USSF Software Development Immersive Ask-Me-Anything, 2 Oct 2020

Q: As an Air Force contractor, do I qualify for this program?
A: This particular one, no. However, there is nothing stopping you from directly reaching out to Galvanize on a contractor to contractor level.

Q: It appears this program is 13 weeks of training followed by 13 weeks of coding with a unit. What unit will participants be part of?
A: A software factory like Space CAMP or Platform One, or with an ABMS product team (for this particular cohort).

Q: Do you have any RPA or MPA days for a reservist?
A: No.

Q: I'm currently in a DO position and its duties prohibit being away for 6 months for Supra Coders.
A: The program is not meant to put undue strain on your unit. There will be other offerings in the future and possible part-time classes. Follow Tron, Airmen Coders, Space CAMP, and Platform One on LinkedIn!

Q: A number of the modules for the prep work of this program included items that were specific to the Mac OS. I currently only have a Windows machine. Will there be aspects of this course requiring a specific operating system?
A: The course is more friendly to Macs, but there are always work-arounds for Windows.

Q: What level of coding experience/expertise are students expected to have going into the program?
A: The prep work and pre-assessment give a good indication of the level of proficiency needed to begin the class.

Q: At my Delta, we're already looking at building some applications for use in operations and administration. For the second 12 weeks, can we use that time to help build a new application for our Deltas?
A: Maybe, there is flexibility for the follow-on and will have to be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Besides the prep work is there anything else to help you get ready for the assessment?
A: There are lots of great youtube tutorials. The best topics to focus on are in the pre-work.

Q: Will the classes be full day, synchronous? Is there any flexibility if folks have kids at home due to COVID school issues?
A: The classes are full-day synchronous but the instructors are understanding and willing to help students catch back up if some instruction is missed.

Q: Aside from the assessment, what is the program selection criteria?
A: Commander approval, and date of completed application.

Q: How much of the program will be live VTC classes vs learning and coding on your own?
A: There is a balance between instructions and exercises/projects.

Q: What is the leave policy during the 6 month program. Are participants able to work from non-local locations, if necessary?
A: You may take leave during the program, which is completely virtual.

Q: When can we expect to see another application window?
A: This cohort (start date Oct 19) application window is open through October 7th, and the next cohort of "Aimen Coders" is open now until October 22nd (start date Nov 9).

Q: Are there any additional recommendations needed from commanders besides the boiler plate response?
A: No

Q: Is it possible to get the courseware and applications even if I'm not able to attend SupraCoders?
A: Currently no.

Q: Who does your Commander email with approval?
A: supra.coders@afwerx.af.mil

Q: Will class members be actually sent tdy for the final 3 months or just work from our current location?
A: The entire program is virtual.

Q: How many applicants will be accepted into the cohort?
A: No more than 24.

Q: Is there a minimum expected score for the pre-assessment or is it just a rack/stack method?
A: We have a defined pass/fail threshold based on past cohorts. In general, the pre-assessment has been a good indicator of success in the program.

Q: What Grade/Rank is this class targeting?
A: Any!

Q: Once someone completes the course what is the intent?
A: We are tracking everyone who completes the course for opportunities for software development positions, special duty identifiers, or any other career path options that become available. As the Space Force and this program are so new, talent management for "Supra Coders" is still being figured out.

Q: If we do not get selected for this first cohort/first assessment, will we be able to reapply in the future? If I do not have JavaScript mastery right now, should I still try for this first cohort? Or would it be wiser to master JavaScript and reapply in the future?
A: There is no harm in applying now, and you are welcome to apply again for future offerings!

Q: Is there any specific AFSCs you are looking for in the program or are all AFSCs welcome?
A: All are welcome!

Q: My assessment shows pending, what do I do next?
A: Make sure your survey is complete and your commander has emailed their release so that your application can be reviewed!

Q: I have a degree in Computer engineering, but devops was not part of my degree. Is this class still useful for someone who already knows how to program?
A: Absolutely! You will learn many new things specific to DevSecOps, including how to write accredited code to be deployed on military networks through Platform One CI/CD pipelines!

Q: With this program being a stepping stone for future jobs in the USSF/USAF, Is there any timeline for when the Space Force will be opening up its software developer positions as full time duty positions? Will members from the AF be able to transfer from their previous AFSCs be able to transfer to these billets?
A: This is the dream, but we are still working on getting to this point. No timelines yet.

Q: Do we get any notification once our application is submitted properly, to ensure we aren't missing any steps?
A: If you aren't sure, please reach out to supra.coders@afwerx.af.mil

Q: Will the follow-on allow you to still maintain minimums back at your job?
A: The entire six months is intended to be full-time.

Q: What is the link to the recorded AMA?
A:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JYrOThHg1JgPuZ6hqcNNug9O8lMmysRx3JLcL2As2sYbwk6VNUT BJWnDhK01Tk7q.DUPgkbGYvN6mPA2h