

## GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

### BBC's Simon Lumb on databases

My name's Simon Lumb and I look after games in BBC Future Media. Some of our most popular games are games for Mr Bloom and Tree Fu Tom on CBeebies, and for Scooby Doo and Wolfblood on CBBC.

The iPlayer is just a visual interface to a database. It's a database of programmes, a database of pictures and information and actresses and actors and kind of synopses and series and all this stuff linked all together, and it's powered by a massive database. When you use it and click on all these links and everything, that's all just data and they're all just databases underneath.

There's no website out there that doesn't make use in some form of a database in order to present you that information. It makes linking things together very, very easy, and computers are brilliant at handling data in databases. It's very fast, it's very optimised, so you can get experiences like the iPlayer, which are visual and seamless and exciting and interesting and get all the content you want. Underneath – databases. Cells, rows, columns. Brilliant.