

## Microsoft Becomes Chief Sponsor of Student "Code Wars" Competition

### Software Leader to Donate Surface Tablets and Touchless Computing to International Collegiate Programming Champions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boulder, CO – [Microsoft](#) announced today it is donating Microsoft Surface Tablets and Kinect Bundles prizes to college students who participate in the 2013 International Collegiate Programming Championship. Each student on the top team will receive the ultimate portable computing device from the world's largest software company. In addition, each student on the second and third place teams will win a Kinect Bundle on which they can write code and use as a sensor in their own programs.

The sponsorship is part of Microsoft's ongoing commitment to youth entrepreneurs around the world. Microsoft is famous for hosting the [Imagine Cup](#), a prestigious student technology competition that challenges student innovators from around the globe to create gaming experiences that transform how we play, develop new apps that change people's lives, and use their knowledge, passion and drive to solve global issues through technology. Microsoft also sponsors the U.S. Imagine Cup Student Accelerator, a two-month program where teams spend time with mentors, participate in workshops and get the technical guidance they need to help realize a prototype and test an idea.

In this latest sponsorship, Microsoft joins forces with MS Gold certified partner [Windward](#), which created and manages the "[Code Wars](#)" contest. Code Wars is a day-long game that tests the programming knowledge, innovative thinking and teamwork of computer science college students. Teams have eight hours to design an A.I. to battle other A.I.'s in hand-to-hand combat, and the competition emphasizes strategy and problem solving rather than simply coding. Code Wars takes place online and is the ultimate "green" competition with no travel requirements or costs to participants.

"Microsoft is a valued partner and they have the most coveted student software around," said Dave Thielen, Windward's founder and CTO. "We're thrilled they will be rewarding the innovation and critical thinking of Code Wars participants."

"Plus, our Code Wars teams will benefit in turn from taking part in a great way to prep for the extensive contests Microsoft puts on," Thielen added.

Teams that participated in last year's contest included Boston University, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Harvey Mudd College, Georgia Tech, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue University, Stanford, University of Illinois, University of Massachusetts, University of Toronto and University of Wisconsin.

For more information on the 2013 International Collegiate Programming Championship, please visit [http://windward.net/community\\_codewars.php](http://windward.net/community_codewars.php).



*Click image to watch students competing for the title of Code Wars Champion.*

### **About Microsoft**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential.

### **About Windward**

Windward Studios has been in business since 1995. Based in Boulder, Colorado, Windward was formed in 2003 to develop innovative software products for enterprises. Windward is the only comprehensive reporting, document generation and business intelligence system to use Microsoft Office as a template layout tool, thus significantly reducing the learning curve while saving time and money for technical and non-technical users. Windward provides OEM / ISV partners with fully embeddable tools that can be implemented with just a few lines of code. A free trial of Windward's products is available at [www.windward.net](http://www.windward.net).

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