

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

Bill Sellars on networking

My name's Bill Sellars and I work at the University of Manchester as a zoologist. And what I do is I create 3D dinosaurs as computer models.

The 3D dinosaurs we produce move realistically, and so they're absolutely ideal for people producing computer games or for the movie industry.

We travel all the way around the world digging up dinosaurs, but of course you still have to do a lot of office work. And by using technologies like virtual private networks, I can sit in a hotel room in Buenos Aires and I can access all the resources that are available at the University of Manchester as if I was sitting at a desk there, and this is hugely useful.

When we laser scan the dinosaurs, we collect huge data sets. These are tens of gigabytes, and actually the current network, particularly in countries like Argentina, is too slow, and so we end up just burning this onto hard drives or DVDs and taking them home with us because actually this copies really big data sets much more reliably.