Microsoft IT Pro Career Center

Discover how Nick, an IT and Data Manager for a nonprofit, advanced his skills in cloud technology
INTRODUCTION

Every day at work, Nick sees firsthand how cloud technology is dramatically changing the IT landscape and the roadmap that IT professionals need to follow toward high job performance. As an IT and data manager for a nonprofit organization in early childhood education, Nick counts on the Microsoft IT Pro Career Center to help guide his career path in cloud technology and learn new skills needed to stay relevant. The IT Pro Career Center is a free online resource to help IT professionals map their current job roles to the next role in cloud technology and follow a thoughtfully designed, self-paced curriculum to build the skills they need in cloud technology.
For this nonprofit educational organization, the cost of making a difference in the community can be steep. The organization has an array of operating expenses to pay every month as employees work to provide families with access to quality, affordable early-childhood care and education. This doesn’t leave much budget for training the IT team in new technologies that can improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

But if there was ever a time when IT could use more cloud training, it’s now. The digital strategies taking place in companies today are driving the rapid move to cloud-based computing. This is transforming IT organizations, and is putting increasing demands on IT professionals to develop new skills.

Nick, the organization’s IT and data manager, sees training as essential for making sure he stays abreast of the latest technology developments—so that he can perform better on the job today, as well as improve his opportunities for career advancement. But he also understands that paying for that training can be a challenge. That’s why he relies on the IT Pro Career Center to help bridge the gap.

“The Microsoft IT Pro Career Center keeps me on top of the latest cloud technology trends and what skills I need to learn to stay current. It makes me more relevant in my field and also ensures that I’m able to provide the best tools for my users.”
KEEPING PACE WITH CONTINUAL CHANGE

Nick is finding the IT Pro Career Center indispensable for learning what cloud technology skills he needs——information that can help him both on the job and on his career path. Microsoft provides this invaluable resource to IT professionals like Nick at no cost.

“It’s not always easy for a nonprofit organization to find funding for training, so for Microsoft to provide these courses at no cost is a huge benefit,” he says. “The continual learning is really important right now because technologies change quickly, and if you don’t keep up, you’ll get left behind.”

The information and training Nick gets through the IT Pro Career Center benefits him in his current position at the nonprofit educational organization——where roughly half of the technology is cloud-based——by ensuring that he’s doing the best work he can on the job.

“The curriculum helps me master new cloud skills that directly relate to what I’m doing day in and day out,” he says. “Sharpening these skills benefits me professionally, which in turn benefits my organization.”

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ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

In the IT Pro Career Center, IT professionals can improve their cloud skills, evolve their careers and stay relevant and marketable—all through a program of self-paced learning designed with the input of experts in the industry. IT professionals can specifically:

• Learn about the latest cloud technology trends from white papers and video presentations by top cloud industry experts

• Take a personality traits survey to get insights into unique personality traits and how they match up to cloud roles

• Discover cloud role career paths using the career-mapping feature

• Follow a learning curriculum of online classes and videos to learn cloud skills

“People who complete courses using the IT Pro Career Center can include that work on their LinkedIn profiles, and they’ll look all the better to future potential employers as a result.”
HOW IT WORKS

The process is simple: After joining, IT professionals share information about their current IT role and then the career-mapping feature provides suggested cloud career paths to choose from. After selecting a cloud role, they’re introduced to the skills required and courses needed for their chosen cloud role. Course completion is self-paced, with the flexibility to complete courses most relevant to one’s skill level—courses are listed as either fundamental or intermediate.

“My initial reaction to the IT Pro Career Center was that it was very well organized,” says Nick. “Each cloud skill lists a set of courses to complete along with the length of each course, making it very easy to plan my time to take the courses.”

Courses are administered via video-based training and various support materials. There’s also a variety of special offers for free trials on cloud services such as Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Office 365.

“I plan to check back in with the IT Pro Career Center regularly to complete the courses for the cloud role I’ve chosen as well as see the latest coursework required, because the technology is always changing, and so is the course content,” says Nick. “For example, as cloud management technologies evolve, so does the course content, and I want to make sure I’m learning the latest.”

"If you want to stay on top of current technologies and trends, then going through the coursework here—at no cost—is a smart decision."
THE TRICKLE-DOWN BENEFIT OF TRAINING

The IT Pro Career Center training not only helps Nick personally and professionally, but also helps the people he serves in his IT role at the nonprofit educational organization.

“The cloud enables our employees to work remotely,” says Nick. “The greater my expertise in cloud, the better equipped I am to optimize their experience of working remotely.”

In a more general sense, the cloud enables the organization to work more cost-effectively by migrating an increasing number of applications to the cloud and reducing the organization’s internal resource requirements. And again, the more Nick understands about working in a cloud environment, the more he can do to provide effective support for operations in the cloud.

“I foresee cloud computing continuing to grow over time here,” says Nick. “I’m always looking for opportunities to migrate internal systems to the cloud whenever it makes economic sense for us.”

Another way in which the IT Pro Career Center helps IT professionals like Nick is in strengthening their resumes and their presence on LinkedIn “People who complete courses using the IT Pro Career Center can include that work on their LinkedIn profiles, and they’ll look all the better to future potential employers as a result.”

That’s going to be increasingly important for IT professionals and employers alike, as the competition for technology talent heats up.

As Nick continues on his career path, he can feel confident about being able to compete for cloud roles in the IT market, thanks in large measure to the boost he gets from the IT Pro Career Center. Please visit microsoft.com/itprocareercenter to see for yourself.