Associate Solution Architect of IBM Cloud Pak for Data Learning path

Identify core competencies of a Solution Architect of Cloud Pak for Data

The IBM Cloud Pak for Data Solution Architect is a person who can design, plan, and architect a cloud solution. They can do this with limited assistance from support, documentation, and relevant subject matter experts.  
  
Key areas of competency include:

* Knowledge of Cloud Pak for Data concepts and architectural principles.
* The ability to evaluate customers' current state and then architect a Cloud Pak for Data solution, including ways to collect, organize, and analyze data, and to infuse AI insights.
* Provide solution recommendations based on industry best practices.

## Architecting a solution illustrated

The Cloud Pak for Data platform is designed for integration. IBM provides a collection of Industry Accelerators that showcase this integration. The accelerators cover a wide spectrum of applications land and can help you to get started with your own project.  Go to the [IBM Accelerator Catalog](https://community.ibm.com/accelerators/?context=analytics&type=Cloud%20Pak%20for%20Data%20industry) and browse the collection to see whether you can use an industry accelerator for your own work

The industry accelerators demonstrate that you will be able to build a solution with standard functions of the Cloud Pak for Data platform. However, sometimes you will need to be creative, as in the following example.

To set the stage, you can use Watson Assistant to build a chatbot, which is a popular application in call centers. Watson Assistant runs on Cloud Pak for Data as a service.  Watson Assistant "answers" questions by implementing a machine learning model. You can use Watson OpenScale, another Watson service to evaluate machine learning models in terms of explainability (among others).  
  
This article shows how Watson Assistant and Watson OpenScale are integrated to explain how Watson Assistant arrives at its answers.

Deployment of Cloud Pak for Data in this Learning Path

IBM Cloud Pak for Data can be deployed in three different ways:

* **Cloud Pak for Data on-premises**: A client-managed software platform that runs on any cloud.
* **Cloud Pak for Data as a Service**: A “pay-as-you go” subscription model for a starter set of IBM Cloud Pak for Data services, fully managed on IBM Cloud infrastructure
* **Cloud Pak for Data System**: A pre-configured, hyper-converged system that combines storage, computes networking, and software and reduces private cloud deployment times to a matter of hours.

Throughout this Learning Path, Cloud Pak for Data on-premises will be the platform of interest. For example, when discussing the Cloud Pak for Data architecture, it will be the architecture as deployed on Cloud Pak for Data on-premises. Likewise, a particular service, for example, Watson Machine Learning, will be discussed as it is provisioned for Cloud Pak for Data on-premises.