

Creating a New Generation of Expertly Skilled IT Professionals in Africa

Institution



Story at a glance

Region

Africa

Content focus



Data center virtualization



Network virtualization



Cyber security

Impact

Established a new pipeline of expert IT professionals

Who We Are

VMware® IT Academy is a public-private partnership with institutions that provides learning resources to educators and learners worldwide. Part of Palo Alto, California-based VMware, IT Academy helps prepare learners around the globe with on-demand digital and technical skills as well as hands-on knowledge of VMware's trusted, multi-cloud platforms. This fosters career development, creates a pipeline of diverse talent and enables innovation that helps lead positive change around the world.

The **Digital Egypt Builders Initiative (DEBI)** is a presidential initiative of the government of Egypt. Assigned to the Ministry of Communication, its aim is to help top graduates of Egyptian universities—such as those having a 3.8 to 4.0 GPA—earn a master's degree in computer science informatics engineering.

A Deep Pool of Standout Students

From a pool of approximately 1,000 students, DEBI participants were assigned to different specializations consistent with the graduate products at their universities. The selected students then participated in a kind of academy with a master's degree curriculum, with the University of Ottawa engineering department accrediting the master's degree.

The initiative recently bore fruit with a graduation ceremony that took place on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The first cohort of students, 109 in number, achieved the new master's degree. Over time, the initiative plans to graduate some 2,000 to 3,000 students.

The master's degree program is designed to provide industrial skills to the graduates that will make them highly desirable and skilled employees to multinational employers, business partners and government entities, emphasizing skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, security and robotics.



Nevine El-Kadi, senior manager Middle East and Africa at VMware IT Academy, and Amr Salah, regional director at VMware, attend the graduation ceremony of DEBI's first graduates.

VMware Egypt's Support for DEBI

VMware is pleased to participate in this initiative in two primary ways. First, students in the initiative have access to the full range of courses offered by the VMware IT Academy. Second, the technical support professionals in VMware Egypt work with the students by sponsoring their graduation projects. Among the current graduating class, VMware Egypt supported two groups, each with nine students. The students, with the support of VMware engineers, focused their projects on virtualized security. Moreover, among this first graduating class, sixty students completed the core technical skills courses for data center virtualization, network virtualization and intrinsic security.

In addition, following the graduation ceremony, the VMware regional and country director along with the general manager for North Africa, Amr Salah, committed to interviewing thirty graduates for various positions within the VMware Center of Excellence in Egypt, at a large bank who needs graduates with specialized security skills, and with business partners that require staff knowledgeable in VMware technology. As a result of our contributions to the DEBI program, the Egyptian Ministry of Communication recognized VMware Egypt with an award and crystal plaque.

A Holistic Educational Opportunity

Students participating in the initiative benefitted even well beyond their education in the technology and profession that earned them their master's degree with Ottawa University. For example, because of the multinational nature of the positions available to graduates, the program was designed to ensure that students had exceptionally good English-speaking skills. In support of that goal, the initiative contracted Berlitz to do that because of their recognized expertise in teaching English language to Arabic speakers.

Similarly, to bolster the students' leadership and management skills, the initiative brought in a training course from Dale Carnegie. With this attention to a well-rounded educational experience, program graduates are fully capable of contributing as valued team members within the various organizations that hire them.

“It was my honor to represent VMware at the graduation ceremony of the first cohort of DEBI, the Digital Egypt Builders Initiative, in which 109 students graduated with professional master’s degree from the University of Ottawa. Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr. Raafat Hindi, CEO of ITIDA Dr. Amr Mahfouz, and Advisor to the Minister for Technology Skills Development Dr. Hoda Baraka recognized VMware for its contributions to DEBI. VMware contributed professional skills development via VMware IT Academy core technical skills training and certification in data center virtualization, network virtualization and security. VMware also sponsored the graduation projects of two groups comprising the most advanced student projects.”

Amr Salah
Regional Director
VMware
NALE at VMware

VMware Providing Vital Technology Skills

The IT skills that students gained in earning the master’s degree included knowledge in areas as broad as cybersecurity, robotics, automation, digital art, data science and artificial intelligence. The VMware IT Academy offers valuable courses in cybersecurity as well as robust offerings in cloud and virtualization concepts and skills.

For the sixty students who completed VMware courses, the courses were conducted by our regional academy, the National Telecommunications Institute. All sixty of the students received the respective certifications.

Learn More

For more information about the courses offered by VMware IT Academy, please visit vmware.com/company/it-academy.html.