Bitesize

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science
Steve Furber on data structures – transcript

I'm Steve Furber. My main research interest at the moment is in the SpiNNaker project, which is building a machine that incorporates a million mobile phone processors in a single system that's optimised for running models of bits of the brain. Designing large programs in any language, including Python, requires that people involved in developing that program plan it very carefully. This is important if you're building a single program yourself, but it's even more important if you have a team of people who are all building different bits of the same program, because if they don't get the basic design right very early on, then when you come and try and put the bits together, things will go badly wrong. So building these programs requires a lot of discipline and the use of sensible tools to design, particularly design the interfaces, but also design the way the data is stored. Data has to be stored in a very well organised manner for efficient access.