Computational Thinking Practices

ScratchEd Webinar Series Monday, April 25, 2011 7pm-8pm EST Hosted by Mitch Resnick and Karen Brennan



Computational Thinking

Computational thinking is a fundamental skill for everyone, not just for computer scientists.

Wing, Computational thinking

Computational Thinking

Computational concepts (March 28, Recorded) Computational practices (Tonight) Computational perspectives (May 23)

concepts

sequence	conditionals
loops	operators
parallelism	variables
events	lists

practices

incremental/iterative testing/debugging reusing/remixing abstracting/modularizing

perspectives

expressing connecting understanding





practices

incremental/iterative testing/debugging reusing/remixing abstracting/modularizing

incremental / iterative

developing a little bit, then trying it out, then developing some more





KB: OK, this is a complicated program. How long have you been working on it?

Scratcher: Maybe three, or maybe two, weeks.

KB: Are you working on it every day?

Scratcher: Like off and on, maybe even a month. Whenever I finished one of the levels, I would show it to my brother.

KB: You talked a bit about how you did a lot of the programming and your brother helped with the concept of the project. What was your process like?

Scratcher: We first came up with it on the way, but for levels 8, 9, and 10 we actually planned beforehand. My brother had this great idea about having level 10 having pins and bowling balls. He said, "That should be level 8" and I said, "No, no that should be level 10, that's really hard" and he said, "ok, ok, ok".

KB: Are there any secret codes or do you actually have to play to get to level 10?

Scratcher: You have to play. That's a really good idea, but now you have to play through the whole game.

testing / debugging

making sure that things work – and finding and fixing mistakes

identify (the source of) the problem

read through your scripts

experiment with scripts

look for examples that work

tell/ask someone else about the problem

try writing scripts again

take a break

reusing / remixing

making something by building on what others - or you - have done



home projects galleries support forums about

Language

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and then came the day that i couldnt finish all 100 because my computer fizzed out. well now i would suggest that after you play this game you press love it and then go play some of my other really good games.

one for instance is called ninja assissin and it is really fun and before ninja assassin three can come out i need 10 love its, and



abstracting / modularizing

building something large by putting together collections of smaller parts









Supporting fluency with CT practices

incremental/iterative testing/debugging reusing/remixing abstracting/modularizing

Thank You!

http://scratched.media.mit.edu http://events.scratch.mit.edu

Next webinar: Computational Thinking Perspectives Monday, May 23, 2011 7pm-8pm EST