

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

BBC's Simon Lumb on SQL

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.

MySQL, or my sequel, is a database. SQL, sequel, Sequential Query Language, is a way of querying databases. MySQL is the open-source version of that. It's made it a very simple, free database that you don't have to pay for, so as you're learning software or making simple things, you can just go straight away and use these powerful things called databases. So Sequential Query Language – is like, you would say things like 'select programme from iPlayer where programme is Doctor Who'. It's pretty much like that, in that kind of language, and you would get back that information, or a list of that information. Then the computer could process and give you 'here's the series'. And then it could go off and say 'get me the picture that's associated with this, get me the episode description, get me the link that plays the video, get me the version for mobile phones'. And all of that's powered by data and all of that's powered by SQL queries and MySQL is just the database that would be able to run those queries for you and a place for you to store that information.