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Italy triumphs in coding contest

A team of Italian students has won Microsoft's Imagine Cup which lets budding software designers compete for a large cash prize.



The Italians beat 41 other entrants in the Software Design category

The quartet from Turin Polytechnic beat 41 other teams to take home a cheque for \$25,000 (£13,000).

The competition involved using coding skills to demonstrate how technology can help people be healthier.

The Turin team created a system that gathered information about symptoms and communicated it to doctors.

Code crunch

The Turin Team's "Hello World" entry for the Software Design category drew up ways of gathering important information that patients rarely reveal to a doctor - even though this data is often medically significant.

The Italian team of Giorgio Sardo, Massimo Paternoster, Silvia Perrone and Andrea Sossich said their project could be particularly helpful for those that suffer anxiety disorders.

The finals of the Imagine Cup were held in Delhi, India and brought together coding teams from more than 100 nations. The festival of programming saw competitions in six categories and most heavily contested was the Software Design category.

Other categories included: Algorithm, IT, Programming Battle, Short Film and Interface Design.

In the Software Design category second place was taken by Team Trivial from Brazil and third place Team NTNU from Norway.

At each stage of the competition, entrants had to demonstrate their prowess at a variety of technology or multimedia challenges. Although broadly based around Microsoft's products, competitors could also turn to tools and technologies not produced by the software giant.

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In 2007, the Imagine Cup will be held in Seoul, Korea.

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