COMPETITION RULES

1- Participants and teams

The challenge is open to all Replyers. Your team can have two, three or four people, but this can't change once the challenge has started.

During the registration phase you can:

- create a new team
- ask to join an existing one
- register and wait for the random team assignment once registration closes.

2- Challenge platform

Your team will submit solutions through Reply's challenge platform, which you can access using your Reply Account. The challenge platform features a regularly updated leader board, showing how teams are performing. The leader board will freeze 30 minutes before the challenge deadline (but we'll continue to updates scores).

3- Problem statement

We'll publish the problem statement specifying the problem to solve on the challenge platform. It will include, the input file format of submission files and the scoring rules. You'll be able to download the input file(s) from the challenge platform, where you'll also submit your team's solution files.

4- Submissions and scoring

Your team will submit solutions by uploading a file to the challenge platform. A solution is made of at least one output file for a provided input and a source file, which Code Masters may inspect to check you're not cheating. We'll score each valid output you submit, otherwise we'll mark the solution invalid. You'll be able to see which outputs were invalid along with an error message explaining why. Your team can submit solutions any time during the challenge. We'll calculate your team score by totalling the maximum score of each valid input file. Reply Code Masters may, at any time, reject a solution and invalidate its score. To settle ties, we'll take time into account.

5- Source code

You can use publicly released libraries and tools, but your team must develop original code to generate your solution. To be valid, every submission must include a file containing the source code of the program you developed to generate the output.

6- Development and execution environment

There are no restrictions on the type of development environment or programming language you use throughout the contest. During the competition, you write programs to solve a task and submit the results as a text file to the challenge platform. You're responsible for compiling and running your code on your own computer(s).

7- Requests for clarification and communication in the team

You can ask for clarification from the Reply Code Masters during the challenge via chat. Each member can chat with other teams via chat or hangouts.

8- Winners and Prizes

At the end of the challenge, the Reply Code Masters will review and validate the best scoring submission from top ranked teams on the leader board. The winning team will be given the opportunity to be part of the Reply Code Masters' team. Each member of the winning team will win a Mac Book Pro 13".

9- Fair play

We expect every team team to have a positive attitude during the contest. No team should prevent other teams from taking part – for instance, by trying to overload the challenge platform, saturating the local Wi-Fi or interfering with devices of other participants. This will lead to disqualification. Similarly, do not try to disturb or distract members from other teams. You're not allowed to benefit from any external help or support.

10- Reply Code Masters

Reply Code Masters are responsible for enforcing all rules. They will review submissions from teams and award prizes. They may exclude any participants or teams at any time, which don't follow the rules of the contest.