

# From Problems to Performance: Two Decades of Programming Contests in the CCSC Southeastern Region\*

Keynote

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This keynote presents an analysis of two decades of programming contests hosted by the CCSC Southeast. Drawing on his experience as director since 2004, Andy Digh will identify five recurring problem categories: string manipulation, mathematical computation, search and data structures, graph algorithms, and problems requiring high implementation complexity. The talk will reveal a correlation between Python usage and higher success rates, attributed to its efficiency in development and debugging. Key contest strategies—including effective teamwork, problem selection, and time management—will be highlighted, alongside preparation methods used by top-performing teams. In addition, the future impact of AI and new programming languages on these competitions will be considered.

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