

2018

Global Azure BOOTCAMP

Global Azure Bootcamp

Site address: <http://global.azurebootcamp.net/>

Hashtag: #globalazure

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What is Global Azure Bootcamp?

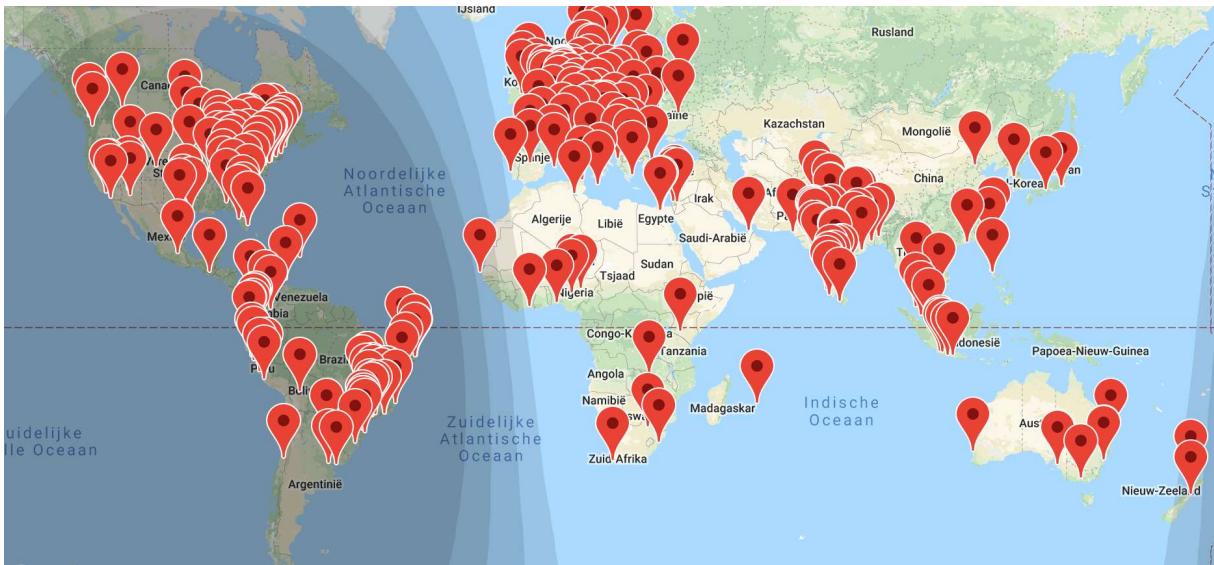
This document describes the Global Azure Bootcamp (GAB), a global user group and community event that took place on April 21, 2018. The event aims to spread enthusiasm and knowledge about the Microsoft Azure Platform, though it is not an event owned, or run, by Microsoft. It is an event solely driven by the great developer and IT communities around the globe! This year was the sixth time the event took place and it was bigger than ever with 273 locations globally participating on the same day!

Executive summary

This is the sixth year that community enthusiasts around the world meet up on a specific day at over two hundred seventy locations around the globe to share their excitement and enthusiasm for the Azure Platform. GAB is 100% community driven by MVPs, RDs and User Group leaders around the world. The total attendance at these events is estimated at over fifteen thousand!

At its heart, this event is a local one day Azure Community event. Then multiply by very many locations and do it all on one day! At each location, organized by local community leaders and Microsoft Azure enthusiasts, the event serves to benefit the local community members and to teach essential Microsoft Azure skills and know how. Local events follow a format decided on by the local user group that is organizing: it can be a mix of sessions and labs based on the Microsoft Azure Technical Communities Content, or on content created by the local organizers.

The event runs for a whole earth rotation starting in the morning in New Zealand and ending almost thirty hours later in the afternoon on the US West coast. In between the start and the end we see the social media hashtag #GlobalAzure (<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23GlobalAzure>) trending around the globe with peaks in India, Europe, Brazil and US time zones. There are locations as remote as Mauritius and Puerto Rico, as metropolitan as Tokyo and New York, and everything in between.



Picture: 2018 event locations

Let's dive into some numbers and see what we mean by global event. Microsoft field offices should be very aware of the power of this event and support local initiatives to arrange again next year, or start up new locations for the next year to join the many thousands of Azure Technology Enthusiasts that participate!

By the numbers - how BIG was it?

Local organizers register with the Global Azure planning team and provide us information about their event prior to the big day. After the event wraps up we ask them to send in an after-event survey. This year out of the 273 confirmed locations, 188 organizers submitted data to us, giving us a 68.86% response rate. We can only count the data provided with the survey, so the event was even larger than we represent here.

273	Global event locations confirmed
13,699	Confirmed attendees at the reporting locations.
59	Countries reported in the survey
1,416	Hours total hours of sessions at locations
1,335	Total sessions at locations
1,224	Trainers at locations
29	Different languages used: Albanian, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bosnian, Brazilian Portuguese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesia, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovenian, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese
424	MVPs or RDs were involved, 99 of which were lead organizers. 123 of the locations reported having an MVP or RD there to help them.

Thanks to Sponsors

The advantage of running a global event is that we can approach any company, present our activities to them, and ask for sponsorship. We have an impressive set of what we call Global Sponsors for Global Azure Bootcamp. Microsoft sponsored with free lunches (yes there is such a thing as a free lunch).

Microsoft



This year Global Azure Bootcamp worked closely with Microsoft to make sure we feed our bellies as well as our brains with free lunches to many locations. We are very happy about this sponsorship and know for a fact that in many locations food was very well received. In some cases local organizers stated that without this food they would not have been able to justify the event.

Azure Passes

As an additional optional sponsorship Microsoft also offered Azure Passes to the attendees. Like the food, many locations simply can't have hands-on lab type content without these Passes.

Global Sponsors

The rules for our Global Sponsors are simple. We ask sponsors to give something to all the locations. If it is one or a few items they must be something like a full value license of their software. If it is something for every attendee it must be more than what they give to anyone as a free trial on their web site.

We are very happy to have an extensive list of great software companies who sponsor and support Global Azure Bootcamp:

The logo for Cloudionix, featuring the word "Cloudionix" in a stylized font with a lightning bolt icon.	The logo for AT Skills, featuring a stylized orange and pink shape with the text "AT Skills" inside.
The logo for myget, featuring a green square icon and the word "myget" in a lowercase, rounded font.	The logo for opsgility, featuring a blue gear icon and the word "opsgility" in a lowercase, rounded font.
The logo for cerebrata, featuring the word "cerebrata" in a lowercase, rounded font.	The logo for SERVICEBUS 360, featuring the words "SERVICEBUS 360" in a bold, uppercase, rounded font.

Global Azure Racing Game Lab

This year we featured the return of the racing game lab, using a driving game that leveraged back-end services in Azure. The lab has been used in various forms for the past three years. The game provided the opportunity for attendees to install the game locally, and then compete to set the fastest lap times. There was also a hands-on lab where attendees could create an Azure Web App that would display the lap times and telemetry data for their country or location.

The Azure Racing Game implementation has been a pet-project for Alan Smith for about four years, and is constantly being improved to leverage new Azure services as they emerge and mature.

163 attendees from 16 countries competed in the game.

Microsoft Azure Services Used in Implementation

The following table shows the Azure services that were used in the implementation of the racing game.

Service	Usage
Table Storage	Storing lap time and telemetry data.
Blob Storage	Storing the relay data files for the ghost cars. Hosting the click-once files for the game installation.
Service Bus Event Hub	Transmission of driver telemetry data.
Stream Analytics	Streaming query data to driver tracker application. Archiving telemetry data.
Service Bus Brokered Messaging	Transmission of lab time messages. Transmission of push-notification messages to game players.
Web Roles	Processing lap time messages and storing lap time data. Processing and storing telemetry data messages.
Web Apps	Hosting the Global Azure Racing Game website.

Whilst it would have been possible to extend the number of services used by the game, the implementation was deliberately kept simple. This was to mitigate the risks of failure during the event, which would reflect badly on the event itself and also possibly to the attendee's perception of the Azure platform and services.

Driver Tracker Hands-On Lab

This year the attendees had the opportunity to build a hands-on lab featuring a driver tracker. The lab involved a SignalR hub that receives driver telemetry messages from a Service Bus Topic and broadcasts them to web clients using SignalR.

Special Mentions

There are always people outside the administration team who go above and beyond and deserve some special mention and thanks for their efforts to make Global Azure Bootcamp the best Azure event in the world.

This year is no exception, and the administration team would like to say a big thank you to the following:

Mark Brown, Patrick Malone, Helena Li and Berit Reisenauer from Microsoft for their ongoing support, time and effort to continue to help us grow the event and make it such a success.

Summary

Global Azure Bootcamp 2018 was a huge success. The event grew tremendously and our hashtag #globalazure was trending in many locations around the globe.

Global Azure Bootcamp works because it is run by tremendous local user group enthusiasts. Global Azure Bootcamp is only possible due to these stars. Below is a long thank you list with hopes that you will come back and join us again for the next Global Azure Bootcamp 2019!