



**Digital by Design (DxD)
Apprenticeships:
Technical Specification
Guide
Level 5 Data Engineer**



Contents

1. About this guide.....	3
2. Technical Requirements	3
3. Key Technologies & Digital Platforms	4
4. Websites.....	9
5. Email Domains	10
6. Software.....	10
7. Programme-specific requirements	10



1. About this guide

Level 5 Data Engineer is one of QA's portfolio of digital-by-design (DxD) apprenticeships.

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

Please pass this document on to your IT department so they can ensure all the required websites are allow-listed and accessible from within your organisation, and all the technologies listed are available to you.

2. Technical Requirements

1. Internet connectivity
2. Internet browser
3. Webcam
4. Enabled microphone (laptop/desktop)

As part of your digital learning 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.

- a. Those marked **[D]** should work via any modern web browser.
- b. Those not marked **[D]** are used as integration links between platforms and will not work by clicking the link on its own.

c. For those links marked [D]

Using a laptop/pc build provided by your organisation:

1. Click on the link(s) marked [D], or copy and paste 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.

d. For those links not marked [D], or with additional information

Pass these links on to your internal IT team, who will be able to confirm whether or not they will function correctly.

NOTE: for any data location marked with an asterisk (*), data passed to these platforms is pseudonymised.

Platform	Description	Data Location	URL(s)	Blocking Implications
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 [D]	You will be able to communicate live with key delivery staff.
Microsoft Teams	MS Teams is an alternative means of video conferencing, if Webex is not permitted in your organisation. If you will be unable to use Webex, please let us know before sign-up.	UK	https://teams.microsoft.com [D]	
Bud	Bud is QA's DxD apprenticeship delivery platform. This is where you will access learning activity instructions, submit tasks, communicate with your DLC, and keep track of your progress.	EU	https://web.bud.co.uk [D] https://qa-auth.bud.co.uk/Account/Login? [D] https://auth.bud.co.uk/Account/Login? [D]	You will be able to access Bud from the workplace, to work on your apprenticeship.
BKSB	BKSB is an online platform for assessing your English and Maths functional skills. You will be required to take a functional skills assessment as part of your application process.	Republic of Ireland	https://www.bksblive2.co.uk [D] https://bksbcloudfront.bksblive.co.uk/test/test.txt [D] https://cdn.bksb.co.uk/test/test.txt [D] https://www.services.bksb-demo.co.uk (advised by BKSB)	You will be able to complete the application process on signing up to your apprenticeship.



SCORM Cloud	SCORM Cloud is a cloud-based course delivery platform that QA uses in the delivery of courses.	USA*	https://cloud.scorm.com [D]	Vital content for your apprenticeship will be available.
Zendesk Chat	This is a live chat tool used by QA to provide you with real time, live support.	EU	https://static.zdassets.com (requested by Zendesk)	You will have access to real-time, live support.
The QA platform	The QA platform is QA's own enterprise digital skills platform, providing Learning Paths, hands-on labs and technical skills assessments. It may be used in any IT / technical programme involving coding.	USA*	https://app.qa.com [D] https://bud.sso.app.qa.com [D] – this should divert to the Bud login page	You will have access to content and labs that may support you in completing your apprenticeship. The QA platform is accessible via SSO in Bud. No additional login is required.
QA Employer Dashboard	This enables your employers to track and download information on your progress, including training, off-the-job hours and End Point Assessment.	UK	https://employerdashboard.qa.com [D]	Your employers will be able to gain access to your progress information and other key data.
Labs on Demand	Used to remote onto your PC (which is set up in classroom) Generic user login will be provided for use during classroom events. The content is destroyed immediately after.	USA	https://lod.one/TestLab	
GoToMyPC	Used to host virtual machines in the cloud. You will need to provide your own		https://www.gotomypc.com/members/login.tmp connectiontest@qa.com	



	Microsoft account and Training key (provided by QA).		Password: AxdE@S\$p5b Note these credentials are tied to a QA instance, the details may change https://support.logmeininc.com/goto/mypc/help/what-are-the-optimal-firewall-configurations-1110617141	
Alternative to GoToMyPC	QA offers an alternative VM in the case that GoToMyPC is not accessible for you (prior notice requested). Learn on Demand – ‘Skillable’		https://alh.learnondemand.net/	
Miro	Miro is a collaborative digital whiteboard that QA uses to support a total learning experience during your apprenticeship. In Module 2, you will need access to and interact with a whiteboard for which the instructor will share a URL.		https://miro.com/	



You may be required to utilise the QA provided virtual machines. If so, please download, install, and configure the below software applications. Please only use these if you cannot access the QA virtual machines.

The links below are to download, install and configure software applications.

Using a laptop/pc build provided by your organisation:

- Select each link in the table below or enter them into your web browser address bar to review the application.
- Do you already have this software installed, or are you able to download, install and configure the software?
- If no, please raise this with your internal IT team.

Platform	Platform purpose	URL(s)	Successful?
SQL Server	Microsoft SQL Server is a relational database management system for storing and retrieving data as requested by client applications (CLI). You can use the following unlicensed versions (SQL Server 2022 Express or SQL Server 2022 Developer edition).	https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/sql-server/sql-server-downloads	
SQL Server Management Studio	Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio is the CLI for viewing, querying, and editing data stored in SQL instances virtual or local using SQL statements.	https://learn.microsoft.com/ssms	
Anaconda	Anaconda is a package installation which includes Jupyter Notebook and Python. These tools are used to code mathematical and statistical models, and process and visualise data via an in-memory data project.	https://www.anaconda.com/products/distribution	

	Minimum version Anaconda 2022 / Python 3.9.		
MS Excel	<p>You can utilise MS Excel & Power Query to open, review and manipulate data sets during the live and digital activities of this apprenticeship.</p> <p>Minimum version Excel 2010</p> <p>Recommended version Excel 2016 +</p>	https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-365/excel	

4. Websites

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.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.mind.org.uk	https://www.refuge.org.uk
General (likely sites)	https://www.youtube.com	https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org

5. Email Domains

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

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

6. Software

For all programmes, we recommend that you should 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

Platform name	Description/ Use Case	URL

b. Websites

Website name	Description/ Use Case	URL



c. Software

N/A

