

Hedy: An Inclusive, Multi-Lingual, and Gradual Programming Language

Felienne Hermans   

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Abstract

Software is playing an increasing role in everyone's lives, and therefore it is important (and fun!) for kids to become creators in the digital world. However, existing programming languages are not necessarily designed for learnability, with cryptic error messages and a lack of easily accessible resources. In this talk, Felienne will outline what issues existing tools have, and how these issues disproportionately affect underrepresented minorities in programming including girls, kids with disabilities and non-English learners. She will then outline her story of inventing and creating Hedy, an inclusive, multi-lingual and gradual programming language for learners. Hedy is open source, runs in the browser, is free to use, and is available in 54 different languages (Including English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Hindi). Hedy was launched in early 2020 and now serves about 500,000 monthly users.

2012 ACM Subject Classification Applied computing → Education; Social and professional topics → User characteristics

Keywords and phrases programming education, gradual programming, outreach, Hedy

Digital Object Identifier 10.4230/OASICS.ICPEEC.2024.1

Category Invited Talk



© Felienne Hermans;

licensed under Creative Commons License CC-BY 4.0

5th International Computer Programming Education Conference (ICPEEC 2024).

Editors: André L. Santos and Maria Pinto-Albuquerque; Article No. 1; pp. 1:1–1:1

OpenAccess Series in Informatics



OASICS Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany