

Windward Reports Crowns "Code War" Winner: Team Hsu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Boulder, CO – Programmer En-Jay Hsu and his team have been named Champions of the Windward Code War 2011 competition. Fueled by little more than the drive to create elegant code (and a few of Ben Logan's famous peanut butter paisley brownies), Hsu's group bested the team led by Craig Light to take home the trophy.

Windward Code War is a competition between teams to see who can write the best code. At 9 am, each team receives a programming problem; they have 8 hours to write the computer player for a previously undisclosed computer game. At 5 pm, the game runs with all their computer players trying to beat the other players. A winner is declared when a player wins twice.

"The dev group has been knocking it out of the park in terms of quality code delivered on time," says Dave Thielen, founder and CTO, who [blogged live](#) about the competition. "As a reward for their hard work and dedication, we put on this voluntary competition."

Typically Windward developers spend their days building enterprise reporting solutions, web-based reporting tools, business intelligence software and document generation systems. Windward is known for its AutoTag report design software, which allows business professionals to design reports in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

But on June 10, Thielen created a computer version of the board game Broadside and challenged teams to write an A.I. component for it. This approach created a level playing field – no one at Windward has any experience writing a computer A.I. – and generated a problem that cannot be solved by brute force. There was one main rule: teams were on the honor system to not use reflection to hack the game.

Teams got down to business at 9 am sharp. They developed strategies to tackle the contest that focused less on coding and more on critical thinking. At least one team, Nuclear Pony, learned a painful lesson about the need for allowing adequate debugging time. You can read all about it at "[Tomas' Perspective, or What the F**k was the Yellow Guy Thinking?](#)"

After an intense day of programming, each participating team submitted their code by deadline – and the games were on. The first two were won by Team Hsu and Team Light. At 5:41, a third and contest-winning game went to Team Hsu. An ecstatic Hsu accepted the award on behalf of his team.

"I'd like to thank the thousands of hours I've spent playing all type of games – card, video, computer, board – which in hindsight I could have used to take over the world," Hsu said. "There's still time, though."

About Windward Reports

Launched in 2002, Windward Reports is the only full-featured, robust Java and .NET reporting engine to use Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint as a layout tool, putting report design and generation power in the hands of the end user, technical or non-technical. Any Office user can easily and securely create reports with almost no learning curve. Also unique, Windward Reports implements in hours, offers affordable server-based pricing, and offers “prompt, fantastic” technical support via a 24/7 support forum and support contracts.

Windward Reports works by merging any XML, SQL or custom data source—or any combination thereof—with a Microsoft Office report template. It feeds data into the template to create a what-you-see-is-what-you-get report that can be generated in DOCX, XLSX, PPTX, PDF, HTML, direct to printer, RTF, XLS, WordML, TXT, and CSV. Windward Reports runs as a standalone application or in an enterprise computing environment. Windward Reports developer and production systems are available for purchase or free trial at www.windwardreports.com.

The Windward Reports user group spans 70 countries. User applications include financial statements, inventory reports, product-usage reports, purchase orders, invoices, training certificates, timesheets, and licenses. Other applications include reporting to meet requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley, Patriot Act, ARRA, HIPAA, Health Level Seven, Gramm-Leach-Bliley, Basel II, and other U.S. and international acts and accords affecting financial services, real estate, government, and insurance industries and the consultants and integrators serving them.

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