Status of Coding and Robotics in South African Schools

Perspectives from the Higher Education Sector





Hussein Suleman < hussein@cs.uct.ac.za>

Department of Computer Science School of IT University of Cape Town

April 2021

Last edited: 28 April 2021

Slide count: 9

Our Current Changing Society 1/2





Hisense 8 GB U605 Network...

ZAR 499.00

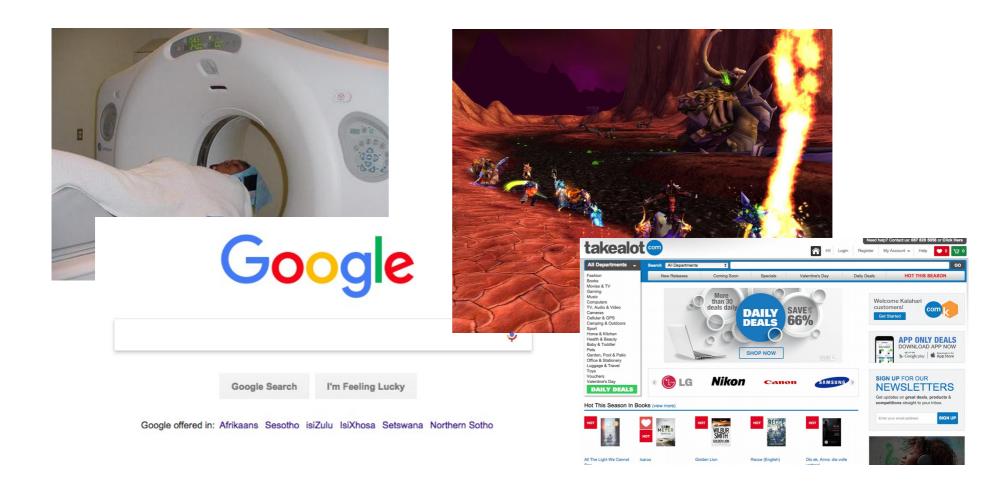








Our Current Changing Society 2/2







IT in a Future World







Who creates the tech of the future?

Entrepreneurs / innovators Researchers (Masters/PhD) Designers University graduates (Bachelor) Visionaries Creators □ Diplomates (U. of Technology) □ Diplomates (smaller colleges) Industry certificate holders Self-taught talented individuals





What does Higher Education need?

- □ For university programmes in: Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Technology, etc.
- □ Required:
 - Strong Math skills
 - Strong language/communication skills
- □ Nice to haves:
 - Coding/programming in primary/high school
 - Appreciation of technology
 - Science in primary/high school
- □ Not required:
 - Bad school experiences with IT





Transformation and International Trends

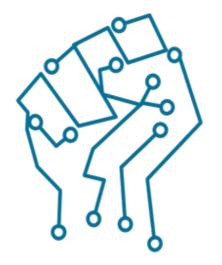
Segregated education cannot continue!



□ Computer Science for All



□ Black in AI





Recommendations

- □ Train all students in Math / computational thinking / coding.
 - Math first; then coding.
 - Poor Math restricts advancement!
- □ Train some students in basic Computer Science (aka high school IT) where possible.
 - Need to solve the IT teacher (leaving for IT industry) problem...
- □ Mass skills (like coding) are not sufficient for the IT-enabled future world. Our future workforce needs a range of advanced skills that go beyond coding.





Thank you for listening!



Questions are welcome...

Contact me at: hussein@cs.uct.ac.za

Department of Computer Science School of IT University of Cape Town