



ATOMIC OBJECT

# TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

## 7 Things about Cubelets

### 1 - What is it?

Cubelets are a line of construction toys that is currently being produced by Modular Robotics. The blocks included are genderless and magnetically connected, which are used in order to create a form of modular robot.

### 2 - How does it work?

Cubelets come in three types: sense, action, and think blocks with the sense blocks being black, the action blocks being clear, and the think blocks being different colors. These blocks can be connected via the magnets, which are located on five of the six sides of the cube, to create a functioning modular robot and powered on by flipping the switch that is located on the Battery block.

### 3 - Who's doing it?

Since these devices are a learning for the very basics of programming logic they are mostly used in learning environments that cater towards students whose ages range anywhere from elementary to middle school.

#### 4 - Why is it significant?

This product allows teachers to introduce a difficult concept in an abstract manner that turns the entire development of programming into a trivial process so that it is easier for children to understand.

#### 5 - What are the downsides?

Unfortunately, even though the Cubelets are great for introducing people to programming logic this comes at a pretty hefty price; just six blocks will run you around \$120.

#### 6 - Where is it going?

Modular Robotics, the creator of Cubelets, plan to continue to advertise their educational products to all educators in an attempt to make this sort of learning tool available to as many children as possible.

#### 7 - What are the implications for higher education?

As Cubelets were designed with the goal of teaching younger children the basic concepts of programming, these will not have much use in a higher-level academic setting. The only exception that could be made is that they can be used in classes that are focused around elementary education in order to show how they can actually be used to teach in an efficient manner.

