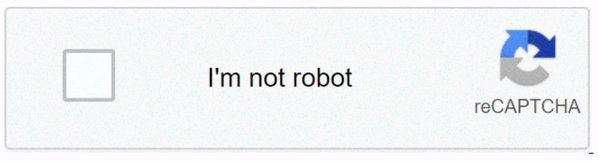

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Metropcs near me number

Mathematics crystallized in the identification of patterns. We recognize the patterns around us and use them to navigate its challenges. However, for all these reasons, we need numbers - or at least the information that our numbers represent. What are the numbers? When we explore more later, it's a deceptively profound question, but you already know the simple answer. A number is a word and a symbol that represent a number. Let's say you walk outside your home and see two angry dogs. Even if you don't know the word two or know what a similar number looks like, your brain would have a good idea of how encountering two dogs compares to a situation of three, one or zero dogs. We owe that innate understanding to our brain (especially the inferior parietal lobe), which naturally extracts numbers from the surrounding environment in much the same way that it recognizes colors [source: Dehaene]. We call this number the sense, and our brains are fully equipped with it from birth. Studies show that although infants do not understand human reading systems, they can still recognize changes in numbers. Neuroimaging research has even found that babies have the ability to engage in logarithic calculation or counting based on a material increase in physical quantity. Although the baby doesn't see the difference between five teddy bears and six teddy bears in the lineup, he notices a difference of 5-10 [source: Miller]. The numerical sense plays an important role in the way animals navigate their environments - environments where objects are numerous and often mobile. However, the numerical sense of the animal becomes less accurate with ever larger numbers. For example, people are systematically slower to count 4+5 than 2+3 [source: Dehaene]. At some point in our ancient past, prehistoric people began to develop a way to increase their sense of numbers. They started relying on their fingers and toes. That is why so many numerical systems depend on groups of five, 10 or 20. Base-10 or decimal systems are based on the use of both hands, while base-20 or vigesimal systems are based on the use of fingers and toes. So ancient people learned to outsource their numbers, and in doing so they created arguably mankind's most important scientific achievement: mathematics. I came across this ING Your Number marketing ploy one day and thought it was perfect for a light Friday post :) While the plot probably isn't the best term to use here, more than a marketing genius! Create a fun financial game for us nerds, and then let everyone blog about it! Haha... I'm glad we love you. But yes, once I've been spinning it myself, it looks like my number (retirement number, that is) is over $2 million at $652,000. That's a lot! But then again, my end goals are probably a little. than the average American (such as (such as see below). Here are the questions they're asking you and the answers I've given you. Feel free to fudge those you don't know and just do your best. Some of them were harder than you'd expect! What's your pension number? How old are you? 30 Are you married? What are the current household income? $100,000. This varies between the lady's side projects , the grad school, as well as all my side scams. At what age are you going to retire? 40 :) Although the better question is: At what age would you like to retire even if you continue the work you love anyway? Personally, I want to be as close as possible to financially free at the age of 40. Which means you don't have to worry about money, and a lot and a lot of meaningful work! Or travel, or whatever my old heart wants. How much annual income do you need in retirement? I have no idea. I counted $60,000, but it's really a shot in the dark. I should be driving the numbers and thinking about this a little bit, but it's definitely not happening right now. I'll relax on Friday to find out;) By what age? I have no idea! And really it's kind of weird if you ask me, haha... I had 80 there, but then I realized I was going to die at 81, so I changed it to 99 :) I feel like I'd love to go just before 100. And then bam! Your ING number will come out. Obviously, it's not a perfect science (with esp those last 2 zingers), but it gives you an idea of the things to think about when planning ahead like that. The age at which you retire, and the length you live, are very important! It's the same as your lifestyle at the time and a billion other things, especially your health. But this should be quick and fun, so I'm sure a lot of them were deliberately left out. The message at the top summed all this up perfectly: The earlier you start thinking about your future, the easier it will be to reach your number and enjoy retirement. Yes!! Now it's your turn :) Spend a minute and a half filling in the answers yourself and then come back and drop your number in the comments. No sign-up for this or that or anything, use them and lose them and then go back to the big poppy ;) ———- PS: My Money Blog number is $2,048,822.00 PPS: Consumerism Commentary's is about $3,000,000 PPPS: And I think I have some ING references left if anyone wants to. It gives you either $10 or $20 free just to open an account, I can't remember the exact details, but email me if you're interested and we can make it happen. j (at) budgets are sexy (dot) com. Jay likes to talk about money, collect coins, blow up hip-hop and hang out with his three beautiful sons. You can check all the work on his jmoney.biz. Thank you so much for coming. Coming. Blog! There's a count in knitting. An uncapped batch of wool is twisted and fed into a rotating wheel, a wooden device as high-tech as an abacus that binds the fibres together with a strand of wire. Yarn, on the other hand, is woven into geometric models consisting of equations: A certain number of rows combined with certain stitching produce something functional and beautiful. In the right hand, knitting produces precise but almost magical alchemy–chaos in order. You can see why it would appeal to Brenda Dietrich.Dietrich, 47, heads the Department of Mathematics Sciences at IBM's renowned Thomas J. Watson Research Center - probably the largest and most important math department in corporate America. She loves the beauty and complexity of mathematics. Still, he often spends conference calls and meetings spinning a thread on a bike next to his ThinkPad. And she knits incessantly – scarf, jacket, scarf and hat running at the same time. That nice blue and purple cashmere scarf in his office? This was last year's research software strategy meeting, he says. I sat in the back row knitting for three days. Dietrich, who is involved in 13 patents and has twice been named one of IBM's top inventors, likes to make stuff - material stuff, not just theorem. As a mathematician, he has a rare ability to travel between two very different worlds, says Paul Horn, director of research at IBM. He can listen to the customer describe the messy details of the company and then translate this technical data into mathematical problems that his team can solve. He believes mathematicians should live in that real world, in the world of customers. When he moved into the math department in 2001, he encouraged researchers to venture beyond Watson, whom he calls a lovely stone building on a hill, and to work with IBM industry consultants. Today, his team is actually behind the scenes of years, mostly theoretical research on an impressive set of real-life issues in IBM and beyond. How to assemble a project team of consultants scattered around the world. How to combat large-scale forest fires more effectively. How to identify the best sales wires in the pipeline. OnTarget, a sales prediction software that grew from math research, generated $100 million in new revenue as a pilot program in Canada. Last year, it delivered about $500 million for global use, an amount that makes Dietrich giggle as if he couldn't believe it. Dietrich's 160 researchers are, in fact, increasingly IBM's most valuable problem solvers. Historically, the stars here have been physicists who made technology that went into chips and systems, and then it was computer scientists and engineers, Horn says. Now we see mathematicians They're everywhere. This is partly due to IBM's hardware to software and services. And part of it is certainly Dietrich's function of marketing and political skill: nerdy, but far from the stereotype challenged by personality, he understands how to get attention and resources in an organization of 330,000 people. Moreover, the growing influence of his department reflects a greater real-world shift. A generation ago, companies, at best, urged mathematicians to optimise production lines and perhaps support pricing decisions. What else could they possibly contribute to the crux of the matter? Today, companies measure almost all of their actions, and computers are fast enough to crunch numbers in time for managers to act on analysis. In the hands of talented mathematicians, data creates an invaluable advantage. Complex algorithms reveal a company's inefficiency and potential – invisible bottlenecks in the supply chain or hidden customer purchase patterns. Entire businesses – think about Google – are built almost entirely around mathematics. And others, such as IBM, integrate mathematics into action and decision-making in ways that have never been seen before. This is what the industrial age must have been like for engineers. Now is a good time, Dietrich says, to be a com counted mathematician. A number theory course at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill changed Dietrich's mind about becoming a doctor. Mathematics was a revelation, like hearing music for the first time. There is structure and symmetry and the most wonderful theory, he says. It made me believe in some underlying order in the world. Dietrich, whose husband is an IBM software architect, joined the company in 1984 after receiving a PhD in research and production technology for Cornell's operations, and he applied this wonderful theory to designing more powerful chip manufacturing lines. It was exciting to see how useful mathematics can be. In the mid-1990s, he got tired of projects – a dangerous situation, he laughs – and continued to have new problems, spending six months in the field alongside IBM consultants and clients. They couldn't tell the addicted and independent variables, he says. But he could, and the ability to translate practical into theoretical (and back) was powerful. In some ways, his experience was the basis for the activities of his research department. If you're not a mathematician, dietrich and his team's deep math sounds like a completely foreign and unifying auction, integer programming, conditional logic, and so on. Watson's whiteboards look incomprehensible, like Farsi or Greece (on the other hand, many symbols are Greek). But these mysterious equations represent the real world and how it works. When mathematicians model a problem, they create a numerical snapshot of dynamic Variables. Let's take the forest fire project Dietrich and the scientists. Extinguishing the rapidly spreading flame on tens of thousands of hectares is an expensive and complex project. In 2000, a particularly disastrous year, the federal government spent more than $1 billion and still lost more than 8 million acres. Its fire planners want to reduce costs and damage by better coordinating between the five participating states. Equipped with seven years of data, IBM mathematicians create a huge model that shows how resources – every firefighter, truck, aircraft, etc.– have been used in the past, how much each effort cost and how many acres burned. Algorithms describe the likely costs and results of a number of strategies to fight a fire. How many bulldozers and buckets do you keep in Yellowstone Park? Dietrich asks. And if they have to be moved elsewhere, how much will it cost and how long will it take? He speaks quickly and describes the unruly variables that mathematics makes sense. It's a nice project. It's complicated, isn't it? Uh, yes. For years, mathematicians were so focused on basic research that they didn't go anywhere near projects like this – and they weren't asked either. It was like working at a university without even a load of teaching, says baruch Schieber, a long-time researcher. When you decided what to work on, the first observation was not, how does this affect the company? If researchers so wish, they could close their office door and focus on the most esoter study, uninterrupted–and isolated. At first, Horn says that putting math experts in front of customers made everyone nervous, not least all customers. The researchers are undeniably brilliant, he says with a laugh, but you wonder how some of them get home at night. Watson, located an hour north of New York City, has a relaxed, collegiate feel; Sneakers and jeans and a casual bushy beard and ponytail are the norm. Opinions, professor types fit the picture. Dietrich may seem sublime and charmingly strange, but when he sticks to the paces of mathematics, he can be intimidating. He doesn't suffer fools and enjoys a good argument. Dietrich, however, has learned to soften his approach so that consultants' relationships with clients do not falter. He helped create a class for researchers that explains the consulting process and culture. Mathematician perfectionism must give way to deadlines. The wisest atmosphere in the room is considered shattering, rather than an invitation to match intelligence. Instead of forcing an argument about the logic that we're trained to do – it's a bit anti-resistance – you have to keep your mouth shut and listen, he says. And you have to stay away from technical. Some mathematicians were initially concerned that: He'd suffer under Dietrich. Instead, they lived a double life. In fact, says researcher Robin Lougee- Heimer, projects like the one he's working on now, a nationwide distribution puzzle for a brand client, reveal fruitful research topics. I'm exposed to major problems, he says, nasty details and complexity. Before, Schieber, senior director of optimization, heard about IBM's project and occasionally reached consultants. They rarely answered his calls. He says, I'm selective. When we started asking what resources consultants use for projects, they said that each project was different. It drive me crazy. The word is over: the math team can help. Dietrich makes a few dozen requests a month, half of which he rejects because the problem has already been solved or it is not challenging enough. We want to push the boundaries of what can be solved, he says. By the way, what's the point? In a way, Dietrich does what he enjoyed when he was young, solving the whistling of mathematics-word problems. Here's the doozy: Once IBM's sales team has bathed in a consulting contract, the company often has to put together a project team by the deadline – for example, 50 Java developers in Chicago by the following Monday. It can choose from 190,000 consultants around the world with a variety of skills, personalities and usability. It has to do this in thousands of projects a year for customers of all sizes in all imaginable industries. At the same time, the combination of projects and available consultants is constantly changing. When we started asking what resources consultants use for projects, they said each project was different, Dietrich says. It drive me crazy. By studying two years of project data, mathematicians identified what skills were most often applied to certain types of tasks. You may not know exactly what the customer wants, but now you have a rough idea of who you need for the $5 million project compared to the $50 million project, says Dan Connors, optimization manager for the Workforce Management Program. This hr analysis tool helped managers anticipate demand and schedule accordingly, increasing consultant productivity by 7% and reducing travel costs and the use of external contractors. The savings exceeded $500 million. So is math: Add sales from the OnTarget forecasting tool, and that's a $1 billion bet from Dietrich's math whining. Brainiacs deals with another problem whose solution could be equally valuable: how to pick the best teams. Project managers tend to choose the most talented developers and engineers available or those they already know. It may work well on hand from 1990 to 2001, but in the long term it may not benefit IBM as a whole; Better talent all over the place. Researchers are also social networking analysis to assess the traces of email, instant messaging, and phone calls to identify which teams act as flat organizations and which hierarchical – who works well together and who doesn't. Dietrich's problem is predicting the workforce of the future. By analysing demographic trends, demographic data and skills of workers and the demand for certain technologies, researchers hope to identify labour shortages across activities and occupations before they occur. This almost impossibly complex and far-reaching work is far from complete. Every answer raises new questions, and that's good. That's great. Even mathematicians don't have all the answers. Dietrich doesn't get bored, and he's going to be a lovely needle. In the end, he has numbers that help us think differently about the world and where it's going – and IBM and its customers hire or train employees accordingly. Of course, it may well be that they need more mathematicians. Mathematicians.

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