Transcript for Lightning Session: Empowering the Future with Automation UiPath Academic Alliance (November 1, 2023)
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ASWATHY SURESH:
Hello. Hi everyone. Good afternoon. My name is Aswathy Suresh and I'm very excited to be here with all of you today. And a big thanks to BCcampus to give this opportunity. Today I'm going to talk about the topic of empowering the future with automation through our UiPath Academic Alliance program.

Since we're pretty much short on time and we have a 10-minute time limit, I'll just quickly go over what UiPath does as a company, a quick sneak peek into what is automation and its importance. And also highlight on UiPath Academic Alliance Program, which is a program that's very close to my heart.

Okay. Before we go into all things technical, Yes, it's going to be a technical talk for the next 8 minutes or so. I would just like to give you a quick introduction about myself. Now let's rewind a little bit back into my life. I actually began my educational journey by completing my Bachelor's in Engineering back in India. That's when I actually discovered my interest towards technology and innovation. Then after around six years ago, I took a big leap of faith and embarked on an adventure journey by relocating to Canada and pursuing my master's degree at Royal Roads University. Little did I know that this educational journey would actually open up doors for an internship opportunity with UiPath, which is a global software automation company. During my internship program is when I was actually welcomed into the world of automation. And I got to know about all things automation. To tell you a fact, I was instantly amazed by its potential and what it can actually do in different sectors or different industries. That's all about myself. Moving on, before I start the talk,

I just wanted to quickly evaluate the room and check. How many of you have heard about automation or artificial intelligence? I know it's a very hot topic right now, so I'm assuming all of you heard about it. You can raise your hand if you haven't heard. I think that's better. There's no one in the room. Yeah, I would like to tell that automation is actually a transformative force that's revolutionizing industries and completely redefining the nature of work.

Let's begin by breaking down what is robotic process automation, or RPA, as it's most commonly known as. Imagine it to be like having a digital assistant at your fingertips. Right. What it basically does is that it's like tiny software robots. When I tell robots, everyone thinks that it's a physical robot that's actually moving around you. But no, it's a software robot that's actually within your system that can perform all the repetitive tasks, all the manual tasks that you keep doing by giving you more time to actually focus on creative and strategic aspects of your work, which is really great, right? Sometimes we do get bored of doing our manual tasks. We're like, oh, this is actually taking up so much of our time.

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The UiPath as a company is at the forefront of this automation revolution, and it is one of the leading companies who has a software automation platform. So what we do as a company is that we give a platform to most of the organizations, which actually increases their efficiency and productivity. So how do we do it? We actually do that by providing a comprehensive platform where actually you can design, deploy, and manage the software robots quickly and very easily. Actually, you can think of software robots as a robot that's sitting in front of your system. It's able to see, think, and do just like how you would do with your system, right? It's easily integrated with all of the available platforms and all the desktop software like SAP Ultrex and all of that. If you're using that in any of your courses, you would definitely know.

Okay, another question that we usually get asked is that which industries or organizations are engaged with RPA, or who are the industries that are currently using automation? Most of the Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies are using robotic process automation. And we have a partner customer base that exceeds about 9,000, which includes all of these companies. Some of the names that are seen up over here are like some of the well-known companies. And they have adapted RPA in the last few years and they're seeing successful results in the different departments. Initially, actually we saw a lot of traction with the banking and finance sector because they actually automate a lot of their processes. But currently due to its extended application like industries like IT, healthcare, HR, all of these have departments that are actually using automation.

Okay, with that said, and a little bit of information about automation. I would quickly just like to know your opinion. So this is something that we commonly heard in the last few years. Automation is primarily about replacing humans with machines. How many of you think this is true? You don't have to be scared. I'm not going to tell anyone. Okay. Yeah. But I'm happy to see that no one actually thinks that way because initially when automation word came up, everyone just saw it in a very negative manner, right? But what we want to tell is, automation isn't about replacing humans. It's about empowering them. This is a statement that actually stuck in my mind as well. It's completely just about empowering yourself and it's never about replacing you. Think of it just like having a small digital assistant for yourself and not technically a replacement. Just someone there to assist you all the time.

Okay. Talking a little more about it, what I would like to tell us that a lot of our tasks in a day-to-day life of an employee includes manual work. Because of this, what we usually see is that they have less productivity and they're very less engaged. Now the result of this is twofold. One is the employees are completely dissatisfied that they're not able to focus on the core tasks that they're actually hired to do. Secondly, due to this inefficiency, companies face loss of hundreds of billions of dollars as well. But with automation, it doesn't have to be that way. It's good news.

Okay. So imagine the business impact a company or an organization would have if every employee in the organization had a digital assistant. This would actually be just like how we have Siri, Alexa or Google Home in our personal life. Right. It's exactly the same way. We have a

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digital assistant at work to do all our tasks that are like manual and repetitive, and which takes a lot of time from our hands. This will actually give people more freedom to work faster, more collaboratively, interact more with customers or with your team members, and with better accuracy, and also focus on higher value tasks. You actually get enough time to innovate on other tasks as well.

Okay, so here's a quick statistics on the State of the Automation Professional Report of 2023 for this year. So what we saw is that over the last few years, there's a huge demand for automation skills. People are constantly looking for employees or individuals who have these automation skills. We also see some numbers like 90% of the RPA developers see that it actually brings a positive impact. And there's also 84% of industry growth as well. It's very important that we actually prepare the students with the skill set as well. Remember like years back when data analyst was just a term and recently people started having it in their curriculum. In the same way, automation is also something that is very important and it needs to be in the curriculum. Students are better prepared to go out in the world over there and be ready to get the career opportunity.

With that said, I would actually like to come towards the end of the presentation where I would tell you about the UiPath Academic Alliance Program. The UiPath Academic Alliance Program is like a small team within this big global company. What we do is we actually focus on transforming education and preparing students for the workforce for tomorrow. The program actually helps education institutions with providing free access to the UiPath software for students and educators. We also have a wealth of curriculum that the educators can use at no cost, and also industry support from our experts. And what we envision for this program is like a fully automated and fully employed board. We actually want a world where automation and human creativity co-exist harmoniously. That's something that we want. It's never to take one away from each other. And the mission of this program is actually to partner with educational institutions, government organizations, and upskilling organizations to actually create RPA and knowledge ecosystem to shape the future of work. I just think we have very less time. Quickly focusing on the goal of our program. I know a lot of us asked, why do you offer this program for free, Right? It's basically that we actually want to raise awareness about automation and you want to prepare the upcoming generation about it. We want to democratize learning. We actually want to make RPA education available for everyone, easily. And create innovators, build talent pipeline for the upcoming demand, upcoming talent demand, grow user, community of students, educators, and the professionals in the field. The main thing is supporting this digitization effort.

With that, I almost conclude my presentation and I would just like to reiterate that automation is shaping the world we live in and it's time that we embrace this change. UiPath as a company is not just a company, but it is actually a movement to a fully automated, efficient, and exciting future. I would like to invite you to come and explore more about UiPath and more specifically the Academic Alliance Program. I'm right out at the booth over there. So feel free to ask any

questions. Thank you for your attention today and we are looking forward to a more future that automation empowers all of us. Thanks.