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Whiz Kids

Brilliant Geeks founder speaks language of IT services startups

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Learning a new technology can feel like learning a new language. Kostian Iftica, the 20-year-old founder of IT help company Brilliant Geeks knows exactly what that's like: Eight years ago, he arrived from Albania at the age of 12, not knowing a word of English.

Since then, he has started an IT service company that now has a customer base approaching 50 clients. (His services range from hardware upgrades to spyware cleanup, and even include PC training.)



Kostian Iftica, founder, Brilliant Geeks

Inspired by classes he took at TechBoston, a department of the Boston Public Schools that teaches students about advanced technology, he began the company in spring 2007. TechBoston's director, Felicia Vargas, encouraged him to pursue an internship through TechBoston's Tech Apprentice Program. At first, he was hesitant, unsure if he was skilled enough, but Vargas assured him that the purpose of the internship was to gain skills.

He was placed with New England Baptist Hospital, where he honed his technical skills by assisting in building servers to store digital medical records, developing communication software to connect the servers to the hospital, and