

Contact Centers Buyers Guide

Software Provider and Product Assessment

SOFTWARE
PROVIDER
REPORT

ISG Research

Licensed by:

NiCE



Contact Centers

Contact centers have remained largely unchanged for decades, but are now undergoing a drastic overhaul in operations, interaction mechanics and underlying technology architectures. This is proving disruptive to both technology buyers and sellers. The most immediate cause is the explosion of new tools derived from artificial intelligence (AI) innovations. Contact centers have always operated as reactive, cost-sensitive entities purpose-built for a narrowly defined function. Now centers are being asked to expand core



ISG Research defines Contact Center systems as the technologies responsible for routing customer interactions to an automated or live representative.

functions, re-task the human labor force, respond to customers and enterprises in real time and use data for more sophisticated decision-making. In a short period, the foundational assumptions related to outfitting contact centers have been upended.

ISG Research defines Contact Center systems as the technologies responsible for routing customer interactions to an automated or live representative. The fundamental tool for routing voice interactions is the automated call distributor (ACD), software that connects to a telephony switching fabric and uses intelligence to ensure the call goes to the right representative. The collection of essential contact center technology also includes an elaborate suite of applications used to manage the operations of the human workforce, including routine functions such as

scheduling shifts, forecasting interaction volume and measuring the efficiency of people and teams. Both routing and agent management tools are generally found in unified software systems, and though it is rare, it is still possible to deploy many or all of the tools on-premises. Today's configurations are generally built for cloud deployment and fall under the industry rubric of CCaaS, or contact center as a service. Current tools have also expanded well beyond the core routing and agent productivity systems and now include very sophisticated analytics capabilities, workflow automations, advanced self-service systems and data integrations with adjacent tools, especially in the back office. AI innovations have also led to the creation of wholly new tools for managing quality, delivering knowledge and speeding interactions.

Contact centers were first developed as business entities almost 50 years ago, and for much of that time, core technology and operations remained fairly stable. Well into the digital era, the fundamentals of interaction routing and workforce optimization were standard practices, augmented but not displaced by incremental innovations in expanding the channel landscape, more powerful analysis and better ways to measure performance.

The past three years have seen more disruptive innovation than centers have experienced to date. Much is made of the importance of AI in creating entirely new tools, and indeed, we assert that by 2027, three-quarters of contact centers will have introduced multiple GenAI



applications into their service processes for routing, chatbots and agent assistance. But less discussion surrounds the impact of outside providers entering the contact center software space from adjacent markets, especially the hyperscaler giants. When firms with R&D resources in the tens of billions of dollars enter a market, the incumbent players have little choice but to make peace with a changed environment and adapt. The result has been an expansion of choice. In the past, a buyer had to select the core call-routing engine and build a center's tech stack around that software provider's solution. In the new world, hyperscalers have commoditized the routing engine, allowing virtually anyone—buyer or another provider—to build a contact center infrastructure based on whichever software component is most important to them. So, a buyer committed to a particular CRM or case-tracking tool can start with those elements and build the center using the extensive integrations and partnership networks available. Or, they can work with software from the back office or marketing department and conform the center's systems to accommodate those applications.

Contact Center
Market Assertion

By 2027, three-quarters of contact centers will have introduced multiple GenAI applications into their service processes for routing, chatbots and agent assistance.

Keith Dawson
Director of Research, Customer Experience

ISG Research

This means that providers from many origin points can plausibly go to market with a software suite that serves the core needs of contact centers—routing and workforce management. Buyers then distinguish between options based on more broad-based needs, such as data management, back-office integration, conformity with existing legacy tools or something specific to the unique business or vertical market. In 2025, contact center buyers face more—and more complicated—choices than ever.

What enterprises need is assurance of interoperability and clean, easy integrations. Most buyers appear to source technology from as few providers as possible, leaning toward suites for simplicity of administration. Most large and midsized platform providers encourage this by forging extensive partnership networks and app marketplaces that let buyers fill peripheral software needs with best-of-breed niche tools, with the assurance that the platform provider will coordinate the connections.

Enterprises that have not purchased contact center systems since before the pandemic (which is most of them) are experiencing a different world: new providers, providers that have evolved focus and a set of functional capabilities that didn't exist five years ago. Business requirements have not advanced as quickly as technological innovation, so buyers are understandably reticent—even confused—about how to prioritize deployment of a new system. It doesn't help that many contact center buyers are now also sitting side-by-side with CX professionals who have different, parallel goals for software purchases, and are



simultaneously under great pressure from executives to stay current on developing AI technologies (if that is even possible).

All of that said, what enterprises really need to do is focus on two things: the foundational elements of yore, meaning routing and workforce tools, and the expanded universe of tools that support and extend its mission. Those would include advanced analytics, conversational AI for self-service, AI tools for automating quality and knowledge resources that feed the customer-facing AI.

Buyers also need assurance that when they take the leap into the realm of the new, they have concrete ROI metrics to back them up. Providers report a consistently high portion of AI-related sales riding atop detailed proof-of-concept trials. Some also indicate that the uptake for certain AI tools is correspondingly slow, as buyers wait for the proof points.

To meet these enterprise needs, today's contact center systems must incorporate key AI applications that make up the current "core" capabilities: information synthesis and delivery to customers and human agents, automating processes within the center and between departments and analyzing customer sentiment more deeply than just at the level of the interaction. Contemporary tools need to be strong in areas that were once peripheral, especially self-service and analytics.

The ISG Buyers Guide™ for Contact Centers evaluates software providers and products in key areas, including interaction routing (voice and digital), agent management, interaction handling analytics, automation and self-service, workflow automation and integration and AI/GenAI support.

This research evaluates the following software providers offering products to address key elements of Contact Center systems as we define them: 8x8, Aircall, Alvaria, Avaya, AWS, Cisco, Content Guru, Dialpad, Emplifi, Enghouse Interactive, Exotel, Five9, Genesys, GoTo, Microsoft, Mitel, net2phone, Nextiva, NiCE, Odigo, RingCentral, Salesforce, Sinch, Sprinklr, Talkdesk, Twilio, UJET, Verint, Vonage, XTIUM, Zendesk, Zoho and Zoom.



Buyers Guide Overview

For over two decades, ISG Research has conducted market research in a spectrum of areas across business applications, tools and technologies. We have designed the Buyers Guide to provide a balanced perspective of software providers and products that is rooted in an understanding of the business requirements in any enterprise. Utilization of our research



ISG Research has designed the Buyers Guide to provide a balanced perspective of software providers and products that is rooted in an understanding of business requirements in any enterprise.

methodology and decades of experience enables our Buyers Guide to be an effective method to assess and select software providers and products. The findings of this research undertaking contribute to our comprehensive approach to rating software providers in a manner that is based on the assessments completed by an enterprise.

The ISG Buyers Guide™ for Contact Centers is the distillation of over a year of market and product research efforts. It is an assessment of how well software providers' offerings address enterprises' requirements for contact centers. The index is structured to support a request for information (RFI) that could be used in the request for proposal (RFP) process by incorporating all criteria needed to evaluate, select, utilize and maintain relationships with software providers. An effective product and customer experience with a provider can ensure the best long-term relationship and value achieved from a resource and financial investment.

In this Buyers Guide, ISG Research evaluates the software in seven key categories that are weighted to reflect buyers' needs based on our expertise and research. Five are product-experience related: Adaptability, Capability, Manageability, Reliability, and Usability. In addition, we consider two customer-experience categories: Validation, and Total Cost of Ownership/Return on Investment (TCO/ROI). To assess functionality, one of the components of Capability, we applied the ISG Research Value Index methodology and blueprint, which links the personas and processes for contact centers to an enterprise's requirements.

The structure of the research reflects our understanding that the effective evaluation of software providers and products involves far more than just examining product features, potential revenue or customers generated from a provider's marketing and sales efforts. We believe it is important to take a comprehensive, research-based approach, since making the wrong choice of contact center technology can raise the total cost of ownership, lower the return on investment and hamper an enterprise's ability to reach its full performance potential. In addition, this approach can reduce the project's development and deployment



time and eliminate the risk of relying on a short list of software providers that does not represent a best fit for your enterprise.

ISG Research believes that an objective review of software providers and products is a critical business strategy for the adoption and implementation of contact center software and applications. An enterprise's review should include a thorough analysis of both what is possible and what is relevant. We urge enterprises to do a thorough job of evaluating contact center systems and tools and offer this Buyers Guide as both the results of our in-depth analysis of these providers and as an evaluation methodology.



Key Takeaways

Contact centers are in the midst of their most significant transformation in decades, driven by AI and cloud architectures, and emerging competitive entrants. While routing and workforce management remain core, modern platforms are defined by analytics, conversational AI, automation, and tight integration with CRM and CX systems. Enterprises face an increasingly complex landscape and demand interoperable and usability, measurable ROI and proven AI use cases. As a result, successful platforms must deliver both foundational reliability and expanded AI-driven capabilities to boost efficiency and enhance customer experience.

Software Provider Summary

The research identifies NiCE, Verint and Genesys as the market leaders, with strengths across multiple categories, while providers such as Content Guru, Dialpad and Five9 demonstrated targeted capabilities. Classification placed NiCE, Verint and Genesys in the Exemplary quadrant alongside providers including Salesforce, Talkdesk, Zendesk and Zoho. Firms such as AWS, Cisco and Microsoft were categorized as Innovative, Twilio and Zoom as Assurance, and vendors such as 8x8, Mitel and Sinch in the Merit quadrant. This segmentation enables enterprises to quickly assess which providers deliver the strongest overall commitment.

Product Experience Insights

Product Experience accounted for 80% of the overall rating, with emphasis on capability, usability, reliability, adaptability and manageability. NiCE, Verint and Genesys led in delivering robust routing, workforce and analytics capabilities, while Five9 and Sprinklr demonstrated breadth but less overall depth. Leaders distinguished themselves with adaptability, usability and strong reliability, ensuring that their platforms can scale across enterprise requirements while supporting modern AI-driven innovations.

Customer Experience Value

Customer Experience represented 20% of the evaluation, focused on validation and TCO/ROI. Verint, NiCE and Content Guru led in this category by demonstrating strong customer commitment, transparent ROI frameworks and consistent lifecycle support. Genesys and Salesforce also performed well, though short of leadership. Lower-performing providers often lacked sufficient customer references or clarity in their engagement approach, making it harder for buyers to justify long-term investments.

Strategic Recommendations

Enterprises should treat contact center software selection as a strategic decision that balances foundational functions such as routing and workforce management with expanded AI-driven capabilities in analytics, self-service and agent support. Buyers should prioritize platforms that ensure interoperability, simplify administration and deliver measurable ROI through proof-of-concept trials. Using the ISG Buyers Guide as a structured framework evaluates providers against both product and customer experience, ensuring investments that improve efficiency, enhance customer satisfaction and align with evolving requirements.



How To Use This Buyers Guide

Evaluating Software Providers: The Process

We recommend using the Buyers Guide to assess and evaluate new or existing software providers for your enterprise. The market research can be used as an evaluation framework to establish a formal request for information from providers on products and customer experience and will shorten the cycle time when creating an RFI. The steps listed below provide a process that can facilitate best possible outcomes.

1. Define the business case and goals.
Define the mission and business case for investment and the expected outcomes from your organizational and technological efforts.
2. Specify the business needs.
Defining the business requirements helps identify what specific capabilities are required with respect to people, processes, information and technology.
3. Assess the required roles and responsibilities.
Identify the individuals required for success at every level of the enterprise from executives to frontline workers and determine the needs of each.
4. Outline the project's critical path.
What needs to be done, in what order and who will do it? This outline should make clear the prior dependencies at each step of the project plan.
5. Ascertain the technology approach.
Determine the business and technology approach that most closely aligns to your enterprise's requirements.
6. Establish software provider evaluation criteria.
Utilize the product experience: Adaptability, Capability, Manageability, Reliability and Usability, and the customer experience in TCO/ROI and Validation.
7. Evaluate and select the technology properly.
Weight the categories in the technology evaluation criteria to reflect your enterprise's priorities to determine the short list of software providers and products.
8. Establish the business initiative team to start the project.
Identify who will lead the project and the members of the team needed to plan and execute it with timelines, priorities and resources.



The Findings

All of the products we evaluated are feature-rich, but not all the capabilities offered by a software provider are equally valuable to types of workers or support everything needed to manage products on a continuous basis. Moreover, the existence of too many capabilities may be a negative factor for an enterprise if it introduces unnecessary complexity. Nonetheless, you may decide that a larger number of features in the product is a plus, especially if some of them match your enterprise's established practices or support an initiative that is driving the purchase of new software.

Factors beyond features and functions or software provider assessments may become a deciding factor. For example, an enterprise may face budget constraints such that the TCO evaluation can tip the balance to one provider or another. This is where the Value Index methodology and the appropriate category weighting can be applied to determine the best fit of software providers and products to your specific needs.



Overall Scoring of Software Providers Across Categories

The research finds NiCE at the top of the list, followed by Verint and Genesys. Providers that place in the top three of a category earn the designation of Leader. NiCE has done so in seven categories, Verint in six, Genesys in three, Content Guru in two and Dialpad, Five9 and Talkdesk in one category.

The overall representation of the research below places the rating of the Product Experience and Customer Experience on the x and y axes, respectively, to provide a visual representation and classification of the software providers. Those providers whose Product Experience have a higher weighted performance to the axis in aggregate of the five product categories place farther to the right, while the performance and weighting for the two Customer Experience categories determines placement on the vertical axis. In short, software providers that place closer to the upper-right on this chart performed better than those closer to the lower-left.

The research places software providers into one of four overall categories: Assurance, Exemplary, Merit or Innovative. This representation classifies providers' overall weighted performance.

Contact Centers

Overall

Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	A-	Leader 81.4%
Verint	B++	Leader 80.3%
Genesys	B++	Leader 78.3%
Content Guru	B++	76.9%
Sprinklr	B++	76.7%
Five9	B++	76.1%
Talkdesk	B++	75.9%
RingCentral	B++	75.2%
Zendesk	B+	74.0%
Salesforce	B+	72.2%
Microsoft	B+	71.6%
Dialpad	B+	69.9%
Cisco	B+	69.7%
UJET	B+	69.6%
Zoho	B	68.6%
Avaya	B	68.3%
Zoom	B	67.6%
Vonage	B	67.4%
AWS	B	67.3%
Nextiva	B	67.1%
Twilio	B	66.3%
8x8	B	64.5%
Mitel	B	64.1%
Odigo	B	63.2%
Exotel	B	63.0%
Emplifi	B-	61.5%
Sinch	B-	59.3%
net2phone	B-	58.4%
Enghouse Interactive	B-	58.2%
GoTo	C++	54.2%
Alvaria	C++	52.4%
XTIUM	C++	50.0%
Aircall	C+	47.8%

ISG | Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Exemplary: The categorization and placement of software providers in Exemplary (upper right) represent those that performed the best in meeting the overall Product and Customer Experience requirements. The providers rated Exemplary are: Content Guru, Dialpad, Five9, Genesys, NiCE, RingCentral, Salesforce, Sprinklr, Talkdesk, Verint, Zendesk and Zoho.

Innovative: The categorization and placement of software providers in Innovative (lower right) represent those that performed the best in meeting the overall Product Experience requirements but did not achieve the highest levels of requirements in Customer Experience. The providers rated Innovative are: Avaya, AWS, Cisco, Microsoft, Nextiva, UJET and Vonage.

Assurance: The categorization and placement of software providers in Assurance (upper left) represent those that achieved the highest levels in the overall Customer Experience requirements but did not achieve the highest levels of Product Experience. The providers rated Assurance are: Twilio and Zoom.

Merit: The categorization of software providers in Merit (lower left) represents those that did not surpass the thresholds for the Assurance, Exemplary or Innovative categories in Customer or Product Experience. The providers rated Merit are: 8x8, Aircall, Alvaria, Emplifi, Enghouse Interactive, Exotel, GoTo, Mitel, net2phone, Odigo, Sinch and XTium.



We warn that close provider placement proximity should not be taken to imply that the packages evaluated are functionally identical or equally well suited for use by every enterprise or for a specific process. Although there is a high degree of commonality in how enterprises handle contact center, there are many idiosyncrasies and differences in how they do these functions that can make one software provider's offering a better fit than another's for a particular enterprise's needs.

We advise enterprises to assess and evaluate software providers based on organizational requirements and use this research as a supplement to internal evaluation of a provider and products.



Product Experience

The process of researching products to address an enterprise's needs should be comprehensive. Our Value Index methodology examines Product Experience and how it aligns with an enterprise's lifecycle of onboarding, configuration, operations, usage and maintenance. Too often, software providers are not evaluated for the entirety of the product; instead, they are evaluated on market execution and vision of the future, which are flawed since they do not represent an enterprise's requirements but how the provider operates. As more software providers orient to a complete product experience, evaluations will be more robust.

The research results in Product Experience are ranked at 80%, or four-fifths, of the overall rating using the specific underlying weighted category performance. Importance was placed on the categories as follows: Usability (10%), Capability (34%), Reliability (12%), Adaptability (12%) and Manageability (12%). This weighting impacted the resulting overall ratings in this research. NiCE, Verint and Genesys were designated Product Experience Leaders.

Contact Centers Product Experience

Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	B++	Leader 65.0%
Verint	B++	Leader 63.8%
Genesys	B++	Leader 62.2%
Sprinklr	B++	61.4%
Five9	B++	61.3%
Content Guru	B++	60.7%
Talkdesk	B++	60.6%
RingCentral	B++	60.2%
Zendesk	B+	58.7%
Microsoft	B+	57.7%
Cisco	B+	57.4%
Salesforce	B+	56.3%
UJET	B+	55.9%
Dialpad	B	54.8%
Avaya	B	54.7%
Vonage	B	54.1%
Nextiva	B	54.1%
AWS	B	53.8%
Zoho	B	53.7%
Zoom	B	52.9%
Twilio	B	51.6%
Mitel	B	50.9%
8x8	B	50.6%
Odigo	B	50.6%
Exotel	B-	49.7%
Emplifi	B-	47.3%
Sinch	B-	45.7%
net2phone	B-	45.6%
Enghouse Interactive	C++	44.7%
GoTo	C++	42.4%
Alvaria	C++	40.1%
XTIUM	C+	38.8%
Aircall	C+	35.8%



Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Adaptability of the Product

This category assesses the degree to which products and technology can be adapted to an enterprise’s specifications via configurability and customization while still maintaining integrity of integration across the worker, device, business, processes, application and data.

Adaptability is also related to the ability to readily integrate with other internal and external systems—for example, integrate data and information securely across processes and systems—and support bidirectional data flows to support synchronization and migration. It also examines the investment by the software provider in resources and improvements.

The research weights Adaptability at 12% of the overall rating. NiCE, Genesys, and Verint are the Leaders in this category. While not Leaders, Zoom, Sprinklr and Salesforce were also found to meet a broad range of enterprise adaptability requirements.

Adaptability is an essential evaluation metric as it determines the flexibility and interconnectivity of the software provider’s product related to enterprise requirements. It also enables enterprise software to operate across the variety of platforms and cloud computing environments that exist today and in the future.

Software providers that evaluated well in the Adaptability category understand the criticality of preparing and using information to optimize business execution. These providers meet the specific customization and integration support requirements in these areas, enabling enterprises to process data across business processes, workflows and applications as they operate.

Contact Centers Adaptability

Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	A-	Leader 81.6%
Genesys	A-	Leader 81.3%
Verint	B++	Leader 80.1%
Zoom	B++	79.9%
Sprinklr	B++	79.8%
Salesforce	B++	79.6%
Zendesk	B++	79.2%
Content Guru	B++	78.9%
Talkdesk	B++	78.8%
Microsoft	B++	78.7%
RingCentral	B++	78.5%
Twilio	B++	78.1%
UJET	B++	77.9%
Zoho	B++	77.8%
Five9	B++	75.7%
Mitel	B+	73.3%
Emplifi	B+	72.9%
Nextiva	B+	71.7%
Sinch	B+	71.6%
XTIUM	B+	70.8%
GoTo	B+	70.7%
AWS	B+	70.1%
Vonage	B+	69.2%
8x8	B	68.6%
Cisco	B	68.5%
Alvaria	B	66.8%
Dialpad	B	66.6%
net2phone	B	66.4%
Avaya	B	65.6%
Exotel	B-	61.1%
Aircall	B-	60.1%
Odigo	B-	59.6%
Enghouse Interactive	C++	51.5%

ISG Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Reliability of the Product

For contact centers to operate efficiently and for workers to engage the applications, the software on which they run must reliably deliver the necessary performance and scalability using the existing architecture operating across the enterprise and cloud computing environments. The criteria include depth in the performance and scalability of a software provider’s products and architecture, including the metrics to ensure operations and configurability across data, users, instances, activities and tasks. It also examines the investment by the provider in resources and improvements.

The research weights Reliability at 12% of the overall rating. NiCE, Talkdesk, and Verint are the Leaders in this category, providing the highest level of confidence for operation at any level of reliability 24 hours a day. While not Leaders, Genesys, Zendesk and AWS were also found to meet a broad range of enterprise reliability requirements.

Reliability is an essential evaluation metric as it indicates the product’s ability to perform and scale to the defined enterprise requirements and how well it supports the continuous processing required for business continuity and operational resilience today and into the future.

Evaluating the performance and scalability readiness of software is not always easy as it depends on the type of computation and processing and the volume at which the data is being updated and used by processes and systems. Software providers that did not perform well in this category were not able to provide this level of information at any depth, even though it is necessary to establish the confidence required for provider selection.

Contact Centers Reliability		
Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	A-	Leader 81.3%
Talkdesk	B++	Leader 80.4%
Verint	B++	Leader 80.4%
Genesys	B++	80.2%
Zendesk	B++	80.1%
AWS	B++	80.0%
Five9	B++	79.6%
Twilio	B++	79.5%
Content Guru	B++	79.0%
RingCentral	B++	78.9%
Salesforce	B++	78.2%
Zoom	B++	77.9%
Cisco	B++	77.8%
Zoho	B++	77.5%
Microsoft	B++	77.4%
Sprinklr	B++	76.0%
Avaya	B+	74.8%
UJET	B+	72.8%
Vonage	B+	69.8%
Emplifi	B+	69.0%
Nextiva	B+	68.8%
8x8	B	67.8%
Dialpad	B	67.4%
Sinch	B	67.3%
Exotel	B	67.0%
Alvaria	B	66.8%
Mitel	B	65.6%
Enghouse Interactive	B	62.9%
GoTo	B-	61.5%
Odigo	B-	58.7%
Aircall	B-	57.2%
net2phone	C++	55.7%
XTIUM	C++	55.6%

ISG | Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Customer Experience

The importance of a customer relationship with a software provider is essential to the actual success of the products and technology. The advancement of the Customer Experience and the entire lifecycle an enterprise has with its software provider is critical for ensuring satisfaction in working with that provider.

Technology providers that have chief customer officers are more likely to have greater investments in the customer relationship and focus more on their success. These leaders also need to take responsibility for ensuring this commitment is made abundantly clear on the website and in the buying process and customer journey.

The research results in Customer Experience are ranked at 20%, or one-fifth, using the specific underlying weighted category performance as it relates to the framework of commitment and value to the software provider-customer relationship. The two evaluation categories are Validation (10%) and TCO/ROI (10%), which are weighted to represent their importance to the overall research.

The software providers that evaluated the highest overall in the aggregated and weighted Customer Experience categories are Verint, NiCE and Content Guru. These category leaders best communicate commitment and dedication to customer needs. While not Leaders, Genesys and Salesforce were also found to meet a broad range of enterprise customer experience requirements.

Software providers that did not perform well in this category were unable to provide sufficient customer case studies to demonstrate success or articulate their commitment to customer experience and an enterprise's journey. The selection of a software provider means a continuous investment by the enterprise, so a holistic evaluation must include examination of how they support their customer experience.

Contact Centers Customer Experience

Providers	Grade	Performance
Verint	A-	Leader 16.5%
NiCE	A-	Leader 16.4%
Content Guru	B++	Leader 16.1%
Genesys	B++	16.0%
Salesforce	B++	15.8%
Talkdesk	B++	15.4%
Sprinklr	B++	15.3%
Zendesk	B++	15.2%
RingCentral	B++	15.1%
Zoho	B+	14.9%
Five9	B+	14.8%
Twilio	B+	14.8%
Dialpad	B+	14.7%
Zoom	B+	14.6%
Microsoft	B+	14.2%
Emplifi	B+	14.0%
UJET	B+	13.8%
AWS	B	13.8%
8x8	B	13.7%
Avaya	B	13.6%
Vonage	B	13.5%
Sinch	B	13.4%
Exotel	B	13.2%
Mitel	B	13.2%
Nextiva	B	13.2%
Enghouse Interactive	B	13.1%
net2phone	B	12.7%
Cisco	B-	12.5%
Odigo	B-	12.5%
Alvaria	B-	12.3%
Aircall	B-	11.9%
GoTo	B-	11.8%
XTIUM	B-	11.3%



Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Validation of the Software Provider

The Validation category assesses the software provider's ability to support a customer through the lifecycle of working with its products. It examines the provider's commitment to the customer experience from leadership, processes and systems, and evaluates a software provider's ability to assess its customer experience across front and back office and the marketing and communication of that experience. The viability of a software provider from financial growth, management and customer growth are evaluated, as are customer references and studies on the provider's website and the use of feedback to improve the provider's operations.

The Validation category also evaluates the customer journey across sales, onboarding, support, services and partners as well as examining the product releases and roadmap, and how the software provider utilizes formalized interactions with customers to improve products. Validation looks at the services, the support provided and the provider's digital effectiveness to facilitate the customer relationship. It also examines the investment by the software provider in resources and improvements.

The research weights Validation at 10% of the overall rating. The Leaders here are NiCE, Verint and Genesys. While not a Leader, Content Guru was also found to meet a broad range of enterprise validation requirements.

Contact Centers Validation

Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	B++	Leader 81.2%
Verint	B++	Leader 79.9%
Genesys	B++	Leader 79.2%
Content Guru	B++	78.8%
Salesforce	B++	77.8%
RingCentral	B++	76.3%
Sprinklr	B++	75.9%
Zoom	B++	75.9%
Talkdesk	B++	75.5%
Zoho	B+	74.2%
Zendesk	B+	73.9%
Microsoft	B+	72.9%
Dialpad	B+	72.8%
Five9	B+	72.5%
Twilio	B+	71.4%
AWS	B+	70.8%
Emplifi	B	68.6%
Vonage	B	68.4%
8x8	B	67.4%
Avaya	B	67.3%
Enghouse Interactive	B	66.0%
Nextiva	B	65.5%
Mitel	B	65.3%
GoTo	B	65.1%
Exotel	B	65.1%
Sinch	B	64.8%
Cisco	B	64.2%
UJET	B	64.2%
Odigo	B	63.7%
Alvaria	B-	59.3%
net2phone	B-	58.9%
Aircall	B-	56.7%
XTIUM	C++	52.1%

ISG | Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



NiCE

Company and Product Profile

NiCE CXone Mpower, released June 2025

“A complete CX platform transforming customer experiences everywhere. CXone is the most complete cloud CX platform, infused with Enlighten—AI purpose built for CX—to ensure every customer experience flows, every time.” – NiCE

Summary

Our analysis classified NiCE as Exemplary, receiving an overall grade of A- with an 81.4% performance. NiCE's best grouped results came in Customer Experience with an 81.9% performance and an A- grade, due in part to its A- in TCO/ROI. In Product Experience, NiCE received a B++ grade with an 81.2% performance due to its 81.6% performance in Adaptability. NiCE was designated a Leader in all categories.

Challenges

NiCE's B++ in Product Experience was impacted by its B++ in Capability, where it could improve how the system supports the creation of a single customer ID that persists across connected external tools. Customer Experience was impacted by its B++ in Validation, where it could improve accessibility to its pricing information.

Strengths

NiCE performed best in Customer Experience with an A- grade, notably receiving an A- in TCO/ROI due to the completeness of examples demonstrating customers achieving benefits. NiCE received a B++ grade in Product Experience, with an A- in Adaptability due to its strong integrations and process management features.

Contact Centers		
NiCE		
Exemplary Provider		
Category	Performance	Grade
Overall	Leader 81.4%	A-
Product	Leader 81.2%	B++
Adaptability	Leader 81.6%	A-
Capability	Leader 80.9%	B++
Manageability	Leader 81.3%	A-
Reliability	Leader 81.3%	A-
Usability	Leader 81.6%	A-
Customer	Leader 81.9%	A-
TCO/ROI	Leader 82.5%	A-
Validation	Leader 81.2%	B++

Source: ISG Research
Contact Centers Buyers Guide
© 2025 Information Services Group, Inc.



Appendix: Software Provider Inclusion

For inclusion in the ISG Buyers Guide™ for Contact Centers in 2025, a software provider must have a standalone software application (or suite of applications) that serves the operating needs of contact centers, including routing, workforce engagement, analysis and customer data management. The provider must be in good standing financially and ethically, have at least \$50 million in annual or projected revenue, more than 50 employees, sell products and provide support on at least two continents and have at least 25 customers. The principal source of the relevant business unit's revenue must be software-related, and there must have been at least one major software release in the past 12 months. To qualify for evaluation in Contact Centers, the product should include most of the following capabilities: interaction routing (voice and digital), agent management, interaction handling analytics, automation and self-service, workflow automation and integration and AI/GenAI support.

The research is designed to be independent of the specifics of software provider packaging and pricing. To represent the real-world environment in which businesses operate, we include providers that offer suites or packages of products that may include relevant individual modules or applications. If a software provider is actively marketing, selling and developing a product for the general market and it is reflected on the provider's website that the product is within the scope of the research, that provider is automatically evaluated for inclusion.

All software providers that offer relevant contact centers and meet the inclusion requirements were invited to participate in the evaluation process at no cost to them.

Software providers that meet our inclusion criteria but did not completely participate in our Buyers Guide were assessed solely on publicly available information. As this could have a significant impact on classification and ratings, we recommend additional scrutiny when evaluating those providers.



Products Evaluated

Provider	Product Names	Version	Release Month/Year
8x8	8x8 Contact Center	9.16	April 2025
Aircall	Aircall Workspace Aircall Conversation Center	N/A	June 2025
Alvaria	Alvaria CXP Alvaria Intelligence Platform Alvaria Cloud	CXP 24	May 2025
Avaya	Avaya Infinity Platform Avaya Experience Platform	1.0.9	June 2025
AWS	Amazon Connect	N/A	May 2025
Cisco	Webex Contact Center	2025.06	June 2025
Content Guru	storm CONTACT	N/A	June 2025
Dialpad	Dialpad Support	25.06.03	June 2025
Emplifi	Emplifi Platform	N/A	June 2025
Enghouse Interactive	Enghouse Contact Center Enterprise	24.3	March 2024
Exotel	Exotel Enterprise Contact Center	N/A	June 2025
Five9	Five9 Intelligent Cloud Contact Center Platform	N/A	June 2025
Genesys	Genesys Cloud CX Genesys Cloud EX	N/A	June 2025
GoTo	GoTo Connect Contact Center	N/A	May 2025
Microsoft	Dynamics 365 Contact Center	Release Wave 1	April 2025
Mitel	Mitel CX	1.0	June 2025
net2phone	uContact	N/A	July 2025
Nextiva	Nextiva Unified Customer Experience Management Platform	N/A	April 2025



NiCE	NiCE CXone Mpower	N/A	June 2025
Odigo	Odigo Platform	N/A	June 2025
RingCentral	RingCX RingCentral Contact Center Enterprise	25.2	April 2025
Salesforce	Salesforce Service Cloud	Summer '25	June 2025
Sinch	Sinch Contact Pro	7.0 FP17 (7.0.17.0)	June 2025
Sprinklr	Sprinklr Service	20.4	June 2025
Talkdesk	Talkdesk CX Cloud	N/A	April 2025
Twilio	Twilio Customer Engagement Platform	Q1 2025	June 2025
UJET	UJET Platform	N/A	June 2025
Verint	Verint	2025R1	May 2025
Vonage	Vonage Fusion Vonage Contact Center	2025.1	February 2025
XTIUM	XTIUM Contact Suite	2025.7	July 2025
Zendesk	Zendesk Resolution Platform Zendesk for Contact Center	N/A	June 2025
Zoho	Zoho Voice Zoho Service Plus	Spring 2025	June 2025
Zoom	Zoom Contact Center	N/A	June 2025



Providers of Promise

We did not include software providers that, as a result of our research and analysis, did not satisfy the criteria for inclusion in this Buyers Guide. These are listed below as “Providers of Promise.”

Provider	Product	Capabilities	Revenue	Geography	Customers
Aloware	Contact Center Software	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
AnywhereNow	Dialogue Cloud Neo	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
ASC Technologies	Neo Suite, Recording Insights	No	No	Yes	Yes
AVOXI	AVOXI Contact Center	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Call Center Studio	Contact Center Software	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
CallTools	Power Contact Center	No	No	No	No
CloudTalk	CloudTalk Inbound Call Center	No	No	Yes	Yes
ComputerTalk	ice Contact Center	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Dixa	Conversational Customer Service Platform	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Gladly	Gladly Platform, Gladly Sidekick	No	No	Yes	Yes
Puzzel	Puzzel Contact Centre	Yes	No	No	Yes
Sharpen	Sharpen CCaaS Platform	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Vocalcom	Vocalcom Hermes360	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Xima	Cloud Contact Center	Yes	No	Yes	Yes



About ISG Software Research and Advisory

ISG Software Research and Advisory provides market research and coverage of the technology industry, informing enterprises, software and service providers, and investment firms. The ISG Buyers Guides provide insight on software categories and providers that can be used in the RFI/RFP process to assess, evaluate and select software providers.

About ISG Research

ISG Research provides subscription research, advisory, consulting and executive event services focused on market trends and disruptive technologies. ISG Research delivers guidance that helps businesses accelerate growth and create more value. For further information about ISG Research subscriptions, please visit research.isg-one.com.

About ISG

ISG (Nasdaq: [III](#)) is a global AI-centered technology research and advisory firm. A trusted partner to more than 900 clients, including 75 of the world's top 100 enterprises, ISG is a long-time leader in technology and business services sourcing that is now at the forefront of leveraging AI to help organizations achieve operational excellence and faster growth. The firm, founded in 2006, is known for its proprietary market data, in-depth knowledge of provider ecosystems, and the expertise of its 1,600 professionals worldwide working together to help clients maximize the value of their technology investments.