



# The VMware Tanzu Build-A-Thon Helps Students Acquire In-Demand Skills

## BUILD-A-THON BY THE NUMBERS

Number of students participating:  
**1,600+**

Number of apps submitted:  
**255**

“My favorite part was having the opportunity not only to learn specific business concepts but also to complete an entire app on my own. I especially appreciated the support from mentors.”

SANDESH TIWARI S

## Who we are

**Build-A-Thon** is an event created to bring highly focused education and learning combined with guided, real-world experience in the development of portable Modern Apps to students at institutional academies. Originating in India under the guidance of **Sachin Kumar R S**, the VMware IT Academy's Regional Program Manager for AP&J, and in collaboration with SmartBridge, the event follows a format that introduces students to the principles, techniques and technologies of Modern App development, as well as hands-on experience creating and deploying their own apps to the cloud.

**VMware®** is headquartered in Palo Alto, California. The **VMware IT Academy** is a global, public-private partnership with institutions around the world. VMware IT Academy provides learning resources to educators and learners worldwide to help prepare them with the relevant digital and technical skills needed for today and tomorrow. This fosters career development, creates a pipeline of diverse talent and helps lead positive change around the world.

## The inaugural event

The first-ever **VMware Tanzu Build-A-Thon** took place in April and May 2021. Students were invited to register and participate in the event at no cost. The program included seven days of e-learning, hosted by VMware IT Academy and **SmartBridge**, that served introduce students to the key concepts and technologies they would need. This was followed by a three-week period in which students had the opportunity to create and deploy a Modern App to the cloud using the VMware Tanzu™ platform.

Throughout the build, students had access to mentors with expertise in the relevant areas. A panel of judges evaluated the apps submitted and recognized the top three participants, as well as two additional participants that received a special Jury Award. All participants had the opportunity to earn micro badges and certificates of participation from the VMware IT Academy.

“We thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Build-A-Thon. We thank VMware for giving us the opportunity to host this event and enable students to learn important technologies like VMware Tanzu.”

SANDEEP DOODIGANI, LEAD—  
INNOVATIONS/SENIOR SOFTWARE  
ENGINEER, SMARTBRIDGE

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## Student achievements and awards

Five students were awarded wins for their work during the Build-A-Thon. Mohan Durga Sathish Kantamsetti of the JayaPrakash Narayan College of Engineering was the overall winner. His app allowed the user to input their skills and then would recommend a job that was suited to their abilities, and all of this was in a design optimized for accessibility.

Stephen George of the KCG College of Technology was the first runner-up. He submitted an app that was a personal expense tracker. He designed it to be easy to use as well as aesthetically pleasing.

Sandesh Tiwari S of the Don Bosco Institute of Technology was the second runner-up. His app was a streamlined customer care registration app. He chose to create this simplified app because his own experience with customer service apps showed that many were complex and not easy to use.

## Special Jury Awards

In addition to the top three winners, the jury found two additional submissions that they felt merited recognition. **Neha U K** of the Bapuji Institute of Engineering and Technology received a special Jury Award for her app, which allowed users to digitalize traditional physical ledger books.

**Tapas Sahu** of the Institute of Technical Education and Research at SOA University was also awarded a special Jury Award for his app, which enabled users to scan key data about a photo and store that data rather than saving the photo itself, which reduced the amount of storage required.

## A successful event

**Sachin Kumar R S** was pleased with the outcome of the Build-A-Thon. “We consider the Build-A-Thon to be successful on many levels. Personally, I found it very rewarding to see so many students progress in their skills and knowledge at such a rapid pace. Not only did the event serve to help many students advance their competence in technologies that will help them in their careers and establish a baseline capability and familiarity with VMware technologies, but it also strengthened VMware’s ongoing commitment to supporting the developer community.”

The students also felt the event was a success. When asked what he would say if a fellow student asked him about participating in future VMware Tanzu Build-A-Thons, overall winner **Mohan Durga Sathish Kantamsetti** responded enthusiastically. “I would recommend to anyone to participate in Build-A-Thon. In fact, I would urge them to join without asking any more questions. You don’t get opportunities like this every day.”

## Learn more

Learn more about the VMware Tanzu Build-A-Thon by visiting this site:  
<https://tanzu.vmware.com/tanzu>