Digital by Design (DxD) Technical Specification Guide

Software Developer Level 4

Contents

1. About this guide

This Technical Specification Guide is designed to support your digital learning by outlining the technical prerequisites required for the Software Developer Level 4 apprenticeship.

To help prepare and support your digital learning, this guide outlines the different technologies used to deliver the apprenticeship, with guidance on what you need to do to ensure you can access them as and when you need to during your programme.

Use this document to ensure everything works correctly on your device. If you experience any issues, please flag it to your IT department.

2. Technical Requirements

The technical requirements for this programme are listed below:

- Internet connectivity

- Internet browser

- Webcam

- Enabled microphone (laptop/desktop)

As part of the digital journey, our apprenticeships require you to connect with key contacts such as your Digital Learning Consultant (DLC), via web conferencing.

3. Key Technologies & Digital Platforms

There are two types of link included below:

- Those that are direct links and should work via any modern web browser.

- Those **that** are used as integration links between platforms and will not work by clicking the link on its own.

The links in the table below should be directly accessible via any modern web browser.
Using a laptop/pc build provided by your organisation:

1. Select each link or enter them into your web browser address bar.
2. Can you successfully reach the intended page?
3. If no, please raise this with your internal IT team.

Platform	Description/ Use Case	Data Location	URL(s)	Successful?
WebEx	WebEx is QA's main tool for video conferencing, online meetings and screen share. You will have your sign-up and programme launch sessions, as well as ongoing reviews, via WebEx.	UK	https://www.webex.com	
Microsoft Teams	MS Teams is an alternative means of video conferencing if Webex is not permitted in your organisation. If you're unable to use Webex, please ensure that this fact is highlighted to QA before sign-up.	UK	https://teams.microsoft.com	
Bud	Bud is QA's DxD apprenticeship delivery platform. This is where you will access your learning activity instructions, submit	EU	https://web.bud.co.uk	

	tasks, communicate with your DLC, and keep track of your progress.			
BKSB	BKSB is an online platform for assessing applicants' English and Maths functional skills. You will be required to take a functional skills assessment as part of the application process.	Republic of Ireland	https://qa.bksblive2.co.uk/bksbLive2/Login	
QA Evaluations	At certain points throughout your programme, QA will ask for feedback on your experience of the programme. Feedback will be collected via surveys hosted in our QA Evaluations system.	UK	https://evaluation.qa.com	
SCORM Cloud	SCORM Cloud is a cloud-based course platform that	USA	https://cloud.scorm.com	

	QA uses to deliver their courses.			
Zendesk Chat	This is a live chat tool used by QA to provide you with real time, live support.	EU	https://v2.zopim.com	
Cloud Academy	Cloud Academy is QA's own digital skills platform, providing learning paths, hands-on labs and technical skills assessments. It may be used in any technical programme involving coding.	USA	https://app.qa.com	
QA Employer Dashboard	This tool enables your employers to track and download information on your progress, including training, off-the-job hours, and your End Point Assessment.	UK	https://employerdashboard.qa.com	

4. Websites

The table below lists the nice-to-have websites to obtain access to.

Category	URL(s)	
Safeguarding	https://www.bbc.co.uk https://podcasts.apple.com https://open.spotify.com https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk https://www.apprenticeextra.co.uk https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk https://www.nationaldebtline.org https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk https://www.moneysavingexpert.com https://www.gov.uk https://www.victimsupport.org.uk https://www.mind.org.uk	https://www.ltai.info/videos/ https://educateagainsthate.com https://www.safecampuscommunities.ac.uk https://www.crosstheline.co.uk https://act.campaign.gov.uk https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk https://www.remploy.co.uk https://youngminds.org.uk https://www.childline.org.uk https://www.themix.org.uk https://www.samaritans.org https://www.refuge.org.uk
General (likely sites)	https://www.youtube.com	https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org

5. Email Domains

The table below lists the email domains which your email provider should allow access to.

Domain	Description
bud.co.uk	Bud will send out automated messages throughout your apprenticeship journey, from asking you to set a password, to informing you when your Digital Learning Consultant provides you feedback.
qa.com	Throughout your apprenticeship, yourself and your line manager will need to be able to receive mails from various teams within QA.

NOTE: Detailed documentation on data and storage available on request.

6. Software

For all programmes, we recommend that you have access to the standard MS Office suite, or an equivalent that is able to run macros. You will also need a recognised, up-to-date browser.

7. Programme-specific requirements

A. Technologies and Platforms

N/A

B. Websites

The websites you will need access to are listed in the table below. A link to each website is also provided so you can check your access.

Website	Link to website
Channel 9 – operated by developers and technical enthusiasts within Microsoft	https://channel9.msdn.com/
MS documentation and learning for developers and technology professionals	https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/
BCS – the professional body for computing	https://www.bcs.org/
GitHub development platform	https://github.com/
Node.js website	https://nodejs.org/en/
React website	https://reactjs.org/
World Wide Web consortium	https://www.w3.org/
GitLab DevOps platform	https://about.gitlab.com/

C. Software

N/A