31. LEETCODE: WHERE DID ALL THE PROGRAMMERS START?

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This paper analyses the popular and influential resource, LeetCode, which is designed to prepare programmers for interviews and develop programming skills. LeetCode offers a wide range of tasks based on real-world scenarios from well-known companies and creates a favorable environment for learning and growth. The paper states that it is important to use LeetCode in combination with other resources and develop practical skills to achieve success in a programmer's career.

In the modern world, programming is one of the most sought-after and promising industries. Many people dream of becoming programmers and contributing to the development of technology. However, when it comes to starting a career as a programmer, many people wonder where to start and what resources to use. One of the most popular and influential resources for training programmers is LeetCode. This scientific paper describes the history of LeetCode and its role in starting a programmer's career [1].

LeetCode is an online platform created to help programmers learn and prepare for interviews in technology companies. It offers a wide range of programming tasks based on real-world scenarios of well-known companies such as Google, Facebook, Amazon and many others. The tasks of LeetCode cover a variety of areas, including algorithms, data structures, system design, and databases.

LeetCode provides an opportunity for programmers to communicate with other platform participants, share experiences and receive feedback on their solutions. This creates a favorable environment for learning and growth.

LeetCode differs from platforms such as HackerRank, Codeforces and Project Euler in its narrow specialisation in preparing for interviews in technology companies. With realistic and relevant tasks, a focus on interviews, a community and a wide range of tasks, LeetCode is a popular resource among programmers seeking to start a career in the IT industry. As part of this paper, statistics were collected among BSUIR students on which resources they prefer to use for the development of professional skills. The results are indicated in Figure 1.
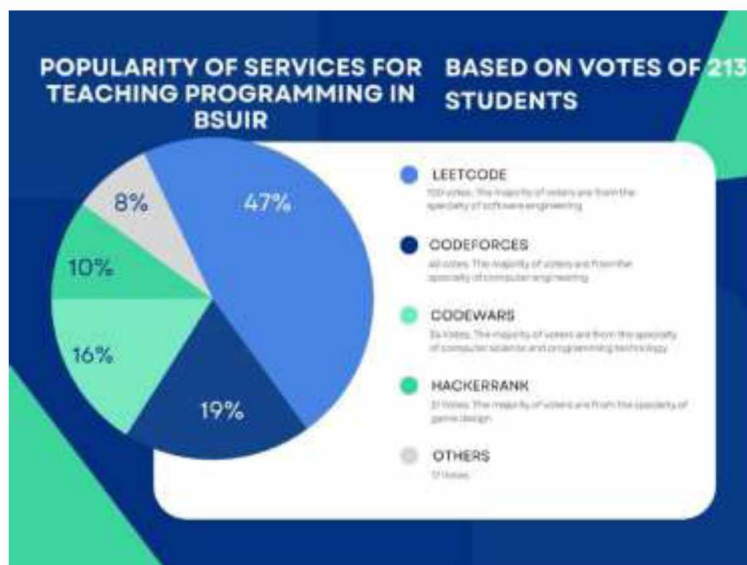

Figure 1 — Statistics on the use of educational resources among BSUIR students

Furthermore, LeetCode organises frequent programming contests that enable programmers to engage in friendly competition and assess their abilities. Participating in these contests presents a fantastic chance to not only evaluate one's knowledge and skills but also benchmark their performance against fellow participants. It fosters an environment for growth and provides valuable insights into areas where improvement may be required.

In addition to the benefits that LeetCode provides, it is crucial to recognise that it is merely one among numerous resources available for honing programming skills. While solving problems on LeetCode is valuable, it should not be regarded as the sole determinant of a programmer's success. Equally important is the cultivation of practical abilities through working on real-world projects and seeking knowledge from diverse sources.

References:
1. LeetCode [Electronic resource]. – Mode of access: https://leetcode.com/. – Date of access: 03.03.2024.