

Intelligent Self-Service Buyers Guide

Software Provider and Product Assessment



SOFTWARE
PROVIDER
REPORT

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Intelligent Self-Service

Contact centers are pivoting from offering primarily human-assisted service to relying heavily on customer self-service for routine inquiries. Customers have long had options to help themselves with simple tasks like account lookup or order status checks. As information resources became more widespread, customers became accustomed to proactively looking for answers to ever-more complicated questions on the web, in customer communities and on social media. Enterprises need to control and vet as many sources as possible, and steer customers to information that's appropriate for their problem. They are also aware that self-service can deflect as much as 70% to 80% of interaction volume away from expensive live agents.

Technological developments in artificial intelligence (AI), knowledge management and personalization make self-service easier and more accurate. AI tools deliver highly complex information around the clock through automated systems and multiple interaction channels.

ISG Research defines Intelligent Self-Service as the constellation of applications enabling customers to interact with businesses in complex ways, including information gathering and transaction processing using multithreaded inquiries and the communications channel of



This type of self-service is more likely to be multimodal, with longer-lasting interactions. It may also seem less like “service” to the customer and more like the process of searching or shopping.

their choice. Its intelligence stems from the use of conversational AI to make interactions fluid and dynamic and to extend the range of tasks that can be performed without human assistance. This type of self-service is more likely to be multimodal, with longer-lasting interactions. It may also seem less like “service” to the customer and more like the process of searching or shopping. That ultimately leads to greater customer engagement, including more human agent involvement at different points in the buying and service process. It also requires a different skill set than typical first-tier support. Many of the same applications can be used on the other side of the interaction, providing human agents with the same kind of automated information retrieval customers use, and automating many of the same routine processes.

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 mid-sized 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.

Of all the software areas related to contact center operations, agent management, customer analytics and self-service are the most dynamic and most affected by AI innovation. Self-service is the key that will unlock many downstream benefits. There are indications that interaction containment rates are well over 50% using more intelligent self-service systems, especially those with conversational AI. Easing the load on human agents releases resources that can be deployed in many other ways, including upskilling agents.

The ISG Buyers Guide™ for Intelligent Self-Service evaluates software providers and products in key areas, including omnichannel support, personalization, proactive assistance, escalation to live agents, intent recognition, dialogue management, knowledge base integration, AI-powered recommendations, security and compliance and conversational AI features.

This research evaluates the following software providers offering products to address key elements of Intelligent Self-Service as we define it: 8x8, Aircall, Alvaria, Avaya, AWS, Cisco, Content Guru, Dialpad, Emplifi, Enghouse Interactive, Five9, Genesys, GoTo, LivePerson, Microsoft, Mitel, net2phone, Nextiva, NiCE, Odigo, RingCentral, Salesforce, Sinch, Sprinklr, Talkdesk, Twilio, UJET, Verint, Vonage, 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



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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 Intelligent Self-Service 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 intelligent self-service software. 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 intelligent self-service 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 intelligent self-service 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 intelligent self-service 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 intelligent self-service 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 rapidly shifting toward intelligent self-service, driven by AI, knowledge management and personalization. Traditional tasks have expanded into complex, multimodal interactions powered by conversational AI, reducing live-agent demand while improving engagement. Successful platforms must combine reliable routing and workforce tools with advanced self-service, analytics and AI capabilities that deflect high volumes, ease agent workloads, 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, Five9 and Dialpad demonstrated targeted capabilities. Classification placed NiCE, Verint, and Genesys in the Exemplary quadrant alongside providers including Salesforce, Sprinklr, Talkdesk, Twilio, Zendesk, Zoho and Zoom. Firms such as AWS, Cisco, Microsoft, Nextiva and Vonage were categorized as Innovative, and vendors such as 8x8, Avaya, Mitel and Sinch were rated in the Merit quadrant. This segmentation highlights which providers deliver the strongest overall balance of product capability and customer 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 Five9 emerged as Leaders, delivering robust intelligent self-service and interaction capabilities, while Genesys and Sprinklr showed strong but narrower strengths. Leaders distinguished themselves through advanced AI-driven automation, adaptability and usability, enabling enterprises to scale solutions across diverse environments and evolving customer requirements.

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 with strong customer commitment, ROI-focused frameworks, and consistent lifecycle support. Genesys and Salesforce also performed well, though just short of leadership. Providers that ranked lower often lacked sufficient case studies, or transparent ROI support, limiting confidence in long-term investment.

Strategic Recommendations

Enterprises should treat intelligent self-service selection as a strategic decision balancing proven core capabilities with advanced AI features in conversational engagement, analytics and automation. Enterprises should prioritize platforms that ensure interoperability, simplify administration and demonstrate measurable ROI through proof-of-concept trials. Using the ISG Buyers Guide as a structured framework enables organizations to evaluate providers across both product and customer experience dimensions, ensuring investments that improve efficiency, increase interaction containment and enhance customer satisfaction.



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 atop the list, followed by Verint, Genesys and Talkdesk (the latter two in a tie). 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.

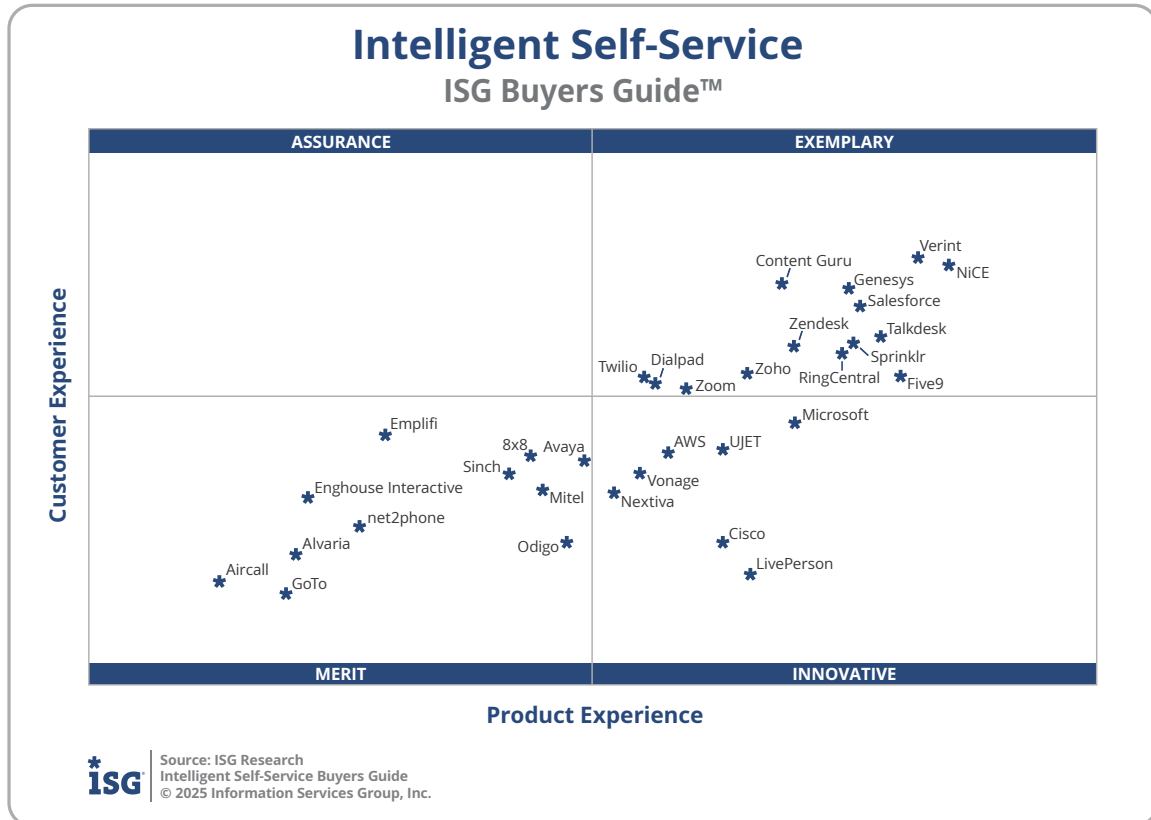
The overall representation of the research below places the rating of the Product Experience and Customer Experience on the x and y axes, respectively, to provide a visual representation and classification of the software providers. Those providers whose Product Experience have a higher weighted performance 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.

Intelligent Self-Service Overall		
Providers	Grade	Performance
NiCE	B++	Leader 80.8%
Verint	B++	Leader 80.0%
Genesys	B++	Leader 77.6%
Talkdesk	B++	Leader 77.6%
Five9	B++	77.4%
Salesforce	B++	77.3%
Sprinklr	B++	76.6%
RingCentral	B++	75.8%
Content Guru	B++	75.6%
Zendesk	B++	75.0%
Microsoft	B+	73.3%
Zoho	B+	73.1%
Zoom	B+	70.8%
UJET	B+	70.5%
Twilio	B+	70.1%
Dialpad	B+	69.8%
Cisco	B+	69.2%
LivePerson	B+	69.1%
AWS	B+	68.9%
Vonage	B	67.7%
Avaya	B	66.7%
Nextiva	B	66.6%
8x8	B	65.2%
Mitel	B	64.5%
Sinch	B	64.1%
Odigo	B	63.6%
Emplifi	B-	61.6%
net2phone	B-	58.4%
Enghouse Interactive	B-	56.7%
Alvaria	C++	56.2%
GoTo	C++	55.4%
Aircall	C++	50.2%

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



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, Twilio, Verint, Zendesk, Zoho and Zoom.

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: AWS, Cisco, LivePerson, 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.



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, Avaya, Emplifi, Enghouse Interactive, GoTo, Mitel, net2phone, Odigo and Sinch.

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 intelligent self-service, 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 (40%), Reliability (10%), Adaptability (10%) and Manageability (10%). This weighting impacted the resulting overall ratings in this research. NiCE, Verint and Five9 were designated Product Experience Leaders.

Intelligent Self-Service Product Experience			
Providers	Grade	Performance	
NiCE	B++	Leader	64.3%
Verint	B++	Leader	63.3%
Five9	B++	Leader	62.7%
Talkdesk	B++		62.0%
Salesforce	B++		61.3%
Sprinklr	B++		61.0%
Genesys	B++		61.0%
RingCentral	B++		60.7%
Microsoft	B+		59.1%
Zendesk	B+		59.1%
Content Guru	B+		58.7%
LivePerson	B+		57.7%
Zoho	B+		57.5%
Cisco	B+		56.8%
UJET	B+		56.8%
Zoom	B+		55.8%
AWS	B+		55.2%
Dialpad	B		54.7%
Twilio	B		54.4%
Vonage	B		54.2%
Nextiva	B		53.3%
Avaya	B		52.6%
Odigo	B		51.7%
Mitel	B		50.9%
8x8	B		50.5%
Sinch	B-		49.8%
Emplifi	B-		45.6%
net2phone	C++		44.7%
Enghouse Interactive	C++		43.0%
Alvaria	C++		42.6%
GoTo	C++		42.2%
Aircall	C+		36.5%

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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 10% 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.

Intelligent Self-Service 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%
GoTo	B+		70.7%
LivePerson	B+		70.6%
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%
Aircall	B-		60.1%
Odigo	B-		59.6%
Enghouse Interactive	C++		51.5%

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Reliability of the Product

For intelligent self-service processes 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 10% 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.

Intelligent Self-Service 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%
Alvaria	B	66.8%
Mitel	B	65.6%
LivePerson	B	64.9%
Enghouse Interactive	B	62.9%
GoTo	B-	61.5%
Odigo	B-	58.7%
Aircall	B-	57.2%
net2phone	C++	55.7%

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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 a Leader, Genesys was 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.

Intelligent Self-Service 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%
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%
LivePerson	B-	12.0%
Aircall	B-	11.9%
GoTo	B-	11.8%

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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 NiCE, Verint and Genesys. While not a Leader, Content Guru was also found to meet a broad range of enterprise validation requirements.

Intelligent Self-Service 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%
Sinch	B	64.8%
Cisco	B	64.2%
UJET	B	64.2%
LivePerson	B	63.7%
Odigo	B	63.7%
Alvaria	B-	59.3%
net2phone	B-	58.9%
Aircall	B-	56.7%



Source: ISG Research
Intelligent Self-Service Buyers Guide
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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 B++ with an 80.8% 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 80.5% 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 identification that persists across connected external tools. Customer Experience was impacted by its B++ in Validation, where it could improve its pricing information accessibility

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.

Intelligent Self-Service			
NiCE			
Exemplary Provider			
Category	Performance		Grade
Overall	Leader	80.8%	B++
Product	Leader	80.5%	B++
Adaptability	Leader	81.6%	A-
Capability	Leader	79.2%	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
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Appendix: Software Provider Inclusion

For inclusion in the ISG Software Research 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.

This Buyers Guide consists of separate evaluations of Contact Centers, Agent Management, Customer Interaction Analytics and Intelligent Self-Service. To qualify for evaluation in Intelligent Self-Service, the product should include the following capabilities: omnichannel support, personalization, proactive assistance, escalation to live agents, intent recognition, dialogue management, knowledge base integration, AI-powered recommendations, security and compliance and conversational AI features.

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 intelligent self-service products 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 v 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
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 GoTo Contact Center	N/A	May 2025
LivePerson	LivePerson Conversational Cloud	N/A	June 2025
Microsoft	Dynamics 365 Contact Center	Release Wave 1	April 2025
Mitel	Mitel CX	1.0	July 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) Release	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
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	Contact Center Cloud	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.

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