Education Update

2023 TPF Users Group Conference
April 24-26, Dallas, TX

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IBM

Disclaimer

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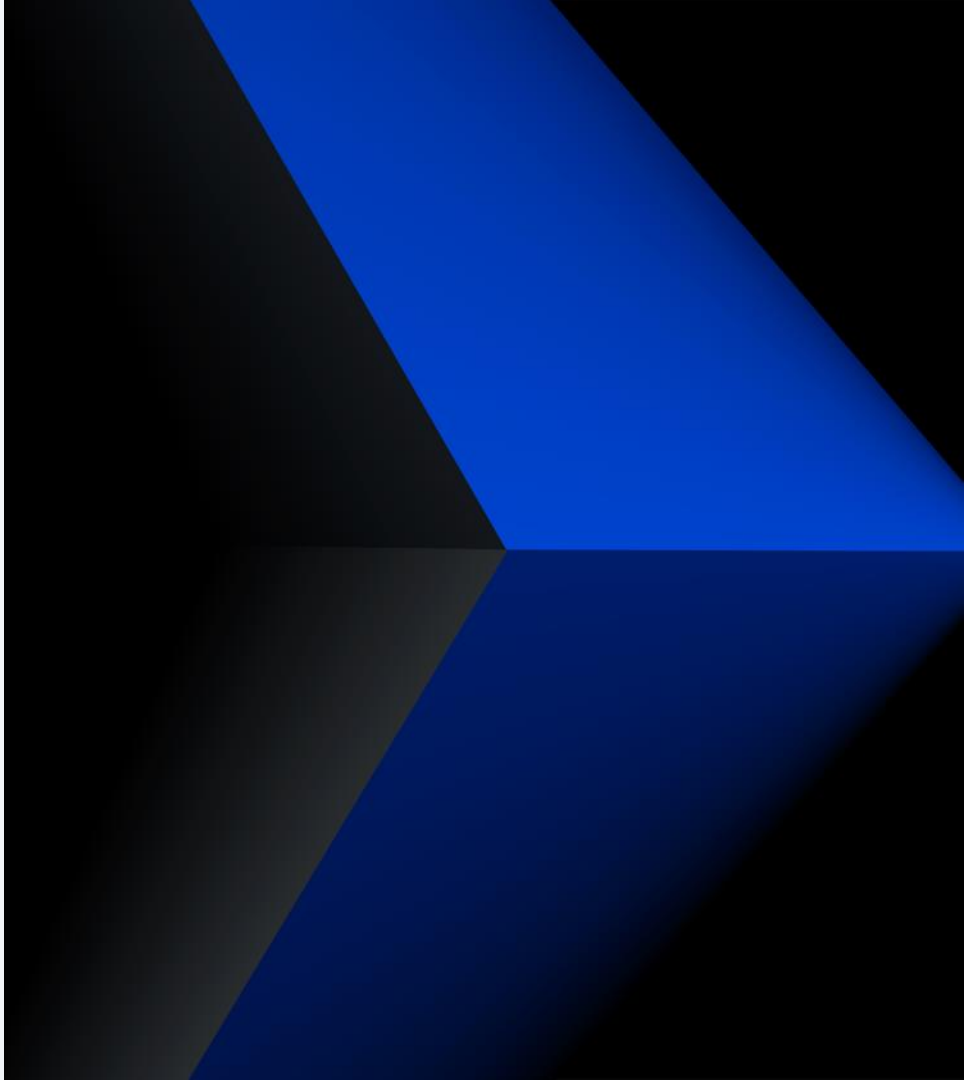
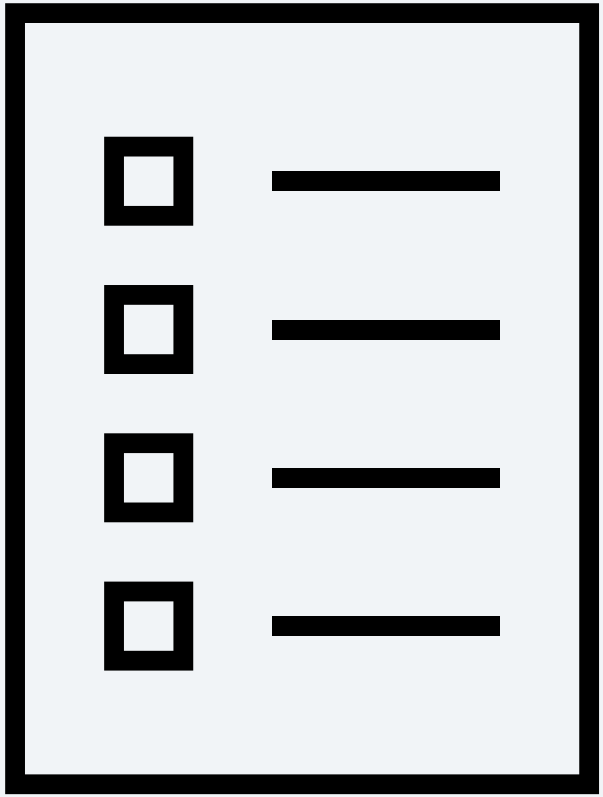


Agenda

Review pain-points and needs,
what has been delivered,
and continuing plans ...



Users

Zach

application developer

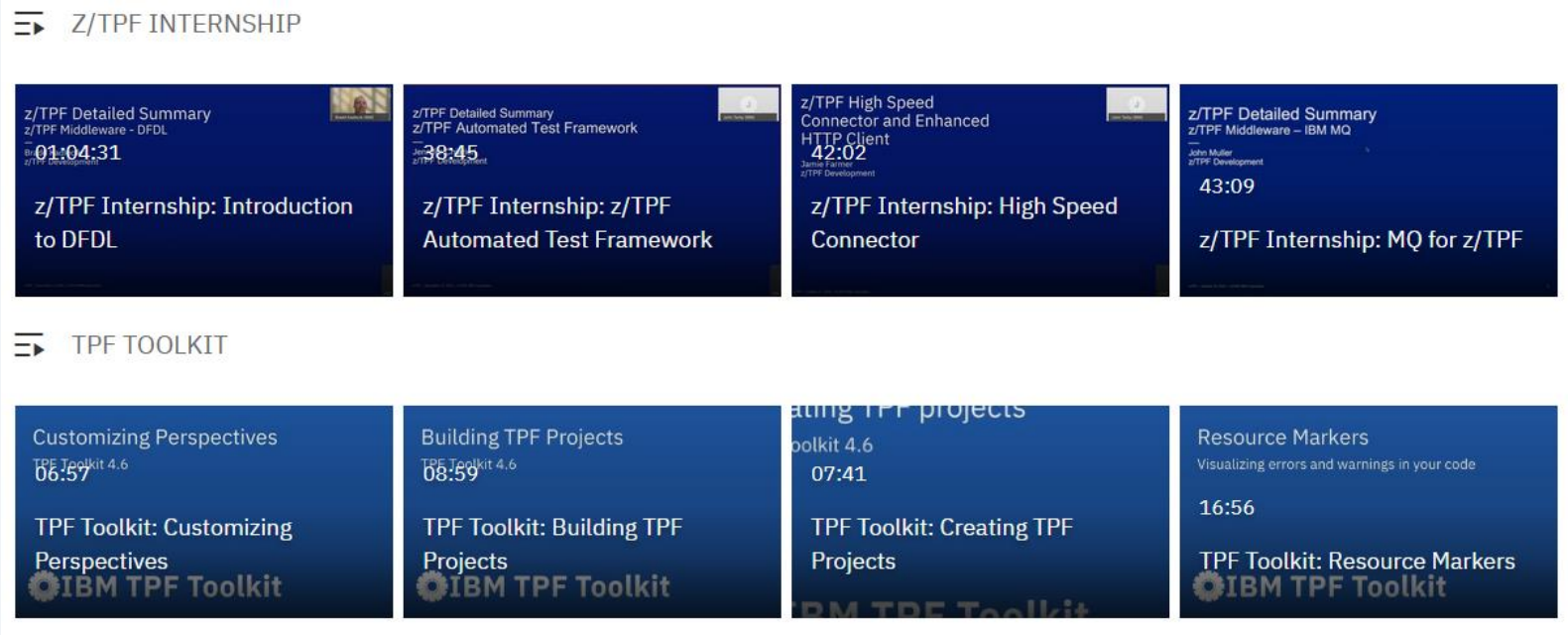
Sophie

system programmer

Andrew

new hire application developer

Available Education Material through IBM Media Center

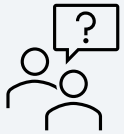


Material covers many areas of the system at a *basic* level

Pain Points / Needs

Videos contain good information, but are long (1-2 hours), contain basic information, and are not interactive

When working on learning activities, need to have a place to ask questions when you run into problems or just have questions

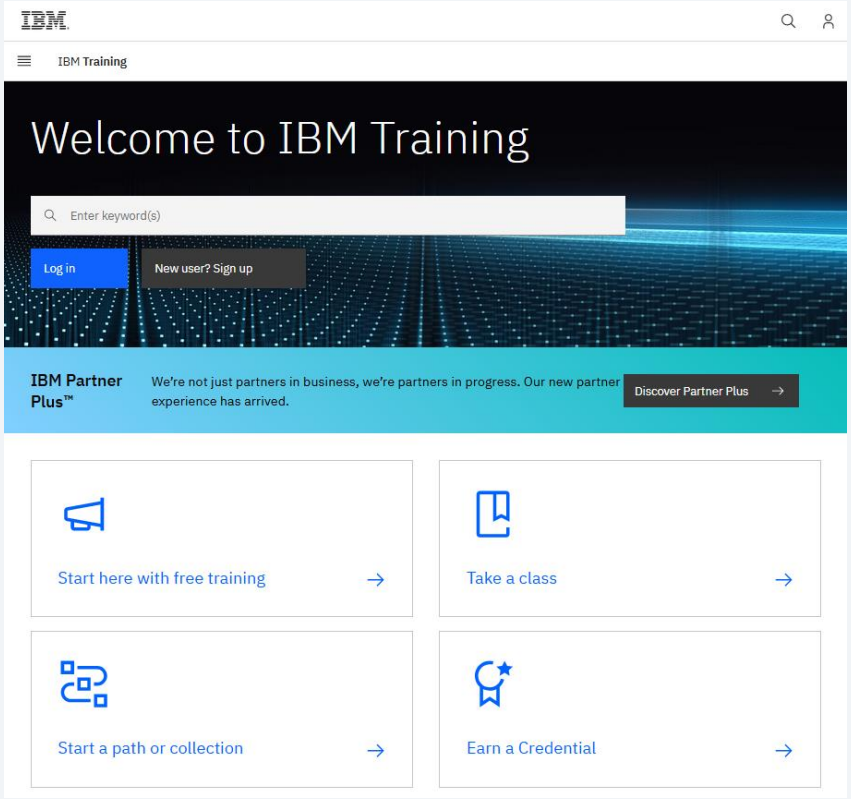


There is no way to validate or test understanding, and no certificate identifying new skills / knowledge

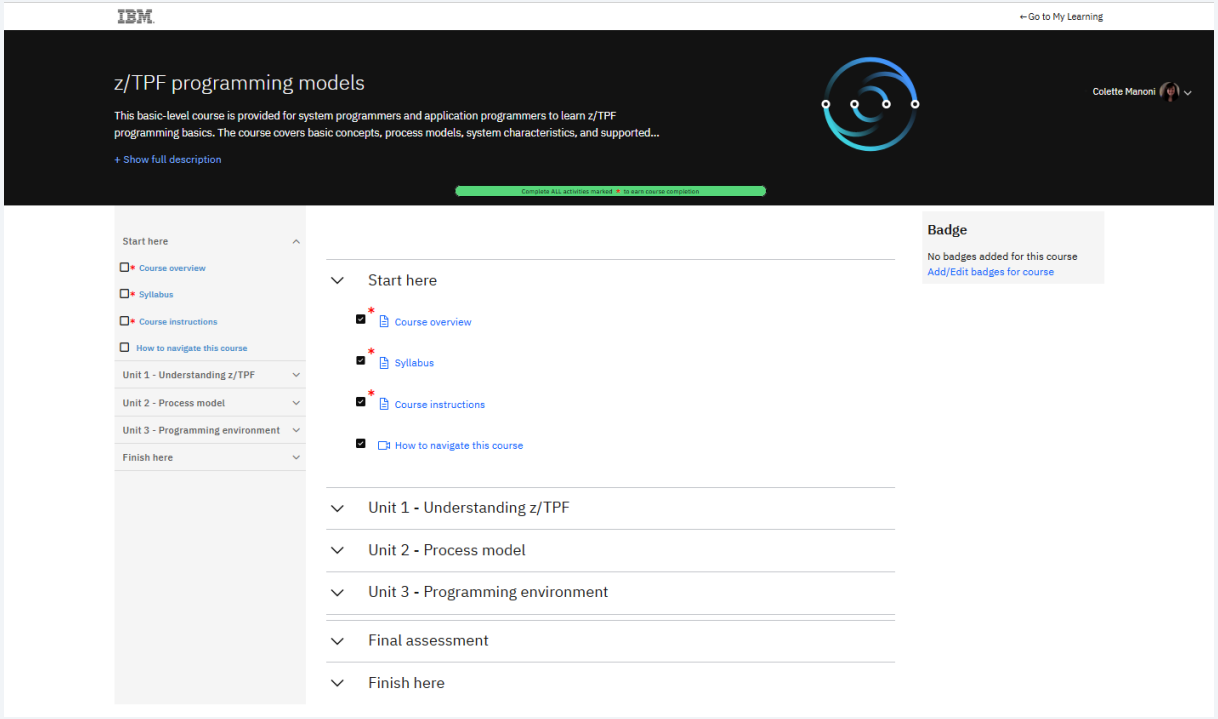
To-Be User Story

A z/TPF user can start their learning journey on **IBM Training website**

- Self-paced courses
- Graphics and short videos used to break down and describe complex, conceptual information
- Contains quizzes to test knowledge
- Link included to IBM Community for questions and feedback
- Certificate for course completion when passing final quiz (80%)

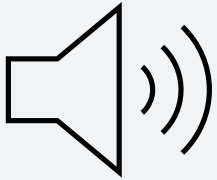


z/TPF Programming Models (coming soon)



- First z/TPF course added to **IBM Training website**
- Introductory - provided an overview of the programming models supported on z/TPF

Pain Points / Needs



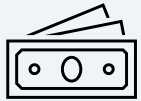
- *Basic* introduction education material is already covered by vendors, in-house training materials, and z/TPF internship videos
- ***Primary need is the intermediate level information on how the system works***
- Starting place is understanding how work flows through the system – CPU loop basics
- **Understanding how work flows through the system** is of value to the growth of both system programmers and application architects

Under Development

Course	z/TPF Task Management: Introduction
Target Audience	Systems Programmers Application Programmers
Level	Intermediate
Prerequisites	1. Basic understanding of operating systems 2. Some understanding of IBM Z architecture 3. Basic understanding of z/TPF programming
Learning Objectives	1. Understand the basics of how the z/TPF system processes and manages work 2. Define what types of lists are created and how they are used. 3. Define the types of work the system can manage and how each flows through the system

z/TPF Task Management: Scenarios

Intention is to cover all the various CPU lists and how work flows through them given various normal conditions

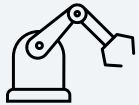


Transactional workload

- Single ECB performing I/O on a single I-stream
- Single ECB performing I/O out of VFA
- Multiple ECBs on a single I-stream
- Multiple ECBs on multiple I-streams
- Etc.

Utility workload

- Multiple utility ECBs using LODIC checks
- Multiple ECBs defined as Low Priority
- Multiple ECBs using macros such as DEFRC and DLAYC
- Time initiated work
- Etc.



Proposed Offerings

- IBM Training
  - **Free** – only requires an IBM ID to logon
  - IBM Training - https://www.ibm.com/training/
  - z/TPF Programming Models *(Coming soon!)*
  - z/TPF Task Management Introduction *(Under development)*
  - *Continue to work with clients to define what is next*

- Individual client meeting with Lab SMEs
  - **Paid engagement**
  - Go through course material live with ability to ask questions
  - Deeper dive into client specific questions

Pain Points / Needs

No easy way to gain hands-on experience with new features of z/TPF

- *IBM-provided starter kits and drivers puts the onus for necessary environment setup on the user.*

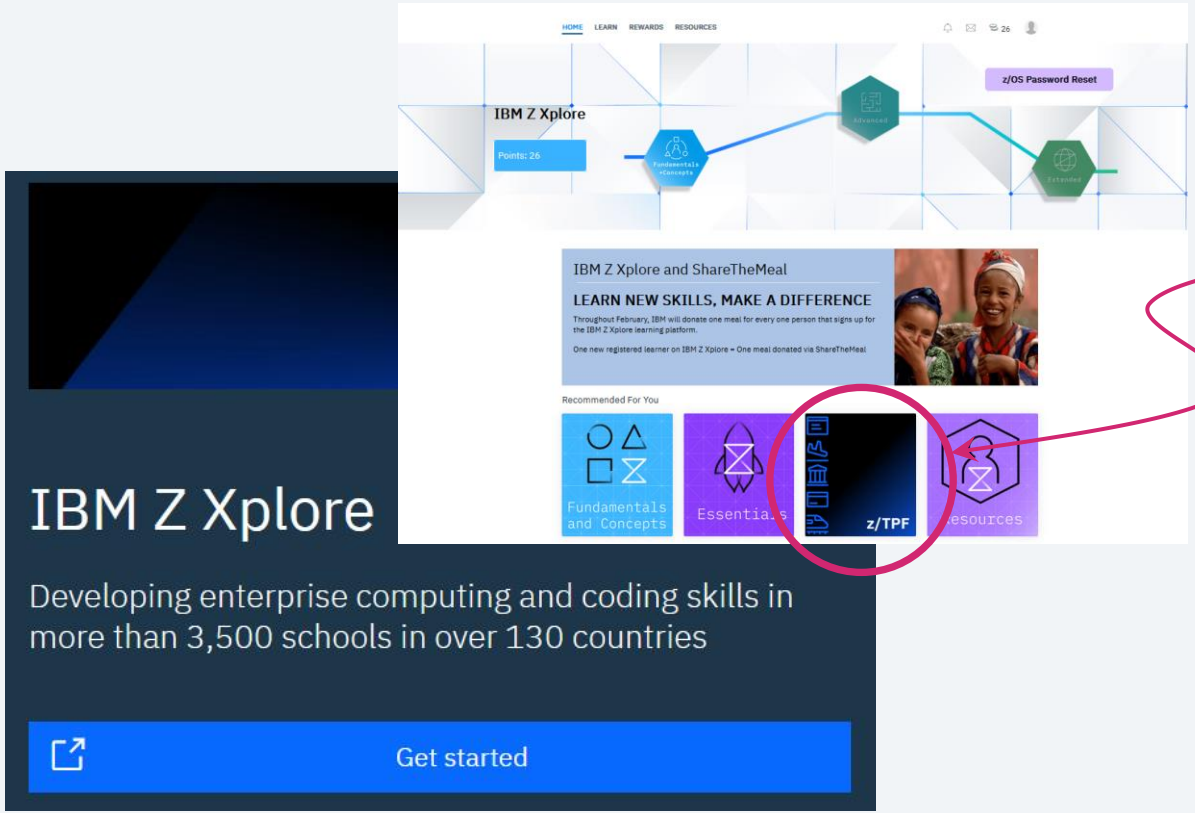
- *Matching up tool versions, test systems, build procedures can be difficult and time-consuming*

To-Be User Story

A z/TPF user can continue their learning journey on **IBM Z Xplore Learning Platform**

- Provides access to interactive activities called *Challenges*
- Includes discussion forum for asking questions / getting help
- Tracks completion progress

Delivered: z/TPF Learning Platform



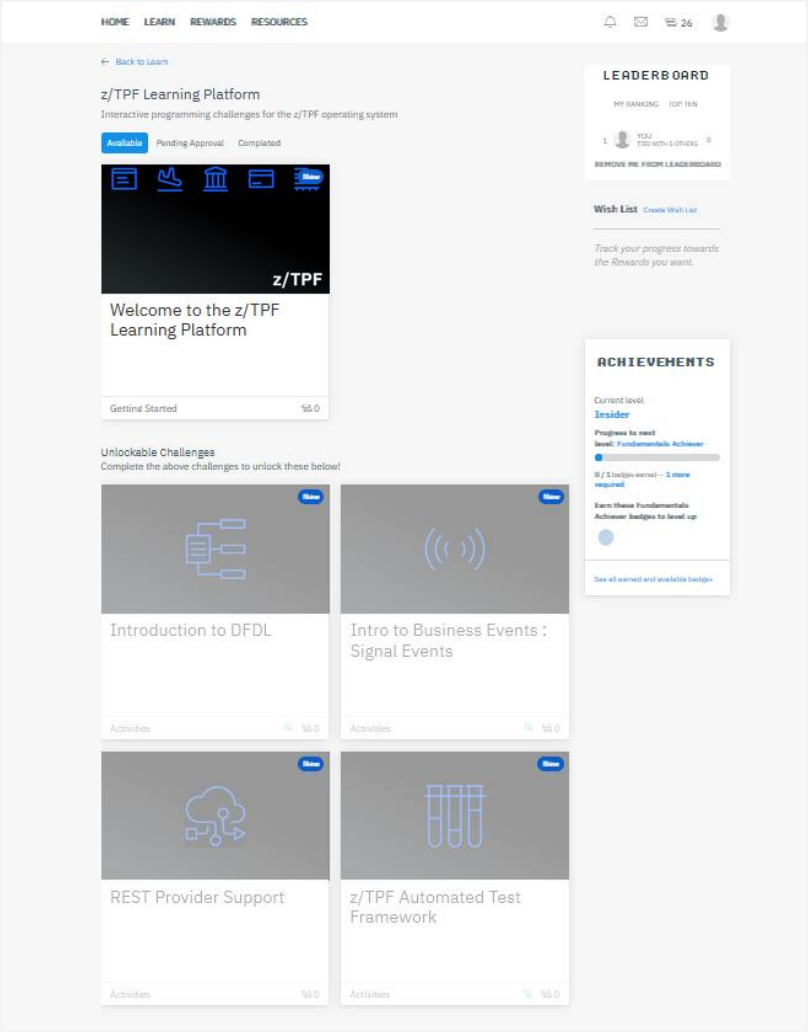
z/TPF Channel

- *Challenges* specific to z/TPF
- Focus on new technology and how to use it
- User codes, builds, and runs programs on a real z/TPF test system

Delivered:
z/TPF Learning Platform

- Available challenges
  - DFDL
  - Business Events
  - REST
  - z/TPF Automated Test Framework

- *Challenges to be added periodically during the year*



We want sponsor users!

Our development cycle is driven by your feedback.

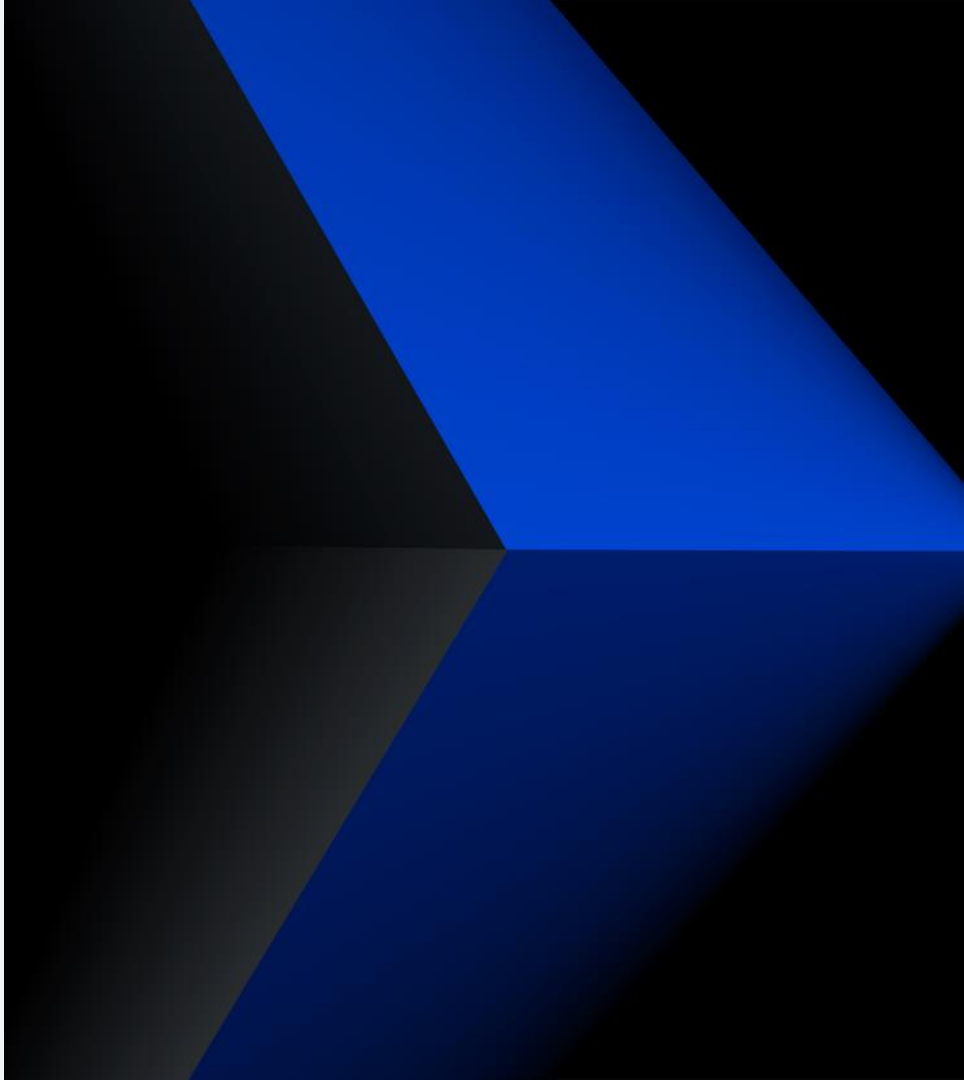
We are looking for sponsor users to assist in defining the scope of the content for the self-paced course, as well as the follow-on courses that make up a learning path or collection. Personas requested include:

- Application Developers
- Systems Programmers
- z/TPF SMEs

Monthly Sponsor User calls are set up monthly starting in May 2023.

Would also like to hear any ideas for additional programming challenges for the hands-on system.

Contact: **Colette Manoni** cmast@us.ibm.com



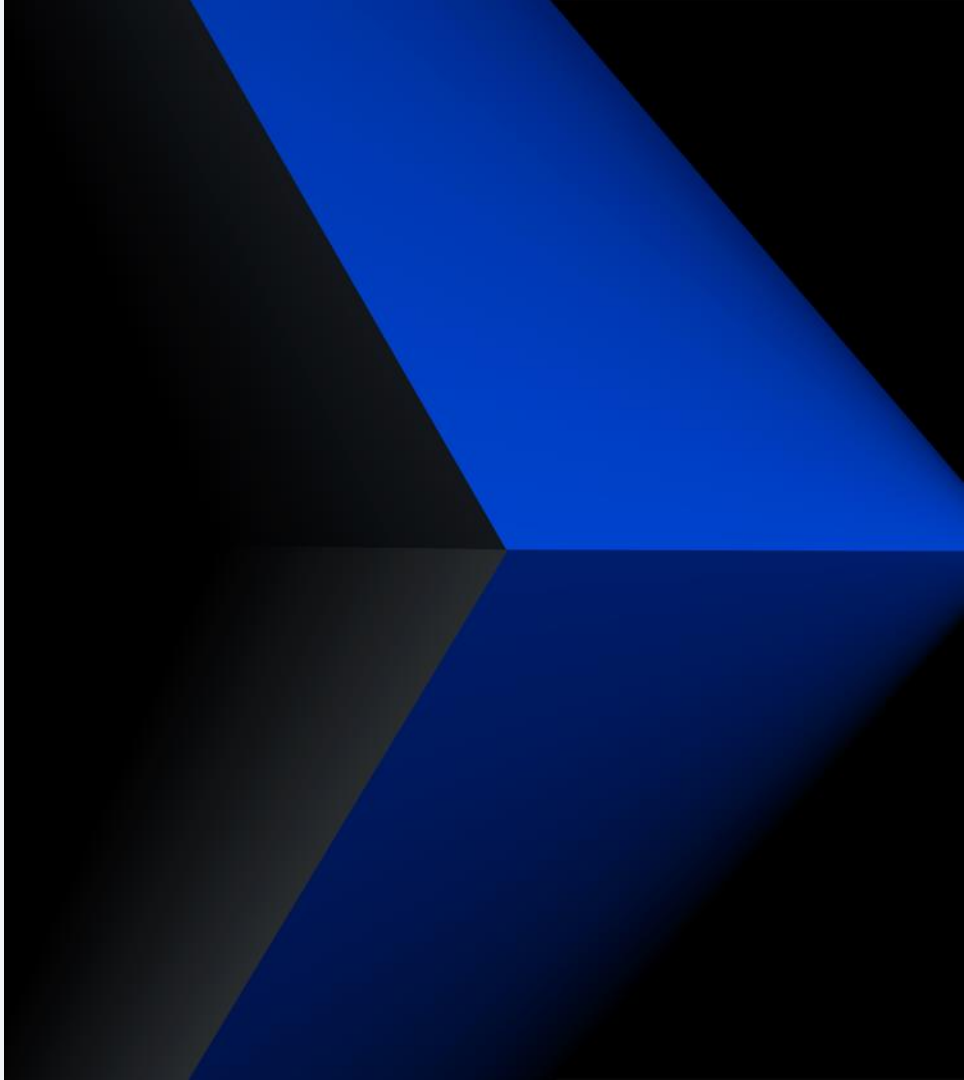
Resources

z/TPF Media Channel:
https://mediacenter.ibm.com/channel/z_TPF/192490123

IBM Training:
https://www.ibm.com/training/

IBM Z Xplore
https://ibmzxplore.influitive.com/users/sign_in

z/TPF Channel in IBM Z Xplore
https://ibmzxplore.influitive.com/join/ztpf



Thank you

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