

Interskill recognizes that today's learners require flexible learning programs to meet the needs of the organizations they work for. This might mean that generic learning plans which incorporate e-Learning and assessments, are sufficient to provide learners with the skills and knowledge they require, with validation of this information being through IBM endorsed badges.

Organizations looking to elevate this learning to the next level, can access Interskill's Enhanced Learning Pathways, which provide coaching/mentoring tools that can be used in-house to bring organizational perspective to Interskill e-Learning content.




Interskill Learning Toolkit

e-Learning module
Mainframe TCP/IP Networks
40 mins

Each Learning Pathway consists of several Interskill e-Learning modules, which covers information about a specific aspect of the overall course. In this example, the module discusses TCP/IP options for the mainframe.

Coaching/Mentoring Session
Our Mainframe Networks



Interskill provides in-house PowerPoint presentations that can be used to expand on content covered in Interskill modules. These templates allow coaches or mentors to impart specific organizational details relating to Interskill content, to the learner. In the case of Network communications, it takes these learning interventions and wraps the organization's communication configuration, standards, procedures and processes around it, creating a more valuable organizational-specific, learning plan for the learner.

These items appear in the Enhanced Learning Pathway.

Badge
Mainframe Specialist – Network Communications – Experienced

IBM Digital badges are award for successful completion of Interskill e-Learning courses and assessments.

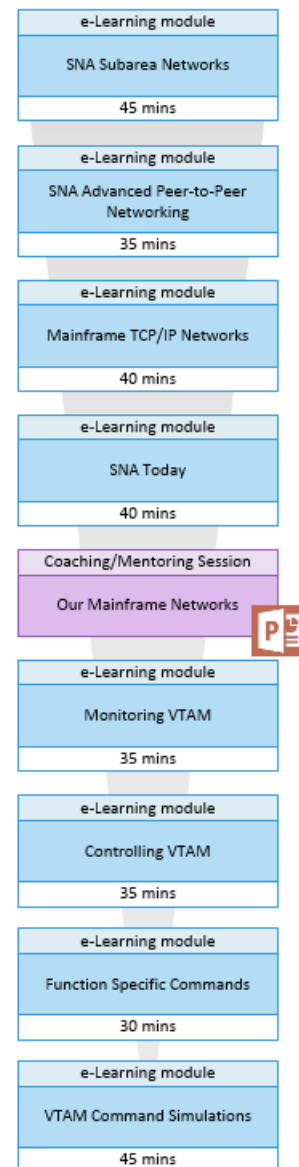
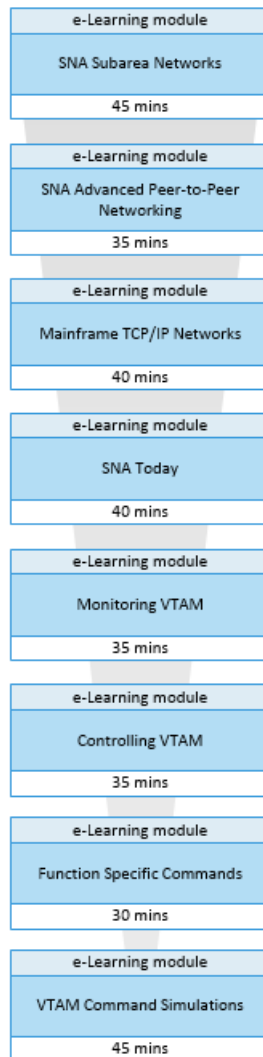
Assessment
Mainframe Network Communications Assessment
1 hour

While e-Learning modules contain built in quiz and scored questions, these are largely designed for the student so that they can verify their understanding of the content covered in that module. Separate assessments, such as the Mainframe Network Communication Assessment shown here, are introduced at integral stages of the learning, providing more scenario-based questions requiring a greater level of learner interaction. These assessments provide questions from a pool, so that no student will encounter the exact same test.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Introduction to Mainframe Networks

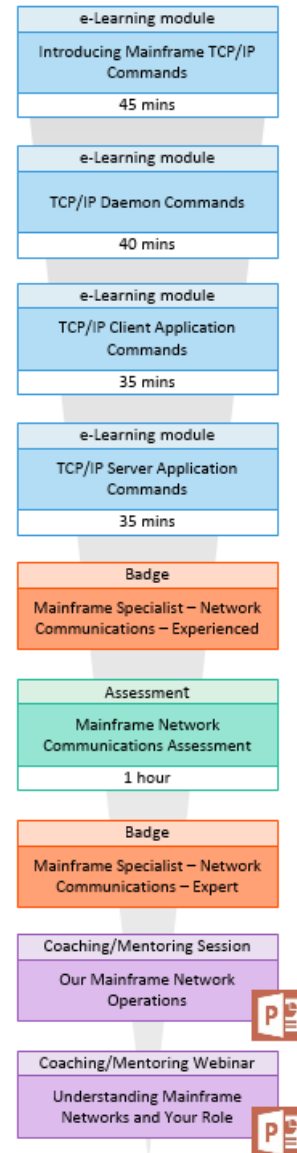
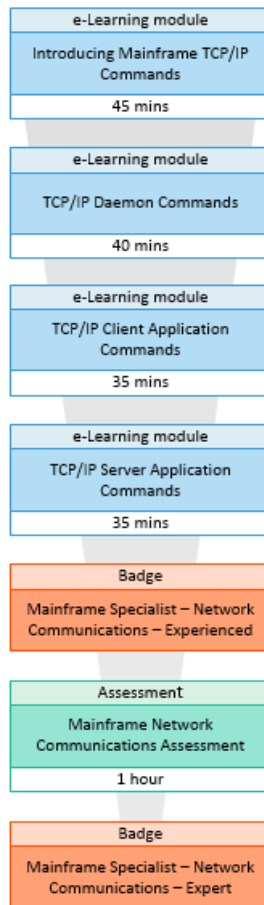


The “**Our Mainframe Networks**” Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module designed to be used by your own presenter, and contains templates providing an overview of the SNA and TCP/IP mainframe configuration at your site. This includes SNA nodes and their uses, TN3270 emulation, and TCP/IP itself. Notes are provided with each slide explaining what your presenter needs to customize, and what information should be discussed in the audio component.

Learning Pathway

Enhanced Learning Pathway

Network Commands



The “**Mainframe Specialist – Network Communications - Experienced**” badge acknowledges that this person can explain the use of the SNA and TCP/IP communication protocols, and issue VTAM and TCP/IP commands used to monitor and manage network communications in a z/OS environment. The individual can start, stop and restart network communications given scenarios where there are problems.

The “**Mainframe Specialist – Network Communications - Expert**” badge acknowledges that this person can enter VTAM and TCP/IP commands used to display the status of network communications components and can respond appropriately to common network-related error messages.

The **“Our Mainframe Network Operations”** Coaching/Mentoring Session is a PowerPoint module that covers how your mainframe network operations are performed. It includes information needed to issue commands, use network facilities and manage network related resources. It also covers network administration tools at your site.

The **“Understanding Mainframe Networks and Your Role”** Coaching/Mentoring Webinar that appears at the end of the pathway utilizes the technical expertise in your organization to impart information about your mainframe network issues, priorities and support personnel required to manage the network. The Webinar format allows the learner to interact with the presenter with various scenarios associated with mainframe networks, and the individual and team role they play. It also looks at priorities and current and future mainframe network related projects currently underway in your organization.

Webinar Basics

Even if you have never run any training, the 7 steps provided below will provide you with the confidence to run a successful Webinar, using your organizations preferred Webinar solution.

- Step 1** You need to schedule and promote the Webinar (your HR personnel may be a good resource here). There also needs to be a process in place where learners undertaking the learning pathway, can notify when they have completed the learning pre-requisites, so that you know that they are ready to go.
- Step 2** You should become familiar with the Webinar product and the tools used for incorporating PowerPoint presentations, mainframe related JCL sessions or associated screen grabs, and audio and video interactions. If you have not run a Webinar previously, then you should practice talking, recording, switching between slides and browsers and handing control to those attending the seminar.
- Step 3** You should send an email to those that are attending the Webinar, firstly to remind them of when it is being run, but also to find out whether they have any questions or specific information they would like covered/clarified throughout the Webinar.
- Step 4** Customize the content of the Webinar PowerPoint presentation/s. These have been designed to cover technical points and provide periods of interaction between the presenter and the learner (the length of each Webinar is approximately 60 minutes). The content is also designed to put the presenter in the shoes of the learner.
- Step 5** Before the live event you need to rehearse the content.
- Step 6** When the Webinar begins, welcome each attendee, just as you would in a classroom environment (if the numbers permit) and remember to be engaging and sound confident. Make sure that you press the Record button before start also!
- Step 7** On completion, thank them for attending and describe to them their next step in the learning process. Follow this up the next day with an email link to the recorded Webinar.

