LEARNING BOX OF UNPLUGGED ACTIVITIES

The digital subscriptions overlap

In this unplugged activity, participants analyze a set of fictional digital subscription plans (such as streaming platforms, news services, music apps, and cloud storage accounts) to identify overlaps, redundancies, and opportunities for optimization. Working individually or in groups, they compare the features included in each subscription, detect duplicated services, and decide how to reorganize the subscriptions in the most efficient way.

Target Group

- ☑ Low-skilled adults with low digital competences
- ☐ Low-skilled adults with limited formal education or qualifications
- ☐ Low-skilled adults with low participation in lifelong learning / training opportunities

Learning Objectives

- Identify and analyze overlapping information across multiple sources to detect redundancies and inefficiencies
- Apply decomposition to break down a complex scenario into manageable components for analysis
- Use pattern recognition to compare elements and identify recurring features or duplicated resources
- Apply abstraction to distinguish relevant decision-making data from irrelevant details
- Evaluate alternatives and justify the most efficient solution based on defined criteria

Competence Areas

a) Innovation Competences

- ☐ Creativity
- ☑ Critical thinking
- ☑ Problem solving
- ☑ Communication

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Theme

Digital consumption and subscription management in everyday life

Duration

60min - 90min

Level

Beginner

Computational Thinking Steps Used

- ☑ Decomposition
- ☑ Pattern recognition
- ☑ Abstraction
- ☐ Algorithmic thinking

Methodological

Approach

- ☐ Gamification
- ☐ Challenge-Based Learning
- ☑ Collaborative learning
- ☐ Experiential learning

- ☑ Collaboration

b) Information Literacy Competences

- ☑ Ability to access, understand and critically analyse information
- ☑ Interpretation of digital and visual content
- ☑ Awareness of media influence and biases

c) Life and Career Competences

- ☑ Flexibility and adaptability
- ☑ Initiative and autonomy
- ☐ Sociability and intercultural competence
- ☐ Productivity
- ☐ Leadership and responsibility

Learning Outcomes

- Identify overlapping or duplicated services or elements within a system
- Compare features using relevant criteria such as cost, usefulness, or efficiency
- Apply decomposition, pattern recognition, and abstraction to analyze a complex problem
- Develop a step-by-step strategy to optimize choices within a constrained system
- Apply computational thinking to solve complex real-world decision-making problem-

Notes

- Keep the number of subscriptions manageable to avoid cognitive overload, especially for beginners.
- Ensure that some overlaps are obvious and others are less visible, encouraging deeper analysis.
- Encourage discussion about why certain subscriptions should be kept, combined, or removed.

COMPUTATIONAL SENIORS

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The digital subscription overlap

Step 1: Understand and organize the subscriptions

Participants receive a set of fictional digital subscriptions (e.g., video streaming, music streaming, cloud storage, online news, fitness or learning apps). Each subscription includes details such as cost, main features, and typical usage.

Participants first read and carefully organize the information in a structured way (for example, a table or grouped list). They identify what each service actually provides and clarify any unclear terms.

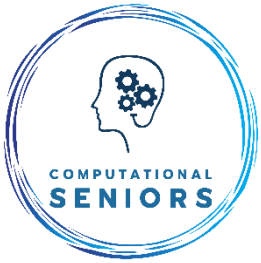
Computational thinking focus: Decomposition, breaking a complex system into smaller, understandable parts.

Step 2: Compare and detect overlaps

Participants compare all subscriptions to identify similarities and redundancies between services. They look for cases where different subscriptions offer the same or very similar functionality (e.g., multiple music platforms or overlapping storage services).

They should also consider how often each service is used or needed, and which ones provide unique value versus duplicated value. Highlighting or grouping similar services can help support this analysis.

Computational thinking focus: Pattern recognition and abstraction, identifying repeated structures and focusing only on relevant decision-making criteria (cost, usefulness, frequency of use).



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Step 3: Optimize and justify decisions

Based on their analysis, participants decide how to optimize the subscription set: which services to keep, cancel, or potentially merge. They must ensure that essential needs are still covered while reducing unnecessary overlap and cost.

Participants then explain their solution by describing a clear reasoning process or “decision algorithm” they followed. Different solutions are possible, as long as they are logically justified.

Computational thinking focus: Algorithmic thinking – designing a step-by-step strategy to solve a real-world optimization problem.

ACTIVITY CARDS

The digital subscriptions overlap

Card Categories

Subscriptions

Challenges

Priority Levels

Essential
Extremely necessary to take into consideration

High
Importance

Medium
Helpful to take into consideration

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Print and cut the cards on the following slides to use in the activity.

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CINEFLIX+

Streaming platform

Original series and films

Offline downloads

2 devices

12€ / per month

SOUNDWAVE

Audio platform

Unlimited music without ads

Standard quality

Automatic playlists

10€ / per month

PLAYVIEW MAX

Streaming platform

Alternative catalog

Live sports

4 devices

14€ / per month

BEATCLOUD

Audio platform

Exclusive music and podcasts

High quality audio

Advanced offline mode

12€ / per month

INCREASE OF PRICES

CineFlix+’s price increases to 15€ / per month

Maintain or change platform?

Priority: Essential

OVERLAP DETECTED

CineFlix+ and Playview MAX share 65% of their catalogue

Partial overlap or complementary services?

Priority: Essential

MEASURED REAL USE

SoundWave is only used 20% of the time in comparison with other streaming platforms

Should it be maintained?

Priority: High

CHANGE OF HABITS

You start working 3 more days from home

Priority of productivity over leisure

Priority: High