

Pīkau Name: Computational Thinking - the International Perspective

Video Name: Origins of “Computational Thinking” in education

Presenter: Professor Tim Bell

The term computational thinking is actually quite widely used internationally. In New Zealand it's got a very specific meaning in the curriculum. It's in line with international usage but it's interesting to look where it came from. One of the places that it was first highlighted was when a computer scientist, Jeannette Wing, wrote an article about computational thinking, arguing that it was a really good approach to teaching computer science and the ideas around computing in schools. Her definition of computational thinking was that it's 'thinking like a computer scientist'. Her audience was computer scientists, so they kind of knew what she meant, but it does raise the question 'What is computer science?' and especially 'What would that mean in primary schools? What does it mean in high schools?' Well, rather than trying to define computer science for you, it's a lot easier to do it, so let's look at some computer science in action.