

Problem of the week

Rumours spread at an amazing speed. Suppose that you get hold of a fat, juicy rumour and that in next 5 minutes they, in turn, go out and tell it to two other people.

Within the next five minutes they in turn go out and tell it to two others. And so on

each person who hears the story tells it to two others within the next five minutes.

How many people know the secret within two hours ?

Solu:

The number is
 $1+2+2^2+2^3+2^4+2^5+\dots+2^{24} = 2^{25}-1 = 33554431$

Correct solution received from:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.