

Don't Trust the House

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This puzzle was the 2014 web puzzle. The sheet included in the handouts (and available online in the archive) is nothing more than a vague hint that you shouldn't trust us to get you all the winnings you are entitled to. In 2014, teams were paid a bonus if they solved a puzzle earlier than other teams, and so there was some opportunity for the unscrupulous house to "accidentally" get it wrong.

On any puzzle page on the website, a "Bonus" column showed the bonus they got for that submission. This header was a clickable link, that took you to another page that described how we computed it.

Answer Submissions

Time	Submission	Status	Comments	Bet	Bonus (?)
12:52 PM	WHAT	Incorrect		\$0.00	

This page had the bonus formula listed, as well as some example payouts. If you compared the examples with what the formula actually gives, you find a few discrepancies:

	STATED	CORRECT	DIFFERENCE
1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
2	7,063.64	7,088.64	25.00
3	5,777.65	5,792.65	15.00
4	5,018.67	5,018.67	
5	4,468.95	4,489.95	21.00
6	4,096.43	4,099.43	3.00
7	3,795.79	3,795.79	
8	3,550.95	3,550.95	
9	3,348.10	3,348.10	
10	3,176.46	3,176.46	
11	3,027.78	3,028.78	1.00
12	2,878.94	2,899.94	21.00
13	2,786.26	2,786.26	
14	2,677.98	2,684.98	7.00
15	2,594.00	2,594.00	
16	2,503.68	2,511.68	8.00
17	2,416.74	2,436.74	20.00
18	2,368.12	2,368.12	
19	2,283.99	2,304.99	21.00
20	2,227.66	2,246.66	19.00

Each is off by a whole dollar amount in the range 1 through 26. If you convert these to letters (A = 1, B = 2, etc.), and read top down, you get **YOUCAUGHTUS**, the answer to the puzzle.

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