

Everest Group PEAK Matrix® for Finance and Accounting Outsourcing (FAO) Service Provider 2022

Focus on Cognizant
November 2022



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Background and scope of the research

Background of the research

The global multi-process FAO market has continued to grow at a steady rate of 9-10% in 2022. Surging inflation, a recessionary environment, and geopolitical instability, coupled with the volatility that the pandemic left the enterprises in, have increased enterprises' openness to leverage third-party service provider support for their finance functions. The drive for digital transformation, the increasing number of first-time outsourcers, and the increasing demand for next-generation technology and high-end F&A work from mature outsourcers are expected to continue driving market growth in 2022.

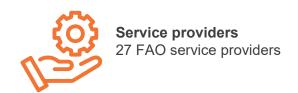
Some of the key means by which providers are differentiating themselves are by offering end-to-end transformative solutions, combined with domain and industry expertise and innovative ESG solutions, flexible pricing models, a design thinking approach, transformation frameworks, and next-generation innovative offerings by leveraging automation and analytics. The purpose of this research is to understand and assess FAO service providers based on their vision & capabilities and impact on the FAO market, and to position them on the <u>Finance and Accounting Outsourcing (FAO) – Service Provider Landscape with PEAK Matrix® Assessment 2022</u>.

In the full report, we analyze the global multi-process FAO service provider landscape and its impact on the FAO market. In particular, we focus on:

- FAO PEAK Matrix 2022 including service provider capability assessment and Star Performer analysis
- Service provider landscape
- Remarks on key strengths and areas of improvement for each FAO service provider

Scope of this report









Key characteristics of Leaders, Major Contenders, and Aspirants

Leaders:

Accenture, Capgemini, Genpact, IBM, Infosys, TCS, and Wipro

- Leaders have been consistent in the delivery of FAO services they continue to invest in strengthening their all-round F&A capabilities. They also continue to expand through organic and/or inorganic means, by entering new geographies & industries, and by serving various client sizes
- They leverage deep industry and F&A domain expertise, superior technology capabilities (augmented by heavy investments in next-generation technologies), innovative engagement models, end-to-end digital transformation and consulting experience, and multi-tower BPS capabilities to differentiate themselves in the market
- They also leverage their scale of operations and wide delivery presence across onshore and nearshore locations to cater to clients' varied strategic requirements

Major Contenders:

Cognizant, Corcentric, Conduent, Datamatics, DXC Technology, Exela Technologies, EXL, HCLTech, Sutherland Global Services, Tech Mahindra, Teleperformance, and WNS

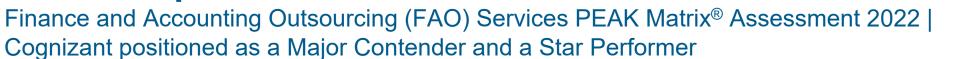
- Major Contenders are increasingly building capabilities in serving different geographies and industry segments many of them are focusing on specific industry verticals and have developed capabilities to address industry-specific nuances by developing modular solutions
- They are also developing sophisticated digital solutions and have been successful in implementing them across their client base, with some providers relying on third-party vendors to fill the capability gaps

Aspirants:

Concentrix, Hexaware, IQ BackOffice, Nexdigm, OneSource Virtual, Quatrro Business Support Services, QX Global, and Sundaram Business Services

- Aspirants are either focused on a particular region(s), industries, F&A process(s), and/or currently have relatively small FAO operations
- They offer innovative point solutions, primarily in transactional F&A processes. While they continue to strengthen their digital capabilities, their current set of capabilities and limited scale may not be best suited to handle end-to-end requirements for large organizations

Everest Group PEAK Matrix®





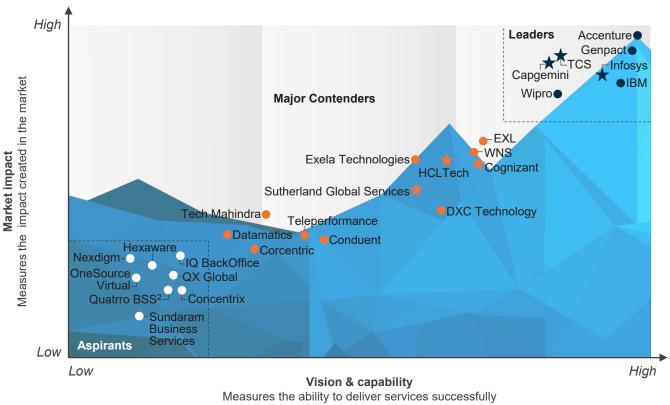
Leaders

Aspirants

Major Contenders

Star Performers

Everest Group Finance and Accounting Outsourcing (FAO) PEAK Matrix® Assessment 20221,2



Source: Everest Group (2022)



Assessment for Concentrix, DXC Technology, Hexaware, Sundaram Business Services, Teleperformance, and WNS excludes service provider inputs and is based on Everest Group's proprietary Transaction Intelligence (TI) database, service provider public disclosures, and Everest Group's interactions with FAO clients

² Quatrro BSS: Quatrro Business Support Services

Cognizant | FAO profile (page 1 of 7)

Overview

Key leaders

- Thomas Klein, Digital Business Operations F&A Practice & Markets
- Samir Malhotra, SVP & Global Delivery Head Digital Business Operations

Recent developments/investments

Service scope expansion

- 2021: partnered with RWS for the Language Weaver tool with enterprise machine translation solutions to address content translation for diverse language requirements across Europe, APAC, and LATAM locations
- 2021: expanded regulatory/SOX compliance and tax reporting services for NA clients
- 2021: a new partnership entered into with an established software provider to revolutionize the way to think about the R2R cycle
- 2020: created an audit analytics tool for advanced process and controls validation and audit planning
- 2020: acquired Code Zero to enhance the provision of cloud-based CPQ and billing solutions

Technology expansion

- 2021: Cognizant Neuro modular interoperable Intelligent automation fabric to simplify, integrate, and accelerate the adoption of automation and AI for exceptional experiences and maximized returns
- 2022: partnered with Elemica to strengthen its capability to streamline supply chain management and operations
- 2021: chose Basware as the preferred source-to-pay partner for networking and Al-enabled automation with advanced analytics
- 2021: acquired Linium for cloud transformation consulting in ServiceNow platform/solutions
- 2021: acquired Servian for consulting in data analytics, AI, experience design, and cloud in the ANZ region
- 2021: partnered with HighRadius to strengthen Al-powered automation in credit & collections
- 2021: evaluated the future potential for F&A use cases in blockchain in accounting and payments
- 2020: BillingServ integrated solution for onboarding and enrollment of franchisee stores / operators, direct billing to, collection, and application of receipts from such franchisees
- 2020: Al-powered and end-to-end automated solution for bill-back accounting for the services industry
- 2020: Hyper-automation through the Citizen Developer program leveraging UiPath/AA platforms
- 2020: acquired Inawisdom for consulting in AI/ML, analytics cloud-native solutions in Europe
- 2020: Prism EDA & ML model builder tool. Al-/ML-driven fast insights for predictive modeling
- 2020: acquired New Signature for cloud-first capabilities in business operations. Exclusive focus on Microsoft technologies with an integrated offering across Azure, MS 365, Dynamics 365, etc.
- 2020: acquired 10th Magnitude to enhance Azure-centric system integration capabilities

Delivery capability expansion

- 2021: further expanded its Latin America presence with F&A services in Guadalajara, Mexico
- 2021: increased its European delivery capability with a strategic alliance for services from Russia
- 2020: enhanced its Latin America presence with services in Heredia, Costa Rica

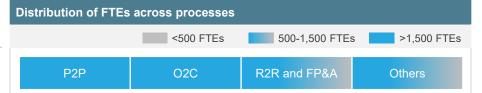
Scale of operations

Not disclosed

FAO services suite

Cognizant delivers digital transformation to the mid-market

- Digital First: Cognizant's core is technology-driven solutions with deep expertise
 in digital transformation, F&A platforms, and IT modernization. Its BOT library
 coupled with over 1,000+ Citizen Developers enable fast-start digital
 implementations across F&A operations. Cognizant Neuro, an automation fabric,
 integrates its digital and partner-based solutions and leverages an extensive
 network of technology partners and platforms to transform F&A-based functional
 ecosystems. Its AI-powered process mining, automation CoE's, digital process
 designs, and task capture capabilities guide clients through scenario-based
 modeling and finance process redesign
- Industry centricity: Cognizant's digital finance team services clients globally in manufacturing, retail, healthcare, life sciences, banking / financial services, and insurance. With industry-specific solutions, expertise in servicing end-to-end F&A work from captive or outsourced operations, and industry F&A Solution CoE's, it enables new operating models with vertical integration of F&A processes
- Mid-market transformation expertise: Cognizant is positioned to deliver and integrate all the finance ecosystem transformation levers —especially designed for mid-market organizations with US\$2-8 billion as annual revenue. Cognizant's ability to orchestrate value from all into a higher Rol optimizes the value delivered to its clients. Its delivery of value to over 3,000 legal entities across the client base is predicated on shifting to cohesive programs (such as digital asset management, vertical solutions, and end-to-end ecosystem transformation)



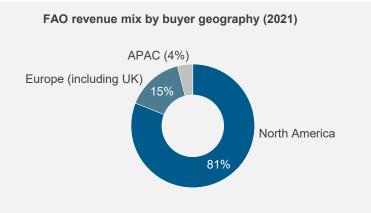


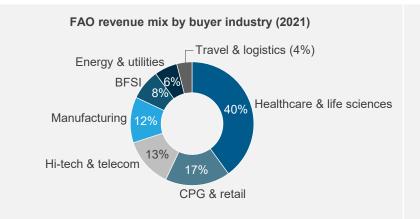
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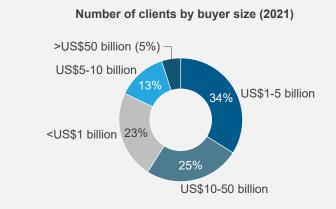
Client portfolio

Major FAO clients: protective and food packaging company; independent automotive distributor and retailer; water technology solutions provider; provider of medical coding & billing services; media group in the Nordics; products & services provider to pharma and biotech companies; grocery and food distributor in the US; state-owned post and logistics provider in Nordics; travel retail group with Australia HO; property & casualty insurance company in the US; a premium automobile manufacturer; transfer agent and investor services provider; etc.

Recently announced FAO engagements (non-exhaustive)				
Time of signing	Client	Contract details		
2021	A research-intensive biopharmaceutical company	Global services in Source to Settle and employee expense management for North America, EMEA, APAC, and LATAM operations serviced from India, Hungary, Argentina, China, and Japan involving a global process design and digital transformation framework		
2021	A global talent and entertainment agency	Outsourcing and transformation of AR and AP services for North America operations with delivery from Chennai, India		
2021	A rent-to-own company for furniture and electronics	Services in procurement and AP for North America operations from Hyderabad, India, with process optimization and standardization and the leverage of advanced analytics and automation		
2021	A bottled water provider in North America	Services in AP and GL operations with digital solutions for North America operations with delivery from Chennai, India		
2021	An automotive distributor and retailer with global scale	Services in AP, AR, GL & reporting, and master data for Europe, the UK, APAC, and MEA regions delivered from Hyderabad, India, Guadalajara, Mexico, Gdansk, Poland, and Yaroslavl, Russia, including BPaaS platforms optimization, intelligent automation, and advanced analytics		







Cognizant | FAO profile (page 3 of 7)

Location landscape



Cognizant | FAO profile (page 4 of 7)

Technology solutions

FAO technology approach: At Cognizant's core are technology-driven solutions leveraging deep expertise in digital transformation, F&A platforms, and IT modernization. Its industry domain knowledge and solutions integrate vertical F&A into enterprise-wide processes and systems. It offers over 50 industry-specific solutions and leverages an extensive network of technology partners and platforms across F&A and other functional areas to transform F&A-based functional ecosystems.

Solutions	Cognizant Neuro (new)	Digital Finance Suite	Digital Finance Performance Cockpit	Financial Close Automation Suite	
Solution description	 Cognizant Neuro is a modular interoperable intelligent automation fabric that helps businesses deliver exceptional experiences and maximizes returns The suite of solutions leverages current investments, configurable low-code/nocode interfaces, domain-specific reusable taxonomies, and non-invasive practices to simplify, integrate, and accelerate the adoption of automation and Al 	 Cognizant Digital Finance Suite delivers finance and accounting as a service across the entire value chain It is a modular solution enabled by leveraging Cognizant's IP and strategic partner alliances. Capabilities are as follows: Integration layer on the cloud brings together multiple disparate systems of record/ERPs Intelligent orchestration layer connects these to and between best-of-breed systems of engagement 	 Unified dashboard to gather a holistic view of transactional and financial performance across businesses and engagements. It measures and monitors F&A operations versus best-in-class metrics and industry benchmarks The solution extracts data from disparate source systems at regular intervals, and calculates and displays target metrics for a near real-time view 	 Integrated solution for R2R powered by the leading platform provider (BlackLine) partnered with Cognizant's domain, industry, and intelligent automation capabilities transforming the R2R function Solutions span journals, reconciliations, close management, consolidation, and intercompany operations 	
Process scope	P2P, O2C, R2R, and FP&A	P2P, O2C, R2R, and FP&A	P2P, O2C, and R2R	R2R	
Technology leveraged	Al/ ML/ NLP-based digitizationConnecting layer	MS Azure and AWSRPA with Al/cognitiveBPaaS platformsVisualization tools	Big data analyticsLive Insights / MS Power BI	 .Net Java and HTML code	
Delivery model and pricing	As-a-service, in hybrid, or on-premise Transaction-based / outcome-based / fixed fee / included in FTE rate / value add-on	Both on-premise and cloud Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / transaction-based / outcome-based / value add-on	Fixed deployment fee	 Cloud deployment and multi-client Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / transaction-based 	

Cognizant | FAO profile (page 5 of 7)

Technology solutions

FAO technology approach: At Cognizant's core are technology-driven solutions leveraging deep expertise in digital transformation, F&A platforms, and IT modernization. Its industry domain knowledge and solutions integrate vertical F&A into enterprise-wide processes and systems. It offers over 50 industry-specific solutions and leverages an extensive network of technology partners and platforms across F&A and other functional areas to transform F&A-based functional ecosystems.

Solutions	Order-to-Cash-as-a-service	Citizen-led intelligent automation (new)	Smart language translation (new)	Digital operations fabric	
Solution description	 Enterprise order-to-cash solution suite providing unified credit, collections, deductions, cash application, and e-invoicing along with predictive analytics and intuitive visualizations The solution integrates best practices in O2C and incorporates pre-packaged dashboards and cognitive assistance It comes with pre-built enterprise integration adapters 	 Cognizant embraces a pervasive approach to intelligent automation across process operations. It leverages the Citizen Developer program heavily to democratize automation by providing tools, skills, and training to more business teams to build their own digital assistants and automate various day-to-day activities It currently has 1,000+ citizen developers enabling fast-track automation across F&A operations. It collaborates with UiPath and Automation Anywhere to drive intelligent automation at scale 	 Partnered solution for enterprise machine translation to address content translation for diverse language requirements across Europe, APAC, and LATAM locations Adaptable, cloud-based neural machine translation platform with an integration capability that processes high volumes of multilingual content across users, workgroups, and projects 	 Integrated operations management suite, incorporates intelligent automation and technology Modules include solutions for work management, e-mails and workflows, productivity, quality, and performance management 	
Process scope	O2C	P2P, O2C, and R2R	P2P, O2C, and R2R	P2P, O2C, and R2R	
Technology leveraged	.NetJava and HTML codeAI	 Low-code/No-code technologies (UiPath Studio / Automation Anywhere platforms) 	Machine translation technology (Language Weaver platform from RWS)	 .Net Java and HTML code	
Delivery model and pricing	 Cloud deployment and multi-client Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / transaction-based 	 Cloud and multi-user Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / transaction-based / outcome-based / value add-on 	 Both cloud and on-premise Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / value add-on 	HostedFixed fee / included in FTE rate / value-add	

Cognizant | FAO profile (page 6 of 7)

Technology solutions

FAO technology approach: At Cognizant's core are technology-driven solutions leveraging deep expertise in digital transformation, F&A platforms, and IT modernization. Its industry domain knowledge and solutions integrate vertical F&A into enterprise-wide processes and systems. It offers over 50 industry-specific solutions and leverages an extensive network of technology partners and platforms across F&A and other functional areas to transform F&A-based functional ecosystems.

Solutions	Intelligent Analytics Suite	Process Mining CoE (new)	Audit Analytics Tool	BillingServ – Franchisee Onboarding & Billing Platform	
Solution description	 Suite of solutions incorporating advanced analytics and AI for enhanced efficiency, business benefits, controls, and insights from F&A operations Benefits derived by clients include – >45% improved collections, 40% reduced manual journals, 50% improved audit efficiency, 20% less invoice processing delays, etc 	 Its Process Mining Center of Excellence (CoE) combines advanced process mining technology with operations insights, innovation, and solutions to power operations analytics assessments for enhanced execution capacity It enables accelerated identification of process inefficiencies and bottlenecks leading to faster redesign and better integration of transformation initiatives for enhanced execution and Rol 	 Audit analytics tool enables the continuous monitoring of controls for an effective and reliable control environment It provides easy access to major control reports, identifies trends and abnormalities in data, enables right-fit sample selection and stratification, facilitates decisionmaking, and reduces audit costs 	stores/operators and direct billing to collection and application of receipts from such franchisees This requires minimal intervention from the corporate	
Process scope	P2P, O2C, R2R, and risk control & compliance	P2P and O2C	P2P, O2C, and R2R	O2C	
Technology leveraged	.NetJava and HTML codeR/PythonAI/MLLiveInsights/PowerBI/Tableau	Data science and analytics technologies (Celonis/UiPath ProcessGold/FortressIQ)	R/PythonAl/MLMS Power BI	AWSSpringbootAngularmySQLMongodb	
Delivery model and pricing	Fixed fee / value add-on	 Cloud deployment Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / outcome-based / value add-on 	Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / value add-on	Fixed fee / included in FTE rate / outcome-based / value add-on	

Cognizant | FAO profile (page 7 of 7) Everest Group assessment – Major Contender

Measure of capability: Low High





Market impact			Vision & capability					
Market adoption	Portfolio mix	Value delivered	Overall	Vision and strategy	Scope of services offered	Innovation and investments	Delivery footprint	Overall
		•		•			•	•

Strengths

- Cognizant is a transformation-focused provider with advanced technological capabilities provided through multiple integrated plug & play digital components (RPA, Business Process Management (BPM), Business Intelligence (BI), analytics, and Al-cognitive) by leveraging both proprietary and partnership ecosystems to deliver end-to-end F&A transformation to its clients
- It continues to strengthen its partnerships with process-specific platform vendors across O2C (including HighRadius and Emagia) and R2R (including BlackLine and Anaplan), RPA vendors (including UiPath and Automation Anywhere), and process mining vendors (including Celonis)
- It has acquired Linium, New Signature, and Collaborative Solutions to strengthen cloud transformation & consulting capabilities on ServiceNow, Microsoft Azure, and Workday platforms
- Clients consistently appreciate its strong automation practice that is supported by a host of solutions such as the HPA Robotics-as-a-Service (RaaS) offering, P&L automation tool, and Smart Intake (SI) suite (to extract unstructured data using ML and automation) and pre-configured robot libraries
- It has recently developed Cognizant Neuro™, which is an intelligent automation fabric encompassing a suite of modular solutions including digital applications, domain-based applications, and partner ecosystem
- It has strong industry domain expertise (often highlighted as a differentiator by referenced clients), especially in healthcare, life sciences, and BFSI verticals, and has strengthened its industry-specific F&A solutions through acquisitions such as Bolder Healthcare Solutions and Storebrand (a banking and insurance consulting and services firm)
- In recent years, Cognizant has enhanced its capabilities in judgment-intensive F&A processes including regulatory/SOX compliance and tax reporting, and has developed modular solutions such as Collection Optimizer, Smart Audit, and Extrude (an automated exception management system)
- Over the last few years, Cognizant has improved its onshore/nearshore presence to enhance client-centricity through expansion in the LATAM, the US, and the European regions
- Partnered with Language Weaver to leverage its machine translation solutions to improve delivery capabilities across the European, APAC, and LATAM regions
- Referenced clients frequently highlight softer attributes such as communication, relationship management, crisis resolution, flexibility, quality, and adaptability as key strengths

Limitations

- Cognizant's experience in designing and executing large-scale transformative deals for large clients is limited
- While it has started to focus on serving APAC clients, especially in the ANZ region, its overall experience in this region along with the LATAM and MEA regions is still limited
- Organizations looking for a third-party provider with a significant focus on serving the energy & utilities and travel & logistics sectors may not find Cognizant to be truly relevant
- · While it continues to invest in enhancing its cognitive, automation, and analytics offerings, the current implementation and adoption among its clients of interactive solutions and mobile apps to enhance overall user experience is low
- A few referenced clients expect Cognizant to act like a strategic partner, increase proactiveness in sharing best-in-class benchmarks, and improve talent retention



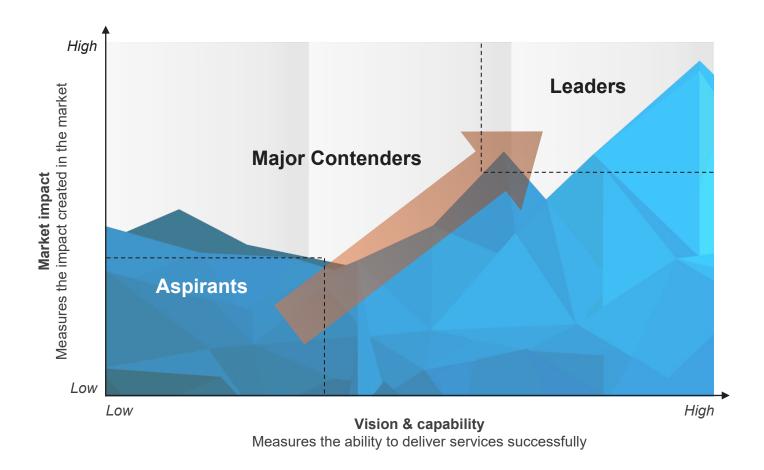
Appendix



Everest Group PEAK Matrix® is a proprietary framework for the assessment of market impact and vision & capability



Everest Group PEAK Matrix®



Services PEAK Matrix® evaluation dimensions



Measures the impact created in the market - captured through three subdimensions

Market adoption

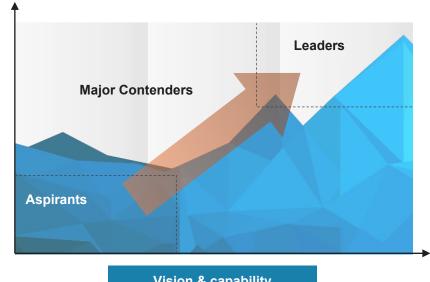
Number of clients, revenue base, YoY growth, and deal value/volume

Portfolio mix

Diversity of client/revenue base across geographies and type of engagements

Value delivered

Value delivered to the client based on customer feedback and transformational impact



Vision & capability

Measures the ability to deliver services successfully.

This is captured through four subdimensions

Vision and strategy

Vision for the client and itself; future roadmap and strategy

Scope of services offered

Market impact

Depth and breadth of services portfolio across service subsegments/processes

Innovation and investments

Innovation and investment in the enabling areas, e.g., technology IP, industry/domain knowledge, innovative commercial constructs, alliances, and M&A

Delivery footprint

Delivery footprint and global sourcing mix

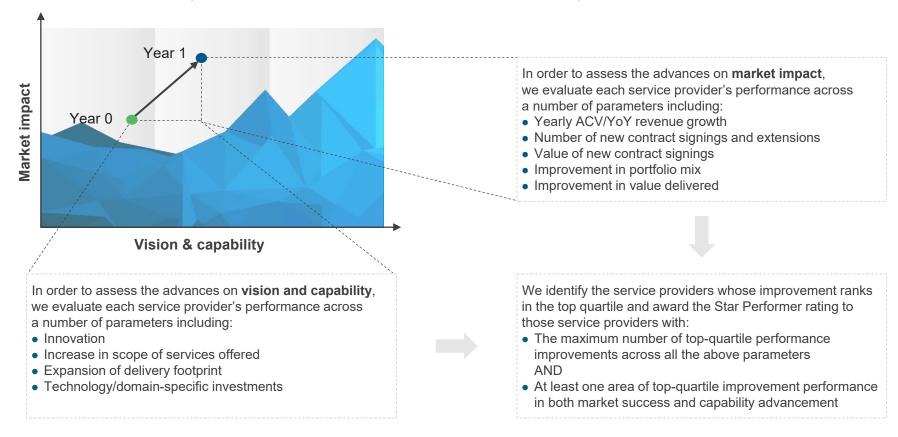


Everest Group confers the Star Performers title on providers that demonstrate the most improvement over time on the PEAK Matrix®



Methodology

Everest Group selects Star Performers based on the relative YoY improvement on the PEAK Matrix®



The Star Performers title relates to YoY performance for a given vendor and does not reflect the overall market leadership position, which is identified as Leader, Major Contender, or Aspirant.



FAQs

Does the PEAK Matrix® assessment incorporate any subjective criteria?

Everest Group's PEAK Matrix assessment takes an unbiased and fact-based approach that leverages provider / technology vendor RFIs and Everest Group's proprietary databases containing providers' deals and operational capability information. In addition, we validate/fine-tune these results based on our market experience, buyer interaction, and provider/vendor briefings.

Is being a Major Contender or Aspirant on the PEAK Matrix, an unfavorable outcome?

No. The PEAK Matrix highlights and positions only the best-in-class providers / technology vendors in a particular space. There are a number of providers from the broader universe that are assessed and do not make it to the PEAK Matrix at all. Therefore, being represented on the PEAK Matrix is itself a favorable recognition.

What other aspects of the PEAK Matrix assessment are relevant to buyers and providers other than the PEAK Matrix positioning?

A PEAK Matrix positioning is only one aspect of Everest Group's overall assessment. In addition to assigning a Leader, Major Contender, or Aspirant label, Everest Group highlights the distinctive capabilities and unique attributes of all the providers assessed on the PEAK Matrix. The detailed metric-level assessment and associated commentary are helpful for buyers in selecting providers/vendors for their specific requirements. They also help providers/vendors demonstrate their strengths in specific areas.

What are the incentives for buyers and providers to participate/provide input to PEAK Matrix research?

- Enterprise participants receive a summary of key findings from the PEAK Matrix assessment
- For providers
- The RFI process is a vital way to help us stay current on capabilities; it forms the basis for our database without participation, it is difficult to effectively match capabilities to buyer inquiries
- In addition, it helps the provider/vendor organization gain brand visibility by being included in our research reports

What is the process for a provider / technology vendor to leverage its PEAK Matrix positioning?

- Providers/vendors can use their PEAK Matrix positioning or Star Performer rating in multiple ways including:
- Issue a press release declaring positioning; see our citation policies
- Purchase a customized PEAK Matrix profile for circulation with clients, prospects, etc. The package includes the profile as well as quotes from Everest Group analysts, which can be used in PR
- Use PEAK Matrix badges for branding across communications (e-mail signatures, marketing brochures, credential packs, client presentations, etc.)
- The provider must obtain the requisite licensing and distribution rights for the above activities through an agreement with Everest Group; please contact your CD or contact us

Does the PEAK Matrix evaluation criteria change over a period of time?

PEAK Matrix assessments are designed to serve enterprises' current and future needs. Considering the dynamic nature of the global services market and rampant disruption, the assessment criteria are realigned as and when needed to reflect the current market reality and to serve enterprises' future expectations.







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