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Diminutive Worm Contest Wrapup

While the fun is over, there is a lot to talk about in the wrap-up. So much so that I think it will take longer to deal with the output of the contest than the contest itself took. First of all, a huge congrats to both Giorgio Maone and Sirdarckcat for winning the contest with an incredibly small 161 byte worm. They tied because they both had nearly the same vector and it worked equally well. It was a tough battle and there were a lot of close calls, but various rules, cross browser compatibility and interoperability with Apache caused the pool of potential winners to be relatively small when the scoring was complete. However, that's not to diminish everyone's work - everyone did amazingly and I was very impressed when it all came together.

But now that leaves us to the aftermath. After looking at the contest for the first four days we may have figured out a way to potentially stop worm propagation. Unlike tracking this method actually may help companies devise plans on how to reduce the likelihood of worm propagation across their websites. This should put to rest the nay sayers who thought nothing good could come of this contest. The paper is not for everyone - it's pretty complex (as worms tend to be), but I think the people who have the problem will understand how to use it in their own environments.

That said, there is at least two or three more potential outputs of this contest - including papers on propagation analytics, worm tracking technology, and potentially other things that I'm not privy to. Was it worth it? Absolutely. I couldn't have been happier with the results. Thanks again to everyone

who made it such a success. It was a lot of work, but it was the first step towards large scale worm defense. Again, a huge congrats to Giorgio Maone and Sirdarckcat!
