

Donald C McDermid, School of Computer and Information Science, Edith Cowan University

Contact details:

School of Computer and Information Science
Edith Cowan University
Joondalup, Perth, West Australia
tel: +61 86304 5190
fax: +61 86304 5144
email: d.mcdermid@ecu.edu.au

Using Action Research to embed systems thinking concepts in postgraduate IT teaching

The paper discusses the results of an Action Research study whose aim was to improve the quality of teaching systems concepts by using a software program that actually executes the models in order to re-inforce the concepts being learnt. The conclusions reached were that using such software in a structured learning environment did indeed improve the quality of teaching and had an impact on the ability of students to model problems more systemically. Further, lessons were learnt in the mechanics of how to structure laboratory exercises to support this goal.