

20XX (300)

Uday Shankar

This turned out to be somewhat of a failure of a problem, as it left too much open to interpretation and it was too difficult to give clues without completely giving away the problem. For those interested, however, the "Seeds are always planted in the corner" hint was supposed to indicate that the seed to a pseudorandom number generator is encoded in one of the four corners of the image, as the integer value of the pixel. Taking that seed and using the pseudorandom number generation algorithm described in *The Art of Computer Programming*, by Donald Knuth, generating random coordinates in the image and taking the pixel values there was supposed to give the 20 individual letters in the flag. Unfortunately, this method proved to be too obscure and random for anyone to actually try it. Sorry!