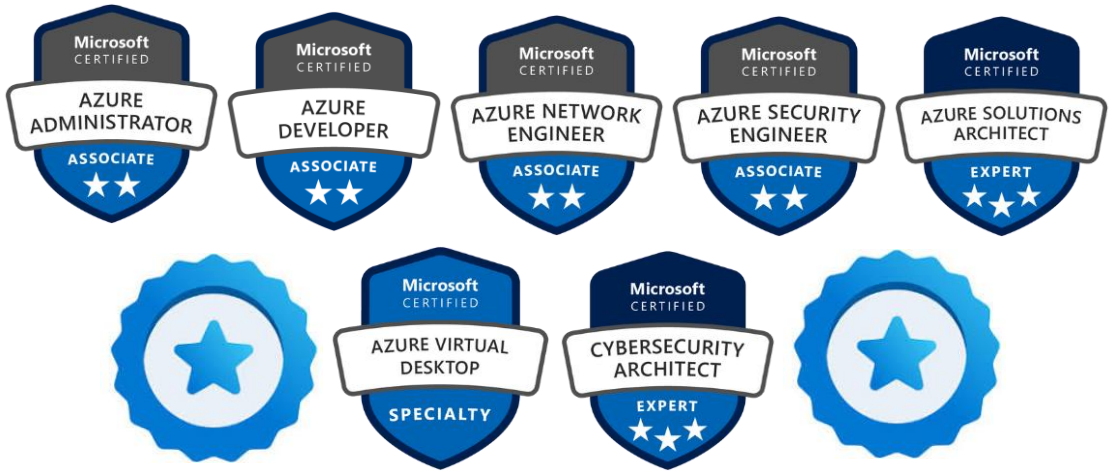
Microsoft Credentials

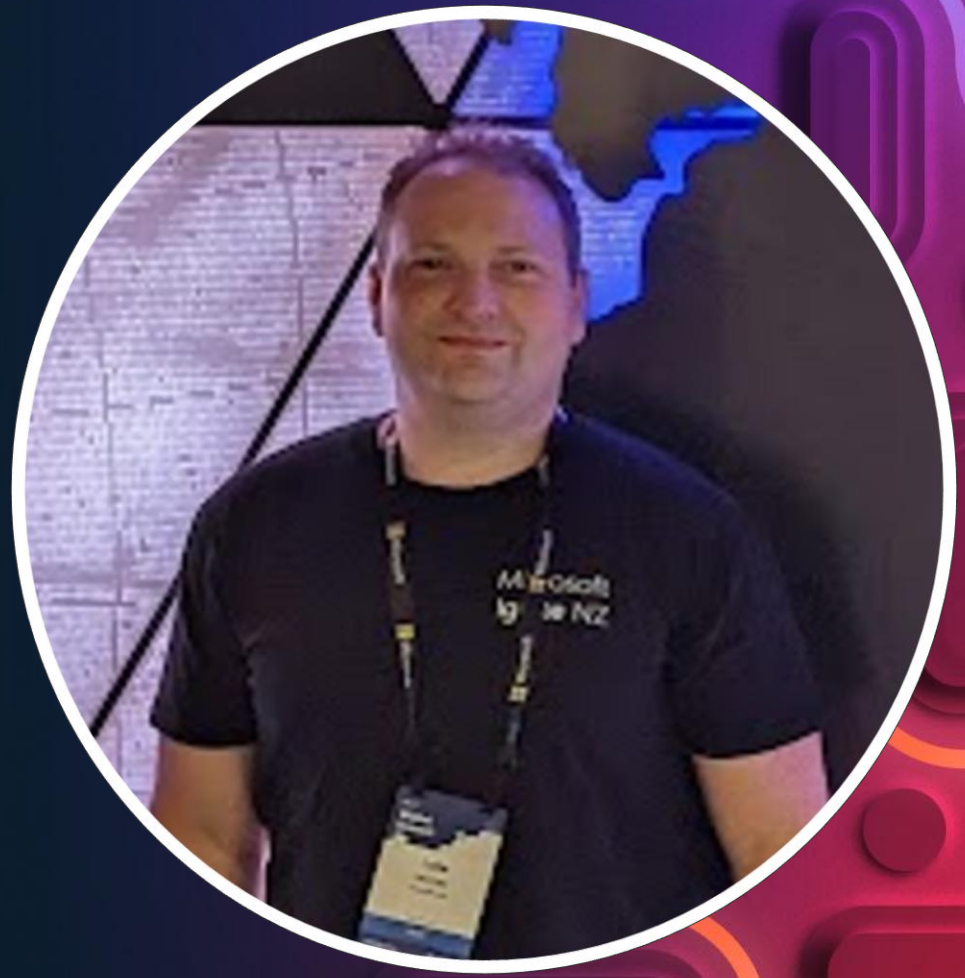
Hello!

Thank you for joining us today

Speaker: Luke Murray

Microsoft Learn Expert, Microsoft Azure MVP from Hamilton, New Zealand





https://x.com/lukemurraynz
https://bsky.app/profile/luke.geek.nz
https://www.linkedin.com/in/ljmurray/
https://luke.geek.nz/

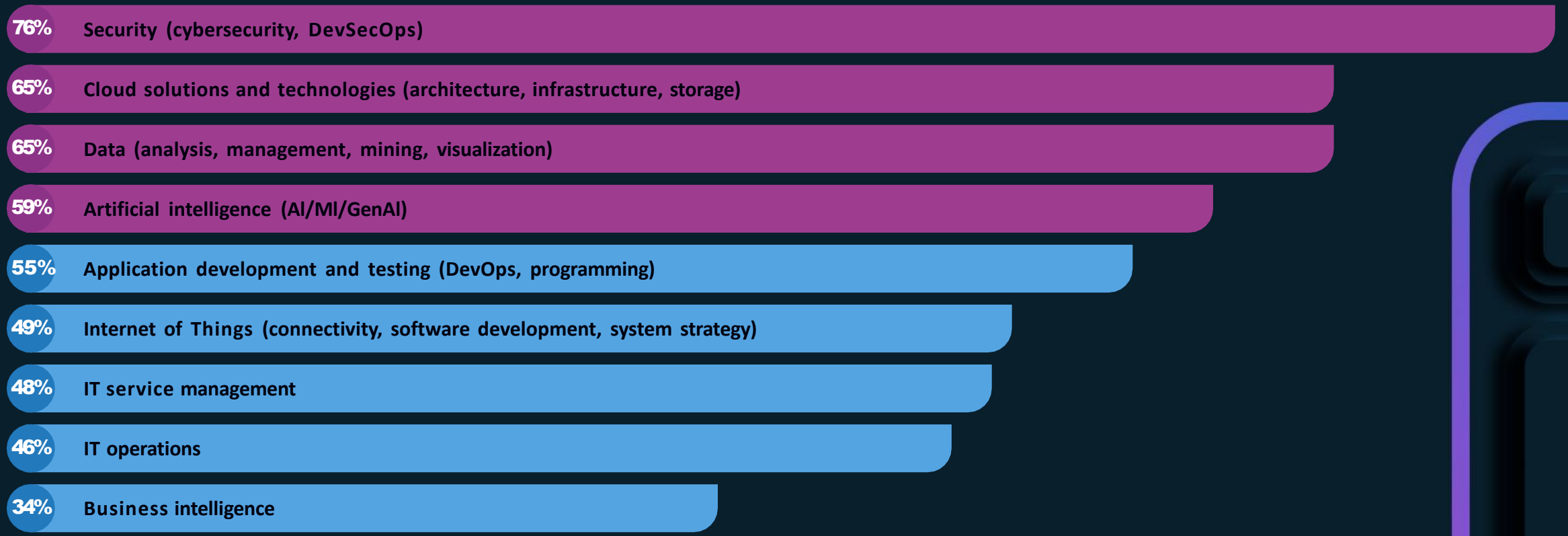
IDC predicts that by 2027, 90% of organizations will feel the pain of the widening IT skills shortage, costing some $5.5 trillion globally in losses caused by product delays, impaired competitiveness, quality issues,
missed revenue goals, and declining customer satisfaction.

- Organizational skill gaps are growing, too. To narrow the delta between the skills that companies need and the skills their people have, **organizations must shift toward skills-based hiring and a way to validate those skills**.
- If there's a silver lining, it's that **online training platforms and courses are increasingly popular,** driven by remote and hybrid work realities.
- **Coupling full role-based credentials with scenario-based credentials** can ensure that organizations have the necessary skills to remain competitive.

IDC
InfoBrief, sponsored by Microsoft
June 2024 | IDC #US52019124

Where to Start?

Security, cloud solutions, and AI are among the most in-demand skills. Respondents say they are also among the hardest to find and train for.



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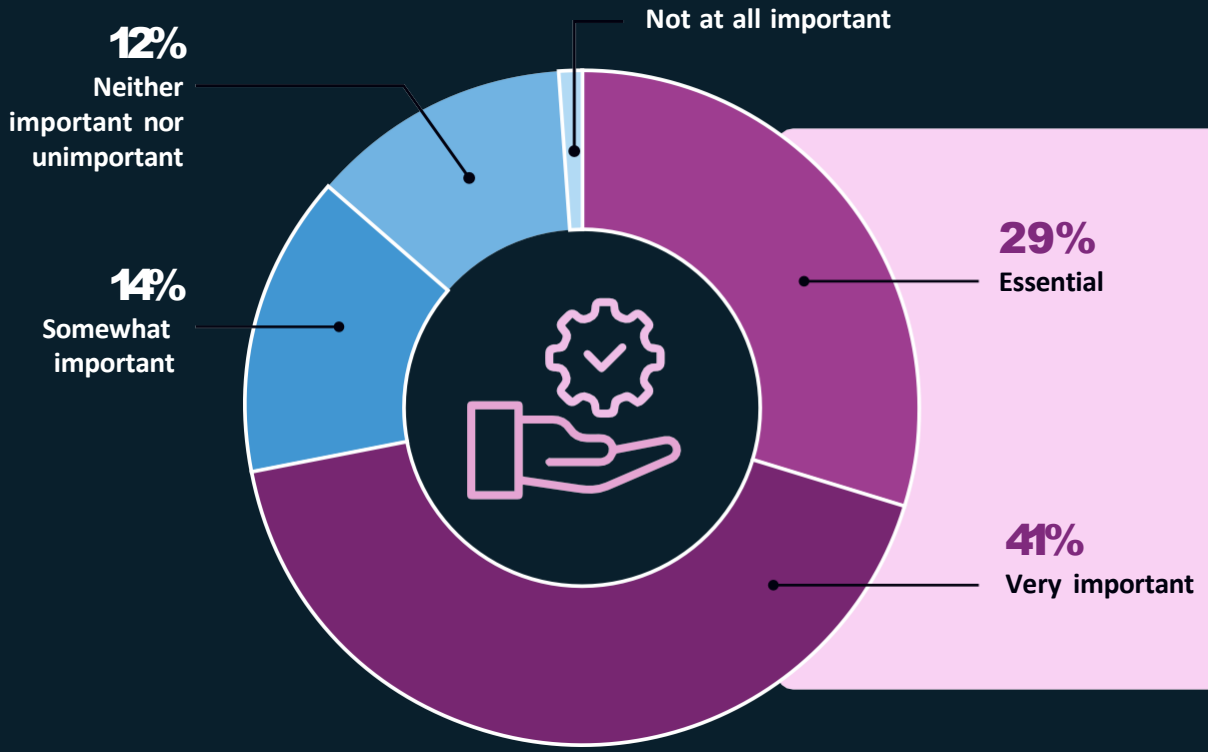
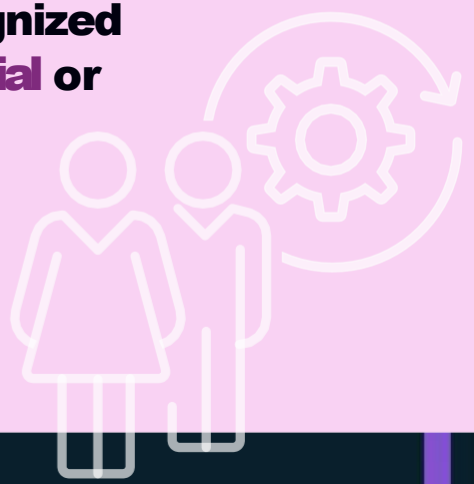
Credentials Matter

Organizations and their employees derive strong benefits from credentialing, whether it takes the form of full credentials or via micro-credentials.

How important is it that candidates for technical positions have credentials?



More than **70%** of organizations believe **industry-recognized credentials are essential or very important tools for skills training.**



IDC

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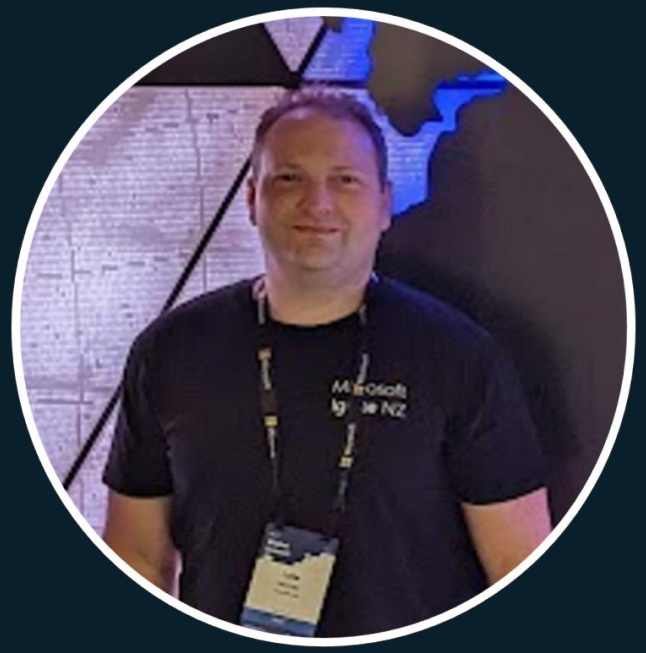


2002

- IT Technician

2013

- Service Desk

NZQA
NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

2014

- Enterprise Engineer (SysAdmin)

Microsoft Certified Professional
Microsoft
MCSA
Windows Server 2012
Earned 2016

Microsoft
Exam passed
Server Virtualization with Windows Server Hyper-V and System Center

2017

- Senior Engineer

Microsoft Certified
CYBERSECURITY ARCHITECT
EXPERT

Microsoft Certified
AZURE NETWORK ENGINEER
ASSOCIATE

Microsoft Certified
AZURE SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT
EXPERT

2017

- Technical Consultant

2021

Microsoft Certified
AZURE ADMINISTRATOR

Microsoft Certified
AZURE DEVELOPER
ASSOCIATE

Microsoft Certified
AZURE VIRTUAL DESKTOP
SPECIALTY

Microsoft Certified
AZURE SECURITY ENGINEER
ASSOCIATE

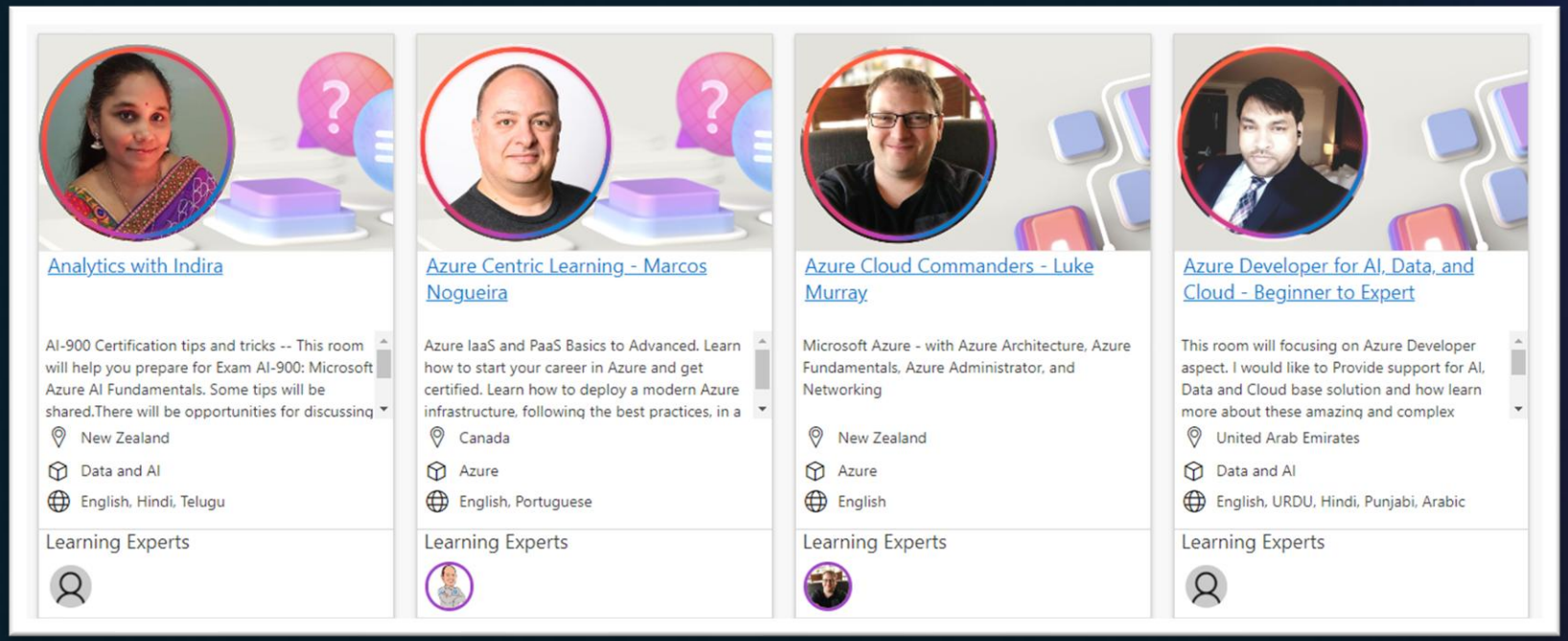
2022

- Senior Consultant

MVP

Azure Cloud Commanders

Microsoft Learning Room



Certificates have not only changed not only my career but also my life. Just getting the certs is not enough. You have to keep current and practice to stay relevant. Without all the work, certs are just "a piece of paper". And that's how it changed my life. I now read blogs, learn, whitepapers and books.

It helped me change my career to the Tech industry. That and a portfolio & blog.

Webinars are great, I attend as often as possible, it’s a good way to see the emerging trends in any industry.

It helps to proof to your potential employer you are qualified, but does not replace you showing that you’re qualified of delivering in the said position.

That’s my opinion on certification, it’s a nice to have, but don’t stop there, keep on yourself in the new technologies.

Microsoft Learning Community

Credential alternatives address goals, desired skills, and experience

Microsoft

Microsoft Applied Skills

Validates one specific skill

Project-based

Scenario-specific skills

Assessment via interactive lab experience

On-demand

Goal	Validates one specific skill	Validates broad technical proficiency
Context	Project-based	Role-based
Scope	Scenario-specific skills	Breadth of skills
Format	Assessment via interactive lab experience	Exam with interactive elements
Flexibility	On-demand	Scheduled

Microsoft Certifications

Validates broad technical proficiency

Role-based

Breadth of skills

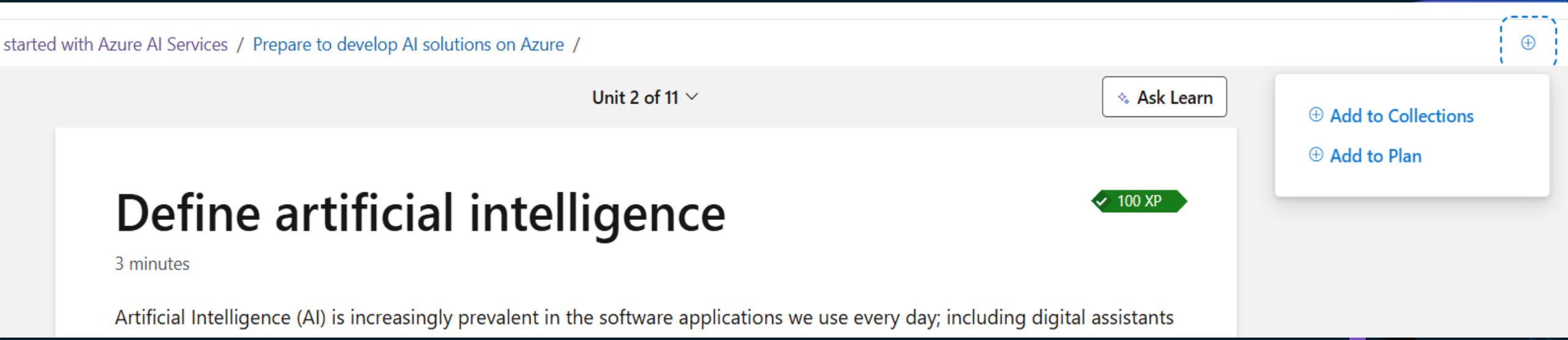
Exam with interactive elements

Scheduled

Microsoft

Microsoft Learn

Collections & Plans



Microsoft

Microsoft Learn

Collections & Plans

- Activity
- Training
- **Plans**
- Challenges
- Credentials
- Q&A

Plans

A plan allows learners to progress through a set of milestones to achieve learning outcomes. You can invite learners to your plan and track their progress.

AI-generated plans

We use AI to help you create a tailored learning plan that considers your unique needs and provides the most relevant content.

Create plan with AI

Microsoft Learn plans

To create a plan, go to your collections page and either select an existing collection or create a new collection. Then go to that collection's page and you can save that collection as a plan.

Create a plan

Thank you

^ Social Media

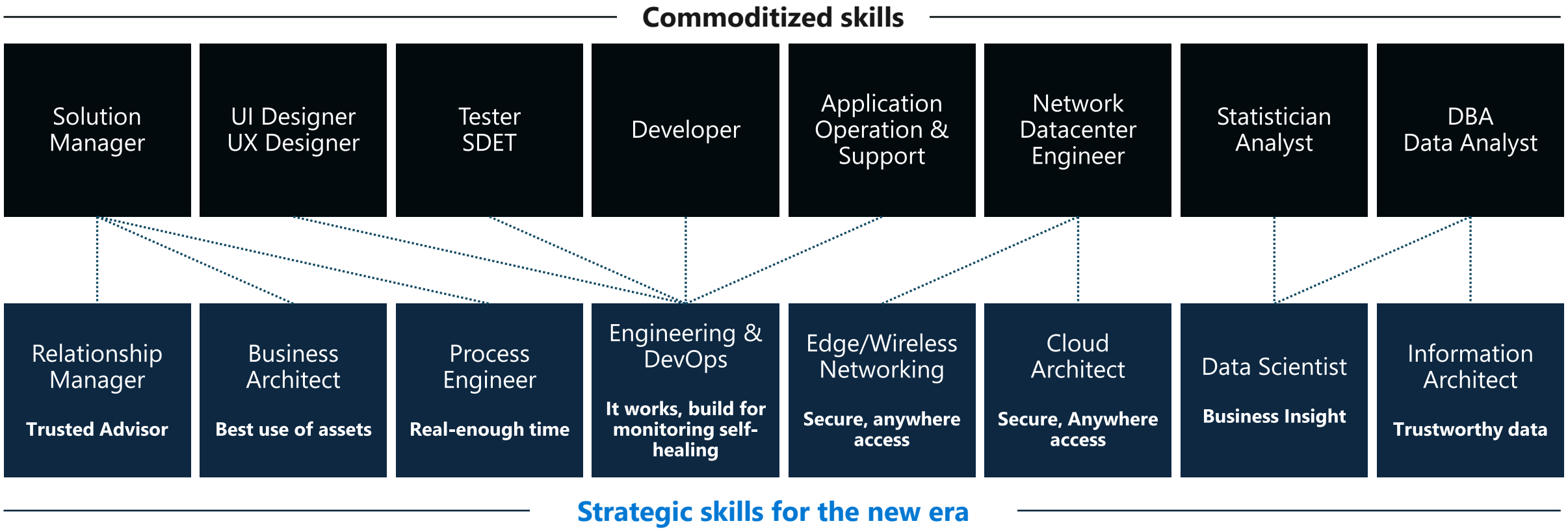
Resources

- Microsoft Learning Rooms
- Microsoft Practice Assessments
- Microsoft Learning (GitHub)
- Exam Sandbox
- What-the-Hack
- Exam Readiness Zone
- AWESOME-Azure-Architecture

https://www.humblebundle.com/books/microsoft-certification-prep-microsoft-press-and-pearson-books

Humble Bundle

Skills readiness plan



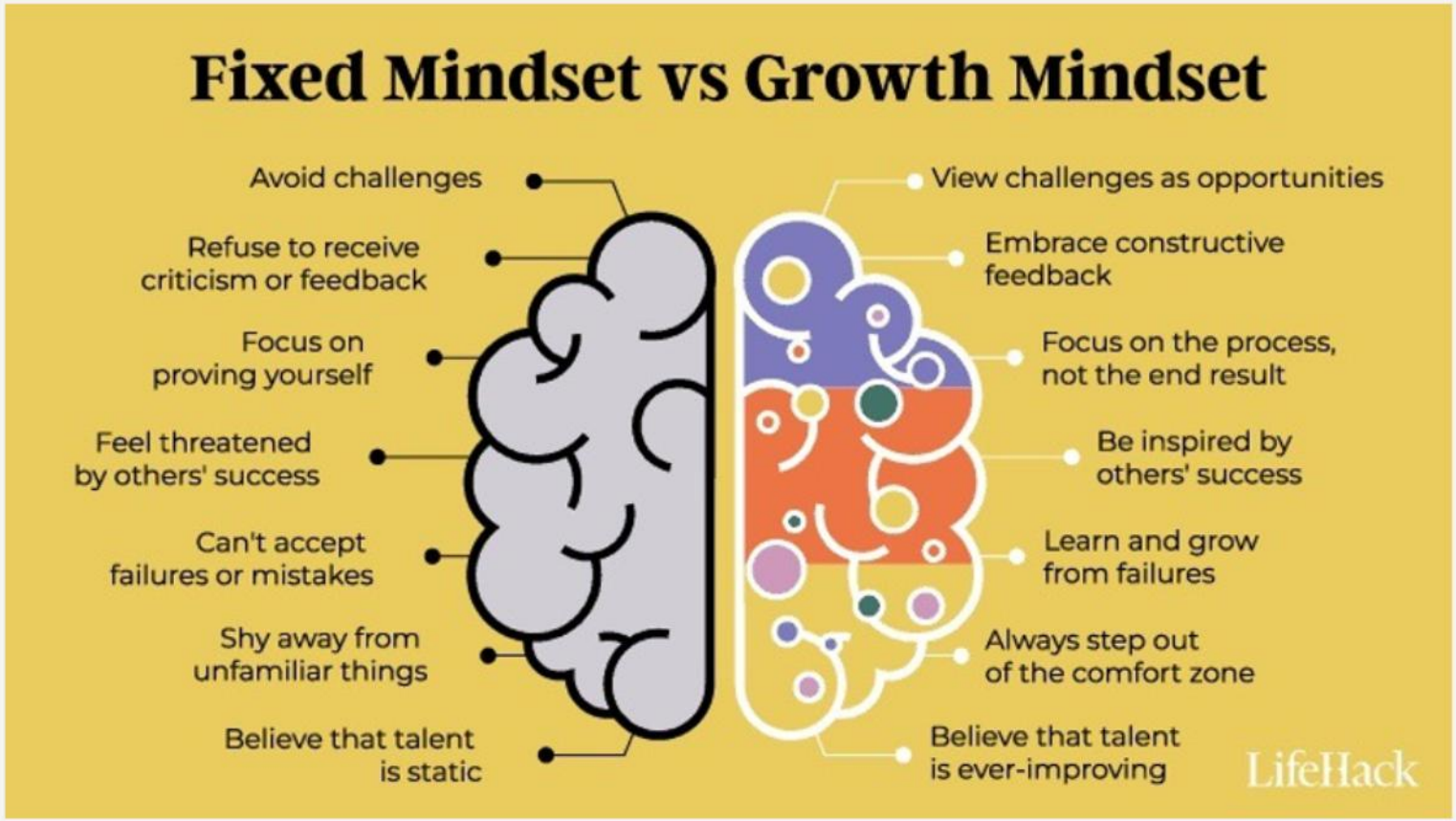
1. Identify the gaps
2. Look across teams
3. Create an org-wide learning plan

Microsoft and the growth mindset

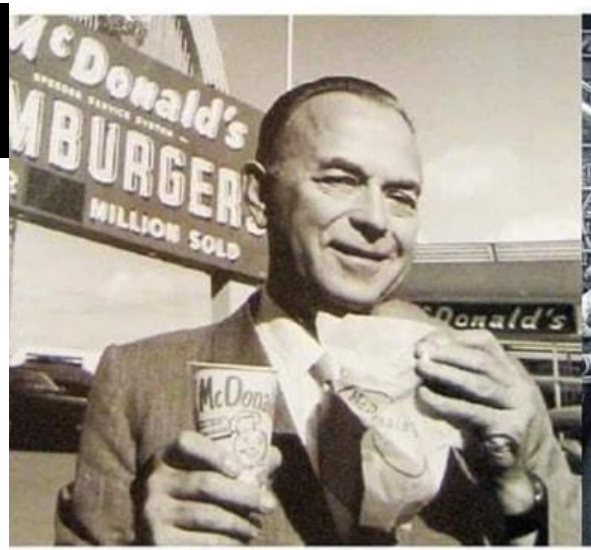
"Don't be a know-it-all.
Be a learn-it-all."

Satya Nadella, CEO, Microsoft

A great qoute from Satya Nadella that shows how Microsoft embraces the growth mindset approach. Simple and clear communication is important for instilling lasting changes

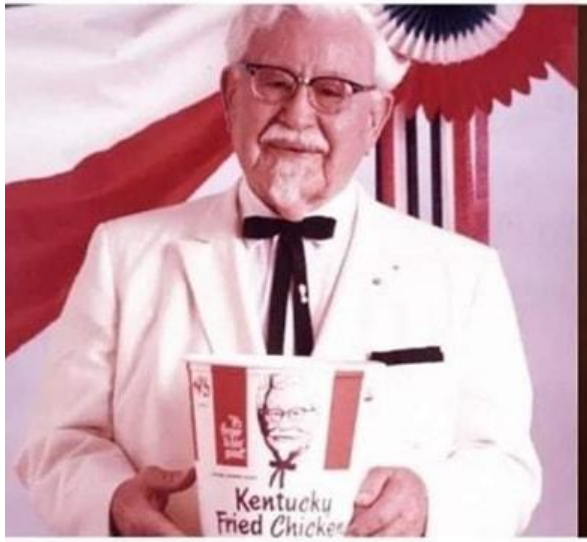


It’s never too late.



Ray Kroc -
Joined McDonald’s at 52

Henry Ford -
Started Ford at 40



Harland Sanders -
Started KFC at 65

Richard Samela -
Won an argument with his wife at 54

Goal not role

Passion

Network

Try learn fail

Be accountable

DEFINE	PREVENT	REPAIR
WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN IF YOU TAKE ACTION? GET SPECIFIC. DEFINE YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES. RATE 1-10 FOR IMPACT.	WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS COULD YOU TAKE TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THESE SITUATIONS HAPPENING? CONSIDER BIG AND SMALL ACTIONS	IF THIS SITUATION DOES HAPPEN, WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO DO TO GET BACK TO WHERE YOU ARE? (OR GET BACK ON THE "RIGHT TRACK"?)

https://mindfulambition.net/fear-setting-tim-ferriss/

Microsoft Skilling Universe

No cost | Fee-based

Microsoft

How do your learners prefer to learn?

Choose the right skilling approach for your team. Click any tile to learn more.

I want to assess where my skill level is	Provide skilling recommendations	Practice Assessments; Learning Partners; Connected Learning Experience (CLX)
I want to learn on my own time	Self-paced content	Self-paced learning; Documentation; LinkedIn Learning; Connected Learning Experience (CLX)
I want to watch and learn from others	On-demand video	Shows; LinkedIn Learning
I want live feedback	Instructor-led	Instructor-led training; Microsoft Virtual Training Days; Learning Partners; Blended Learning; Azure Technical Skilling Workshops
I want to learn in a fun way	Gamified	Cloud Games; Cloud Skills Challenge; 30 Days to Learn It
I want an interactive experience	Interactive learning	Cloud Workshops; Blended Learning; Azure Technical Skilling Workshops; Events
I want to prepare for a certification	Preparation	Exam readiness; Practice Assessments; Learning Partners
I want to validate my knowledge	Credentials	Certifications
I want to connect/learn from others	Community	Microsoft Learn Community; Q&A
I want a programmatic experience	Programs	Enterprise Skilling Initiative; Unified Workshops; Connected Learning Experience (CLX)
I want to accelerate my organizations digital transformation	Hub for innovation	MTC

https://www.festivetechcalendar.com/

Introduction

Sharpening your team's cloud skills begins here

Achieve your goals with the freedom and flexibility to build, manage, and deploy your applications anywhere. Use your preferred languages, frameworks, and infrastructure—even your own data center and other clouds—to solve challenges large and small. With help from Microsoft Azure, you have everything you need to build your next great solution.

Microsoft Learn supports IT pros, developers, and data and AI professionals to get the skills they need to cover all the aspects of digital transformation—managing on-premises, hybrid, or cloud infrastructure; innovating with the best-in class applications; and supporting apps and infrastructure with data and analytics, all with the proper security considerations.

The right journey leads to long-term growth

A map for the next milestone

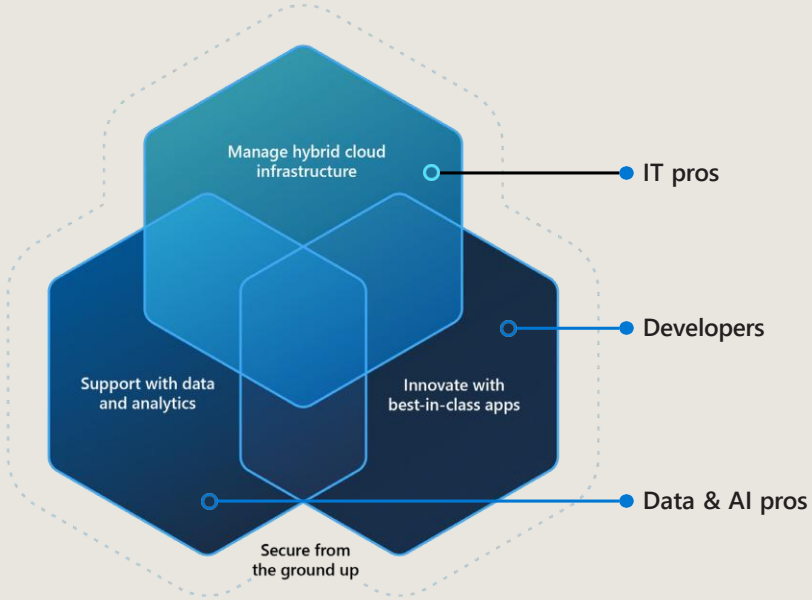
Use this guidebook to discover the recommended journey for you or your team. The following pages describe the recommended tracks learners can take o receive the maximum benefits of Azure training and certification.

Master the basics and beyond

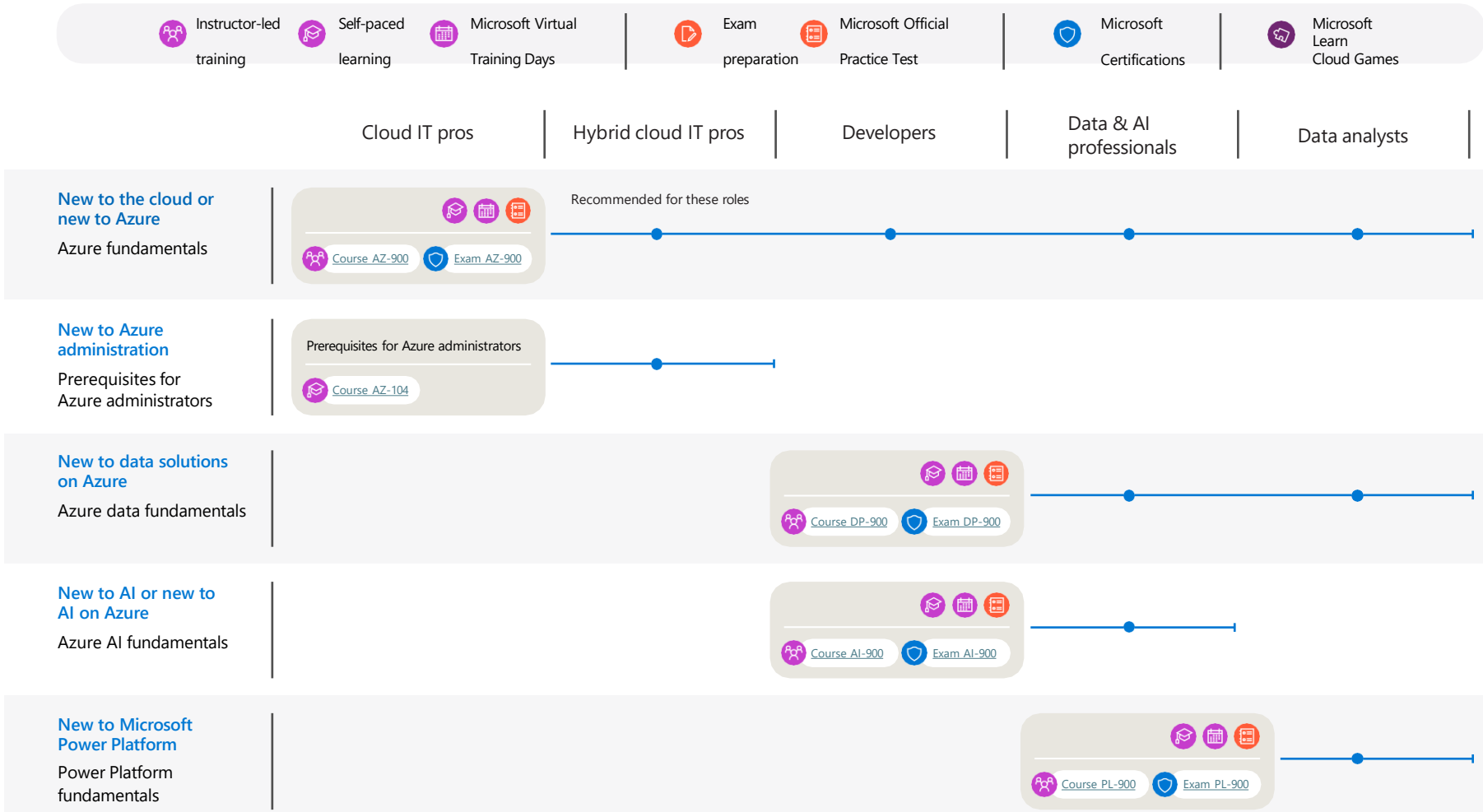
Each journey is designed to help managers and learners identify where to start and where to go based on their specific role or projects.

Everything you need in one place

After determining which journey is the right fit, find courses, training opportunities, and other important information that sets you or your team up for success.



Master the basics



Training journey for cloud IT pros

Grow in role

Instructor-led training | Self-paced learning | Microsoft Virtual Training Days | Exam preparation | Microsoft Official Practice Test | Microsoft Certifications | Microsoft Learn Cloud Games

Start here

Implement and manage secure cloud solutions
Azure administrator
Course AZ-104 | Exam AZ-104

Choose additional paths that best fit your role and projects

Implement and manage secure cloud solutions
Azure security engineer
Course AZ-500 | Exam AZ-500

Bring cloud agility on-premises
Azure Stack Hub operator
Course AZ-600 | Exam AZ-600

Manage SAP solutions on Azure
Azure for SAP workloads
Course AZ-120 | Exam AZ-120

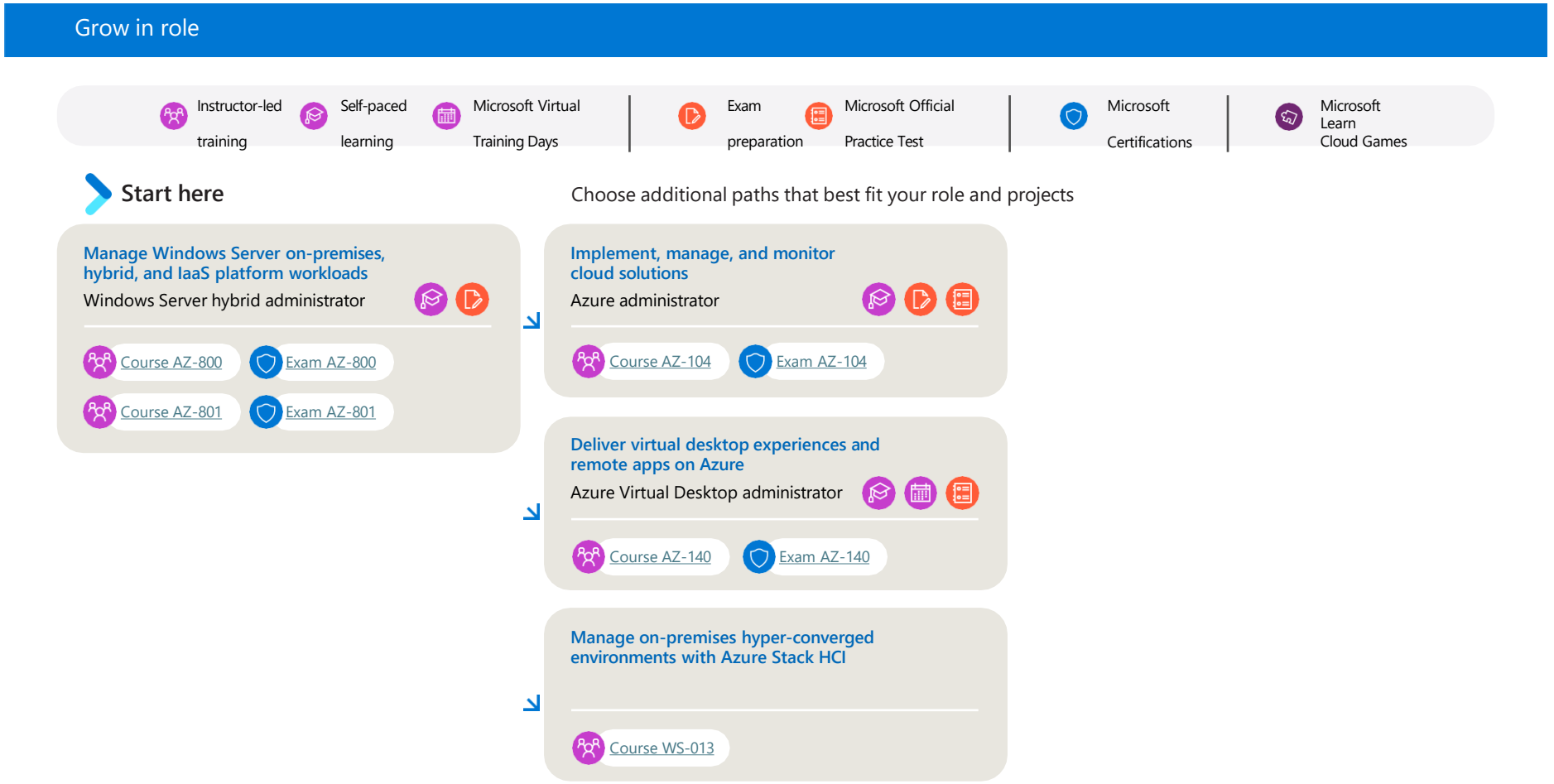
Deliver virtual desktop experiences and remote apps on Azure
Azure Virtual Desktop administrator
Course AZ-140 | Exam AZ-140

Implement and manage networking solutions
Azure network engineer
Course AZ-700 | Exam AZ-700

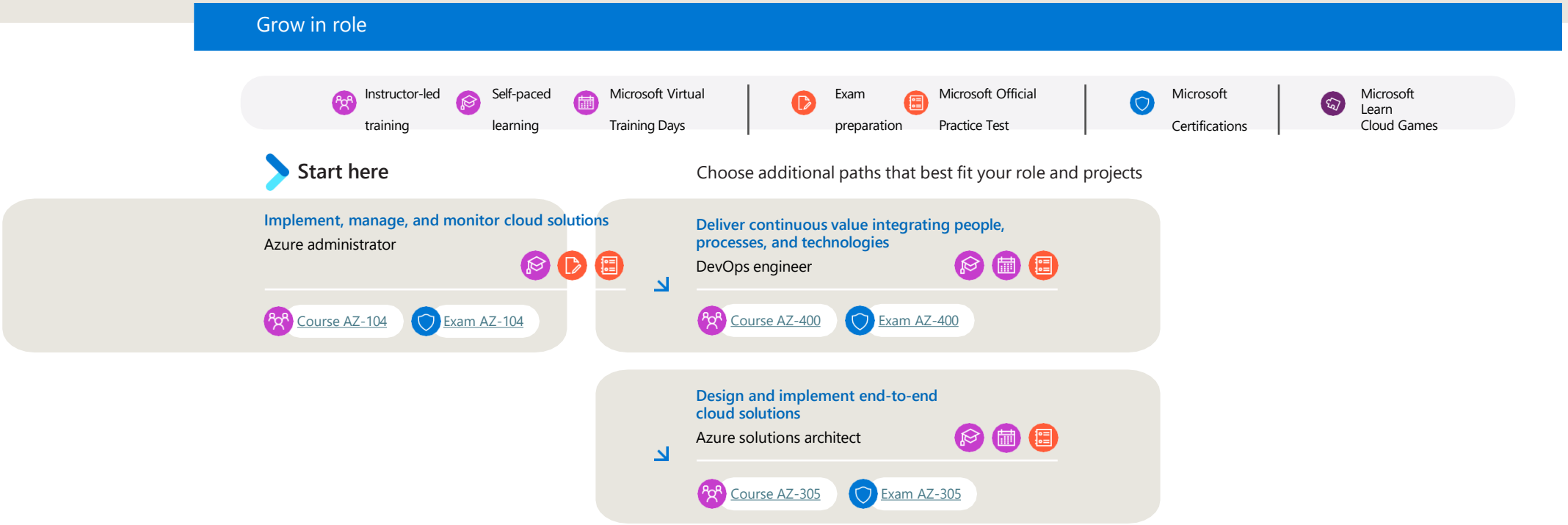
Troubleshoot networking and connectivity issues in Azure
Azure support engineer for connectivity
Exam AZ-720

Want to keep learning?
Check out the Security, Compliance, and Identity training Journey

Training journey for hybrid cloud IT pros



Training journey for cloud IT pros expert level



Training journey for developers

Grow in role

Instructor-led training | Self-paced learning | Microsoft Virtual Training Days | Exam preparation | Microsoft Official Practice Test | Microsoft Certifications | Microsoft Learn Cloud Games

Start here

Design, build, test, and maintain cloud apps

Azure developer

- Course AZ-204
- Modernize apps
- Exam AZ-204
- Cloud native apps

Choose additional paths that best fit your role and projects

Build, manage, and deploy AI solutions

Azure AI engineer

- Course AI-102
- Exam AI-102

Develop cloud and edge IoT solutions

Azure IoT developer

- Course AZ-220
- Exam AZ-220

Develop cloud-native apps that store and manage data

Azure Cosmos DB developer

- Course DP-420
- Exam DP-420

Deliver continuous value integrating people, processes, and technologies

DevOps engineer

- Course AZ-400
- Exam AZ-400

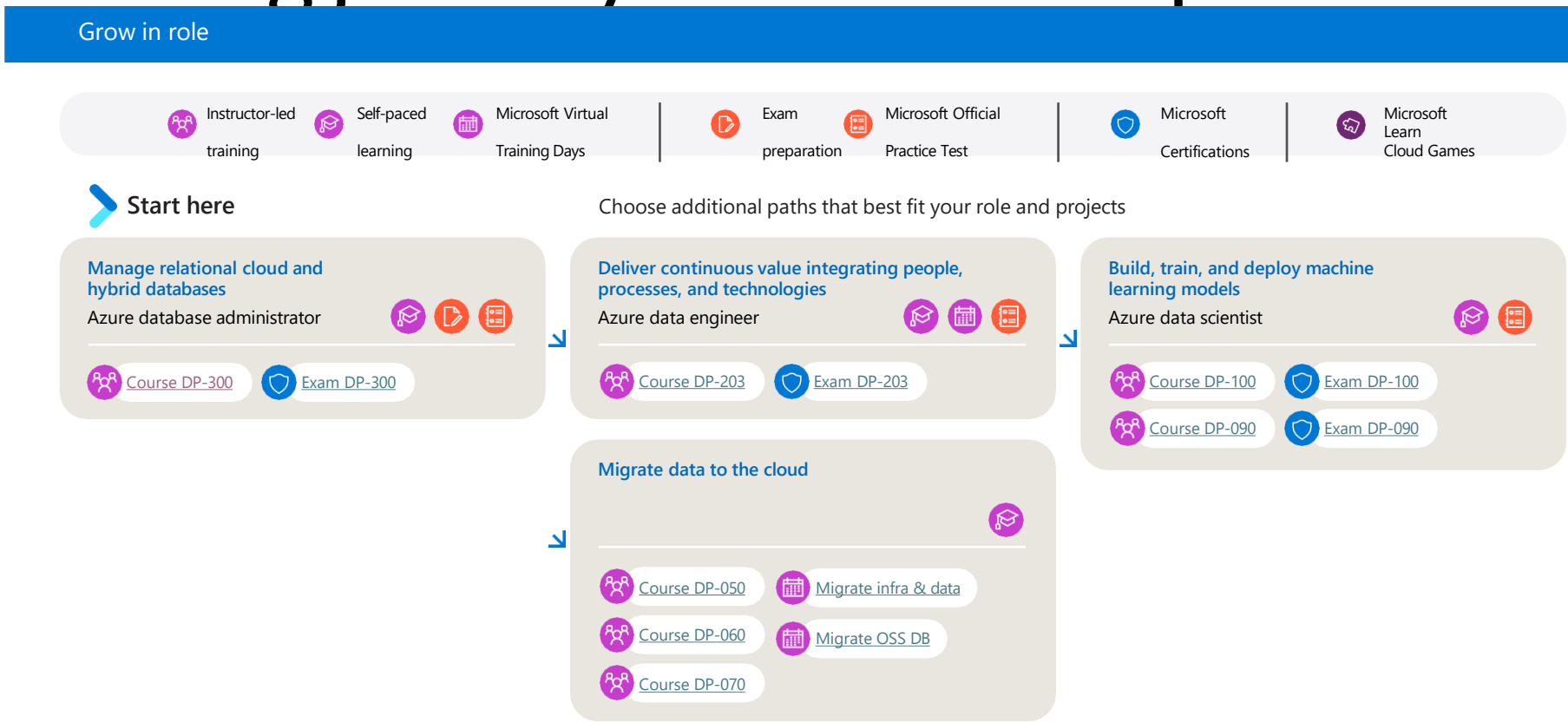
Migrate data to the cloud

- Course DP-050
- Migrate infra & data
- Course DP-060
- Migrate OSS DB
- Course DP-070

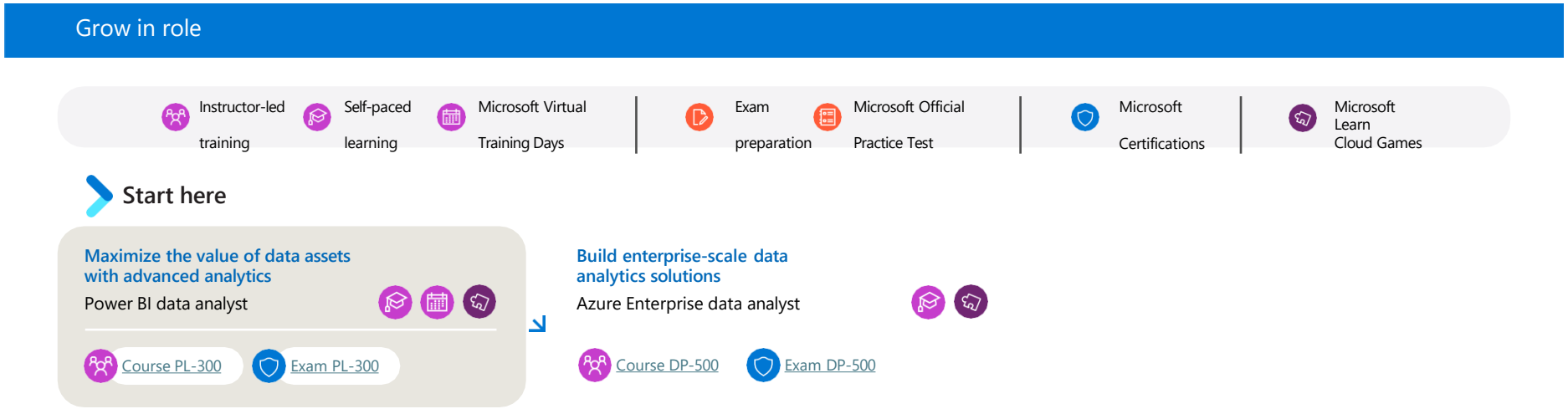
Want to keep learning?

Check out the Power Platform Training Journey

Training journey for data & AI professionals

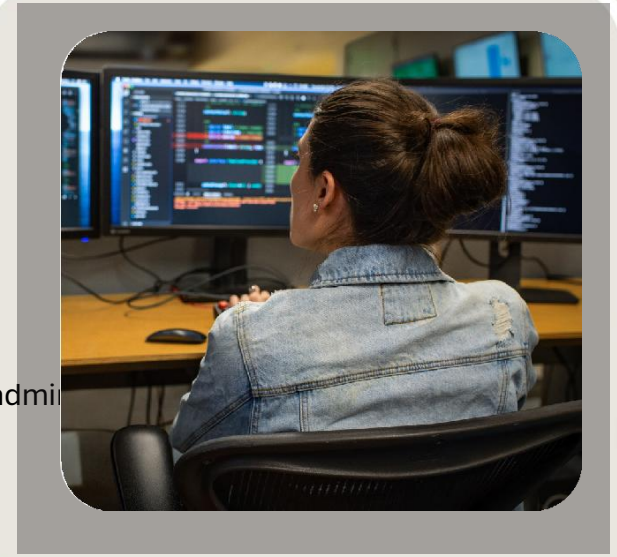


Training journey for data analysts



Microsoft Virtual Training Day events

- These are in-depth, virtual training events that guide you toward the many possibilities for career and organizational impact today and tomorrow. With weekly events to match every skill level, they offer an opportunity to grow your technical skills and to gain the confidence to navigate what's ahead.



- **Microsoft Azure Virtual Training Days**
  - **Azure Fundamentals** > aligned to Exam AZ-900 skills
  - **Azure AI Fundamentals** > aligned to Exam AI-900 skills
  - **Azure Data Fundamentals** > aligned to Exam DP-900 skills
  - **Modernize .NET Apps** > recommended for Azure developers
  - **Linux OSS Database Migration** > recommended for Azure database admi
  - **Migrating On-Premises Infrastructure and Data** > recommended for Azure database administrators
  - **Azure Virtual Desktop** > recommended for Azure Virtual Desktop administrators
  - **DevOps with GitHub** > recommended for DevOps engineers
  - **Well-Architected** > recommended for Azure solution architects
  - **Deliver Integrated Analytics with Azure Synapse** > recommended for Azure data engineers
  - **Implementing Hybrid Infrastructure** > recommended for Windows Server hybrid administrators
  - **Cloud Native Apps** > recommended for Azure developers

- Find and register for Microsoft Azure Virtual Training Days