



acm International Collegiate Programming Contest

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ACM - ICPC Central European Regional Contest – 2005

On the 20th November 2005, 168 coders began the work to measure their logic, competitiveness and creativity. This happened within the frames of the ACM – ICPC (Association for Computing Machinery - International Collegiate Programming Contest), one of the world's most traditional and best known programming contests. Their goal was to be first or second, to qualify into the world finals, hosted by Baylor University in San Antonio. Everything began there in 1970, as a local competition at the university, but nowadays it can be described as an Olympic competition, with 5933 teams from 1700 universities from 75 countries qualifying themselves into the regional finals. It means almost eighteen thousand competitors, not counting the coaches, supporting people and the organizers. For this achievement the sponsoring of IBM since 1998 was fundamental.



According to the official rules, each team of three is equipped with a computer to solve the 8 to 10 algorithmic problems within five hours. Most teams choose to have one member working at the computer while the others are solving problems on a piece of paper. The evaluation is automatic; the server provides real-time answers to the solutions sent via network. If it is not ACCEPTED, one of the standard error message is sent back.

This year's Central European Regional Contest (CERC) was organized by MAVÉ (Electrical Engineering Students' Hungarian Association) at BME (Budapest University of Technology and Economics) with the support of the John von Neumann Computer Society between 18th and 20th November. 56 teams competed altogether from universities in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary.

The Hungarian teams were selected from the National Contest held on 29th October at five universities simultaneously: University of Szeged, University of Debrecen, Eszterházy Károly College, Eötvös Lóránd University and BME. The latter served as the center of logistics and had the help of MAVÉ during the realization. Three teams have qualified to the CERC from each university. The problems of the contest were created by Dániel Marx (BME) and Gyula Horváth (University of Szeged) the head organizers were Balázs Benedek and Tamás Haidegger (MAVÉ) just as last year.





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The program began on 18th November with registration. Next morning the dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics, Dr. Gábor Péceli held the official opening of the contest. Then Dr. Bozena Mannova the European Super Regional Contest Director welcome the participants. After the speeches Dr. Barnabás Takács (Digital Elite Inc., Los Angeles) held an interesting presentation on virtual human interfaces. Last but not least Dániel Marx gave information on the rules and the schedule of the weekend. After the ceremony, during a 'trial contest' the teams familiarized themselves with the conditions of Sunday's real work: the rooms, the computers and the judging software, running on servers provided by the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology at BME, with the help of Bence Golda.

On the 20th November at 9 AM the Central European Regional Contest of ACM - ICPC got under way. The coaches and guests of the teams could follow the current standing on a projector. Almost all of the teams could solve at least one problem during the five hours available, but some of them managed to solve eight out of ten. Sandwiches and refreshment drinks were served all along. The winner team came – just as last year – from Poland, the Warsaw Eagles won. The second place went to Warsaw again, namely to the Warsaw Predators. On the third place we could see three students from Krakow, team Jagellonian2. Since the rules only allow the qualification of one team per university, the 1st and the 3rd ranked teams qualified for the World Finals to Texas. The best Hungarian team proved to be “A” from the university of ELTE. Congratulations to all contestants!



The gallery of the event can be found at the official webpage <http://icpc.cs.bme.hu>

Zsolt Kokas, Tamás Haidegger