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Definition

Microsoft is one of the most established technology providers worldwide, with a network of thousands of partners that augment its capabilities and aid enterprises in adopting its technology. This network has been through a series of tectonic shifts over the past five years, as Satya Nadella transformed the technology giant and its commercial partner organization in his role as CEO. In that same period, digital transformation has taken over the enterprise technology landscape, requiring a new generation of software and services from Microsoft and its partners.

To address these needs, Microsoft has honed its focus to three core areas: its Azure cloud platform, the Microsoft 365 suite of productivity experiences, which includes Windows 10 and Office 365, and the Dynamics 365 suite of business applications. Partners are now evaluated on their ability to drive usage of the Microsoft cloud services that comprise these core product areas. To succeed, service providers must provide enterprises with a robust set of services complete with forward-thinking capabilities, backed by a rich relationship with Microsoft that can inform future developments and drive business opportunities.

ISG's analysis will focus on how providers in Australia, Brazil, Germany and the U.S. are positioned, according to the strength of their portfolio and their competitiveness in the market. While there are thousands of providers in each of these markets delivering services for Microsoft products, this report will only focus on the top competitors for each of the quadrants. Those considered will include both global firms as well as local providers for each of the regions studied.

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

- Transparency in the strengths and weaknesses of providers/service providers.
- Differentiated positioning of service providers in relevant areas.

Our studies thus provide potential customers with an essential decision-making basis for positioning and goto-market considerations. ISG advisors and enterprise customers also use information from these reports to evaluate their current and potential service provider relationships.

Quadrants Research

The ISG Provider Lens™ study on the topic, Microsoft Ecosystem Partners, will contain the following four quadrants:

Simplified illustration

Microsoft Ecosystem 2021				
Managed Services for Azure	Office 365 – Modern Workplace			
Dynamics 365	SAP on Azure			

Source: ISG 2020

At ISG's discretion, quadrants may be split into the mid-market and large accounts based on the size of the market in each region.

Managed Services for Azure

Managed Public Cloud Service Providers (MSPs) offer professional and managed services that augment Azure's built-in capabilities, including laaS and PaaS. These services include provisioning, real-time and predictive analysis, monitoring and operational management of the customer's public cloud and multi-cloud environment. The aim is to maximize performance of enterprise cloud workloads, reduce costs and ensure compliance and security. Typically, specially developed or licensed cloud management platforms and tools are used to provide customers with the highest level of automation and the necessary transparency over the managed cloud resource pool in terms of capacity utilization and costs, including independent management. The provided services typically include:

- Professional services for the management and monitoring of CPU, memory, databases, operating systems as independent or micro services or virtual machine or container services.
- Update and patching services for the operating system, middleware and application.
- Service portal for cost management (charge back and show back) and identity management or IT service management.
- Governance and compliance management.
- Supporting services such as incident management, configuration, security services and automation setup.

- Experience in designing, building and managing public and multi-cloud environments with a focus on Microsoft Azure.
- Support in the development of software code, cloud native and legacy system integration.
- Experience both implementing Agile and DevOps as well as integrating with enterprise clients' existing processes.
- Experience in API automation and cloud analytics.
- Well-developed security practices and capabilities.
- Number and location of provider resources that assist enterprises with Microsoft Azure.
- Strength of the provider's partnership with Microsoft, measured by the number and category of relevant certifications it holds, length of relationship with Microsoft and evidence of strategic cooperation between the provider and Microsoft around Azure.

Office 365 - Modern Workplace

This quadrant evaluates service providers that aid enterprises with the adoption, integration and ongoing operation of Office 365, Microsoft's SaaS-based productivity suite, as well as its suite of other modern workplace solutions.

These services go beyond provisioning and migrating to Office 365 to focus on a quick, device-independent, high-quality productivity suite that enables seamless teamwork, regardless of location and adapted to the role of the user. From the client's perspective Office 365 is about collaboration and the integration of globally dispersed teams. In order to enable this, integration and implementation services are necessary.

- Service portfolio that includes technical consulting, license purchases, integration of Office 365 modules, implementation and operation.
- Forward-thinking offerings that integrate with Office 365 to create a modern workplace for enterprise clients (for example, HoloLens development, Teams bot creation, etc.).
- Management of Microsoft Office APIs to ensure appropriate use and increased enterprise productivity.
- Ability to migrate customer workplaces to modern cloud environments and WaaS models.
- Provision of Office 365 based Unified Endpoint Suites through integration with state-of-the-art IAM technology and MDM (Intune or other).
- Strength of the provider's partnership with Microsoft, measured by the number and category of relevant certifications it holds (including Office 365, Intune and Azure), length of relationship with Microsoft and evidence of strategic cooperation between the provider and Microsoft around the modern workplace.

SAP on Azure

This quadrant evaluates service providers that offer capabilities relating to adopting, managing and using Microsoft's dedicated SAP on Azure suite of cloud solutions.

The services regularly provided by these companies include architecture consulting and analysis of requirements for the application landscape, technical design with support for configuration, deployment, escalation management, change and fault management, support, optimization and reporting. These providers must not only help customers migrate their SAP workloads to Azure, but also optimize, design and develop new processes and business flows as part of platform management through a combination of their own services, SAP services and Microsoft Azure services.

Service providers in this category require both Microsoft and SAP certifications. Providers need to have active and productive partnerships with both technology vendors as well as informed points of view on how the relevant underlying technology offerings are evolving. As a result, they should be able to articulate how product and platform changes will impact enterprises using this solution from technical architecture considerations to business impacts.

- Scope and depth of service portfolio with regard to migration of SAP workloads to SAP on Azure; SAP application and services implementation customization, provisioning, and support.
- Number and location of employees who provide SAP on Azure services.
- Ability and willingness to support hybrid cloud and hybrid provider environments.
- Strength of the provider's partnerships with SAP and Microsoft, measured by the number and category of relevant certifications it holds, length of relationship with both SAP and Microsoft and evidence of strategic cooperation between the provider and Microsoft around SAP on Azure.
- Support for multiple pricing models, including pay-as-you-go.
- Robustness of provider's process for implementation, including use of Agile and DevOps methodologies, as well as relevant automation for service delivery and quality.

Dynamics 365

This quadrant evaluates service providers that assist enterprises with the selection, integration, customization and operation of Microsoft's cloud-based Dynamics 365 ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software.

These services should focus on the digitization of business processes through the use of ERP and CRM. This means that service providers and system integrators should support the user companies in the analysis of processes that have not yet been digitally mapped and the IT implementation of these processes via solutions from Dynamics 365.

In addition, this study will consider topics including data integration with and transfer from legacy systems. Furthermore, our market analysis examines how the providers handle the software lifecycle and user support. This also includes escalation handling, change management, optimization and reporting. Providers should also demonstrate a strong understanding of how their services and the Dynamics 365 solution impact enterprise clients' business.

- Scope and depth of the provider's service portfolio with regard to the implementation, customization, provisioning and support of Microsoft Dynamics 365, with special consideration for industry-specific services and capabilities.
- Number and location of employees who provide Dynamics 365 services.
- Ability to understand the client's workloads regarding the transformation of ERP or CRM.
- Strength of the provider's partnership with Microsoft, measured by the number and category of relevant certifications it holds, length of relationship with Microsoft and evidence of strategic cooperation between the provider and Microsoft.
- Support of digital transformation processes in user companies as part of Dynamics 365 adoption.
- Variety, sensibility and maturity of pricing and payment models that match the needs of enterprises adopting and using Dynamics 365.
- Robustness of provider's process for implementation, including use of Agile and DevOps methodologies, as well as relevant automation for service delivery and quality.

Quadrants by Region

Quadrants	USA	Germany	ANZ	Brazil
Managed Services for Azure	√	√	√	V
Office 365 – Modern Workplace	√	√	√	√
SAP on Azure	√	√	√	√
Dynamics 365	V	V	V	√

Schedule

The research and main survey phase takes place between **November 2020** and **December 2020**, followed by the evaluation, analysis and validation phase between January and February/March.

Selected results will be presented to the media in April 2021.

*You can download the questionnaire on an online platform. We will provide you with your individual link in our invitation via email.

Milestones	Beginning
Launch	November 20, 2020
Survey (questionnaire and briefing)	November 20, 2020 – December 17, 2020
Begin sneak previews	February 17, 2021
Content provisioning	March 29, 2021
Press release	April 2021

Research Production Disclaimer:

ISG collects data for the purposes of writing research and creating provider/vendor profiles. The profiles and supporting data are used by ISG advisors to make recommendations and inform their clients of the experience and qualifications of any applicable provider/vendor for outsourcing the work identified by clients. This data is collected as part of the ISG FutureSource process and the Candidate Provider Qualification (CPQ) process. ISG may choose to only utilize this collected data pertaining to certain countries or regions for the education and purposes of its advisors and not produce ISG Provider Lens™ reports. These decisions will be made based on the level and completeness of the information received directly from providers/vendors and the availability of experienced analysts for those countries or regions. Submitted information may also be used for individual research projects or for briefing notes that will be written by the lead analysts.

Partial list of companies being invited for the survey

Feel free to contact us to ensure your active participation in the research phase.

3ELM Consulting Barhead Solutions

Accenture Bechtle

Accenture (Avanade) Becloudsmart

Acumor BE-terna (+Leibzig)

ADN BFK Enterprise

Adopt & Embrace BHS

Advance Computing Big Brain

Agility Networks Bizapp

akinet dynamic projects

BizTech Software Services

akquinet Brascin

AlfaPeople Brasoftware

All for One Group Bright Skies

Allgeier BT

Amaris Byte Information Technology

Antares International Calsoft Systems

AppSphere CANCOM

ArcherPoint Capgemini

Armis Cased Dimensions

Artis Group CenturyLink

Arvato Systems Circle T Industries

Atmosera Claranet

Atos Cloudreach

Avivatec codeHB

Avnet Cognizant

Axians Communardo

Compasso Eighty20 Solutions

Computacenter Empired

Computécnica Tecnologia Engage Squared

Converge Ensono

COSMOS Consult ENSYST

Covenant Technology Partners EXEL BLUE Group

Crayon Experience Digital

Credera Experteg IT Services

Darede EY

Data One FCamara

Data#3 Limited FiveP

Datacom FJH Sistemas de Informação

DataEX Flintfox

datec Fujitsu

Dedalus Function 1

Dell Fusion5

Dell EMC Futurum

Deutsche Telekom (TDG) G3 Solutions

Deutsche Telekom (TSI) GAB ExactlyIT

Devoteam | Alegri GBS

Dialog GC Blue

Dicker Data Generation-E

Distribution Central Geneses

DQA Glück & Kanja

DXC GWS Münster

H&S Inovti Soluções em Informática

Haas Insight

Hammond Street Developments Insync Technology

Hanu Software Intalock Technologies

hcf Utilit intellecom

HCL Intelligent Systems Solutions

Henson Group INTERACTIVE

Hexaware InterOp Informatica

HGSM IPI

Hitachi Solutions ITCORE

HPC itelligence AG

HPE iteracon

HSO Enterprise Solutions Iteris

IBM ITST

I-Comm Jasco Consulting

Impeto Keyrus

INDUSTRIE IT knk Business Software

Infinite Computing Systems Konica Minolta

Infoshot KPMG

Infosys KSTI

Infotech 123 KUMAvision

infoWAN LAB3

Ingram Micro Layer 2

Ingram Micro Cloud LEAP CONSULTING (WA)

inNuvem Lewan & Associates

Logicalis NTT DATA

Logicworks Objektkultur

LTI Olikka

M I Montreal Informática Oncave LLC

Macquarie Telecom OOBE

MelbournelT OPUS SOFTWARE

MH3D Orange Networks

Microchannel Services Orbit

Mindtree OTT INC

Missing Link Network Integration PA Group USA

Modis Consulting Pentare

MODUS Consult PlusServer

MOQdigital Presidio

MSR Cosmos ProAlpha

myCloudDoor Processor

Nest Solutions ProCloud

Net at Work Prodware

Net Buster Professional Advantage

Netsecurity Programmer's Informática

network1 (scansource) Protiviti

Nexon Asia Pacific Publicis Sapient

Nihilent Purely Cloud

Niteo PWC

Nordcloud QDois

novaCapta QSC

QUORUM SYSTEMS Solo Network

R2MAX Solutis

Rackspace Sonata Software

Ray Business Technologies Sonda IT

redbelt Staples

Reorder Informatica Sycor

Reply Synergy Advisors

RHC SYNNEX

Rhipe Synoptek

Robert Bosch Technical & Business Solutions Syntax Systems

Rödl Dynamics SysMap Solutions Software e Consultoria

RXP Services Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Satalyst Team Venti

Scheer Tech Data Advanced Solutions

Seidor Teevo S/A Comércio e Serviços de Informática

Servian teksystems.com

Sete IT Telefónica

SIMIENT TELETEX COMPUTADORES E SISTEMAS

Simple i.D. Telstra

SIROCO LLC The Project Group (TPG)

SLMIT Thomas Duryea Logicalis

Smart Consulting TIVIT

Smartronix TransactionSolutions

softline Trianz

SoftwareONE TrimaxSecure

T-Systems Vigilant.IT

TT Solutions WebVine

Unisys Westcon Brasil

Valtech WeThink Solutions

Velrada Wipro

Venha Pra Nuvem Wolkenwerft

Veritec WP2

Vexia WPP AUNZ

Vexpro XTRATEGUS

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