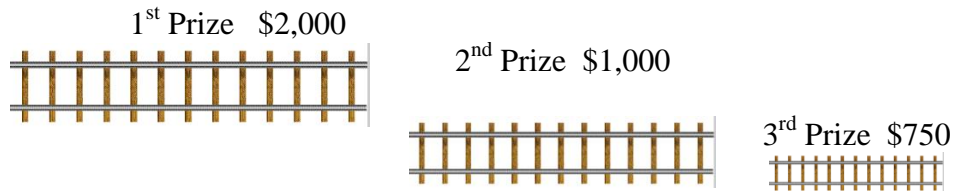




ANNOUNCING:
2013 Problem Solving Competition

Applying Advanced Analytics to Railroad Problems for Fun and Prizes!



Railroad Yard Operational Plan

Participants are asked to build a model which can be used to identify a plan that optimizes the operations of a railroad yard. The goal of an operations plan is to minimize the total waiting time of railcars in the yard and maximize the total number of railcar processed during a certain period. Building a classification yard operations plan is challenging as it covers many interrelated operations and decisions, such as, the sequence of inbound trains' disassembly, the sequence of outbound trains' assembly, sorting plans at the hump, block-to-train assignment plan for classification tracks, etc. Optimizing the operations plan of a classification yard is very important for a railroad company as it helps fully utilize the limited resources of its rail network.

The criteria which will be used to evaluate the solutions proposed the quality of the solution provided, the solution approach used, and the corresponding computational time.

Apart from the cash prizes, the first prize winner's contribution will also be considered for publication in Networks. The paper still needs to go through the journal's normal refereeing procedure; however, the paper will receive an expedited refereeing and publication process.

Visit the competition web site for complete problem details:

<http://www.informs.org/Community/RAS/Problem-Solving-Competition>

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