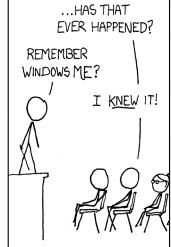


CALLED THE BALLMER PEAK, IT WAS DISCOVERED BY MICROSOFT IN THE LATE 80's. THE CAUSE IS UNKNOWN, BUT SOMEHOW A B.A.C. BETWEEN 0.129% AND 0.138% CONFERS SUPERHUMAN PROGRAMMING ABILITY.

HOWEVER, IT'S A DELICATE EFFECT
REQUIRING CAREFUL CALIBRATION—
YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE A TEAM OF
CODERS A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WHISKEY
AND TELL THEM TO GET CRACKING.



IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE PEAK SHOULD NOT COME AS A SURPRISE.