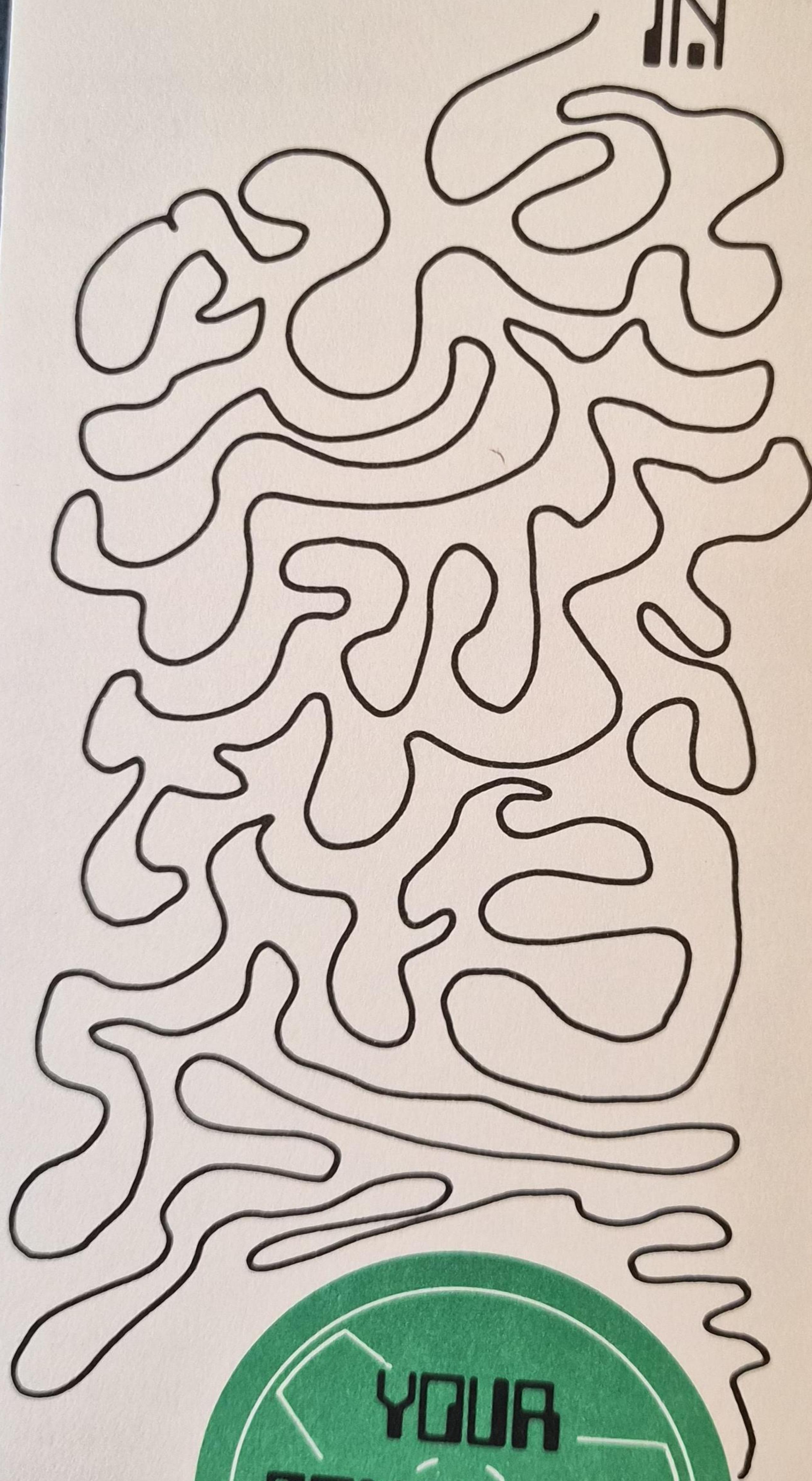


# THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

IN



# THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMER



## A TOOL FOR EVALUATING PROGRAMMERS

**HOW** does a company know how capable is its electronic information processing staff?

**HOW** does it know an individual possesses the essential technical knowledge qualifying him to be a good programmer?

**HOW** does it find the tools to adequately evaluate the skill of its EDP staff?

**HOW** does it manage to hire new people, and determine which of its present staff to promote, without paying too high a price if this process is done on a hit-or-miss basis?

These aren't easy questions to answer. Particularly when industry is confronted, as it is today, with what appears to be a critical shortage of experienced EDP personnel which seems certain to continue into the foreseeable future.

Despite frantic efforts to train more computer people, the shortage daily grows more acute. On the basis of the projected doubling of computer installations during the next five years, the demand for programmers also is expected to double the present total of 250,000.

In evaluating the experience of a programmer seeking a job, employers rely on three basic methods: conversation with the previous employer, examination of work samples supplied by the programmer, and assignment of a standard programming project to be completed and evaluated at company expense.

Employers know only too well that these methods have definite shortcomings. They are in many cases not reliable, and in the instance of assigning a programming project, too expensive to pursue to a satisfactory conclusion.

There are several reasons why it is nearly impossible to know what level of knowledge has been attained by a business programmer. Among them:

There are few formal academic programs available in the programmer field; there's a lack of known evaluation tools to determine individual qualifications; work experience is of little quantitative value since no two computer installations are identical in the level of programming sophistication.

All of these were formidable obstacles, until now. The Certification Council of the Data Processing Management Association has developed a registered business programmer examination which provides the employer with a significant tool for the objective evaluation of current and potential senior level programmers.

The exam is a statistically sound method for identifying programmers who possess the knowledge to perform the job for which they are hired.

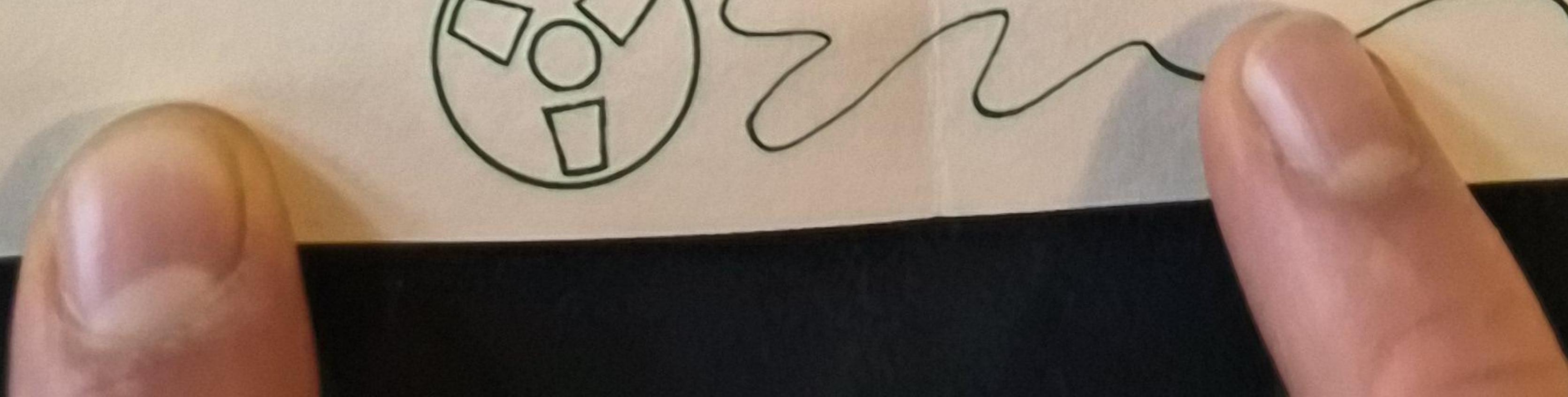
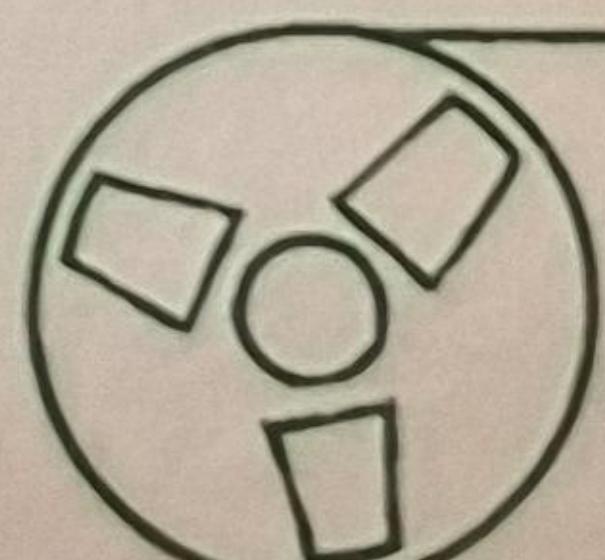
The exam is given annually in test centers at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. The results are examined and evaluated for reliability and relevance in the light of the constant changes in computer technology.

In developing the test, the Council made a complete review of job tasks, duties, knowledge and functions of programmers in a broad range of business and industry environments.

Scoring and analysis of the examination are performed by independent testing and research organizations.

No experience or educational requirements are stipulated because the knowledge and skill in the programmer field is gained in a variety of ways, and in many cases acquired without formal academic training. Eligibility to sit for the exam is not restricted to DPMA members.

DPMA believes this is an exam which identifies those who pass as persons with a common body of technical knowledge which should enable them to be efficient and effective business programmers.



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