Microsoft

Microsoft Apprenticeship Blueprint

For employers

Microsoft Apprenticeship Network

Introduction

Apprenticeship standards are written by employers for employers, but sometimes it can feel like you need to be an expert to get the training programmes you want. The Microsoft Apprenticeship Blueprint is a guide to help you understand the types of roles that a standard aligns to. If you need to grow Microsoft skills in your business, the Microsoft Apprenticeship Blueprint can help you work with an apprentice provider to create programmes that suit your requirements.

Standards

01

Information Communication Technician
Level 3

Currently this apprenticeship standard is in preview and is waiting for funding band sign off.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment

Azure / Modern Work & Security

This is a new standard and was created as part of the Digital Route Review to replace Infrastructure Technician Level 3. It is the one of the most popular Digital Standards and is a great entry point in the world of digital careers.

ICT level 3 is a great standard that providers an entry point into digital roles. The new and updated standard is made up of a core and options model giving employers flexibility. It provides a great breadth of knowledge skills and behaviours, but then gives options in Support, Networking (Cloud) and Digital Communications.

02

Software Developer
Level 4

Currently this apprenticeship standard is in preview and is waiting for funding band sign off.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment

Azure

Software Developer Level 4 The Software Developer job role is one of the most in demand job roles currently. You will find this job role in many different sectors from fashion to retail, to financial services to media.

Using the Level 4 Software Engineering Standard is a great way to grow your own tech talent and create a talent solution that works for you and your business. There are many ways this programme is delivered, for example, front loading the skills training to ensure an apprentice has a flying start.

03

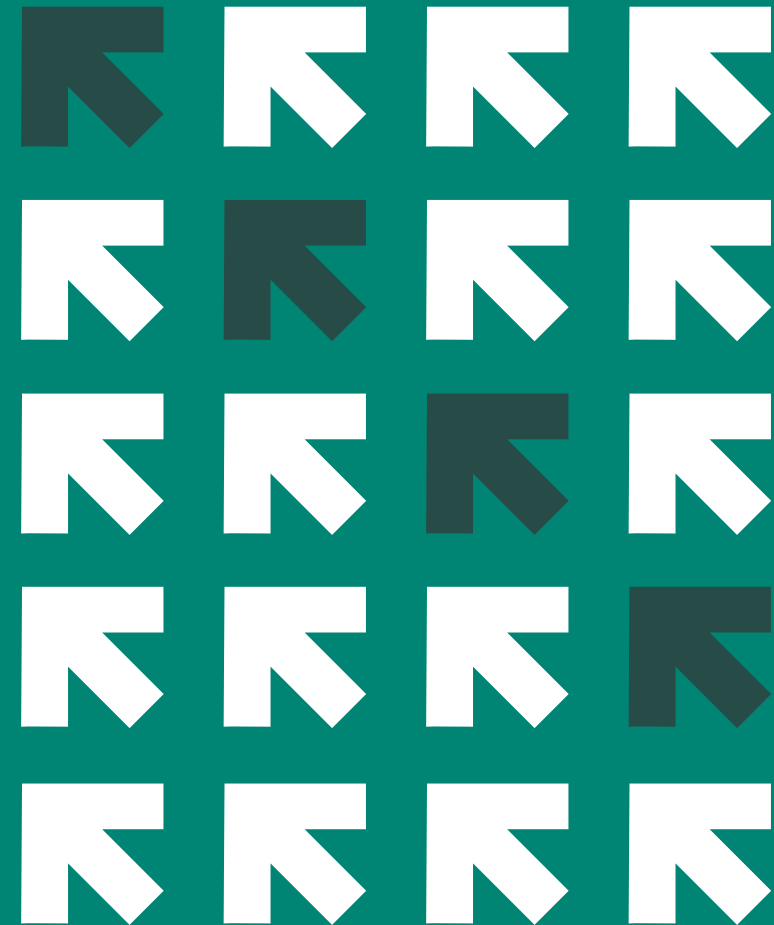## Data
Technician
Level 3

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment
Azure, Power Platform

Data is becoming an ever more important part of lives, and businesses in every sector are seeing a rising demand in the skills needed to manipulate, visualise and gain insights from the data they produce. As an entry level apprenticeship, the Level 3 standard is a great stepping stone to creating a career in data and AI. These are vital skills for employers as we move in the new world of work.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to source, format and present data securely in a relevant way for analysis using basic methods; to communicate outcomes appropriate to the audience; analyse structured and unstructured data to support business outcomes.

As the world of work changes the skills we need for the future are changing. Data and the ability to work with data is becoming a "must have" for most jobs. This standard is the entry point in to the Data pathway to help ensure you have the right skills in the workforce as we continue the accelerated Digital Transformation all secotrs are currently experiencing.

04 Data Analyst
Level 4

Currently this apprenticeship standard is in preview and is waiting for funding band sign off.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment

Azure, Power Platform

Data is becoming an ever more important part of lives and business in every sector are seeing a rising demand in the skills needed to manipulate, visualise and gain insights from the data their business produce. The broad purpose of this occupation is to ascertain how data can be used in order to answer questions and solve problems. Data analysis is a process of requirement gathering, inspecting, cleansing, transforming and modelling data with the goal of discovering useful information, informing conclusions, and supporting decision making. Data analysis has multiple facets and approaches, encompassing diverse techniques under a variety. This standard is a great stepping stone to creating a career in data and AI. Vital skills for employers as we move in the new world of work.

The Level 4 Data Analyst standard is the fastest growing apprenticeship standard as provides an excellent way to create the data talent we all need to help our businesses to thrive.

05

Dev Ops
Engineer
Level 4

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment

Azure

The broad purpose of a Dev Ops Engineer is to enable organisations to get valuable working software out in front of active users, both external and internal, frequently and safely, reducing time to market, delivering increased value - both with respect to the end user and the business - and improving the quality of digital services. At its simplest, DevOps is a philosophy and way of working that brings together two historically disparate parts of the IT organisation, namely those who develop the software and those who are then required to support it in the live environment. The DevOps Engineer encapsulates both disciplines, requiring the individual to understand and appreciate how their code functions when being used in the real world and troubleshoot any issues that may arise, while taking a cloud infrastructure focused perspective.

These apprentices will use the training delivered as part of the apprentice programme and the support from your teams to get valuable working software to active users, and improve the quality of digital services.

06 Network Engineer
Level 4

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment

Azure

A network engineer is a technology professional who is highly skilled in maintaining the connectivity of networks in terms of data, voice, calls, videos and wireless network services. The demand for people who can manage, build, maintain virtual and physical networks is increasing. This is because of technological developments such as, 5G and Cloud. The broad purpose of the occupation is to install computer networks, maintain them, and offer technical support to users where necessary.

Network engineer apprentices develop the skills to maintain communication networks across your business ensuring maximum performance and availability. It is a great pathway for Level 3 apprentices to progress from Infrastructure Technican and the new Information Communication Technician standard.
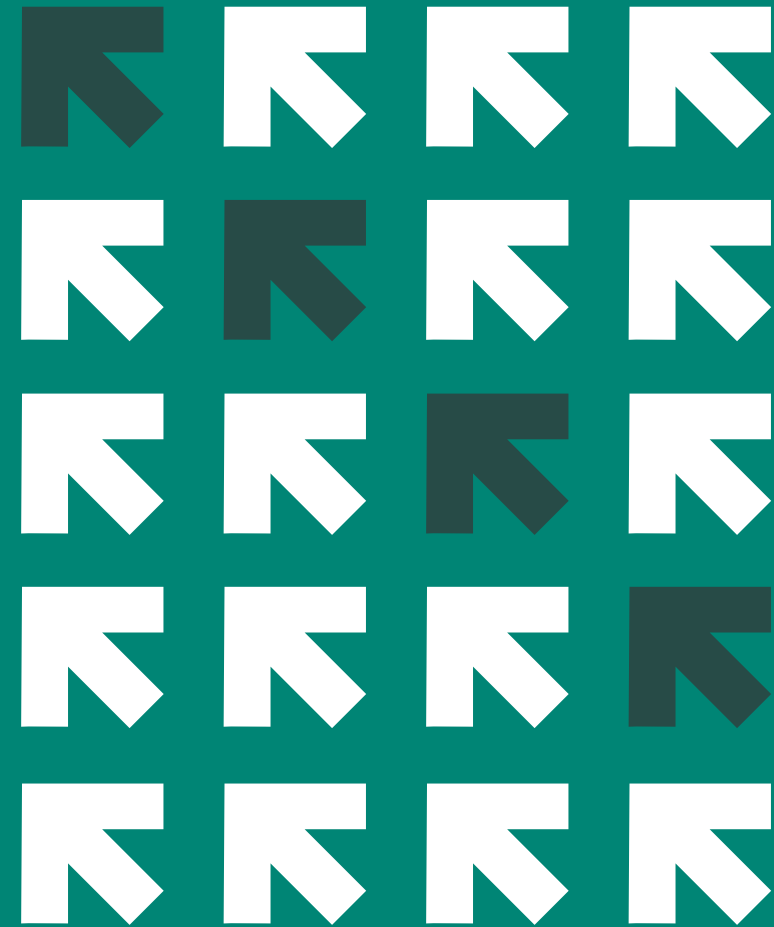
07

Digital and Technical Solutions Professional
Level 6

Digital and Technology Solutions Professional provides technology enabled solutions to internal and/or external customers, in a range of areas including software, business and systems analysis, cybersecurity, data analysis and network infrastructure. They implement technology solutions that enable businesses to develop new products and services and increase an organisation's productivity. The occupation is based upon a core set of outcomes that will be supplemented by one - and only one - of six specialism areas detailed below that cover the roles identified by employers.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment:
This apprenticeship standard can be used across many different product areas as it has the breadth and depth required to start.

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education
Learn more

08

AI Data Specialist
Level 7

This apprenticeship standard is to discover and devise new data driven AI solutions to automate and optimise business processes and to support, augment and enhance human decision making. AI Data Specialists carry out applied research to create innovative data driven AI solutions to business problems within the constraints of a specific business context. They work with datasets that are too large, too complex, too varied or too fast that render traditional approaches and techniques unsuitable or unfeasible.

AI Data Specialists champion AI and its applications within their organisation and promote adoption of novel tools and technologies, informed by current data governance frameworks and ethical best practices.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment: Azure
This apprenticeship standard offers a great opportunity to upskill employees to grow data and AI talent your business needs for the future world of work.

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education
Learn more

09

Digital Support Technician
Level 3

This occupation is found in organisations, large and small, in all sectors, and within public, private and voluntary organisations. Organisations of all types are increasing applying digital technologies across their business functions to maximise productivity. The demand for people who can support and implement these digital operations and digital transformation projects is increasing. Similarly, organisations of all types are increasingly supporting their service users though online and digital channels, as they develop omni channel approaches to meeting customer needs, deflect traditional telephone and face to face contacts and to reduce costs.

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education
Learn more

10

Software Development Technician
Level 3

A Software Development Technician typically works as part of a software development team and builds simple software components (whether web, mobile or desktop applications) to be used by other members of the team as part of larger software development projects. They will interpret simple design requirements for discrete components of the project under supervision. The approach will typically include implementing code, which other team members have developed, to produce the required component. The Software Development Technician will also be engaged in testing that the specific component meets its intended functionality.

Microsoft Solution Area Alignment: Azure
This apprenticeship standard offers a great opportunity to upskill employees to grow data and AI talent your business needs for the future world of work.

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education
Learn more

11

IT Solutions Technician
Level 3

IT Solutions Technicians develop, implement and maintain complete IT solutions, including their hardware infrastructure (such as servers and networks) and software (such as operating systems, middleware and applications). They work as part of a multi disciplinary team. Many such teams will be modern 'DevOps' style teams, which carry out the full set of stages across the whole solution lifecycle: requirements gathering, solution development, testing, implementation and ongoing support. In more traditional organisations the team is likely to be focused more at one or other end of this broad set of activities. Such teams may well be in transition to a modern 'DevOps' style team.

This apprenticeship standard offers a great opportunity to upskill employees to grow IT talent your business needs for the future world of work.

12

Cyber Security Technologist
Level 4

This occupation is found in all sectors and organisations that employ technology, for example Digital, Telecoms, Technology, Business Services, Defence, Government, Finance, Health, Retail, Critical National Infrastructure, Transport, Automotive sectors and in all types and sizes of organisations including large corporations, public sector bodies, academic institutions, charities, and small and medium enterprises (SME).

The broad purpose of the occupation is to apply an understanding of cybersecurity to protect organisations, systems, information, personal data and people from attacks and unauthorised access.

This apprenticeship standard offers a great opportunity to upskill employees to grow the security talent your business needs for the future world of work.

13

Digital and Technology Solutions Specialist
Level 7

A Digital and Technology Solutions Specialist maintains digital and technology strategies through technology leadership; investigating, identifying and implementing technological strategic solutions. They direct digital technology provisioning by studying organisation goals, strategies, practices and delivering and supporting strategic plans for implementing digital technologies. They are confident, competent and capable individuals able to apply leadership and change management skills to operate in a range of digital and technology related specialist roles. This standard is based upon a core set of knowledge, skills and behaviours that will be supplemented by one specialism detailed below.

This apprenticeship standard offers a great opportunity to upskill employees to grow the tech talent your organisation needs for the future world of work.

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