MSP Starter Kit 2010

Please read each section very carefully. Write to newmsp@microsoft.com for questions only if you don't find your answers here.

Contents

Section 1: Getting Started

1. **Am I now a part of the MSP Global brigade?**
   Congratulations on being selected as a Microsoft Student Partner. This makes you very special and gives you the power to change the world as you are now part of a truly global community of passionate and enthusiastic students who are dedicated towards spreading the power of technology.

2. **Do I get any form of recognition for being an MSP?**
   To differentiate you from your friends and colleagues and to recognize your special status as an MSP, you will receive a soft copy of your Welcome Letter via email before 12th November 2010.

3. **What is www.microsoftstudentpartners.com and what do I get from there?**
   This is an exclusive portal for MSPs from all over the world. You will get access to this portal later in November. Through this portal, you will be able to:
   - Interact with other MSPs in India and other countries
   - Get technical resources
   - Submit Activities and earn points for the same

4. **What is BPOS and what do I get from there?**
   BPOS stands for Business Productivity Online Services. You will get access to this later in November. Through BPOS, you will get access to:
   - Exchange Online with personalized email address: alias@msptechrep.com
   - SharePoint Online
   - Office Communications Online
   - Office LiveMeeting.

5. **What is probation period? Am I not a permanent MSP?**
   The motto of a Microsoft Student Partner is "Innovate, Collaborate and Celebrate". A good MSP is one who continually strives for perfection by doing new and exciting things in a collaborative and inclusive manner. A good MSP learns and teaches other students to appreciate the power of technology. Hence to prepare you to become a good MSP, we will keep you on **probation** for a certain period of time. **This is the time when you have to demonstrate your commitment**. After successful completion of your probation period, you will become eligible to start receiving the rest of the MSP benefits & opportunities.
   Important: In case you fail to complete the tasks in your probation period successfully by **28th Jan 2011**, you are at risk of being removed from the MSP program.

6. **Whom do I contact at Microsoft for any queries?**
   Newly selected MSPs should direct their queries to newmsp@microsoft.com, while existing MSPs can send to studpart@microsoft.com. After you get your alias@msptechrep.com, only use that during email communication with us.

7. **Should I resend an email if it is not replied within 24 hours?**
No. We try our best to resolve your queries as soon as humanly possible. We respond to over 95% of incoming email (that require a response) within 5 working days. Adding "Urgent" or "Very important" in the subject line and resending the email again & again will not hasten the reply. Please have patience.

Section 2: Activities

1. **What is an MSP Activity?**
An MSP activity is a task from a set of pre-defined options on www.microsoftstudentpartners.com.

2. **What activities am I supposed to do during my Probation?**
Important: During the Probation period, you have to (Conduct 3 Priority Tech sessions) AND (Create a Windows Phone 7 application OR Windows Azure application).

3. **Where do I get the resources for building the Windows Phone 7 or Windows Azure app?**
   - WP7 Resources: http://channel9.msdn.com/Learn/Courses/WP7TrainingKit
   - Windows Azure Resources: http://channel9.msdn.com/Learn/Courses/Azure

4. **My college will be closed for exams and holidays in Nov and Dec. How will I conduct my probation activities?**
We have given you over 3 months in which you have to do 3 Priority Tech sessions and build a Windows Azure or Windows Phone 7 app- which is enough time for these activities. In case your college is closed, you should target other colleges where there are no MSPs. You can also conduct sessions in non-engineering colleges, like BCA, B.Sc. etc.

5. **Are there other activities that I can perform as well?**
The full list of activities is available on www.microsoftstudentpartners.com. Consider conducting those only after successfully completing your probation activities. An indicative set of activities is also listed in the MSP Open Days PowerPoint.

6. **What are Priority Tech sessions?**
Priority Tech sessions are based on the most important tech topics for the academic year. These topics are selected based on industry trends. Each session has to be of minimum one hour duration with minimum attendance of 50 students.

   The Priority technologies for this year are:
   - Web Technologies (ASP.NET &/or WebMatrix)
   - Cloud Computing (Windows Azure)
   - Windows Phone 7 (Silverlight &/or, XNA)
   - Client Technologies (Windows 7 App Dev &/or IE9)

7. **Do I need to write mails to newmsp@microsoft.com before & after every activity that I do?**
You do not need to write mails to newmsp@microsoft.com for each activity. After you get access to www.microsoftstudentpartners.com later in November, you can submit your activities along with the necessary proof directly on that website.

8. **How do I tell you that I have done a certain activity/what proof needs to be given for each activity?**
For each activity that you do as part of your responsibility as an MSP, you have to submit it.
After you get access to www.microsoftstudentpartners.com later in November, you can submit your activities along with the necessary proof directly on that website.

   For every priority session that you conduct, you need to collect the following proof:
   - At least 3 photographs clearly showing the audience & you as the presenter of a particular topic in the same frame.
   - Excel list of attendees with name, email, gender, college and expected year of graduation.
   - Scanned copy of a letter from a faculty-member with their contact information & designation stating that you have conducted the session with Topic, Date, Duration & Location.

   Important: This also applies for other Tech Session activities that you submit.
   If you do not submit an activity with proper proof, it will be rejected, after which you will need to resubmit it with appropriate proof.

9. **Can I conduct my MSP activities in other colleges?**
If you wish to deliver sessions at other colleges, try & choose those which do not have an MSP. Also, keep the following in mind:
   - Go through proper channels
   - Take prior permission from the college authorities
   - If there is an MSP in that college, you will have to coordinate with him/her for your activity

10. **Will I be paid by Microsoft for printing of the certificates which I give in my sessions?**
No. Giving certificates to your attendees is a voluntary activity. It is your decision whether you want to give the certificates or not. Microsoft will not pay for the printing of these certificates.

11. **Can I get goodies from Microsoft for conducting my events?**
We don't send goodies for small sessions or small events. However, if you are planning a big event with a huge audience (> 500 students) and working in collaboration with the other MSPs from your city, then we can consider sending you some goodies to be given away during the event. Please write to us at least a month before conducting these large activities.

12. **Can I take sessions in school?**
Yes, you can take Digital Literacy sessions in schools. However, the majority of your tech sessions should be for students pursuing a Bachelor/Master Degree or Diploma course.

13. **If I want to organize a big event, what should I do?**
   - Get in touch with other MSPs in your college/city. Having a team of people will help you manage better.
   - Look for external sponsors who will fund your event. The attendees should not be charged.
   - Send newmsp@microsoft.com a detailed event agenda and list of sponsors (if any) a week (or earlier) before the event.

14. **Can I blog/publicize my sessions?**
We strongly suggest you do so. It will help you gain confidence and visibility as an MSP.

15. **How can I invite a speaker from Microsoft for my event?**
While we will try our best to arrange a Microsoft speaker, we cannot always make it happen.
Following are the basic pre-requisites that need to be fulfilled before such a request is considered:
   - Minimum 500 attendees expected.
   - At least a half-day event with 3 sessions (2 sessions delivered by either MSPs or other speakers).
   - Event proposal along with the speaker request sent to newmsp@microsoft.com at least 1 month in advance.
   - **Important**: Please do not reach out to any MS Employees on your own. Always send an email to newmsp@microsoft.com and we will connect with the relevant people.

16. **I conducted many activities before getting selected as an MSP. Will they be considered as an MSP activity?**
No. Any activities conducted before being selected as an MSP will not be considered.

17. **Can I invite MSPs from other colleges to do a session in my college?**
Yes you can. However- please note that the points will be given to the Speaker, not the organizer.

18. **Can I conduct more than 1 tech session in a single day?**
Yes you can. But you have to meet the following requirements:
   - Not more than 3 different topics in 1 day.
   - Not same topic in same college more than 3 times a month.
   - Minimum 50 attendees per session
   - Minimum 1 hour duration per session

19. **Can I use the Microsoft corporate logo for my events/activities?**
No, you cannot use the Microsoft logo. You can use the Microsoft Student Partners logo.

20. **Can I charge students for attending sessions/events?**
No. If you do this it will be considered as a violation of the code of conduct.

Section 3: Other Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Am I a MSP forever?**
The typical tenure is for 1 academic year (subject to successful completion of probation). Your status as an MSP will be under constant supervision. You can be removed from the program if your activity levels are not as per expectations or if you have violated the Confidentiality and Code of Conduct Agreement. If you maintain tolerable activity levels through the course of the year, your MSP status will be renewed in the next academic year. Of course, after you complete your course, your tenure as an MSP ends. If you enroll into a Master's degree course in India shortly after completing your Graduation & would like to continue as an MSP, you need to inform us as quickly as possible.

2. **How do I ensure that I remain an MSP?**
First of all, you have to ensure that you complete your probation successfully before the deadline. Besides that, a tolerable activity level is an average of at least 1 tech session per month in this academic year (i.e. 8 tech sessions for new MSPs & 12 tech sessions for existing MSPs until 30th June 2011).

3. **How do I prove it to my college that I have been selected as an MSP?**
You shall receive a softcopy of your Welcome Letter. You can take a print out and submit the same to your college.

4. **When will I get my welcome Kit? What will it contain?**
   As mentioned, you are on probation as of now. Other benefits (like the Welcome Kit which includes an ID Card) will get dispatched between Feb-March if you clear the probation.

5. **How do I know who the other MSPs are from my region?**
   A complete list including the new and existing MSPs will be available on www.microsoftstudentpartners.com.
   If you attended the MSP Open Days in any of the cities, you might have met some senior MSPs from your college/city.
   You will also be able to interact with other MSPs through the following:
   - Public Profile information on www.microsoftstudentpartners.com (Dec 2010)
   - Forums on www.microsoftstudentpartners.com (Jan 2011)

6. **Will I get paid for being an MSP?**
   No. The MSP program is a **voluntary** program. We have selected you because you showed your passion for technology, and not your interest in getting incentives. However, we do provide a wide range of benefits to active MSPs.

7. **Will my faculty be informed about me being selected as a MSP?**
   Based on the Faculty contact information that you submitted, we will inform your faculty about your selection as an MSP and about the MSP Program. This will be done before 12th Nov 2010.

8. **What is Microsoft Students to Business?**
   S2B is a program which aims at connecting students with Microsoft partners, customers and organizations throughout India, enabling them to get opportunities for internships, live projects, part-time projects & even jobs. Currently there are over 300 employers with over 100 projects on the portal.

9. **What is DreamSpark Yatra? Will it be organized this year also?**
   DreamSpark Yatra is an initiative driven by the Microsoft India Academic team with the objective of enabling MSPs across the country to conduct events in over 100 locations in 100 days, thereby making students from those locations aware of the latest technology trends. These events were driven and conducted by MSPs. A typical DreamSpark Yatra consists of TechTalks, Demos and interactive sessions. This year, DreamSpark Yatra will occur from Feb - May 2011. Look out for the DreamSpark Yatra digital toolkit in Dec 2010.

Cheers,
MSP India Team