

DDLS, Australia's largest provider of corporate IT and process training, today announced the introduction of DDLS Plus, an exclusive online learning platform that includes expertly curated content, virtual learning labs, industry insights, and online access to expert instructors.

The new online platform is designed to supplement DDLS' premium face-to-face learning experience (delivered virtually and in-person), and enables students to build on what they learn in the classroom for at least 12 months after they complete their DDLS course. It gives students the autonomy to undertake additional study from home, boost learning outcomes and fill any knowledge gaps at their own pace. It also provides students with valuable skills to help them prepare for future courses and certifications.

"Typically, students approach DDLS for IT technical training courses which run for between 3-5 days, and on many occasions, these students might only return to complete more training 6-12 months later. With technology evolving at such a rapid rate, and with so many organisations now being forced to fast-track their digital transformation journeys, IT skills training needs to be at the fingertips of employees 24-7," said Jon Lang, CEO of DDLS.

"Learning is a lifelong process, and should be continuous and on-demand. DDLS Plus provides us with a new medium to bring this continuous learning mantra to life, and provides customers with the best of both instructor-led training along with the flexibility of online learning. It's another step towards our commitment to help organisations fill critical ICT skills gaps, while enabling students to expand on their career potential," added Lang.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed organisations' attitudes to digital learning, resulting in an increased openness and willingness to invest in digital learning platforms. With many organisations given no choice but to adopt digital learning over traditional classroom training, DDLS has seen a significant increase in preference for blended learning (a mix of online and classroom training). DDLS' 2020 customer survey revealed that organisations' preference for blended training models increased from 28% to 54% between March and June 2020 alone[1].

Unlike other online learning platforms that simply provide students with a bundle of course content, DDLS Plus utilises a team of industry-leading technical instructors, who are highly involved in content curation, ensuring only the best and most relevant content is included in each course area. These expert trainers will also be available to directly engage with students via the platform in upcoming releases.

Furthermore, the content is tailored specifically to the learning needs of the student and their organisation. For example, if an employee has just undertaken a course in Microsoft Azure, they will be provided with relevant cloud computing courses to build on what they have just learnt, ensuring organisations are realising the full potential of their training investment.

The platform is initially offering course content in three key areas of ICT: Cloud Computing, IT Service Management & DevOps, and Cybersecurity. These areas were identified as the most in-demand training areas for organisations in DDLS' 2020 Customer Survey.

As part of a special launch offer, any student who books a training course during December or January in any of the key areas above will have the opportunity to access DDLS Plus for free for 12 months post course completion – a subscription normally valued at \$495.

"We received several requests from students on further learning opportunities even after completion of their classroom or virtual training courses to help them transition between certifications. With the introduction of DDLS Plus, students can now continue learning long after their course is completed and make the most out of their investment," added Lang.

In DDLS' 2020 Customer Survey, 56% of organisations surveyed stated that their employees attended at least three or more courses in the past 12 months, and 76% stated they were likely to send their employees to another course in the next 12 months, highlighting the need for continuous learning.

Key features of the DDLS Plus platform include: Online Content: Online video content, e-learning modules, e-books and audiobooks, along with

personal development pathways to more advanced DDLS courses.

Access to instructors: DDLS' leading instructors will be available online in small group settings to answer questions and advance students' learning beyond the classroom.

Virtual learning labs: Simulations and labs to help students practise their learning in real world scenarios.

Exam preparation: Preparatory materials for courses and exams, and information on certification pathways.

Industry Insights: Current news feeds and insights curated by the course leader, along with job postings in various fields.

Online access: Easy online access via computer or mobile device, and content downloads for offline

For more information on DDLS Plus, visit <https://training.ddls.com.au/ddls-plus/>.

About DDLS

DDLS is Australia's largest provider of corporate IT and process training and Australia's number one cybersecurity training provider. We partner with world-class companies to help organisations and individuals in the IT industry remain up-to-date with new processes, technology and platforms to reduce risk and enable efficient business practices. DDLS promotes a balanced approach to training with a focus on the key areas of Technology, Process and People. We provide extensive training options tailored to your organisation's needs – from vendor-certified courses to customised training, including bespoke in-house developed courses.

DDLS has invested more than \$780,000 in providing free training initiatives for Australians over the past six months. This includes training across popular cloud services to help alleviate ICT skills shortage and assist Australian IT professionals in taking advantage of high-growth areas such as cloud computing. [1] Staying Ahead of the Technology Curve: DDLS Customer Survey 2020

Contacts

Melissa Johnson

+61 2 9212 3888

mailto: mjohnson@primary-pr.com

Elaine Banoub

02 92123888

mailto: ebanoub@primary-pr.com