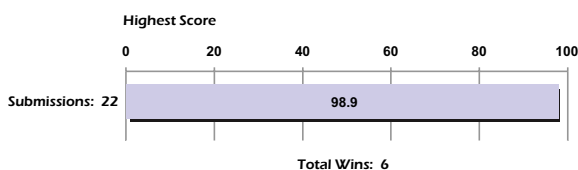
The Time Machine, since I would love to go into the future and see what time wasting gadgets we will have, and I would not mind picking up Xbox3001 ultra and Halo 1K with mind-to-game-box interface so that I can play in my sleep. But

of course I would also go back in time and buy oh 100, 000 shares (on margin of course) of this one company named Microsoft. War of the Worlds would be cool too (we kind of win in the end).

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

I would buy an unlimited supply of such days (after all money is no object right?) Well, I always wanted to have a symphonic orchestra (and a choir) for my own use for a day, and I presume Vienna Symphony Orchestra would be within budget? But rest assured there would be no Mozart played on my watch (except for, perhaps, the introduction in Requiem which is truly heavenly).

## Overall Competition Statistics

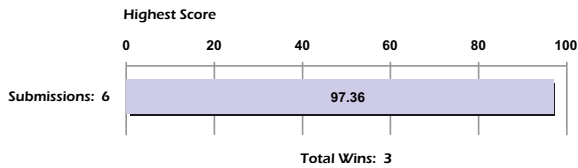




# AUBERGINEANODE Kyle Littlefield

Country **United States** Algorithm Rating **1766** Design Rating **1913** Development Rating **941**  
Total TC Earnings **\$26,566**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Buy as much stuff to use in the rest of my life as possible - cars, real estate, yachts, small (or large) Pacific Islands, etc.

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

Noam Chomsky.

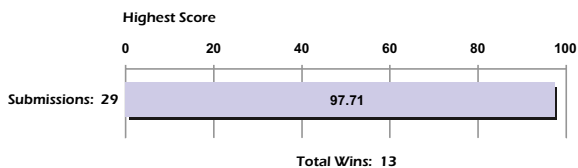
**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Parachuting, paragliding, hand gliding, skydiving - all those "flying-type" activities sound cool, but I doubt I'll ever actually do any of them.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

Maybe one of those Heinlein masterpieces where the entire book consists of sexual encounters masquerading as science fiction. That sounds pretty good.

## Overall Competition Statistics

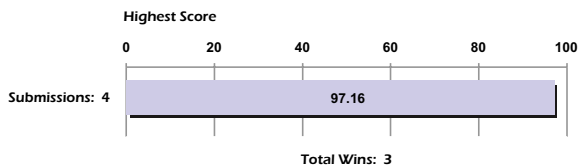


## COMPONENT DESIGN

# KYKY Sergey Kalinichenko

Country **United States** Algorithm Rating **1670** Design Rating **1988** Development Rating **N/A**  
Total TC Earnings **\$37,553**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

Who gives haircuts to the barber who gives haircuts to everyone except the people who cut their own hair?

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Alex Mendeleev. He helped me to appreciate that there is so much more to computing programming than what is seen on the surface.

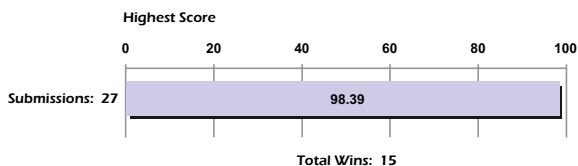
He was the first to mention Dijkstra's "Notes on Structured Programming" to me, a ninety-page publication that changed my world.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Back in the times when I had the time to practice, my rating in algorithms was going up. Today it is random.

My design rating goes up in preparations to major events, and drops sharply near the end. I think that my scores reflect my ability to produce a quality design in a fixed amount of time: when the scope increases, the quality goes out the window unless the time is increased proportionally.

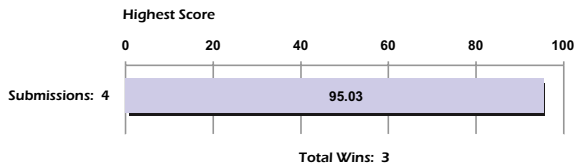
## Overall Competition Statistics



# NICKABI Nikolay Archak

Country Russian Federation Algorithm Rating 2406 Design Rating 2146 Development Rating N/A  
Total TC Earnings \$36,086

## Tournament Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Sincerely I don't care much about TopCoder ratings. TC competitions are for fun, and they give you an opportunity to earn some additional money. A high rating will not make you richer but it may actually reduce the fun because you'll be more concerned about the competition result.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

For me, being called a hacker is the biggest compliment.

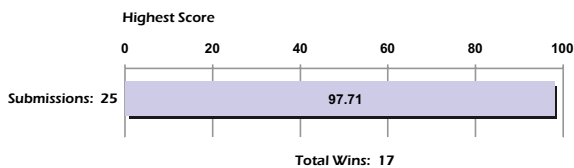
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

Success is a journey not a destination.

**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

BASE jumping.

## Overall Competition Statistics

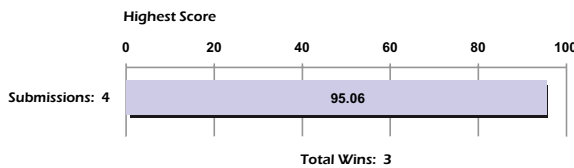


## COMPONENT DESIGN

# POPS Tim Roberts

Country United States Algorithm Rating 1474 Design Rating 2248 Development Rating N/A  
Total TC Earnings \$78,406

## Tournament Statistics



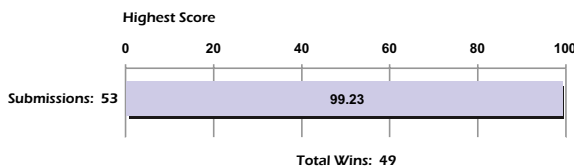
**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

Meeting my wife at a volleyball tourney was only part of the story - we really met over a keg at a volleyball tourney.

**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

My wife - it's really amazing how you can meet someone and wonder 'where have you been?'

## Overall Competition Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

My ratings are all over the place. It really depends on how much I have going on outside of them. The less other stuff happening, the more I'm able to focus.

**What are you most grateful for?**

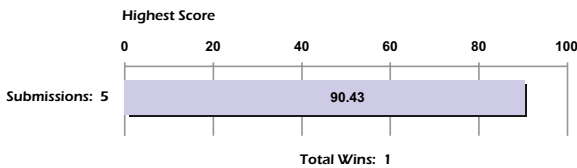
Kids - they really drive you to the brink of craziness and happiness all at the same time. No other better way to find your strengths and weaknesses until they hit each of them.



# REAL\_VG Vladimir Grichina

Country **Ukraine** Algorithm Rating **1185** Design Rating **1416** Development Rating **795**  
Total TC Earnings **\$5,710**

## Tournament Statistics



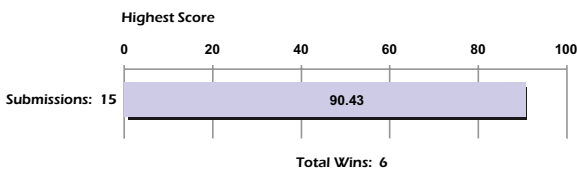
### Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?

Boris Grebenshikov. He is a great Russian musician and poet. I met him at one of his concerts.

### What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?

The ability to learn by myself with the help of books and Internet.

## Overall Competition Statistics



### If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?

What is happiness?

### If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?

Music and Arts, especially guitar playing and rock/blues/reggae music.

### What are you most grateful for?

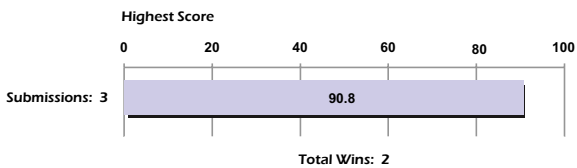
That I am living on such a beautiful planet.

## COMPONENT DESIGN

# THINMAN John Bollinger

Country **United States** Algorithm Rating **1429** Design Rating **1733** Development Rating **1416**  
Total TC Earnings **\$11,367**

## Tournament Statistics



### If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?

Organization. I am terribly disorganized.

### If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?

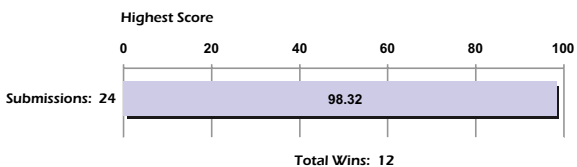
I don't really keep a log of that sort of thing, but here's a story about a recent compliment. I gave a tour of my crystallography laboratory to the members of a high school science club. Such tours are a recruiting tool for the department and university, and I try to make them fun, accessible,

and educational, and this time I could tell that it was working well. The compliment came as the students were preparing to leave, and I asked for final questions. Did they want to know about x-rays, crystals, or 3D visualization software? No. She may not have realized what a compliment it was when one of the students asked the only question: "Do you teach?"

### If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?

I don't have expensive tastes or grand ambitions. I would probably do something with my family – perhaps spend a day at Disney World.

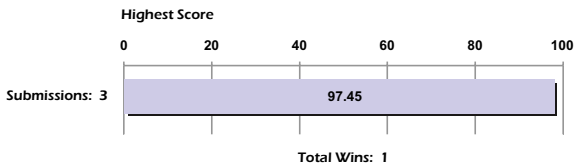
## Overall Competition Statistics



# BIOTRAIL Gencheng Wu

Country China Algorithm Rating N/A Design Rating N/A Development Rating 1792  
Total TC Earnings \$3,623

## Tournament Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

“Study Extensively, Enquire Accurately, Reflect Carefully, Discriminate Clearly, Practice Earnestly.”

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Go traveling with my family.

**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

“I am proud of you!” from my sister.

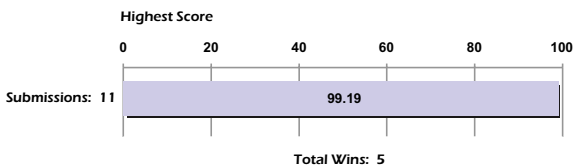
**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Live without a computer and network for a month or longer.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Generally it's rising. Three hints: 1. Chose the components that you are familiar with or interested in. 2. Be aware of the TopCoder rules when writing code. 3. Make good appeals.

## Overall Competition Statistics

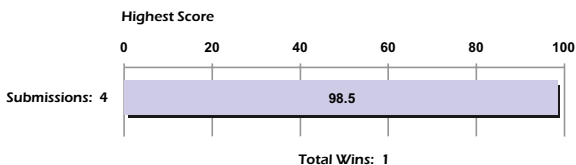


## COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

# CNETTEL Carl Nettelblad

Country Sweden Algorithm Rating 1992 Design Rating N/A Development Rating 1687  
Total TC Earnings \$13,544

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

Harry Kroto, Nobel prize laureate in chemistry in 1996. I certainly don't agree with all his views on how to teach science, but he seemed to be very full of energy and creative in a variety of fields.

**What are you most grateful for?**

Being born in an age and place with technology and computers.

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

The excitement of riding in one of the lifts up the Eiffel tower was quite fun (to a four year old): All the people outside got tiny! However, I loved escalators more at that age.

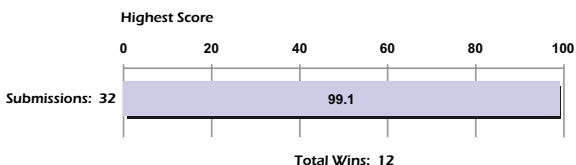
**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

The basic premises of the Star Trek universe.

**What would we find in the trunk of your car?**

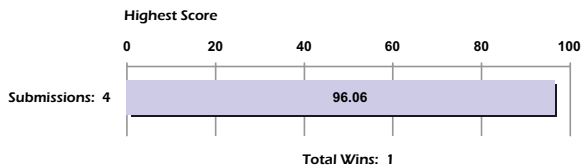
My dual 20" TFT monitor setup being moved to my parents' place when I stay there.

## Overall Competition Statistics



Country Hong Kong Algorithm Rating 1225 Design Rating 2107 Development Rating 1736  
Total TC Earnings \$19,043

## Tournament Statistics



**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

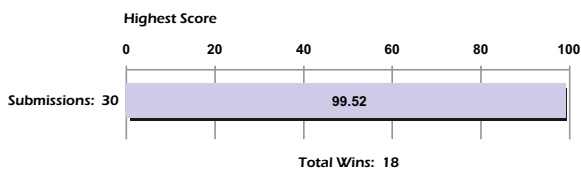
Read a book. I think it's been several years since I finished reading a fiction novel.

**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Fluctuating inside the yellow region. You could not turn into a red unless you get full scores on a few projects. I would say doing projects reviewed

by those great guys is a good way to improve your skills.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Lok Lok, my nephew. He's almost two years old. I love him.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

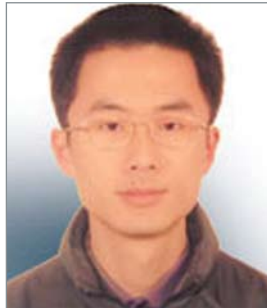
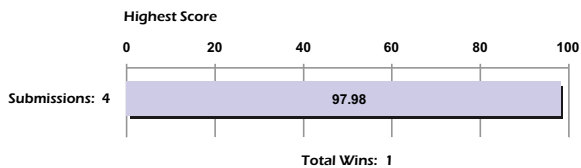
Star Wars. I'd like to be a Jedi.

## COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

# OODINARY Xing Yu

Country China Algorithm Rating 1721 Design Rating N/A Development Rating 1987  
Total TC Earnings \$3,191

## Tournament Statistics



**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

"To do everything as earnest as you can."

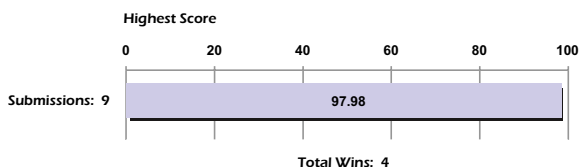
**If you had to recall the nicest compliment ever given to you, what would it be?**

"Not only diligent and clever, but also honest and warmhearted."

**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

Standing in the elevator and thinking about other things, forget to push the button to tell the elevator to go to which floor for a long time.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

Endless happiness and luck.

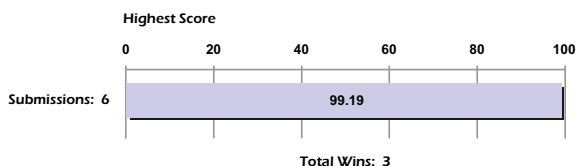
**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

WishingBone.

# SINDU Sindunata Sudarmaji

Country **Indonesia** Algorithm Rating **1352** Design Rating **N/A** Development Rating **1780**  
Total TC Earnings **\$12,881**

## Tournament Statistics



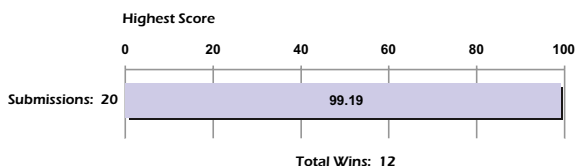
**What is one thing your parents don't know about you that you'd be willing to tell them through the TCO program?**

Thanks to the TCO, I've got enough miles to be redeemed for a free flight ticket to China, a gift for my parents.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

"Star Trek" because I like traveling and it's amazing to boldly go where no man has gone before. Can I mention one more? "Quantum Leap" / "Back To The Future" / etc. because the idea of time-travel is even more mind-boggling.

## Overall Competition Statistics



Leap" / "Back To The Future" / etc. because the idea of time-travel is even more mind-boggling.

**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

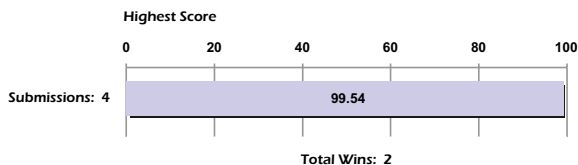
Sleep. Especially after 5 consecutive weeks of CDDC qualification. However my wife prefers to go for a vacation in Bali (or Las Vegas would be great). So the final decision is to get a good sleep in the best and most expensive hotel in Bali (or Vegas).

## COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

# TRAUGUST Thomas Raugust

Country **Germany** Algorithm Rating **N/A** Design Rating **N/A** Development Rating **1878**  
Total TC Earnings **\$3,236**

## Tournament Statistics



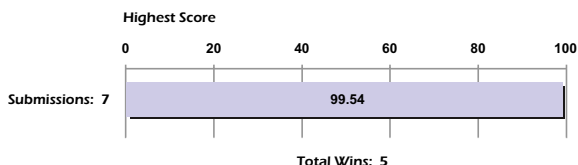
**If you had one free day to do whatever you wanted and money was no object what would you do?**

Invite all my friends and family and have a 'money is no object' party with them. Friends and family are the most important things in the world.

**If you suddenly found the courage to do one thing you have always been afraid of doing, what would you want it to be?**

Scuba diving. I find this really interesting and think it would be very amazing to see that entire underwater world, but I've always been too afraid to really try it.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

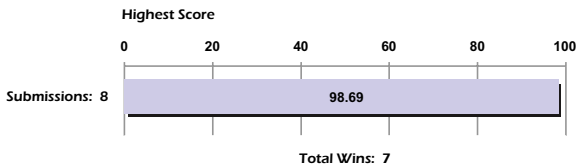
The general vision of 'beaming' - transporting people from A to B at light speed. It would simplify our current life a lot and everyone would benefit from it.

**If you were to pick the one thing that always makes you smile, what would it be?**

My wife.

Country **China** Algorithm Rating **2126** Design Rating **994** Development Rating **2175**  
Total TC Earnings **\$31,451**

## Tournament Statistics



**If you could be the keeper to the answer of one of the most unknown questions in the world, what would be the question?**

How I obtain a PhD degree in ten minutes?

**If you had to name the smartest person you ever met, who would it be?**

My mom. When I was a child, she could solve whatever difficulties I met. She must be the smartest, right?

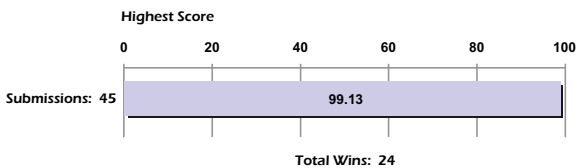
**What is the most important thing you learned from one of your teachers that has helped you get where you are today?**

How to draw a graph using the turtle in LOGO. That was the start of my programming life.

**If you could have one science fiction story come true, which would it be?**

"The Core". This is actually a movie. I'd like to travel to the inside of the earth.

## Overall Competition Statistics

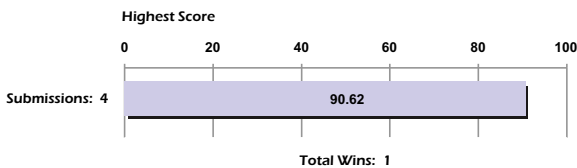


## COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT

# ZJQ Jian Qiang Zheng

Country **China** Algorithm Rating **1695** Design Rating **1214** Development Rating **1277**  
Total TC Earnings **\$3,630**

## Tournament Statistics



**Who is the most interesting person you've ever met and why?**

oldbig, he always has great ideas.

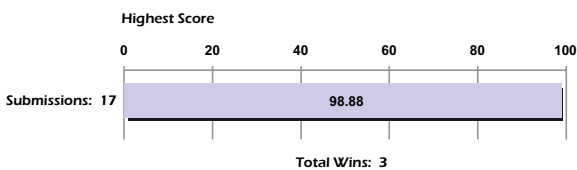
**What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in an elevator (lift)?**

I was in an elevator with three guards of the building which made me feel I am a fugitive.

**If you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?**

Painting.

## Overall Competition Statistics



**How has your TopCoder rating changed over time and what steps did you take to improve?**

Roughly. To practice, and learn from pain and others.

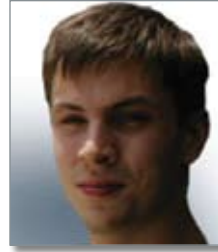
**What are you most grateful for?**

My mother.

# REVIEW BOARD

## DESIGN REVIEWERS

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



### AKSONOV

Pavlo Aksonov

**Country** Ukraine

**Algorithm Rating** 1288

**Design Rating** 1873

**Development Rating** 1234

**TC Earnings** \$66,739



### VICTOR\_LXD

Xiaodong Li

**Country** China

**Algorithm Rating** 571

**Design Rating** 1651

**Development Rating** N/A

**TC Earnings** \$12,393



### WISHINGBONE

Jiazhi Wu

**Country** China

**Algorithm Rating** 2533

**Design Rating** 2279

**Development Rating** 1713

**TC Earnings** \$29,415



### ARGOLITE

Michael Paweska

**Country** Canada

**Algorithm Rating** 1263

**Design Rating** 1404

**Development Rating** 1222

**TC Earnings** \$12,424



### CUCU

Alejandro Marcu

**Country** Argentina

**Algorithm Rating** 1778

**Design Rating** 1081

**Development Rating** 1651

**TC Earnings** \$3,702



### UFP2161

Jason Lee

**Country** USA

**Algorithm Rating** 1650

**Design Rating** N/A

**Development Rating** 1689

**TC Earnings** \$5,554

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEWERS

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



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# ADMIN STAFF

"If I weren't at the TCO finals or working hard at TopCoder, ..."

**Mike Lydon**  
[mike]

I'd be Bass fishing on Dixon Lake in Escondido, CA.

**Greg Paul**  
[dok]

I'd be heli-skiing in British Columbia.

**MaryBeth Luce**  
[mbnd96]

I'd be camping for the summer in Glacier National Park. (West Glacier, MT)

**Javier Fernandez-Ivern**  
[Ivern]

I'd be climbing in the Gunks. (New Palz, NY)

**Travis Haas**  
[thx1138]

I'd be watching the Giro d'Italia all around Italy.

**Brett Bernstein**  
[AdminBrett]

I'd be having sushi in Tokyo.

**Ryan Fairfax**  
[TheFaxman]

I'd be in Tokyo dining on Fugu. There should be a little danger in everything you do.

**Mark Tong**  
[mktong]

I'd be sleeping through the days and living up the nights in Tokyo.

**Nick Trefz**  
[ntrefz]

Am I fired?

**Christie Tanguay**  
[Chrsie]

I'd still be in Vegas but gambling and eating the \$5 all night buffets.

**Michael Fogleman**  
[Foglebird]

I'd be visiting family and friends in North Carolina.

**Lars Backstrom**  
[lbackstrom]

I'd be backpacking in the Andes.

**Cheun Haas**  
[bettylee74]

I would be sailing down the coast of the Côte d'Azur. I don't know how to sail, but I'd find a boat with a good-looking crew.

**Olexiy Oryeshko**  
[OlexiyO]

I'd be climbing and skiing the Himalayas.

**Dave Messinger**  
[mess]

I'd be in Australia having some VB and learning cricket.

**Anthony Yuen**  
[TangentZ]

I'd be scuba diving at the Great Barrier Reef.

**Jessie D'Amato**  
[jmpld40]

I'd be lounging on a deserted beach in Fiji, engrossed in my latest novel.

**Tricia Laisi**  
[tlaisi]

I'd be exploring the "Most beautiful country in the world." (New Zealand)

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

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