



13TH Baltic Olympiad in Informatics Newspaper



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Thursday

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BOI 2007 has started — First day of Competition

Yesterday morning at 8:00 a.m. the contest was about to start. The 55 competitors of the Baltic nations sat down in front of their computers, expecting the first day of competition. In the course of five hours they should solve three different tasks, that means to write three different programs which are able to solve the exercises, given to the participants in their

for organizing player ranks and finally they had to simulate a virtual escape from a prison.

Silence in the corridors of the University for Applied Sciences in Güstrow. People talk whispering and only if really necessary. The young programmers are very quietly sitting in front of their computers, dealing with the tasks given to them. Things are lot busier in the technical office. In this place the members of the Scientific Committee do everything to ensure the Baltic Olympiad in Informatics 2007 runs smoothly. "All in all we have almost 60 computers and a server in use and that permanently", says Dominic Battré, who is one of the persons who are

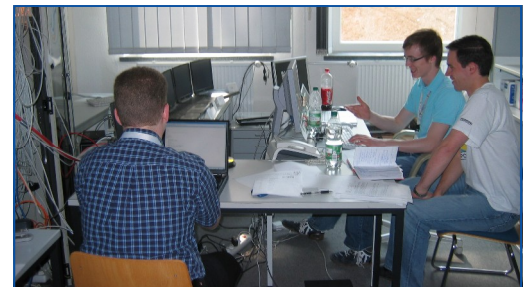
responsible for the run of the competition. Six computers are only for analyzing the results of the competition as fast as possible. The Scientific Committee has to manage all arising problems. If somebody sits on the wrong seat and is logged into the wrong computer, the staff will recognize and correct it.

At 8:28 a.m. a score is appearing

on the screen. One of the participants has solved the first exercise – 100 points – maximum score. Gradually more and more results are reported but then, suddenly, it stops and there are only "???" to be seen. It's getting hectic. →



native language, as fast as possible. At first they had to deal with measurements of the sound - "The Sound of Silence". After that they'd to write a program



The men behind the screen

What abilities do you need for working in the technical staff here? You have to deal with really difficult problems here so you have to be qualified for this in some way.



Everybody of us has great knowledge and a lot of experience in working with computers. All of us have already

taken part in such an Olympiad or have been the winner of the national Informatics prize.

What has been the biggest problem for you to solve here until now?

On Tuesday the server collapsed during the practice session. We had to build it up again and that took more than three hours.

Is your job here kind of stress?

(smiles) Well, from Saturday on we've been testing everything without any bigger breaks. More than four hours of sleep every night are impossible. Some of us didn't even sleep for days.

What is the source of the competition exercises from?

They are provided by the countries taking part in the competition. But we changed and refined them in some kind and of course we had to test them.

Latest News Item

Editor „reißt sich ein Bein aus“

After Lars-Ole had investigated for the article on this page and written the article, he broke his foot during the PE-lesson. He has to be operated today. All the best, Lars-Ole.

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→ Three of the six computers for analyzing the results, so called “graders”, collapse. The technical staff tries to manage the situation right away. They reboot the computers but without a positive result. Orders are given into the

computer and half an hour later everything is all right again.

“I hope the participants haven't recognized this.”, says Hans-Christian Ebke and smiles. “But I think except a little delaying in the analyzing of

the results nothing happened.”

So the competition goes on until it finishes at 1:00 p.m. The first three exercises are solved but also today, on Thursday the second day of competition some more difficult

Schedule

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 Second Competition
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:00 Sightseeing
- 16:00 Picknick
- 18:00 IT-Night
Mecklenburg-Western-Pomerania

Sports as a world language!

On Wednesday the 25th of April approximately 60 participants and guides of the Baltic Olympiad in

informatics couldn't be persuaded to leave the computer for getting some “f r e s h a i r”.

had fun playing with a pack of cards outside. Inside of the Gymnasium the teenagers played basketball and table tennis. After three hours of sport



Informatics met each other with the teachers Mrs. Rummelhagen, Mr. Rosenstock, Mrs. Bülow and Mrs. Hagen on the sports field of the Ernst-Barlach-High-School, while some of the Swedish and German guests used the great weather to play Beach volleyball at the Lake, called “I n s e l s e e”.



First of all the walk from the PH to the High School could be regarded as a good heating up for the sport program, which offered different kinds of s p o r t s . More than 25 people took part in the soccer match. There were internationally

Mixed teams. Mrs. Rummelhagen, one of the sport teachers, explained that there hadn't been any problems in relation to the rules: “That's the fantastic thing about sports - it can be defined as a world language, which connects different nations.” And the boys seemed to enjoy the matches as well. Ivar Urdalen from Norway said that it had been a really nice match. “I like playing soccer just for fun.” But in his free time he prefers making some music to r e l a x . Apart from volleyball some of the young people also

activities- a successful contrast program to the field of computer science, the BOI participants met again at the PH to have dinner. Many of them went afterwards to some bars, e.g. the Irish Pub “Schnick Schnack” or the “BARocktikum”, to see a



bit behind the curtains of Güstrow and for getting to know some of the typical locations young people hang around here. The organization team hopes the group enjoyed that day and wishes all the best for the competition today!



Hannes Landeholm

„I celebrated in the evening a little bit my 18th birthday at the BARocktikum, a small pub in Güstrow, where we played billard and table soccer. It was quite funny. Of course I didn't get any presents yet, because I will have a birthday party when I'm back in Sweden. But after the competition today the participants of the competition sang in three different languages (Swedish, English and German) “Happy Birthday” for me. That was great, thank you!”

