

Playbook

McKenzie Sowers – Platform Coaching Playbook

Platform Coaching Playbook

Mentorship Program: RPM x BPM Cloud Services

Helping emerging engineers grow from executors to enablers through platform stewardship, tooling design, and developer empowerment.



Context Summary

Company: RPM Moves **Role:** Junior Software Engineer – Platform Team **Joined:** February 2025 **Mentor:** BPM Cloud Services (Sidney A. Jones)

Current Focus Areas

- New platform team at RPM; developer practices not yet standardized.
- Moving toward micro-frontends with separate repositories (no monorepo).
- Early adoption of Infrastructure as Code (Terraform) and Domain-Driven Design (DDD).
- McKenzie (Mac) shows strong tolerance and aptitude for IaC and dev enablement work.

Objective: Help Mac find his professional voice through technical stewardship, clarity, and contribution leadership.



Phase 1 — Find His Voice Through Platform Stewardship

Goal: Build confidence by owning a clear slice of the platform's backbone.

Action Steps

1. Lead Terraform module standardization (naming, structure, state management).
2. Implement IaC pipeline linting using `tflint` or `tfsec`.
3. Draft an RFC titled _“Platform Bootstrapping with Terraform”_.
4. Host a 10-minute internal demo showing how IaC enables scalability for micro-frontends.

Expected Outcome: Peers begin associating Mac with reliability and clarity in infrastructure setup.

Expected Outcome: Peers begin associating Mac with *reliability and clarity* in infrastructure setup.



Phase 2 — Build Developer Enablement Tools

Goal: Shift from executor → enabler by reducing friction for other developers.

Action Steps

1. Identify top three developer pain points (e.g., inconsistent local setups, manual test runs).
2. Create CLI or Makefile automation for repetitive tasks.
3. Document these utilities using mGenX cards + reference components:
 - Quickstart Cards for setup
 - “Command Reference” tables
 - Highlighted callouts for team learning
1. Present findings in an internal “Developer Experience (DX) Review.”

Outcome: Mac becomes the developer experience anchor and the go-to person for clarity and consistency.

Outcome: Mac becomes the *developer experience anchor* and the go-to person for clarity and consistency.



Phase 3 — Support Micro-Frontend Transition

Goal: Collaborate with cross-functional teams to enable micro-frontend adoption safely.

Action Steps

1. Partner with frontend developers to define deployment contracts via IaC or CI/CD templates.
2. Establish environment variable and routing conventions across repos.
3. Create a pilot migration for a single module and document the lessons learned.
4. Publish a markdown “RPM Platform Transition Playbook” using mGenX best practices.

Outcome: Establishes Mac as a cross-team bridge, linking platform reliability and frontend innovation.

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Tooling Definition Plan

Category	Tool / Practice	Purpose
Version Control & CI/CD	GitHub Actions / Jenkins	Unified build + deploy automation
IaC Management	Terraform Cloud + tfsec/tflint	Consistent provisioning & compliance
Developer Standards	RFC templates + mGenX docs	Shared, evolving documentation
Observability	Grafana + Loki/Promtail	Visual telemetry for infra & services
Local Developer Experience	Docker Compose + pre-commit hooks	Reproducible local setup

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Coaching Framework

The Discover → Design → Deliver Loop

Stage	Prompt	Purpose
■ Discover	“What feels messy right now?”	Identify bottlenecks or uncertainty
■ Design	“What tool or pattern could make it smoother?”	Co-create a small, testable idea
■ Deliver	“Let’s demo this next week.”	Build confidence through visible progress

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90-Day Coaching Roadmap

Month	Focus Area	Deliverables
Month 1	Infrastructure as Code Foundations	RFC + standardized Terraform repo
Month 2	Developer Enablement	mGenX markdown documentation + onboarding scripts
Month 3	Micro-Frontend Enablement	CI/CD templates + transition plan

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Development Goals Summary

Goal	Description	Milestone
■ IaC Ownership	Lead Terraform standardization across repos	RFC & module adoption
■ Platform Voice	Author platform docs using mGenX syntax	Internal site live
■■ Tooling Plan	Deliver 90-day rollout roadmap	Approved by tech lead
■ Cross-Team Collaboration	Support micro-frontend rollout	Pilot deployed



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