



# SCRATCH

CREATIVE • COMMUNITIES

Scratch  
Conference  
12-15 August 2015  
Amsterdam

Following the very successful 2013 Scratch conference in Barcelona (scratch2013bcn.org) there will be a 2015 conference in Amsterdam. Teachers, students, makers, researchers and other members of the Scratch family gather for scratch2015ams.org which will bring the opportunity to meet each other and world class researchers and designers active in the field of code2learn and code as a means to materialize your imagination. We expect speakers and workshop leaders from all continents, among them staff of the global top-5 of universities. We're excited to hear first hand how the English are doing with CS being a subject taught at primary school since september 2014.

Worldwide people realize that computer science and education have difficulty in co-operating. Industry is annoyed that schools don't deliver students with sufficient skills. Schools on the other side, wonder why tons of investment in computing at schools hardly brought more than systems for distribution, control and book keeping.

Scratch takes programming as an expressive medium and uses a theatre metaphor. Stage and actors are controlled by scripts, and these scripts are composed by clicking together instructions like playing with Lego bricks, an extremely low floor.

Create stories, games, and animations  
Share with others around the world



A creative learning community with 8,151,469 projects shared

The diversity of characters makes Scratch attractive for all children and this is one of the reasons why Scratch is a good environment to learn. Like reading, writing and arithmetic, the principles of coding are useful for the rest of their life.

Children who learned the basics and have had the experience of making their imagination real by coding it with Scratch, will be better prepared for choices in education and work. Everywhere there's demand for diversity in the work force, but when schools keep teaching CS with coding a reservation system in C only tiny portion of the students will be seduced.



In the long run societies can't afford to accept illiteracy. A societal dichotomy defined by *program or be programmed* is as dangerous.

Scratch is open source and its philosophy is re-used by many others to make computer science and technology more accessible. Scratch is funded on decades of research and development: Seymour Papert's *Mindstorms* and *Logo*, as well as Alan Kay's *Dynabook* and *eToys* are still relevant. Real progress in education may take many years still, so better start today with the improvements possible.

Scratch2015AMS offers a platform for this and it deserves support from Amsterdam, The Netherlands and the rest of Europe.

Anyone can start with Scratch, the website scratch.mit.edu is open for everyone and available in more than 70 languages. The low floor doesn't mean you can't do great stuff. And the variation covered by the more than 8 million projects shared shows that whatever your passion is ... coding with it in Scratch brings fun and insight!

