



"A program that almost works is
like a plane that almost flies."

10 Years of BOI

world had their effect on BOI Competitions. From the text based and stand-alone environments of the 90s, we moved to the GUI based networked environments, while at the same time we provide the opportunity to thousands of students around the globe to participate in the event via the Internet. The long waiting times for evaluation of the competitors' programs have given their place to fun and laughs as the results are now automatically generated, right after the end of the competition. The response time of the evaluation team has so much reduced from 15hours in the early days to a few minutes. We are certain that the technical solution of the Romanian technical committee will match this amazing record and even improve it. In the real world, the Balkans has been through some dramatic changes and turbulent times with the creation of new border lines. Wounds have been created that need to close fast. Us, both teachers and competitors, the whole of community of BOI, faithful to the BOI spirit and culture of common understanding and long-lasting friendships have to further contribute so that these wounds are healed. Having as arms and weapons our tools and technologies, we can use them effectively so as to rebuild a peaceful and caring Balkan world again.

Masouras Panikos
Team Leader, Cyprus



When we received the invitation of the Romanian Ministry of Education to participate in the 11th Balkan Olympiad in Informatics, our memories run back to the roots of the event in Constanta when in May 1993 the first event took place.

Since then, a lot has happened in the IT world. Nothing is the same today compared to the technologies of the 90s. The introduction of the Windows environments, the downhill of DOS, the advent of the internet, the popularization of computing and the availability of many services to the end-user, the fast penetration of Linux and open technologies in academia and industry, the Internet explosion, the e-era and the creation of the global village, the maturity of the mobile technologies and industry all seem today common practices on which we have to build and extend further. All these changes, happened so fast and no one can really predict where the tech-world is heading to or if we are reaching the limits. Back then, some pioneers believed that 640K is more than enough, today 512MB of memory is a standard feature being offered for the Desktop where 128MB is available on the Palm!

Of course, the changes in the real



BOI 2003

1st Competition

1st Competition day seen through the Scientific Committee's eyes

The Scientific Committee is pleased to say that everything went alright today, from all points of view: there were no technical problems neither during the contest, nor after it; the evaluation was fast and efficient; the results were well-distributed and balanced.

To exemplify the quality of the evaluation this year, we can mention that at BOI by Net there were 513 participants of which 223 sent sources and the evaluation was over in 15 minutes. For this, the Scientific Committee is grateful to Mihai Patrascu (MIT), the author of the evaluator.

Since the results cannot yet be disclosed, we tried to give you as much information as possible so we obtained the following chart from the Committee. It contains the scores for each problem and the number of students who obtained those scores.

Score	Farey	Travers	Comp
100	1	2	1
95	-	-	1
60	-	3	-
55	-	-	2
50	5	2	-
40	7	4	1
30	-	1	1
25	-	-	3
20	2	-	5
15	-	-	5
10	-	7	6
5	-	-	4
0	21	17	8



The overall situation was balanced: there were no maxes (300); however, there was at least one max at each problem. Moreover, there were 10 contestants who had scores greater than 0 for each problem. The Committee, however, would like to give the participants one piece of advice – please read the problems and the technical instructions carefully next time. Carelessness can cost you a lot.



The Scientific Committee considers that the problems were difficult and complex and therefore, congratulates the participants for their excellent level of training; they also hope that the contestants found the problems to be at least interesting, if not beautiful. As a final thought, the Scientific Committee promises that the problems for the second day will be as interesting as the ones today.

Latest news

We have just found out that in 2004, the BOI will be held in Bulgaria and the IOI in Greece.

We will publish more on this topic tomorrow.

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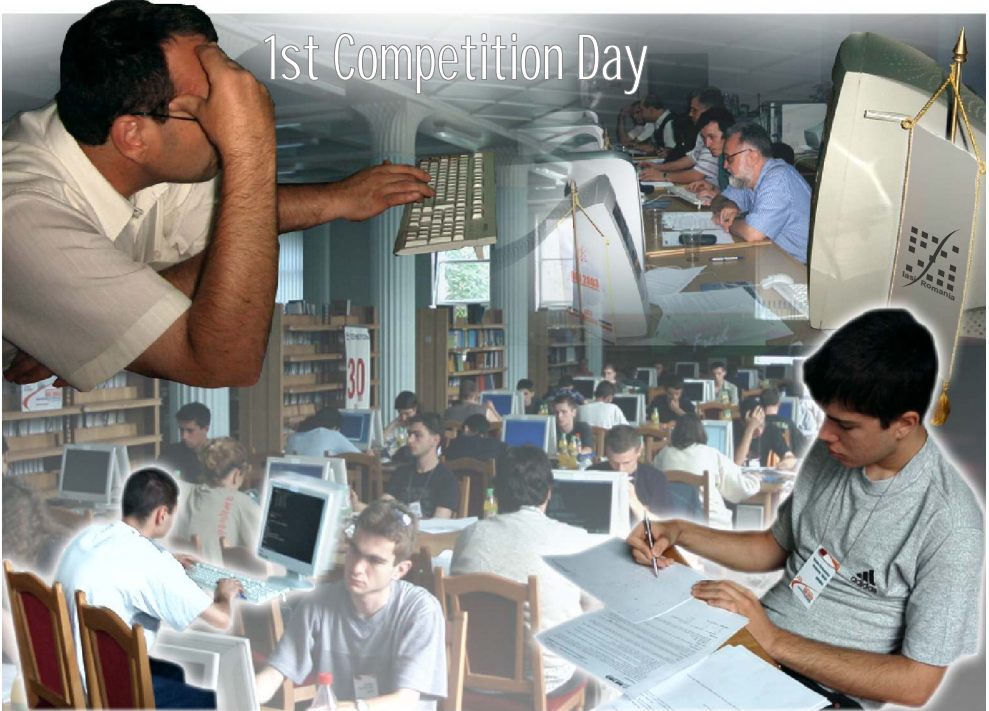


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1st Competition Day



Yesterday, it was all about the contest.



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Let us tell you a birthday little secret...

Today, Eftim Zdravevski, from the Macedonian team, celebrates his birthday! We wish him the best of luck in this competition as well as in life! We also hope he'll never forget Iasi, Romania and the friends he has made here. Happy birthday, Eftim!

Web & Newsletter team

- Ovidiu Domsa
- Liviu Valsan
- Corina Patrascu
- Octavian Costache
- Mihai Birsan
- Litu Tudor Alexandru
- Alexandra Jugureanu

Ruginoasa - the story of a doomed castle



The first owner of this castle, Costache Sturdza was married to one of the most beautiful women of that period - Marghiolita. Used to flirting with many men, Marghiolita got involved with her husband's enemy. In order to protect both her and himself from gossiping, her husband sent her to Ruginoasa. The day after their arrival, her lover came and killed her son in a duel. Afterwards, he kidnaped Marghiolita and married her. This was only the beginning of the spell. Costache went completely insane (literally).

Few years later, Al. I. Cuza bought the castle. At that time, it was said that the castle was haunted by the ghost of Marghiolita's son. They started the renovations of the castle, by which, Elena was scared and drawn at the same time.

Cuza died of pneumonia, in exile, at 53 years old. Their two children (who were adopted because Elena couldn't have children) died young -- the youngest killed himself after a fight with his mother; the oldest died during his honeymoon. They both suffered of pneumonia.

Elena Cuza lived to bury her husband and her two sons. A couple of years before her own death, she went to Neamt. She died there, but she explicitly requested that she be buried at Solesti, next to her parents. When moving her coffin by train from Neamt to Solesti, something went wrong and the train burnt to ashes.

BOI by Net statistics

The results from the "BOI by NET" contest can be viewed online on the contest site, at the address: www.infoiasi.ro/boi2003. The top score was 240 points and the results by country reflected mainly the ranking of the countries with the most contestants registered, so the best results were obtained by contestants from China (5 entries in the top 10).

Note! We apologize to Prof. Atanasiu for the mistake we made yesterday; at the opening ceremony, he said that the BOI at Constanta was 10 and not 11 years ago.

Weather



Thursday
Partly Cloudy. High: 27° C.



Thursday Night
Chance of Rain. Low: 17° C.



Friday
Thunderstorm . High: 28° C.



Friday Night
Chance of Rain. Low: 17° C.