A research report comparing service provider strengths, challenges and competitive differentiators
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Strong growth in demand for Salesforce services increases associated challenges for providers

Salesforce was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in San Francisco, California. The company is known for its easy-to-use user interface and comprehensive feature set that enables its customers to efficiently collect, analyze and deploy data. Salesforce enjoys a strong presence in the global market and is the most widely used CRM system in the world. It is also one of the leading providers of cloud-based application systems as software as a service (SaaS).

Salesforce helps companies of all industries and sizes manage and improve their customer relationships. With its cloud-based approach, Salesforce can be used from anywhere, making it easier for its customers to manage their customer data and activities. The comprehensive feature set across sales, service and marketing makes Salesforce a preferred choice for companies looking to take their customer relationships to the next level.

Salesforce’s iterative approach to its Agile software development enables regular software updates to deliver new features and enhancements to customers. These updates are part of Salesforce’s continuous innovation process and help ensure that CRM software stays current and meets the needs of businesses. In 2022, sales growth continued as in previous years. In some industries, the progressive transfer of business processes, or at least parts of them, to the Internet has increased the demand for IT solutions. As Salesforce primarily focuses on customer processes, the COVID-19 pandemic has opened additional growth opportunities for the company in these areas.

The rapid growth has also added to the demand for implementation services. Meanwhile, the availability of qualified personnel with Salesforce expertise has been a bottleneck in carrying out implementations. This has triggered a significant consolidation trend in the market for corresponding services, with the major system

There is a strategic shift to Salesforce’s industry-specific products
integrators, in particular, looking to expand their capacities by acquiring other providers.

Although the macro developments described above were also observed in Germany last year, they were still much less pronounced than in the U.S. In addition to takeover activities, which do not create additional capacity in the market, many providers are now focusing on strengthening their recruitment measures.

Enterprises are hiring and training young experts as Salesforce consultants, while some are retraining experienced consultants from other areas to make them Salesforce experts.

The acquisitions of Cloud Consulting Group by Mindcurv and of Comselect by Assist Digital represented important developments in the German Salesforce market. They were made with the aim of expanding Mindcurv's and Assist Digital's capacities in the area of Salesforce consulting and implementation, respectively.

These acquisitions reflect a prevalent market trend as companies seek to expand their cloud solutions and services capabilities to meet the growing demand for cloud-based solutions. In both cases, the companies combined their strengths and competencies to offer a broader and deeper range of cloud solutions and services.

A significant trend at Salesforce is the focus on different industries. Initially, industry-specific products such as Financial Services Cloud and Health Cloud were introduced. In 2020, this focus was further strengthened by the acquisition of Vlocity, an independent software provider that has developed industry-specific products based on Salesforce. This appears to be an enduring trend, which is why Salesforce's offering is continually evolving toward industry focus. However, it remains to be seen whether this will have an impact on the functionality of classic products such as Sales Cloud and Service Cloud.

The hybrid Agile approach is still the most widely used method for global customers that need to integrate Salesforce into their complex systems. It combines Agile methods for the implementation phase with phase-oriented approaches for strategy, design and rollout and is now offered by many service providers. However, the pure Agile method is still suitable for a single Salesforce implementation; it is mainly used for midsize customers without global rollout requirements.

The MuleSoft platform remains the leading tool for integrating Salesforce with other applications. Therefore, a deep understanding of this platform is now an essential requirement to be successful in the Salesforce integration solutions market. Large system integrators usually employ a dedicated area or department for corresponding competencies for this platform.

Partnerships with ISVs within the Salesforce ecosystem are important for all providers, whether they are systems integrators or boutique companies. The need for advanced functionality beyond Salesforce's standardized feature set remains high. They can be obtained through the Salesforce-operated AppExchange Store-Portal and are offered with separate licensing. Salesforce guarantees that each app meets software quality requirements such as troubleshooting, maintenance or compatibility with Salesforce products.

This year's study includes the Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises quadrant. Supporting global rollouts and covering the often-complex integration requirements are key success factors for providers in this quadrant. This year, Accenture, adesso, Capgemini, Cognizant, Deloitte Digital, HCLTech, IBM, Infosys, PwC, Reply and Wipro established themselves as Leaders and Factory42 qualified as a Rising Star in this quadrant.
Executive Summary

In the Implementation Services for Core Clouds Midmarket quadrant, adesso, Cloud Consulting Group, Deutsche Telekom, DIGITALL, Factory42, Persistent Systems, Reply and Salesfive qualified as Leaders this year. The current Rising Stars, Cloud Monsters and Assist Digital, have the prospect of becoming Leaders in the future if they continue to develop positively.

The Implementation Services for Marketing Cloud Midmarket quadrant has been renamed Implementation Services for Marketing Automation Midmarket this year. The following providers qualified as Leaders in this quadrant this year: adesso, Deutsche Telekom, DIGITALL, Factory42, Persistent Systems, Reply and Salesfive.

The Managed Application Services for Large Enterprises quadrant, like the corresponding quadrant for implementations, is largely dominated by large and internationally operating systems integrators. Other players occupy significant sub-segments but fall a little short of the Leader position. Accenture, Capgemini, Cognizant, HCLTech, IBM, Infosys, TCS and Wipro qualified as Leaders in this quadrant this year.

Although large systems integrators have favorable cost structures due to their global delivery models, they do not play a significant role in the Managed Application Services for Midmarket quadrant. On the one hand, this is due to the rather less complex requirements in this quadrant, and on the other hand, the large systems integrators do not appear to have a high priority in this quadrant. Accordingly, the following companies qualified as Leaders: adesso, Deutsche Telekom, DIGITALL, Factory42, Persistent Systems, Reply and Salesfive. Cloud Consulting Group and Cloud Monsters qualified as Rising Stars in this quadrant.

Compared to last year, the scope of this year’s study has been expanded to include the Implementation Services for Industry Clouds quadrant; the Implementation Services for Analytics Solutions quadrant has been removed. The following companies qualified as Leaders in Industry Cloud implementation: Accenture, Capgemini, Cognizant, Deloitte Digital, Deutsche Telekom, IBM and Infosys.

The continuous growth of Salesforce clients constantly drives up the demand for additional implementation capacity.
## Provider Positioning

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Introduction

Definition

The Salesforce Ecosystem study examines various offerings of the Salesforce platform, which has been categorized into implementation services (the Change business) and managed application services focusing on operational support for productive applications (the Run business). These segments have been further categorized based on the clients they serve into large enterprise clients and the midmarket due to the significant need for Salesforce integration into the complex application landscape for large enterprise clients. Furthermore, these clients primarily have globally operating businesses that require corresponding delivery capabilities from service providers.

Key focus areas for Salesforce Ecosystem Partners in 2023.

- Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises
- Implementation Services for Core Clouds Midmarket
- Implementation Services for Marketing Automation Midmarket
- Managed Application Services for Large Enterprises
- Managed Application Services for Midmarket
- Implementation Services for Industry Clouds
Introduction

The ISG Provider Lens™ study offers IT decision-makers the following:

• Transparency of the strengths and weaknesses of relevant providers
• Differentiated positioning of providers by segments (quadrants)
• A perspective on different markets, especially the U.S., Germany, U.K., France, and Brazil

Our study serves as an important decision-making basis for positioning, key relationships and go-to-market considerations. ISG advisors and enterprise clients also leverage information from these reports for evaluating their current vendor relationships and potential engagements.
Introduction

Scope of the Report

This ISG Provider Lens™ quadrant study was divided into the following six segments of the Salesforce ecosystem:

- Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises
- Implementation Services for Core Clouds Midmarket
- Implementation Services for Marketing Automation Midmarket
- Managed Application Services for Large Enterprises
- Managed Application Services for Midmarket
- Implementation Services for Industry Clouds

Provider Classifications

The provider positioning reflects the suitability of the respective IT provider for a defined market segment (quadrant). Unless otherwise stated, the positioning applies to all company size classes and industries. If the IT service requirements of large enterprises and SMEs differ and the range of IT providers operating in the local market is sufficiently large, IT providers are further differentiated by service according to the target group for products and services. Either industry requirements or the number of employees and the corporate structures of the customers are taken into account, and the IT providers are positioned according to their focus. As a result, a distinction is made between two customer groups, if necessary, which are defined as follows:

- **Midmarket**: Companies with 100 to 4,999 employees or sales between $20 and $999 million, central headquarters in the respective country, mostly privately owned.

- **Large Accounts**: Multinational companies with 5,000 or more employees or revenues of more than $1 billion, operating globally and with globally distributed decision-making structures.

The ISG Provider Lens™ quadrants are created based on an evaluation matrix and contain four fields into which providers are classified: Leader, Product & Market Challenger and Contender. Each quadrant of an ISG Provider Lens™ study may also include a provider that ISG believes has great potential to achieve a Leader position. Such providers may be classified as Rising Stars.

Number of providers per quadrant: ISG evaluates and positions the most important providers according to the scope of consideration of the respective study; the number of providers positioned per quadrant is limited to 25 (exceptions are possible).
Introduction

Not in means the service provider or vendor was not included in this quadrant. Among the possible reasons for this designation: ISG could not obtain enough information to position the company; the company does not provide the relevant service or solution as defined for each quadrant of a study; or the company did not meet the eligibility criteria for the study quadrant. Omission from the quadrant does not imply that the service provider or vendor does not offer or plan to offer this service or solution.

Provider Classifications: Quadrant Key

Product Challengers offer a product and service portfolio that reflect excellent service and technology stacks. These providers and vendors deliver an unmatched broad and deep range of capabilities. They show evidence of investing to enhance their market presence and competitive strengths.

Leaders have a comprehensive product and service offering, a strong market presence and established competitive position. The product portfolios and competitive strategies of Leaders are strongly positioned to win business in the markets covered by the study. The Leaders also represent innovative strength and competitive stability.

★ Rising Stars have promising portfolios or the market experience to become a Leader, including the required roadmap and adequate focus on key market trends and customer requirements. Rising Stars also have excellent management and understanding of the local market in the studied region. These vendors and service providers give evidence of significant progress toward their goals in the last 12 months. ISG expects Rising Stars to reach the Leader quadrant within the next 12 to 24 months if they continue their delivery of above-average market impact and strength of innovation.

Market Challengers have a strong presence in the market and offer a significant edge over other vendors and providers based on competitive strength. Often, Market Challengers are the established and well-known vendors in the regions or vertical markets covered in the study.

Contenders offer services and products meeting the evaluation criteria that qualifies them to be included in the IPL quadrant. These promising service providers or vendors show evidence of rapidly investing in products/services and a follow sensible market approach with a goal of becoming a Product or Market Challenger within 12 to 18 months.

Not in means the service provider or vendor was not included in this quadrant. Among the possible reasons for this designation: ISG could not obtain enough information to position the company; the company does not provide the relevant service or solution as defined for each quadrant of a study; or the company did not meet the eligibility criteria for the study quadrant. Omission from the quadrant does not imply that the service provider or vendor does not offer or plan to offer this service or solution.
Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to large enterprises across industries in Germany for evaluating Salesforce multicloud implementation and integration service providers.

In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positioning of these service providers and how they address critical challenges faced by large enterprises that have already adopted various cloud products from the Salesforce portfolio. Over the years, Salesforce has expanded its product strategy beyond CRM and ensured its presence in related applications, development, integration and reporting. ISG observes a rise in demand for Salesforce implementation and integration services among enterprises. Such services can enable the adoption and use of Salesforce cloud solutions and their peripheral tools.

In Germany, large enterprises with a global presence often prefer vendors that have demonstrated robust integration capabilities and can operate independently on a global scale without relying on partners. Language proficiency has been a major concern for German customers, wherein service providers offer Salesforce services in German and English for effective communication and reachability. German enterprise clients are seeking flexible resource locations (onshore, nearshore and hybrid) and dedicated teams based on their specific requirements, with service providers expanding their onshore presence through acquisitions, establishing new offices, and other investments.

Marketing and sales leaders should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

IT and technology leaders should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

Security and data professionals should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

Field service managers should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant assesses companies that support organizations in creating scalable IT infrastructures. By using different cloud platforms, highly complex IT infrastructures can be built.

Reza Sarwari
Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises

Definition
This quadrant includes providers of implementation services for Salesforce applications and their integration with other major standard software solutions. These solutions are usually part of the complex system landscape of large and globally operating enterprise clients. The scope of this study takes into consideration that these clients, in most cases, use various cloud products of the Salesforce portfolio. In many cases, the implementation is conducted as a part of a long-term program, with multiple rollouts in various divisions of the client organization and regions. From a functional perspective, implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and finally, go-live support.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Strong implementation capabilities (consulting, configuration, data migration and go live) across all Salesforce products

2. Deep knowledge of the major standard software packages other than Salesforce, in addition to the ability to implement end-to-end processes

3. Broad competencies in architecture and realization of complex application landscapes

4. Availability of predefined solutions and accelerators, preferably both functionally oriented and industry specific

5. Delivery capabilities at scale to serve large enterprise clients
Observations

In recent years, there has been steady growth in the market for Salesforce implementation and integration services. At the same time, the availability of qualified resources with Salesforce expertise remains a limiting factor for the number of implementations. This has led to significant consolidation pressure in the market for related services, with the major systems integrators seeking to expand their resource base by acquiring other providers, mainly midsize providers with strong portfolios and significant resource bases. Even if this does not generate additional capacity as such, this process is likely to continue. In addition, the focus in many cases is now on multicloud implementations in conjunction with the use of Salesforce as an enterprise platform for innovation.

From the more than 90 companies assessed for this study, 24 have qualified for this quadrant, with 11 being Leaders and one a Rising Star.

**Accenture**

Accenture offers a wide range of powerful predefined solutions to many industries, which can help increase productivity in project execution. The company also has a high level of integration expertise.

**Adesso**

Adesso has a powerful, versatile delivery model, significant industry knowledge and extensive experience and references in multicloud implementations.

**Capgemini**

Capgemini has significantly expanded the number of consultants with Salesforce experience in recent years and has extensive expertise in a number of industries.

**Cognizant**

In addition to a compelling Salesforce-specific methodology and powerful industry solutions, Cognizant stands out for its recent remarkable growth in the Salesforce market.

**Deloitte Digital**

Deloitte Digital places a significant focus on business process design and has numerous preconfigured solutions, making it a leading provider of associated business strategy and technology.

**HCLTech**

HCLTech has many years of extensive Salesforce implementation experience and recently invested significantly in building Salesforce-skilled resources and related certifications. As a result, HCLTech has advanced from Rising Star to Leader.

**IBM**

With its global network; onshore, nearshore and offshore capacities; and industry and specialist expertise, IBM has been able to win many customers in recent years.

**Infosys**

In addition to a powerful delivery model and extensive industry expertise, Infosys offers a comprehensive library of predefined solutions for implementation and integration, lifecycle management and training.
PwC
As a leading professional services firm in Germany, PwC can demonstrate a high level of industry expertise and customer loyalty and has a clear focus on Salesforce implementations.

**Repl**y has shown impressive growth in the Salesforce implementation market in recent years. The company has a strong focus on implementation using Agile methods and has extensive experience with multicloud projects.

Wipro combines extensive functional knowledge with industry expertise and a global delivery model. In addition, the provider has a strategic consulting division that supports customers during their transformation process.

The following provider was able to achieve the Rising Star status and, thus, has the potential to become a Leader in this quadrant in the future:

Factory42
Factory42 has many years of extensive Salesforce implementation experience, has recently invested significantly in building Salesforce-skilled resources, and benefits from a strong partner network.
Cognizant

Overview
Cognizant, based in the U.S., is a global provider of information technology services. It has increasingly focused on the digital transformation of core business processes in recent years. It has been supporting Salesforce implementations for more than 10 years, covering the entire chain from design development to implementation and operational support. Cognizant has more than 10,000 Salesforce consultants and 30,000 Salesforce certifications.

Strengths

**Strong growth in Salesforce:** Cognizant has reported considerable growth in the market for implementation services for Salesforce compared to its competitors. The growth is driven by the continuous strengthening of its own resource base and, to a significant extent, by acquisitions.

**Powerful industry solutions:** Cognizant has an extensive portfolio of preconfigured solutions for use in specific industries. Particularly compelling examples include the MedVantage package, which was developed specifically for medical technology companies, and the Patient Prime solution for patient engagement in the life sciences industry.

**Convincing Salesforce-specific methodology:** Cognizant uses an implementation methodology specific to Salesforce called PureForce, which combines Agile approaches with elements of its phase-oriented approach. For the comprehensive integration of Salesforce with other applications, central integration points are defined at the beginning of a project; the step-by-step implementation of stable interfaces takes place along these integration points during the course of the project. This model is particularly suitable for the requirements of global companies with complex application architectures.

Caution

The continuous improvement of business processes across corporate functions should be given greater consideration in the portfolio.

Strengthening the onshore presence in Germany, which has already begun, should be steadily pursued to further increase the scalability of the service shares provided regionally.

“With significant industry expertise, Cognizant is an excellent implementation partner for Salesforce applications.”

Reza Sarwari

Multicloud Implementation and Integration Services for Large Enterprises
Implementation Services for Core Clouds Midmarket
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to small and midsize enterprises across industries in Germany for evaluating providers of implementation services for Salesforce Sales Cloud, Salesforce Service Cloud and Salesforce Commerce Cloud. In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positioning of Salesforce core cloud implementation service providers in Germany, with many expanding their services throughout the DACH region. The report assesses providers specializing in Salesforce Sales Cloud, Salesforce Service Cloud and Salesforce Commerce Cloud offerings. These providers adopt an agile approach for enabling the implementation of core cloud services and Salesforce applications and helping clients redesign processes.

In Germany, cloud-based solutions with seamless integration capabilities offered by third-party applications have been the top priority for enterprises seeking Salesforce core cloud implementation services. Enterprises in Germany prefer local service providers or boutique firms that can deploy Salesforce solutions, such as Sales Cloud, Service Cloud, Experience Cloud, MuleSoft and Tableau Analytics, within a short period with easy accessibility. Providers offer customized solutions according to the specific requirements of enterprises, while midsize enterprises oversee implementation services as per their requirements.

Marketing and sales leaders should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

IT and technology leaders should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

Security and data professionals should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

Field service managers should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant assesses providers that specialize in Salesforce Sales Cloud, Service Cloud and Commerce Cloud for midmarket customers, most of which take an agile approach to implementation.

Reza Sarwari
Definition

This quadrant evaluates providers that specialize in Salesforce Sales Cloud, Service Cloud, Commerce Cloud and Community Cloud. These products are broadly considered the core clouds of Salesforce. These providers take an agile approach to implementation and focus on cases where low levels of integration are required, which is typical for midsize and small clients. Therefore, in many cases, these projects are conducted within a few months. An important aspect of the required services revolves around consulting on the redesign of processes while using Salesforce applications. From a functional perspective, implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and finally, go-live support.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Strong implementation capabilities (consulting, configuration, data migration and go live) for Salesforce Core Clouds (at least for Sales, Service and Commerce clouds)
2. Provision of training and client personnel enablement to use the application
3. Availability of predefined solutions and accelerators preferably both functionally oriented and industry specific
4. Presence of unique differentiators
5. Economic stability and significant delivery capabilities to serve numerous clients
6. Compelling list of use cases and references
Observations

The continuous consolidation process in the Salesforce implementation services market, driven by the market’s remarkable growth, has led to many changes in the provider landscape over time. Several midsize providers have been acquired by large systems integrators, which, in turn, has opened up further opportunities for other providers to fill the corresponding gaps. The focus of implementations in this segment continues to be on Agile methodologies and often involves multiple cloud products, while integration requirements tend to be less complex than in the large enterprises segment. Many of the large systems integrators that typically focus on large enterprises are also active in this segment. However, the assessment focuses on midsize providers.

From the more than 90 companies assessed for this study, 22 have qualified for this quadrant, with eight being Leaders and two Rising Stars.

adesso

adesso offers a variety of powerful predefined solutions to many industries and for increasing productivity in project execution. The company also has high integration competence.

Cloud Consulting Group

Cloud Consulting Group has combined competencies after being acquired by Mindcurv and has many onshore Salesforce experts.

Deutsche Telekom

Deutsche Telekom has many years of experience with Salesforce implementations and a broad portfolio. The company focuses on small and midsize enterprises.

DIGITALL

DIGITALL has proved to be a successful global implementation partner, with its large partner network and integration competence. It has many Salesforce experts and certifications.

Factory42

Factory42 has access to many Salesforce experts and certifications through its strong partner network, and it proves to be a successful implementation partner.

Persistent Systems

Persistent Systems has acquired significant expertise and industry knowledge through its global network and over 18 years of Salesforce experience. It also has many experts with Salesforce certification.

Reply

Reply has shown impressive growth in the Salesforce implementation market in recent years. The company has a clear focus on implementation using Agile methods and has extensive experience with multicloud projects.

Salesfive

Salesfive has a strong focus on midmarket companies and has subject matter and industry experts with numerous Salesforce certifications. The company also has a significant onshore capacity.

The following providers were able to achieve the Rising Star status and, thus, have the potential to become Leaders in this quadrant in the future:

Assist Digital

Assist Digital’s capital has been boosted tremendously by the investment from Ardian, a private equity firm. The pan-European company has significant nearshore and offshore capabilities.

Cloud Monster

Cloud Monsters is particularly characterized by its customer-oriented support. This has enabled many implementation projects to be completed and experience to be gained from various sectors, such as media.
Implementation Services for Marketing Automation Midmarket
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to small and midsize companies across industries in Germany for evaluating providers of implementation services for Salesforce marketing automation.

In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positioning of implementation service providers of Salesforce marketing automation in Germany and how they address key challenges faced by enterprises in the country. These providers focus on delivering direct, personalized customer engagement and increasing revenue through tailored communication at scale and across multiple channels. Salesforce automation is often the entry point for Salesforce journeys. ISG observes that companies seeking implementation services for such automation typically do not have complex real-time integration needs.

In Germany, small and midsize enterprises seek digital marketing services within the Salesforce marketing automation stack. Moreover, considering clients’ high demand, providers are updating their solutions and offering the best-in-class marketing automation services to stay ahead of competitors.

The German market is scale-oriented, where clients oversee human-centered marketing that is based on individual needs and aligned with their customer journey.

In implementation services for marketing automation, midmarket quadrant enterprises consider specialized service providers that can execute tasks in less than 50 percent of the time compared to their competitors without disrupting ongoing projects.

Marketing and sales leaders should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

IT and technology leaders should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

Security and data professionals should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

Field service managers should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant assesses service providers that specialize in Salesforce Marketing Cloud and target midsize and small companies. Expertise in marketing-related areas and automation is an important factor. Implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and go-live support.

Reza Sarwari
Definition

This quadrant includes providers that specialize in Salesforce Marketing Cloud for cases where the need for real-time integration into a complex system landscape is limited; this is more typical for midsize and small clients. In addition, provider expertise in marketing-specific aspects, such as the use of media and multichannel approaches, is essential. As the interaction with end clients usually implies a large volume of transactions, the automation of these functionalities – for instance, Pardot – is another important success factor in this quadrant. From a functional perspective, the implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and finally, go-live support.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Strong implementation capabilities (consulting, configuration, data migration and go live) for the Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Pardot, and for marketing-specific aspects, such as information gathering, CX, digital customer journey optimization and automation of customer interactions
2. Provision of training and the enablement of client personnel to use the application
3. Availability of predefined solutions and accelerators preferably both functionally oriented and industry specific
4. Presence of unique differentiators
5. Economic stability and significant delivery capabilities to serve numerous clients
6. Compelling list of use cases and references
Observations
Salesforce marketing automation services must take into account that most marketing activities involve direct interactions with end users of products and services. This leads to big data and a growing need for fully mobile solutions. This is an essential capability that the leading providers in this quadrant must be able to demonstrate. Automation capabilities, typically using the Pardot platform, are also a key success factor for this type of implementation.

Some of the major marketing agencies can also act as key competitors to the technology-focused providers in this market because of their strong expertise. In general, not all service providers active in the Salesforce implementation market have a large marketing practice. The certifications for the respective Salesforce products, Marketing Cloud and Pardot, still show room for future improvement.

From the more than 90 companies assessed for this study, 16 have qualified for this quadrant, with seven being Leaders.

adesso
In the field of marketing, adesso has a competent team of 50 Marketing Cloud specialists who respond to customers’ needs with customer-oriented consulting. The focus of the implementation is on marketing automation and cloud integration.

Deutsche Telekom impresses with its combination of Salesforce licenses and implementation and integration services delivered through innovative techniques, such as AI, to develop powerful marketing solutions. Its focus remains on SMEs in the DACH region.

DIGITALL
DIGITALL has a clear focus on all aspects of CRM and has deep expertise in customer analytics and business intelligence.

Factory42
Factory42 attracts customers through the integration of marketing and customer management and by automating functions such as social media monitoring or designing powerful customer interfaces.

Persistent Systems
Persistent Systems has a comparatively large resource base for Marketing Cloud and focuses on automation and data-driven marketing as key elements of Salesforce implementations.

Reply
Reply has high competencies in Marketing Cloud implementation and innovative technologies for the same, for example, Marketing-Connect. The provider focuses on cross-cloud implementation, where Sales Cloud, Service Cloud and Marketing Cloud are interlocked.

Salesfive
Salesfive reported a rapidly increasing number of marketing automation implementations over the past year. This is also reflected in its increasing number of certifications for Marketing Cloud.
Managed Application Services for Large Enterprises
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to large enterprises across industries in Germany for evaluating providers of Salesforce managed application services. In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positions of providers of Salesforce managed application services for large enterprises in Germany. It also covers providers offering additional services, including administrative assistance, accelerators for development and utilization, development services, proactive monitoring and advisory services. Conventional managed services primarily include outsourcing activities such as onsite or remote support and application monitoring. Enterprise clients explore service providers that can control IT costs and skillfully manage and maintain their Salesforce platforms. Moreover, they need service providers to manage the application, licenses and upgrades, offer user support and develop business applications integrated with the Salesforce platforms.

Germany-based enterprises partner with global Salesforce service providers for Salesforce deployments in Germany and other regions.

In Germany, business needs are changing rapidly, and providers are helping enterprises transform their application and data portfolio into a more flexible and modern environment. Providers are also focusing on training and developing Salesforce experts to quickly deliver quality services.

Marketing and sales leaders should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

IT and technology leaders should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

Security and data professionals should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

Field service managers should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant assesses providers that offer managed services for maintenance and support tasks, including monitoring, remote support and the centralized management of Salesforce applications, data quality, data security and compliance. Global service delivery and coverage of complex system landscapes are also included in the offerings for large enterprises.

Reza Sarwari
Definition
This quadrant evaluates providers with the capability to offer managed services for maintenance and support functions that include monitoring, remote support, centralized management of Salesforce applications, data quality management, data security and compliance-related aspects. In the case of large enterprise clients, this usually includes the providers’ capability to offer these services in the context of global reach and complex application landscapes, which comprise a variety of solutions from different software providers. Another important aspect is the continuous improvement of the solutions to generate additional value for the underlying business. Managed services are characterized by the transfer of responsibilities to a service provider and are driven according to defined SLAs.

Eligibility Criteria
1. Well-proven experience in operational support for end-to-end processes across complex application landscapes with a specific focus on Salesforce products
2. Availability of strong methodology and comprehensive tool support with a high degree of automation
3. Delivery capabilities at scale to serve large enterprise clients
4. Provision of mature pricing and contract models with a focus on outcome-based approaches and continuous improvement
5. A compelling list of use cases and references
Managed Application Services for Large Enterprises

Observations

Similar to implementation services for large enterprises, the coverage of integration requirements within demanding application landscapes is also an important capability for managed application service providers. As a result, large systems integrators dominate this market because they can typically provide support for end-to-end processes across multiple software packages. End-to-end capabilities must include the various ISV products that are widely used by large enterprises to cover functionalities that are not part of the Salesforce standard. Specifically for supporting large enterprises, the focus on cost efficiency, which has been dominant in recent years, is currently decreasing, and the demand for optimizing underlying business processes is gaining importance. As a result, customers hope to add value beyond the technology-driven aspects.

From the 90 companies assessed for this study, 19 have qualified for this quadrant, with eight being Leaders.

accenture

Accenture offers powerful preconfigured application management solutions alongside a global delivery model with a balanced cost structure. It also relies on automation and AI.

Capgemini

Capgemini’s offering includes a comprehensive application operations methodology, including associated tool support and a powerful automation platform.

cognizant

Cognizant offers 24/7 global application support with high scalability to optimize costs and focuses on data quality as a means to increase efficiency and ensure service stability.

HCLTech

HCLTech is a highly reliable outsourcing service provider. In addition to offering tool support through a powerful in-house developed framework, HCLTech relies on the combination of post-deployment support and continuous further development.

IBM

IBM has a range of preconfigured support solutions and a professional self-help portal. It is also globally accessible 24/7 through its many onshore, nearshore and offshore capabilities.

Infosys

Infosys uses a suite of in-house-developed tools to drive sustainable efficiency in service delivery and achieves robust processes through a focus on automation and its self-help portal. Infosys has created a hub-and-spoke model for application management services (AMS) service delivery across local hubs and onshore, nearshore and offshore locations.

TCS

TCS’ portfolio is characterized by a variety of tools that effectively support the operation of Salesforce applications. A convincing global delivery concept ensures a favorable cost structure.
Cognizant

Overview
Cognizant, based in the U.S., is a global provider of information technology services and has increasingly focused on the digital transformation of core business processes in recent years. It has been supporting the implementation of Salesforce for more than 10 years, covering the entire chain from design development to implementation and operational support. Cognizant has more than 10,000 Salesforce consultants and 30,000 Salesforce certifications.

Strengths
An efficient global delivery model:
The company operates delivery centers in multiple countries and has continuously and recently expanded its onshore presence in Germany. Its balanced delivery model enables high scalability while optimizing costs for the operational support of Salesforce instances. Achieving Expert-level certifications is a high priority.

Data quality as a means of increasing efficiency and ensuring service stability:
Cognizant offers services for cleansing databases and their subsequent harmonization, especially for master data. It also offers tools for continuous data quality monitoring and can, thus, sustainably support efficient application operations.

Comprehensive support tools, with a focus on automation:
The portfolio includes numerous tools that have been developed specifically for managing Salesforce applications. The focus is on automating various activities to achieve highly cost-efficient operations. These include solutions for configuring and generating test cases during upgrades and for release management, validation and deployment.

Caution
Cognizant should focus its existing governance models even more on optimization and the assurance of process quality.
Cognizant’s portfolio should better emphasize end-to-end process support across multiple platforms, such as SAP and ServiceNow.
Managed Application Services for Midmarket
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to small and midsize enterprises across industries in Germany for evaluating providers of Salesforce managed application services.

In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positions of providers of Salesforce managed application services for small and midsize companies in Germany. Traditional managed services primarily include outsourcing activities, such as onsite or remote support and application monitoring. This study covers providers offering additional services, including administrative assistance, accelerators for development and utilization, development services, proactive monitoring and advisory services.

In Germany, automation and structured transition models have recorded high demand for small and midsize enterprises, while service providers are upgrading their solutions through investments and acquisitions. Providers are supporting enterprise clients by offering cost management solutions for Salesforce applications through planning upgrades, conducting regular training and expanding the use of Salesforce within the organization.

Managed application services for small and midsize enterprises are a niche market in Germany. Enterprises seek all required Salesforce solutions under one platform, and service providers are updating and upgrading Salesforce-related solutions according to customer requests.

**Marketing and sales leaders** should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

**Security and data professionals** should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

**IT and technology leaders** should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

**Field service managers** should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant refers to service providers that offer managed services for the maintenance and support of Salesforce applications in the midmarket, covering monitoring, remote support, data quality management, data security and compliance aspects. Midmarket companies typically have fewer integration needs and are more likely to operate locally than companies in the large enterprise segment.

Reza Sarwari
Managed Application Services for Midmarket

**Definition**

This quadrant focuses on the capability of providers to offer managed services for maintenance and support functions that include monitoring, remote support, centralized management of Salesforce applications, data quality management, data security and compliance-related aspects. The midmarket clients usually have lower integration requirements and, in many cases, have a more regional focus. Another important aspect is the continuous improvement of the solutions to generate additional value for the underlying business. Managed services are characterized by the transfer of responsibilities to a service provider and are driven according to defined SLAs.

**Eligibility Criteria**

1. Well-proven experience in operational support for application landscapes, with a specific focus on Salesforce products
2. Availability of strong methodology and comprehensive tool support, along with a high degree of automation
3. Economic stability and significant delivery capabilities to serve numerous clients
4. Provision of mature pricing and contract models, with a focus on outcome-based approaches and continuous improvement
5. A compelling list of use cases and references
Managed Application Services for Midmarket

Observations
Managing application services based on SaaS products such as Salesforce is less complex from a functional point of view than with traditional on-premises products. This is because much of the application management is performed by the software vendor itself, in this case, Salesforce. In particular, all platform-related aspects, such as database management or performance management, are covered by Salesforce. The main components offered by service providers are upgrade support, data volume and license management, user training and, where applicable, the management of various interfaces.

Considering this limited scope, some midmarket providers focus on providing implementation services and do not place a strong focus on managed application services. Compared to the large enterprises segment, end-to-end process requirements across platforms are somewhat less important for midmarket customers, because in many cases their application landscapes are less sophisticated.

From the more than 90 companies assessed for this study, 16 have qualified for this quadrant, with seven being Leaders and two Rising Stars.

**adesso**

*adesso* operates with a support model that focuses on customer proximity and quality by largely providing services onshore. This specific positioning of application services enables a high level of customer loyalty.

**Deutsche Telekom** has a flexible support model that is particularly suitable for cost optimization and is convincing in application management with support for end-to-end process chains. The support model uses various methods, such as BDD, TDD and MBT, and an automation tool.

**DIGITALL**

DIGITALL’s offering is based on a compelling modular service catalog for application support. The company has an attractive delivery model with a high proportion of nearshore capacity.

**Factory42**

Factory42 offers a well-structured application support offering and a health check with standardized packages for the continuous optimization of running Salesforce applications.

**Persistent Systems**

Persistent Systems managed application services include all relevant service components. The company achieves high efficiency through the consistent use of automation and is also very flexible, as it has nearshore, onshore and offshore capacities.

**Reply**

Reply offers customers customized service models with tailored designs for individual components. A dedicated governance model for joint application management with customers completes its portfolio.

**Salesfive**

With its customer-focused support and quick response time to inquiries, Salesfive has developed a successful service model for its customers.

The following providers were able to achieve the Rising Star status and, thus, have the potential to become Leaders in this quadrant in the future:

**Cloud Consulting Group**

Cloud Consulting Group has gained significant industry expertise after being acquired by Mindcurv. With its global network and onshore presence, Cloud Consulting Group has an efficient service model.

**Cloud Monsters**

Cloud Monsters has a strong customer-centric service model and can benefit greatly from its nearshore capabilities in Tunisia.
Implementation Services for Industry Clouds
Who Should Read This Section

This report is relevant to enterprises across industries in Germany for evaluating providers offering implementation services for industry clouds.

In this quadrant, ISG defines the current market positions of service providers in Germany and identifies how enterprises address critical challenges associated with implementing Salesforce industry cloud products in the country.

This quadrant includes providers of implementation services focused on Salesforce’s industry cloud products, such as Financial Services Cloud and Health Cloud. Industry-specific skills and appropriate accelerators are important success factors for this segment.

Service providers must develop comprehensive solutions based on various Salesforce products applicable to a particular client situation.

With Salesforce moving its offerings toward higher verticalization, this topic will become a high priority in future implementations. From a functional perspective, the implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and finally the go-live support.

In Germany, enterprises typically have Salesforce industry cloud solutions deployed with minimum customizations. Thus, service providers automate their industry-specific cloud solutions with the least customization for specific industry cloud enterprises. Retail, financial services, energy, manufacturing, media, communications and healthcare industries are emerging markets in Germany where service providers are offering adapted industry-based solutions and promoting the design of industry-specific solutions.

Marketing and sales leaders should read this report to understand the relative positioning and capabilities of service providers that can help them effectively implement Salesforce Marketing Cloud, Salesforce Sales Cloud, Heroku and other offerings, with the necessary integration into related systems and analysis solutions.

IT and technology leaders should read this report to understand providers’ relative positioning and capabilities and how they can help effective adoption of services from Salesforce clouds, along with integration and analytics solutions. The report also explains how the technical capabilities of service providers are compared in the market.

Security and data professionals should read this report to understand how providers comply with the security and data protection laws in the U.K. for their Salesforce implementation and integration practices and how they can be compared with one another.

Field service managers should read this report to understand how service providers can help implement and expand the use of Salesforce Service Cloud to manage field service operations better.
This quadrant assesses providers that specialize in Salesforce Industry Clouds. They must be able to demonstrate significant industry expertise.

Reza Sarwari
Implementation Services for Industry Clouds

Definition
This quadrant includes providers of implementation services that focus on Industry Clouds products of Salesforce, such as Financial Services Cloud and Health Cloud. Industry-specific skills and appropriate accelerators are important success factors for this quadrant. Furthermore, service providers need the capability to develop comprehensive solutions based on the various Salesforce products that are relevant to a particular client situation. With Salesforce currently moving its offerings toward higher verticalization, this topic will become a high priority in future implementations. From a functional perspective, the implementation services include process consulting, design, configuration, data cleansing, migration and finally, go-live support.

Eligibility Criteria
1. Well-proven domain expertise for respective industries
2. Strong implementation capabilities (consulting, configuration, data migration, go live) for the Salesforce Industry Clouds products and the products provided by Vlocity (recently taken over by Salesforce)
3. Deep knowledge of the Salesforce data architecture
4. The presence of unique differentiators, for example, proven industry-specific accelerators
5. Economic stability and significant delivery capabilities to serve numerous clients
6. A compelling list of use cases and references
Observations

The market for Salesforce implementations is currently being significantly changed by the vertical strategy that Salesforce has recently launched. This started a few years ago with industry-specific products such as the Financial Services Cloud and Health Cloud. After the acquisition of Vlocity, its capabilities became the core elements for Salesforce’s accelerated transition to more industry-specific products. Today, Salesforce has multiple industry-specific clouds, all built on the Customer 360 platform. Clearly, this market is still quite young, and there are few providers so far that have a strong focus on this new approach of Salesforce. Whether this move will be widely accepted by customers remains to be seen, as this comes with additional licensing requirements and associated costs. Nevertheless, it is now essential for service providers to invest significantly in their industry expertise and the products offered by Salesforce. In transformation projects, it is necessary to conduct a thorough evaluation as to which product is best suited for a specific customer situation.

From the more than 90 companies assessed for this study, 17 have qualified for this quadrant, with seven being Leaders.

**Accenture**

Accenture has extensive industry expertise and provides industry-specific Salesforce solutions, even in technologically complex environments.

**Capgemini**

Capgemini’s successful mix of broad industry expertise and Salesforce experts gives it notable references in the Industry Clouds area.

**Cognizant**

Cognizant focuses on industry-specific solutions and has an extensive portfolio of preconfigured solutions for use in various industries.

**Deloitte Digital**

Deloitte Digital has a significant focus on business process design, numerous preconfigured solutions and broad industry expertise.

Deutsche Telekom has been focusing on Salesforce Industry Clouds since 2020 through the internal launch of Industry Cloud (formerly Vlocity) and can, thus, offer concentrated industry expertise and preconfigured solutions.

IBM offers a wide range of cloud accelerator packages and best-practice-based solutions for various industries. As a result, the company has already gained significant industry experience and continues to build important industry contacts, such as with its participation in the Manufacturing Cloud Advisory Board.

Infosys has Salesforce implementation experience across multiple industries and additional expertise in numerous ISV solution offerings on the Salesforce platform. In recent years, Infosys has seen strong growth in Salesforce-related market segments.
Cognizant

Overview
Cognizant, based in the U.S., is a global provider of information technology services. It has increasingly focused on the digital transformation of core business processes in recent years. The company has been supporting the implementation of Salesforce for more than 10 years, covering the entire chain from design development to implementation and operational support. It has more than 10,000 Salesforce consultants and 30,000 Salesforce certifications.

Strengths
Strong growth in the Salesforce services market: Cognizant can point to considerable growth in the market for implementation services for Salesforce. The growth is driven by the continuous development of its own resources and, to a significant extent, by acquisitions.

Powerful industry solutions: Cognizant has an extensive portfolio of preconfigured solutions for use in specific industries. This means that the provider can offer an individual solution for each industry cloud and demonstrate a high level of experience and expertise. An example is the InsurEleVate package, which was developed specifically for companies in the insurance industry.

Compelling Salesforce-specific methodology: Cognizant uses an implementation methodology specific to Salesforce called PureForce, which combines Agile approaches with elements of the phased approach.

Award for innovation: Cognizant was awarded the 2022 Partner Innovation Award for Industry Clouds Implementation for Fortune 500 Insurance.

Caution
Cognizant should steadily pursue strengthening its onshore presence in Germany, which has already begun, to further increase the scalability of the service shares provided regionally.

"With significant industry expertise, Cognizant is a preferred implementation partner for Salesforce applications."
Reza Sarwari
Appendix
The ISG Provider Lens™ 2023 - Study Salesforce Ecosystem Partners report analyzes the relevant software vendors/service providers in the German market, based on a multi-phased research and analysis process, and positions these providers based on the ISG Research methodology.

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The research and analysis presented in this report includes research from the ISG Provider Lens™ program, ongoing ISG Research™ programs, interviews with ISG advisors, briefings with services providers and analysis of publicly available market information from multiple sources. The data collected for this report represents information that ISG believes to be current as of January 2023, for providers who actively participated as well as for providers who did not. ISG recognizes that many mergers and acquisitions have taken place since that time, but those changes are not reflected in this report.

All revenue references are in U.S. dollars ($US) unless noted.

The study was divided into the following steps:

1. Definition of Salesforce Ecosystem partners market
2. Use of questionnaire-based surveys of service providers/vendor across all trend topics
3. Interactive discussions with service providers/vendors on capabilities & use cases
4. Leverage ISG’s internal databases & advisor knowledge & experience (wherever applicable)
5. Use of Star of Excellence CX-Data
6. Detailed analysis & evaluation of services & service documentation based on the facts & figures received from providers & other sources.
7. Use of the following key evaluation criteria:
   * Strategy & vision
   * Tech Innovation
   * Brand awareness and presence in the market
   * Sales and partner landscape
   * Breadth and depth of portfolio of services offered
   * CX and Recommendation
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Reza Sarwari is a Lead Analyst with 13 years of professional experience in Salesforce consulting in the DACH market. In 2009 he started his career as a Salesforce developer; at that time, he already had six years of experience in designing and developing online applications. After several projects as a Salesforce consultant, he founded his own Salesforce agency called Cloudideas GmbH in 2012.

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Mr. Aase brings extensive experience in the implementation and research of service integration and management of both IT and business processes. With over 35 years of experience, he is highly skilled at analyzing vendor governance trends and methodologies, identifying inefficiencies in current processes, and advising the industry. Jan Erik has experience on all four sides of the sourcing and vendor governance lifecycle - as a client, an industry analyst, a service provider and an advisor.

Now as a research director, principal analyst and global head of ISG Provider Lens™, he is very well positioned to assess and report on the state of the industry and make recommendations for both enterprises and service provider clients.
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For more information about ISG Provider Lens™ research, please visit this webpage.

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