Systems thinking – Going around in circles

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This workshop focuses on systems thinking—its meaning and role in the Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum.

The session is suitable for teachers of Foundation to Year 10 as the unplugged activities will be aligned to the different bands of learning. No or limited prior knowledge is assumed.

Systems thinking is one of three ways of thinking in the Digital Technologies curriculum and is closely connected to the key concept of interactions and impact. It involves thinking about each component in digital and information systems and how their interrelationships affect the functioning not only of that system (or solution) but other systems. Through unplugged activities, participants will appreciate the importance of thinking in circles rather than in straight lines, a hallmark of systems thinking, and how this approach to problem-solving affects the type of digital solutions we create and their purposes.

Participants will need to be able to work independently as well as in pairs, and will need to be able to create and complete worksheets. As the activities are unplugged, it is not essential for participants to bring along their own digital devices. Internet access is not required for the presenter. It would be preferable for participants to work at tables to foster sharing of ideas and co-jointly complete activities.