lego mindstorms ev3 programming language

Exploring the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language: A Gateway to Robotics

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language is a fascinating topic for anyone interested in robotics, coding, or educational technology. The EV3 platform by Lego combines the joy of building with the power of programming, allowing users to create intelligent robots that can sense, think, and react. Whether you're a beginner eager to dive into robotics or an experienced coder exploring new horizons, understanding the programming languages compatible with the Lego Mindstorms EV3 is essential to unlocking its full potential.

What Is the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language?

When people talk about the Lego Mindstorms EV3 programming language, they often refer to the visual programming environment provided by Lego itself, which is based on LabVIEW from National Instruments. This block-based language is designed to be user-friendly, especially for younger users and those new to coding. It uses drag-and-drop programming blocks to control the EV3 brick, motors, and sensors.

However, the EV3 programming environment is not limited to just the official Lego software. Over time, many alternative programming languages and tools have emerged, expanding the ways you can program your EV3 robot. This versatility makes the EV3 a highly adaptable educational tool.

Official Lego Mindstorms EV3 Software: The Visual Programming Language

Getting Started with the EV3 Software

The official Lego Mindstorms EV3 software employs a graphical programming language, which allows learners to piece together command blocks to perform actions. This approach reduces the intimidation factor of syntax errors and complex code structures, making robotics accessible to a wide audience.

The software includes blocks for controlling motors, reading sensor data (like touch, color, ultrasonic, and gyro sensors), flow control (loops, switches), and data operations. The visual nature of the language helps users understand core programming concepts such as sequences, decisions, and loops in a tactile and intuitive way.

Advantages of the EV3 Visual Programming Language

One of the biggest advantages is the immediate feedback loop. Users can build a program, download it to the EV3 brick via Bluetooth or USB, and see their robot perform the task right away. This hands-on experience is crucial for developing problem-solving skills and creativity.

Additionally, the Lego Mindstorms EV3 programming environment supports debugging features, so users can test programs and identify issues without needing advanced knowledge of traditional programming languages.

Text-Based Programming Languages Compatible with EV3

For those who want to take their EV3 programming to the next level, several text-based languages are compatible with the hardware, offering more flexibility and control.

Python and EV3

Python has become increasingly popular among the EV3 community. Using libraries such as EV3Dev, which is a Debian Linux-based operating system for the EV3 brick, users can write Python scripts to control their robots.

Python's simplicity and readability make it an excellent choice for both beginners and advanced programmers. With Python, you can access low-level hardware features, implement complex algorithms, and integrate with other software tools, opening the door to sophisticated robotics projects.

Java and EV3

Java is another powerful language used in EV3 programming, particularly through the leJOS platform—a firmware replacement for the EV3 brick. leJOS allows developers to write Java code that runs directly on the EV3 hardware.

Java's object-oriented features and extensive libraries make it suitable for building modular and scalable robot applications. For students and professionals familiar with Java, leJOS provides an exciting way to blend traditional software development with robotics.

C and C++ Programming

For maximum performance and hardware control, some advanced users opt for C or C++ programming on the EV3. Using environments like RobotC or the ev3dev toolchain, programmers can write efficient code that interacts closely with the EV3's motors and sensors.

While this path demands more programming expertise, it also delivers finer control over timing, memory, and resource management, which can be critical in high-precision robotics tasks.

Tips for Learning and Mastering the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language

Start with Visual Programming

If you're new to robotics or programming, begin with the official EV3 graphical language. It builds a strong foundation and helps you grasp basic concepts without overwhelming you with syntax.

Experiment with Sensors and Motors

Hands-on experimentation is key. Try programming your robot to respond to different sensor inputs—like stopping when the ultrasonic sensor detects an obstacle or following a line using the color sensor. These projects reinforce learning and make programming fun.

Transition Gradually to Text-Based Languages

Once comfortable, explore Python or Java to enhance your programming skills. Many online resources and communities provide tutorials, sample code, and troubleshooting tips tailored for EV3 programming.

Leverage Online Communities and Resources

Platforms like GitHub, Stack Overflow, and dedicated Lego Mindstorms forums host a wealth of knowledge. Engaging with these communities can accelerate your learning curve and inspire new project ideas.

Why the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language Is Ideal for Education

The EV3 system's versatility in programming languages makes it an exceptional tool for STEM education. It bridges the gap between theoretical computer science and tangible engineering.

Students learn computational thinking by designing algorithms, debugging code, and understanding sensor integration. Teachers appreciate the modularity and progressive difficulty—starting with block-based coding and moving toward text-based languages.

Moreover, the EV3 encourages collaborative learning. Group projects where students design, build, and program robots foster communication, creativity, and teamwork—skills that extend beyond the classroom.

Exploring Advanced Projects and Customizations

Once you're comfortable with basic programming, the Lego Mindstorms EV3 programming language ecosystem supports advanced projects such as:

- Autonomous navigation using sensor fusion
- Machine learning experiments with Python libraries
- Integration with IoT devices and cloud platforms
- Custom firmware development for specialized functions

These exciting directions showcase how versatile and powerful programming the EV3 can be, blending hardware and software in meaningful ways.

Diving into the lego mindstorms ev3 programming language opens up a world where creativity meets technology. Whether you're piecing together simple commands in a drag-and-drop interface or writing complex scripts in Python or Java, the EV3 platform offers endless opportunities to learn, experiment, and innovate. The joy of seeing your robot come to life through code is a rewarding experience that inspires many to pursue careers in robotics, engineering, and computer science.

Frequently Asked Questions

What programming languages are supported by LEGO Mindstorms EV3?

LEGO Mindstorms EV3 supports multiple programming languages, including its native graphical programming environment EV3-G, as well as text-based languages such as Python, Java, C++, and JavaScript through various third-party libraries and platforms.

How does the EV3-G graphical programming language work?

EV3-G is a block-based graphical programming language developed by LEGO. It allows users to drag and drop programming blocks to create sequences and control the EV3 robot without writing code, making it accessible for beginners and educational purposes.

Can I program LEGO Mindstorms EV3 using Python?

Yes, you can program the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 using Python. The EV3 MicroPython environment, supported by LEGO Education, allows users to write Python code that runs on the EV3 brick, offering more flexibility and advanced programming capabilities.

What are the advantages of using Python for EV3 programming over EV3-G?

Using Python for EV3 programming offers advantages such as greater control over robot behavior, access to advanced programming concepts, easier integration with other software tools, and suitability for more complex projects compared to the simpler, block-based EV3-G language.

Is it possible to program EV3 using Java?

Yes, EV3 can be programmed using Java. The leJOS project provides a Java-based firmware replacement and API that enables EV3 programming in Java, which is popular among advanced users and educators who prefer text-based programming.

What tools do I need to start programming LEGO Mindstorms EV3?

To start programming LEGO Mindstorms EV3, you need the EV3 brick, motors and sensors, a compatible programming environment such as LEGO Mindstorms EV3 software (EV3-G), EV3 MicroPython, or third-party tools like leJOS or RobotC, and a computer or tablet to write and upload the programs.

How do I upload programs to the EV3 brick?

Programs can be uploaded to the EV3 brick via USB cable, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi, depending on the EV3

model and software used. After writing the program in the chosen environment, users can transfer it to the brick using the corresponding software interface.

Are there online simulators for LEGO Mindstorms EV3 programming?

Yes, there are online simulators such as the EV3 Classroom simulator and third-party tools like CoderZ that allow users to program and simulate LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robots virtually, which is useful for learning and testing programs without physical hardware.

What are some common challenges when programming LEGO Mindstorms EV3?

Common challenges include managing sensor inputs accurately, coordinating multiple motors and actions, debugging programs without real-time feedback, and transitioning from graphical to text-based programming languages for more complex tasks.

Additional Resources

Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language: A Deep Dive into Robotics Coding

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language stands at the crossroads of education, robotics, and programming, offering an accessible yet powerful platform for learners and enthusiasts to engage with coding and automation. As a cornerstone of the LEGO Mindstorms series, the EV3 set revolutionizes how users interact with robotics through a blend of hardware and software, enabling the building and programming of intelligent robots. Understanding the programming language options available for EV3 is crucial for educators, hobbyists, and developers seeking to maximize the potential of this innovative robotics toolkit.

Exploring the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language Ecosystem

The term "lego mindstorms ev3 programming language" often refers to the primary official programming environment provided by LEGO, alongside a variety of third-party and alternative languages compatible with the EV3 brick. The EV3 Intelligent Brick can be programmed through graphical interfaces, text-based languages, and even through code designed for advanced users, making it highly versatile.

The official LEGO Mindstorms EV3 software is based on a graphical programming language derived from National Instruments' LabVIEW platform. This visual programming environment emphasizes drag-and-drop functionality, allowing users to construct programs by piecing together blocks representing sensor

inputs, motor controls, and logic operations. This approach lowers the entry barrier for beginners and younger students by abstracting complex syntax into intuitive visual components.

Official EV3 Software: LabVIEW-Based Graphical Programming

At the heart of the EV3 programming experience is the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 Home Edition software. This environment offers a block-based interface that supports sequential, parallel, and conditional logic, sensor integration, and motor control with relative ease. Users can create robust programs through:

- Drag-and-drop block assembly
- Direct control of motors and sensors
- Loops, switches, and data wires for flow control
- Built-in tutorials and examples for education

The graphical nature of the official EV3 software makes it ideal for classroom settings, where visual feedback accelerates comprehension. However, this simplicity can sometimes limit the flexibility desired by advanced users seeking more granular control or complex algorithm implementations.

Alternative Text-Based Programming Languages for EV3

Beyond the official graphical interface, the EV3 brick supports several text-based programming environments that cater to more experienced programmers. These options provide enhanced flexibility and the ability to write sophisticated code that can interact with the EV3 hardware.

- EV3Dev: A Debian Linux-based operating system that runs on the EV3 brick, allowing programming in languages like Python, Java, C++, and Node.js. EV3Dev opens the door to using mainstream programming paradigms and tools, making the EV3 a viable platform for serious robotics development.
- **RobotC**: A C-based programming language tailored for educational robotics, RobotC offers a more traditional coding experience with syntax familiar to students learning C or C++. It supports debugging and real-time program execution.

- LeJOS: A Java Virtual Machine for EV3, LeJOS enables Java programming on the brick. For users already proficient in Java, LeJOS provides an accessible pathway to leverage object-oriented programming features.
- MicroPython: Recently supported on EV3 through EV3Dev, MicroPython provides a streamlined Python experience optimized for microcontrollers and embedded systems, which is attractive for those wanting to apply Python skills in robotics.

Each alternative language brings its own set of advantages and challenges. For instance, while EV3Dev and LeJOS require flashing the EV3 brick with custom firmware, they greatly expand programming possibilities at the cost of additional setup complexity.

Key Features and Benefits of Programming Lego Mindstorms EV3

Programming the EV3 brick offers a unique blend of tangible robotics control and software development. Several features stand out across the different programming languages and environments:

Sensor and Motor Integration

The EV3 system supports a variety of sensors such as ultrasonic, color, touch, and gyro sensors. Programming languages compatible with EV3 allow for real-time sensor data acquisition and processing, enabling robots to interact intelligently with their environment. The ability to control multiple motors with precision further enhances the scope of robotics projects, from simple movement to complex manipulations.

Modularity and Scalability

Both graphical and text-based programming languages foster modularity through reusable code blocks, functions, or subroutines. This encourages best practices in programming and makes large projects more manageable. Scalability is also a key element; beginners can start with simple sequences and gradually progress to sophisticated behaviors involving sensor fusion, data logging, and autonomous decision-making.

Educational Impact and Community Support

The EV3 programming environment is widely used in educational contexts, including STEM classrooms and robotics competitions like FIRST LEGO League. The blend of visual programming and access to conventional languages supports a broad range of learning styles. Moreover, an active global community provides extensive resources, libraries, and forums that assist both novices and advanced users in troubleshooting and expanding their projects.

Challenges and Considerations in EV3 Programming

While the lego mindstorms ev3 programming language and its ecosystem offer compelling advantages, some limitations and challenges warrant consideration.

Learning Curve and Transition Between Languages

For users starting with the official graphical environment, transitioning to text-based programming languages can be daunting. The syntax and debugging methods differ significantly, which may require additional learning resources and time investment. Educators often need to balance accessibility with depth to maintain student engagement without overwhelming them.

Hardware Constraints

The EV3 brick, despite its robustness, has limited processing power and memory compared to modern computers. This restricts the complexity of algorithms and multitasking capabilities. Some advanced programming environments, particularly those running on EV3Dev, may experience performance bottlenecks or require optimization strategies.

Firmware Compatibility and Updates

Using third-party programming languages often necessitates custom firmware installations, which can introduce compatibility issues or void official support. Users must carefully manage firmware versions to ensure stability and functionality, especially in educational or competition settings where reliability is paramount.

The Future of Lego Mindstorms EV3 Programming Language

Although LEGO has released newer robotics platforms like the SPIKE Prime, the EV3 remains popular due to its extensive user base and rich programming ecosystem. Continued developments in open-source firmware and third-party languages are likely to sustain interest in EV3 programming, especially among educators seeking cost-effective and versatile robotic tools.

Advancements in integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms with EV3 hardware are beginning to surface, promising new horizons for experimentation and learning. The modular nature of EV3 programming languages, combined with community-driven innovation, ensures that the platform remains relevant in evolving technological landscapes.

Through a combination of user-friendly graphical programming and powerful text-based coding options, the lego mindstorms ev3 programming language ecosystem continues to empower users to explore robotics, programming concepts, and creative problem-solving in an increasingly digital world.

Lego Mindstorms Ev3 Programming Language

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and advice of other users. Exploring LEGO Mindstorms contains building and programming challenges written by a recognized authority in LEGO robotics curriculum, and is designed to teach you the fundamentals rather than have you follow a recipe. Get started with robot programming with the starter vehicle, Auto-Driver Explore the features of the EV3 brick, a programmable brick Design robot's actions using Action Blocks Incorporate environmental sensors using Infrared, Touch, and Color sensors Expand the use of data in your program by using data wires with Sensor Blocks Process data from the sensors using Data Operations Blocks Using Bluetooth and WiFi with EV3 Build unique EV3 robots that each presents different functions: the Spy Rabbit, a robot that can react to its surroundings; a Sea Turtle robot, Mr. Turto; the Big Belly Bot, a robot that eats and poops; and a Robotic Puppy Guapo Discover ideas and practices that will help you to develop your own method of designing and programming EV3 robots The book also provides extensive programming guidance, from the very basics of block programming through data wiring. You'll learn robotics skills to help with your own creations, and can likely ignite a lasting passion for innovation. Exploring LEGO Mindstorms is the key to unlocking your EV3 potential.

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language: The LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Laboratory Daniele Benedettelli, 2013-10-13 The LEGO® MINDSTORMS® EV3 set offers so many new and exciting features that it can be hard to know where to begin. Without the help of an expert, it could take months of experimentation to learn how to use the advanced mechanisms and numerous programming features. In The LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Laboratory, author Daniele Benedettelli, robotics expert and member of the elite LEGO MINDSTORMS Expert Panel, shows you how to use gears, beams, motors, sensors, and programming blocks to create sophisticated robots that can avoid obstacles, walk on two legs, and even demonstrate autonomous behavior. You'll also dig into related math, engineering, and robotics concepts that will help you create your own amazing robots. Programming experiments throughout will challenge you, while a series of comics and countless illustrations inform the discussion and keep things fun. As you make your way through the book, you'll build and program five wicked cool robots: -ROV3R, a vehicle you can modify to do things like follow a line, avoid obstacles, and even clean a room -WATCHGOOZ3, a bipedal robot that can be programmed to patrol a room using only the Brick Program App (no computer required!) -SUP3R CAR, a rear-wheel-drive armored car with an ergonomic two-lever remote control -SENTIN3L, a walking tripod that can record and execute color-coded sequences of commands -T-R3X, a fearsome bipedal robot that will find and chase down prey With The LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 Laboratory as your guide, you'll become an EV3 master in no time. Requirements: One LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 set (LEGO SET #31313)

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Mark Rollins, 2014-01-28 Beginning LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 shows you how to create new fun and fantastic creations with the new EV3 programmable brick along with other new EV3 pieces and features. You'll learn the language of the EV3 brick, and then go on to create a variety of programmable vehicles using MINDSTORMS and Technic parts. You'll then move into creating robot parts, including robotic arms. You'll even learn how to make different types of MINDSTORMS walkers. Finally, you'll learn how to incorporate light and sound into your amazing EV3 creations. Whether you're a MINDSTORMS enthusiast wanting to know more about EV3, a robotics competitor, or just a LEGO fan who wants to learn all about what EV3 can do, Beginning LEGO MINDSTORMS EV3 will give you the knowledge you need. Note: the printed book is in black and white. The Kindle and ebook versions are in color (black and white on black and white Kindles). What you'll learn How to program the new EV3 brick The different components new to the EV3 system How to program the EV3 with LabView How to build fantastic robotic creations How to incorporate Technic creations into MINDSTORMS Who this book is for MINDSTORMS and robotics enthusiasts who want to learn about EV3, and people who are completely new to MINDSTORMS and

want a thorough and fun introduction. Table of Contents 1. Introduction to MINDSTORMS EV3 2. How to Program the EV3 Brick 3. Taking Control of a Vehicle with LEGO MINDSTORMS 4. Sound and Light 5. Data Logging and Advanced Programming 6. Special Construction Projects 7. The Robotic Arm 8. Creator and the Walking Robot

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learn Understand the characteristics that make a robot smart Grasp proportional beacon following and use proximity sensors to track an object Discover how mechanisms such as rack-and-pinion and the worm gear work Program a custom GUI to make a robot more user friendly Make a fun and quirky interactive robot that has its own personality Get to know the principles of remote control and programming car-style steering Understand some of the mechanisms that enable a car to drive Navigate to a destination with a GPS receiver Who this book is for This book is for hobbyists, robotic engineers, and programmers who understand the basics of the EV3 programming language and are familiar with building with LEGO Technic and want to try some advanced projects. If you want to learn some new engineering techniques and take your experience with the EV3 to the next level, then this book is for you.

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lego mindstorms ev3 programming language: Programming Lego Mindstorms with Java Giulio Ferrari, 2002-05-25 Lego robots! The first book that teaches you to program Lego Mindstorms using Java Lego Mindstorms are a new generation of Lego Robots that can be manipulated using microcomputers, light and touch sensors, an infrared transmitter and CD-ROMs. Since Lego launched Lego Mindstorms in late 1998 sales have skyrocketed - with no sign of slowing down. Mindstorms have captured the imagination of adults and children alike, creating a subculture of Mindstorm enthusiasts around the world. The kits are now a staple part of engineering and computer science classes at many high profile Universities. Up until very recently, the only languages available to program Lego Mindstorms were NQC, pbForth, and legOS. This is the first book detailing how to program Lego Mindstorms using the newly released Java Virtual Machine for Lego Mindstorm programming. Programming Lego Mindstorms provides readers with all of the information they need to construct and program Lego Mindstorm Robots. The first book available on how to program Lego Mindstorms with Java The perfect gift for parents and kids alike!

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education. Advanced Technologies and Standards for Interactive Educational Television: Emerging Research and Opportunities is a critical scholarly publication that examines the concept of promoting learning through mass communication through the use of extended augmentation and visualization interaction methodologies and the deployment of wide-area collaborative practices. Featuring a range of topics such as gamification, mobile technology, and digital pedagogy, this book is ideal for communications specialists, media producers, audiovisual engineers, broadcasters, computer programmers, legal experts, STEM educators, professors, teachers, academicians, researchers, policymakers, and students.

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language: Early Computer Science Education -Goals and Success Criteria for Pre-Primary and Primary Education Nadine Bergner, Hilde Köster, Johannes Magenheim, Kathrin Müller, Ralf Romeike, Ulrik Schroeder, Carsten Schulte, 2023-04-03 "Scientific Studies on the Work of the 'Haus der kleinen Forscher' Foundation" is a regularly published series of scientific reports authored by distinguished experts from the field of early education. This series serves to pursue professional dialogue between the Foundation, academia and practice, with the aim of lending sound support to all child-care centres, after-school care centres and primary schools in Germany in their educational mission. This ninth volume of the series, with a foreword by Ilan Chabay, deals with the goals and requirements of computer science education in the elementary and primary sector. In their expert report, Nadine Bergner, Hilde Köster, Johannes Magenheim, Kathrin Müller, Ralf Romeike, Ulrik Schroeder and Carsten Schulte specify the pedagogical and content-related goal dimensions of computer science education at child-care centres and primary schools. In addition to establishing a theoretical basis for various goal dimensions, the authors discuss the success criteria for effective and efficient early computer science education in practice. They also provide recommendations for the further development of the Foundation's offerings and scientific accompaniment of the work of the Foundation in the field of computer science. In their expert recommendation, Nadine Bergner and Kathrin Müller describe a selection of informatics systems for children at child-care centres and primary schools and offer suggestions for particularly suitable systems and their use in elementary and primary education based on professional criteria. The final chapter of the volume describes the implementation of these professional recommendations in the programmes of the "Haus der kleinen Forscher" Foundation with and without computers.

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language: The Art of Coding Mohammad Majid al-Rifaie, Anna Ursyn, Theodor Wyeld, 2020-02-14 As the title suggests, this book explores the concepts of drawing, graphics and animation in the context of coding. In this endeavour, in addition to initiating the process with some historical perspectives on programming languages, it prides itself by presenting complex concepts in an easy-to-understand fashion for students, artists, hobbyists as well as those interested in computer science, computer graphics, digital media, or interdisciplinary studies. Being able to code requires abstract thinking, mathematics skills, spatial ability, logical thinking, imagination, and creativity. All these abilities can be acquired with practice, and can be mastered by practical exposure to art, music, and literature. This book discusses art, poetry and other forms of writing while pondering difficult concepts in programming; it looks at how we use our senses in the process of learning computing and programming. Features: Introduces coding in a visual way Explores the elegance behind coding and the outcome Includes types of outcomes and options for coding Covers the transition from front-of-classroom instruction to the use of online-streamed video tutorials Encourages abstract and cognitive thinking, as well as creativity The Art of Coding contains a collection of learning projects for students, instructors and teachers to select specific themes from. Problems and projects are aimed at making the learning process entertaining, while also involving social exchange and sharing. This process allows for programming to become interdisciplinary, enabling projects to be co-developed by specialists from different backgrounds, enriching the value of coding and what it can achieve. The authors of this book hail from three different continents, and have several decades of combined experience in academia, education, science and visual arts. Source Code: The source code for the book can be accessed here.

lego mindstorms ev3 programming language: Rev Up Robotics Jorge Valenzuela (Engineering teacher), 2020 Unlike other robotics books and curriculum, Rev Up Robotics takes a cross-curricular approach, showing educators how to begin incorporating robotics in tandem with computational thinking into content area lessons or adapting for electives. The book meets readers where they are and is arranged in three major parts. Part 1 covers the basics, defining robotics and sharing real-world applications along with how to teach foundational skills for computational thinking and computer science. Part 2 shows robotics in practice within the context of content areas and features lesson plans mapped to academic and technology standards, including the ISTE Standards and the Computer Science Teachers Association Standards. Part 3 offers advice on pedagogy and teaching strategies backed by research from the learning sciences, and shares approaches to teaching robotics using project-based learning or as part of after-school clubs or robotics competitions. Included in the book are programming considerations, including a pathway from working with visual blocks to programming in C++ and K-8 applicable resources from leading organizations, including Carnegie Mellon, LEGO Education, littleBits, Ozobot, VEX Robotics, Code.org and NASA. The book also features actionable steps, pro tips and resources for getting started, improving practice and preparing students for computational thinking, programming, core coding concepts and computer science fundamentals. The goal of Rev Up Robotics is to provide an evergreen professional development resource that both teachers and schools can use to discover how to incorporate computational thinking, robotics and computer science into lessons that engage students and activate learning--

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