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IBM Z Xplore is a learning experience available year-round to individuals interested in developing in-demand IBM Z skills, earning industry-recognized digital badges and being a part of a learning community. It includes an entry level mobile application and an interactive learning platform with IBM Z access.

The [learning platform](#), open to individuals ages 16 years and older (with consent from parent guardian if 16 or 17), takes learners through guided educational paths and code challenges in three progressive levels:

- Fundamentals + Concepts ~10 hours
  - *Option to complete the IBM Z Practitioner Badge: additional ~40 hours*
- Advanced ~10 hours with content continuously added
- Extended ~10-20 hours with content continuously added

[Three digital badges](#) are offered within the learning platform. The first badge is issued after the completion of Fundamentals + Concepts – the IBM Z Xplore Concepts Badge. The second badge is issued upon completion of the Advanced level – the IBM Z Xplore Advanced Badge. The third badge is issued upon earning both Concepts and Advanced, and completing 20 challenges tagged with All Star and Extended – the IBM Z Xplore All Star Badge. All three badges will automatically be rewarded via Credly.

IBM Z Xplore also offers a mini code-a-thon one-day event with hands-on self-paced challenges. There are two progressive challenges with six tasks, each challenge containing more information within.





If you aren't sure where to begin or you want to have a better understanding of IBM Z and enterprise computing, Essentials is a great place to start.

Behind the scenes, the enterprise IT powers the applications that run our world. IBM Z Xplore Essentials introduces learners to what enterprise IT is and how it is important to society.

If you are interested in learning about the hardware and software components of an IBM Z or looking for an introduction to all things enterprise computing, Essentials is for you before beginning the hands-on content in IBM Z Xplore.

Essentials is a mobile application, designed to work both on your mobile phone and desktop. We take a user behind the scenes of enterprise IT by "purchasing" an item online on their mobile device. Users will follow their item as it goes through payment processing, order processing, and delivery, while mixing in IBM Z hardware components along the way.

In Essentials, you will experience:

- Interactive videos and quizzes
- Hands-on introduction to Python and API code
- Easy transition into IBM Z Xplore Learning Platform

For more information about enterprise IT and Essentials, [click here](#).

To get started with Essentials, [click here](#).



The IBM Z Xplore [learning platform](#) is a no-charge educational experience that is available year-round to new hires, re-skillers, students, and educators, with content continuously being added throughout the year.

Before access to our platform, users will have to agree to our Terms and Conditions and Code of Conduct. These rules and conditions are to ensure users are being safe and smart on our platform.

The platform has three levels: Fundamentals + Concepts, Advanced, and Extended. Learners will need to complete the challenges within each level in order to progress. Each level features a variety of education styles including hands-on exercises, videos, reading materials, and quizzes.

The platform will automatically issue [Credly badges](#) to learners once they have completed the Fundamentals + Concepts and Advanced levels.

### **FUNDAMENTALS + CONCEPTS**

*Approximately ~10 hours to complete both Fundamentals + Concepts*

#### **Fundamentals**

Introduction to coding languages such as JCL, Python, REXX, and USS.  
Learning about data sets and VS Code filters.

#### **Concepts**

Expanding knowledge on subsystems, security, uptime, and enterprise scalability.

### **ADVANCED**

*Approximately ~10 hours to complete*

Hands-on learning around REXX, COBOL, Linux, VSAM, JCL, SQL1, and more.

### **EXTENDED**

*Approximately ~10-20 hours to complete*

Hands-on learning around TSO/ISPF, Node.js, Machine Learning, Docker, Ansible, and more.



IBM Z Xplore offers reporting and dashboard features to enhance the learning experience for either your team members or students within your workspace. This dashboard is great for keeping track of new hires as they go through training or for students as they work through your curriculum.

Our learning platform provides automated reports so you can easily keep track of where your learners are in their learning journey. **This feature is not required to participate on our learning platform.**

This reporting information tracks team members/students:

- Registration on platform
- Completion of each challenge within Fundamentals + Concepts, Advanced, and Extended
- Badge earnings for all three levels

To get set up, you must complete a form provided below that asks for details regarding your group. Once submitted, please allow 2-3 business days for us to send you an email containing your unique URL and further instructions. **Please submit one form per class/team that you want tracked.**

We do not share personal information with anyone outside of our team. Your information and your learners’ information is kept confidential. For more information, please see the links below.

Take advantage of this great feature on IBM Z Xplore!

- [DASHBOARD REQUEST FORM](#)
- [EDUCATOR HUB](#)
- [EMPLOYER RESOURCE HUB](#)





### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MTM AND IBM Z XPLORE?

#### MTM

- Learning materials and the grand challenge (student contest) are on ONE platform, restarts every year.
- Student Contest: Accessible to anyone 18+ and at an accredited school, three months long

#### IBM Z Xplore

- Learning content is available year-round and is divided between three channels. Challenges are continuously added.
- Student Contest: Currently, there is no student contest available, but mini code-a-thons are available by request.

### WHERE DO I SIGN UP FOR IBM Z XPLORE LEARNING PLATFORM?

The learning platform is [live](#) and open to individuals 16 years and older.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY INFLUITIVE LOGIN AND IBM Z ID?

You will have two different IDs and PWs for IBM Z Xplore. To enter the platform, you will have an email and password to login. To access IBM Z and complete the hands-on challenges, you will have a Z ID and Z PW that are provided in the Fundamentals VSC1 challenge.

### I GRADE BASED ON MTM LEVELS, HOW DOES THAT TRANSLATE IN IBM Z XPLORE?

Instead of three levels, we now have three channels: Fundamentals + Concepts, Advanced, and Extended.

- MTM Level 1 → VSC1 of Fundamentals + Concepts
- MTM Level 2 → 7 challenges in Fundamentals and 2 challenges in Concepts in the Fundamentals + Concepts Channel
- MTM Level 3 → Advanced and Extended



### WILL BADGES BE OFFERED? AFTER WHAT SECTIONS?

Three industry-recognized badges are offered within the learning platform. The first badge is issued after completion of Fundamentals + Concepts – the **IBM Z Xplore Concepts Badge**. The second badge is issued after the completion of Advanced – the **IBM Z Xplore Advanced Badge**. The third badge is after a completion of a combination of challenges labeled “All Star” and “Extended” – the **IBM Z Xplore All Star Badge**. All three badges are automatically rewarded via Credly to the learner's email.

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE INTERNAL BADGES AND CREDLY BADGES?

Learners will receive internal badges on IBM Z Xplore after they have completed a certain amount of a **challenge type (tag) within each channel**. Learners will receive an industry-recognized Credly badge after they have earned enough internal badges.

#### Internal Badges (*required to earn Credly Badge*)

- **Fundamentals Badge**
    - Challenge Type: Fundamentals
    - Channel Location: Fundamentals + Concepts
    - Earned after completion of 7 Fundamentals tagged challenges
  - **Concepts Badge**
    - Challenge Type: Concepts
    - Channel Location: Fundamentals + Concepts
    - Earned after completion of 2 Concepts tagged challenges
  - **Advanced Badge**
    - Challenge Type: Advanced
    - Channel Location: Advanced
    - Earned after completion of 5 Advanced tagged challenges
  - **Extended Badge**
    - Challenge Type: Extended
    - Channel Location: Extended
    - Earned after completion of 5 Extended tagged challenges
  - **All Star Badge**
    - Challenge Type: All Star and Extended
    - Channel Location: Advanced and Extended
    - Earned after completion of 15 “All Star” and 5 “Extended” tagged challenges
- #### Credly Badge (*industry recognized*)

- IBM Z Xplore Concepts Badge = Fundamentals badge + Concepts badge
- IBM Z Xplore Advanced Badge = Advanced badge
- IBM Z Xplore All Star Badge = Extended badge + All Star badge



## PORTS USED

Communicate to your campus security team what ports are being used to prevent potential access blockage.

IP Address: 204.90.115.200

- Port 20/21 – FTP
- Port 22 – SSH
- Port 623 – TN3270 (TSO/ISPF/SDSF)
- Port 5040 – Db2 (relational database)
- Port 10443 – z/OSMF (used the most in challenges)

## SOFTWARE DOWNLOADS

These are the software's that learners will be required to download and install. Make sure your students have privileges on their machine to install software.

- VS Code
- Node.js



### FUNDAMENTALS + CONCEPTS CHANNEL

*Approximately ~10 hours to complete*

*Earn Fundamentals and Concepts badge to earn IBM Z Xplore Concepts Badge*

#### FUNDAMENTALS

*Complete all 7 challenges to earn internal Fundamentals badge*

1. VSC1 – VS Code introduction
2. Files1 – Data sets and Members
3. JCL1 – JCL introduction
4. USS – Unix System Services introduction
5. Code – Python introduction
6. REXX1 – REXX introduction
7. Wrap Up – Combine skills to earn internal Fundamentals badge

#### CONCEPTS

*Complete at least 2 challenges to earn internal Concepts badge*

- Uptime – IBM Z availability
- System – z/OS operating system and subsystems
- IBM Z Practitioners – Personas running our systems
- Enterprise Systems – Enterprise computing
- Security and Privacy

#### ADVANCED

*Approximately ~10 hours to complete*

- |                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| – LNX1 & LNX2 – Linux                 | – USS2             |
| – PDS1 & PDS2 – Partitioned Data Sets | – SQL1 – Db2 + SQL |
| – REXX2                               | – COBOL + HTML     |
| – JCL2                                | – ZOWE CLI         |

#### EXTENDED

*Approximately ~10-20 hours to complete*

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| – TSO1, ISPF1, DSN1, SDSF1, JCL3 | – NODE1 & NODE2 – node.js |
| – RACF1 & RACF2                  | – Python1                 |
| – Docker                         | – PLI/1                   |
| – ANSB1 & ANSB2 - Ansible        | – Go1, Go2                |
| – MLZ1– Machine Learning         | – MQ1-5                   |



### [IBM Z Xplore Blog](#)

This includes a walkthrough video of the onboarding process and how the platform looks.

### [IBM Z Xplore Landing Page](#)

This includes an overview of IBM Z Xplore, how to get started, and information on badges to earn.

### [IBM Z Xplore Information Kit](#)

This includes more information and resources on IBM Z Xplore

### [IBM Z Xplore Concepts Credly Badge](#)

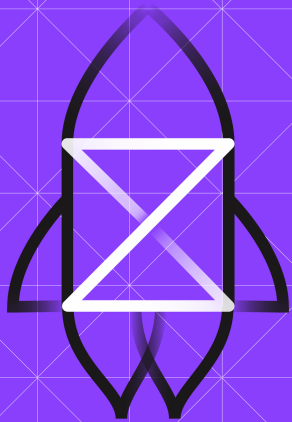
This includes in-depth description of the IBM Z Xplore Concepts badge and requirements to earn badge.

### [IBM Z Xplore Advanced Credly Badge](#)

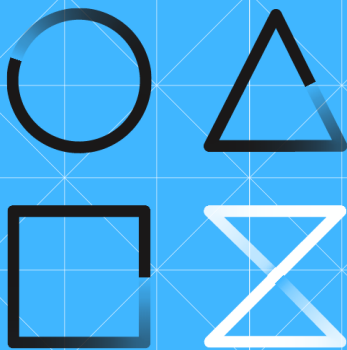
This includes in-depth description of the IBM Z Xplore Advanced badge and requirements to earn badge.

### [IBM Z Xplore All Star Credly Badge](#)

This includes in-depth description of the IBM Z Xplore All Star badge and requirements to earn badge.



Essentials



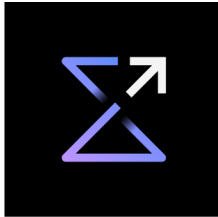
Fundamentals  
and Concepts



Advanced



Extended



IBM Z Xplore

