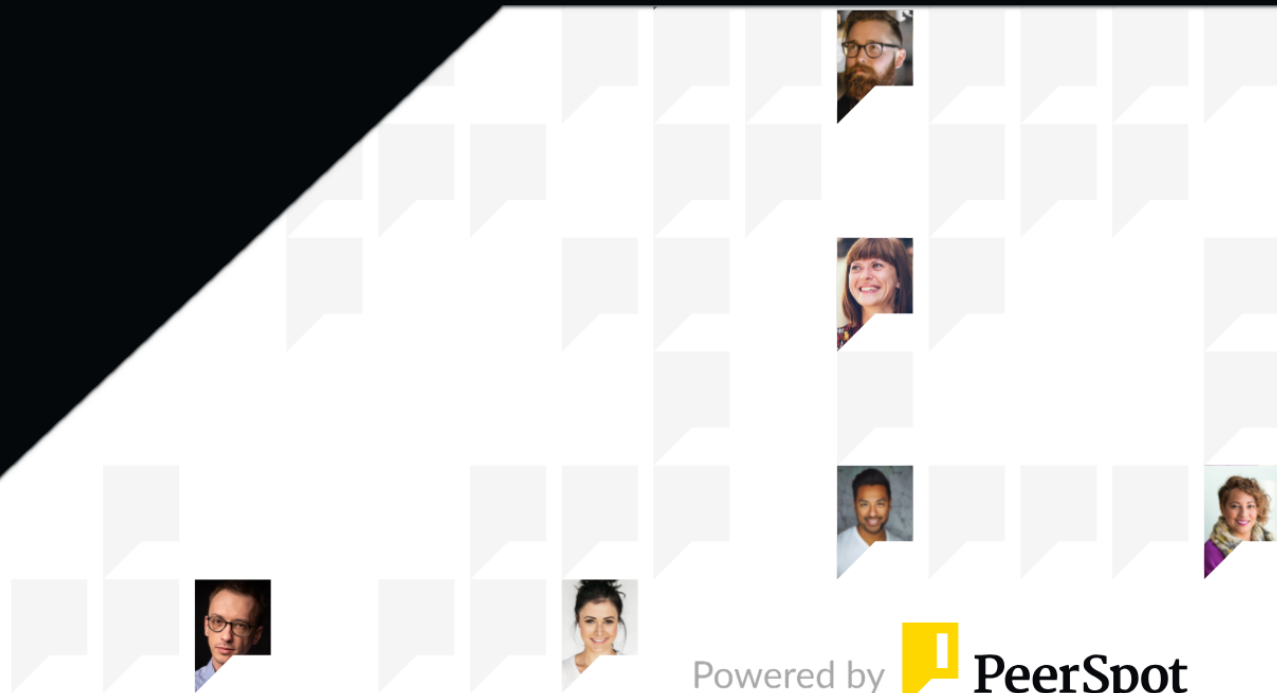




Starburst Galaxy

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Starburst Galaxy

Starburst Galaxy Recap

Starburst Galaxy offers rapid query speeds and robust cluster management, enhancing data engineering efficiency while supporting AWS integrations and cross-database functionality. Users benefit from its advanced data integration and federated querying capabilities.

Starburst Galaxy stands out with a compute-focused architecture that excels in facilitating seamless data integration. Technological innovations like autoscaling clusters and automated metadata management optimize operations in multi-tenant environments. With a keen emphasis on compatibility, the platform provides support for AWS Glue and enables federated querying across S3, Snowflake, and Redshift. This adaptability ensures comprehensive ETL processes and enhances analytics through querying SQL Server, Google Sheets, and blob stores. While noted for its robust capabilities, users seek improvements in cluster startup times, Tableau and AI support, and desire infrastructure-as-code enhancements.

What are Starburst Galaxy's key features?

- **Rapid Query Speeds:** Enhances data processing with quick responses.
- **Cluster Autoscaling:** Optimizes resource allocation for varying workloads.
- **Federated Querying:** Cross-database functionality for seamless integration.
- **Compute-Focused Architecture:** Ensures efficiency and scalability.
- **Automated Metadata Management:** Streamlines data handling processes.
- **AWS Integration:** Broad compatibility with AWS services.

What benefits should users evaluate in reviews?

- **Data Engineering Efficiency:** Reduces operating expenses and improves productivity.
- **Cost Reduction:** Highlights lower storage costs with efficient data handling.
- **Seamless Integration:** Enables robust data integration across various platforms.
- **Cluster Management:** Supports diverse workloads with advanced management tools.

In industries focusing on large-scale data efforts, Starburst Galaxy plays an essential role in connecting data sources like Amazon S3 and RDS, streamlining tasks in data engineering and ad-hoc analysis across complex environments. Teams leverage its cross-database querying to boost AWS analytics, with features tailored for sectors needing agile data solutions, from ETL pipelines to secure data federation.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“The main positive impact Starburst Galaxy has made is making data more accessible for analytics and reporting.”



Pedromachado Ventura

Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees



“Starburst Galaxy serves the best purpose for me because if my SLAs are not met with my customers, they will raise a case, and I have tried many other tools, but Starburst Galaxy fits the best.”



Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies



“Starburst Galaxy has positively impacted my organization by allowing us to rethink the strategy for data and architect data differently; instead of having multiple data marts and siloed data marts, we have a unified vision, and that is how it is changing.”



Verified user

Senior Vice President at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

- ✓ “The most fundamental feature is the query engine, which is much faster than any of the competitors; Starburst is able to finish most queries within 10 seconds, which is especially important for many non-technical employees.”



Verified user

Head of Data at a financial services firm with 51-200 employees

- ✓ “Starburst has provided us with virtually guaranteed performance on complex queries across datasets that are in the tens of gigabytes which complete in seconds.”



Verified user

Chief Solutions Officer

- ✓ “Starburst Galaxy has improved our organization by unifying access to all major data sources, reducing the need for complex ETL processes.”



Verified user

VP, Business Intelligence at a outsourcing company with 501-1,000 employees

- ✓ “Starburst Galaxy is becoming a cornerstone of our data platform, empowering us to make smarter and faster decisions across the organization.”



Stephen-Howard

Sr Director, Technology at Spreetail

What users had to say about valuable features:

“The most relevant functionalities today are cluster autoscaling for intensive load periods and automated metadata management through cleaning, compression, and orphaned file deletion in Iceberg.

“These capabilities significantly reduce reading costs, storage expenses, and query processing overhead..”

Verified user

Engineering Manager

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“The most valuable features include taking care of the minutiae of Trino management so that it is well-optimized for our use case out of the box. Additionally, the ability to write to Apache Iceberg tables enables complex queries to be written to S3, avoiding the need for them to be re-run repeatedly.

I also find attribute-based access control valuable, as it allows end users to access only their data in a multi-tenant environment..”

Verified user

Chief Solutions Officer

[Read full review](#) 

“The flexibility to connect to numerous different warehouses and write to various formats is Starburst Galaxy's standout feature. This adaptability allows it to mold itself perfectly to our specific needs rather than forcing us to conform to rigid constraints.

The compute-focused architecture makes workload management incredibly straightforward. Since Trino focuses primarily on compute, it is really easy to work with and optimize. The user interface for navigating, managing permissions, and viewing queries and clusters is excellent and makes administration tasks much more manageable.

Cross-database functionality combined with iceberg format support has been game-changing for our data integration workflows..”

Verified user

Staff Analytics Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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“Starburst Galaxy is very SQL friendly, which stands out for me because I have used SQL in other platforms such as SQL Server, Teradata, and Oracle, so it is very portable with minor changes.

Another feature I appreciate in Starburst Galaxy is that it has object storage with Iceberg storage, which helps optimize data storage and also enables columnar search, which speeds up queries.

Starburst Galaxy has positively impacted my organization by allowing us to rethink the strategy for data and architect data differently; instead of having multiple data marts and siloed data marts, we have a unified vision, and that is how it is changing..”

Verified user

Senior Vice President at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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Starburst Galaxy offers me several best features, which include very fast querying results, automatic indexing of data for long tables, a cost-based optimizer which reduces the time to query large tables, and an agentic feature that lets me talk to my data.

I find myself relying most on querying from different databases as well as automatic indexing in my day-to-day work, as I am a data science architect who needs to get the queries in a very short period of time. Starburst Galaxy serves the best purpose for me because if my SLAs are not met with my customers, they will raise a case, and I have tried many other tools, but Starburst Galaxy fits the best.

“Starburst Galaxy has positively impacted my organization since we were struggling with Denodo and Dremio, which had their own features but were not helpful in querying large amounts of data, especially semi-structured or unstructured data. Starburst Galaxy addresses this with many YAML files and manifest files for automated maintenance, and it helps reduce the small file problem in different HDFS systems. Additionally, Starburst Galaxy has an MCP server that connects to various agentic pipelines, reducing the time to market for data consumption. .”

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

[Read full review](#) 

“One of the best features of Starburst Galaxy is that it can sit between different data sources and the reporting layer. This separation is useful because the reporting tool does not necessarily need to know all the complexity of where the data is physically stored. I think it helps create a more consistent access layer, particularly when working with historical data sets, instead of building separate connections and logic for every point of access.

“The main time-saving for me is having a common SQL access layer to the data. Instead of working directly with the different underlying systems, I can query what I need directly through Starburst Galaxy. In my case, this is particularly useful for reporting. For example, when building Power BI dashboards on top of historical data in Hive, Starburst Galaxy makes that data much easier to access and consume. Overall, it reduces the amount of work needed to get the data into a usable form and lets me spend more time on actual analysis and reporting. A good example is for historical reporting with data stored in Hive—rather than building a complete separate reporting process around that storage, we can access it through Starburst Galaxy for Power BI reporting. This simplifies the architecture from my perspective as an analyst and saves time when accessing and analyzing historical data. I have not measured the time saving precisely, but it definitely reduces the manual effort and complexity involved in accessing data from these different sources.

“The main positive impact Starburst Galaxy has made is making data more accessible for analytics and reporting. We have data across different platforms, including historical data in Hive, and Starburst Galaxy provides a common layer to access that information, making it easier to build reporting solutions without creating completely separate data access processes for every source. From an organizational perspective, that means less complexity, faster access to information, and better use of the data we already possess. In my use case, it also helps teams focus more on analysis and monitoring rather than on how to retrieve the data itself. The biggest impact is really easier access to the data..”

Pedromachado Ventura

[Read full review](#) 

Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Other Solutions Considered

We previously used Dremio, but it was not fast and had a lot of limitations in processing large unstructured and structured data, leading us to switch to Starburst Galaxy.

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

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“We previously used SingleStore before switching to Starburst Galaxy because we needed access to different data layers in different sources. That need led us to change to Starburst Galaxy directly, to have a unified central layer that can connect to all external data sources..”

Pedromachado Ventura

Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“I reviewed several options including Databricks and Dremio. I was an early adopter of Snowflake and still use it as well. Starburst Galaxy was a better fit for my technology stack and developers..”

Verified user

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VP, Business Intelligence at a outsourcing company with 501-1,000 employees

“I previously used Amazon Athena. I switched because the performance offered by Starburst was significantly better than that provided by Athena. Additionally, Starburst allowed for integrations with BI tools, which was difficult to achieve with the necessary level of security in Athena..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Chief Solutions Officer

“Having a good amount of expertise in the domain, I knew that Galaxy was the right choice for quick deployment. Having managed data at scale (hundreds of terabytes) in the past, I know Trino will get the job done without a lot of hassle.

“Athena specifically has two major issues. First, connectors are restricted on write functionality and are more difficult to configure. Not being able to write through connectors is a deal breaker. Second, if you scale out enough, you will encounter issues due to Athena's shared tenancy model and then need to migrate to Trino eventually. It is better to save yourself the hassle..”

Verified user

Staff Data Architect at a tech vendor with 11-50 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

I have seen a return on investment; the quick dashboarding allows me to publish dashboards and data products, saving significant time for publishing to different endpoints and translating into a cost savings of around \$500,000, which we previously spent on getting reports published due to the reduced turnaround time and our capability to serve many more customers than before.

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

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“I do not have a specific percentage or cost-saving figure that I can confidently attribute to Starburst Galaxy alone. The impact I can see directly is more operational. For example, we have been able to use historical data stored in Hive for Power BI reporting through a common SQL access layer rather than creating separate extraction processes for each use case. The measurable outcome from my perspective includes reduced complexity in data access and less manual work for me, making historical data available for reporting with faster deliveries when dealing with monitoring and analytical use cases. From my day-to-day experience, it clearly reduces the number of steps required to access and consume data for reporting..”

Pedromachado Ventura

Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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Use Case

“I use the solution for processing large simulation datasets into aggregated datasets that can either be used for real-time data analysis or stored for later analysis..”

Verified user

Chief Solutions Officer

[Read full review](#) 

“I use Starburst Galaxy to support interactive queries and dashboards.

When comparing it to Databricks, which is also deployed to serve ETL pipelines, Starburst is much faster and much more friendly to non-technical employees..”

Verified user

Head of Data at a financial services firm with 51-200 employees

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“My team uses Starburst Galaxy for cross-database querying, iceberg table management, and workload separation across multiple data sources. We implemented Starburst Galaxy to replace our self-hosted Trino setup, bridging gaps in our data warehousing situation where we need flexibility to read from various warehouses and write to different formats while maintaining clean compute separation..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Staff Analytics Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

My main use case for Starburst Galaxy is querying petabytes of data across vast data sources, and I use a federated query engine to join data sources from different databases and then join them using Starburst Galaxy.

I have different data sources, including Oracle, DB2, and a MongoDB cluster, so I join all of these data sources using Starburst Galaxy with the federated querying feature. I transform that into Iceberg using Starburst Galaxy, land it in S3 storage, convert it into Iceberg tables, and then use them for dashboarding in Power BI or Tableau. .”

Niketan Kumar

[Read full review](#) 

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

“My main use case for Starburst Galaxy is to use it as a data federation tool, collect data from various data sources, and have a unified view of the data.

A quick specific example of how I use Starburst Galaxy for data federation in my daily work is that I assume I need data from five different data sources, and each data source is on a different database platform, and I have information that I need for my client profile. I can pull data from all those five different data sources and have a consolidated view of the client.

Those are the main use cases for Starburst Galaxy; basically, we are trying to build data products..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Vice President at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

“I have mainly used Starburst Galaxy as a query and access layer for analytical data, as my current work involves dealing with data stored across different platforms, including Hive and SingleStore. Starburst gives us a more convenient way to query that data and expose it to reporting tools such as Power BI, so it is more for accessing and querying data used for analytics and reporting. One of the main use cases I utilize is working with historical data stored in Hive and making that data available for reporting and monitoring purposes. We also use it as part of a data access layer between the underlying platforms and Power BI.

“The main benefit of using Starburst Galaxy as a data access layer between my storage platforms and Power BI is easier access to the data for analytics and reporting. It also helps create a more consistent access layer, particularly when working with historical data sets, instead of building separate connections and logic for every source.

“I would recommend Starburst Galaxy, particularly for organizations that already have data distributed across different platforms and want or need a common SQL layer for analytics. It makes the most sense when there is a real need to query data where it already lives instead of moving everything into one system. I mainly use this for an analytics and reporting perspective and would probably give it an eight out of ten. It works well for analytical use cases, at least the ones I have been involved with, and makes access to distributed data easier. There is still room for improved usability and diagnostics, especially for users who are not platform specialists. I am mainly a data consumer rather than a Starburst Galaxy administrator, so my experience is focused on querying, reporting, performance, and usability..”

Pedromachado Ventura

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Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

The experience with pricing, setup cost, and licensing was straightforward, as I could easily purchase the licensing in the AWS Marketplace. For on-premises, we contacted Starburst for licensing costs, and the setup was quite easy—a one-click setup that allows us to discover the catalogs for querying. The licensing cost was reasonable compared to the value we receive from Starburst Galaxy, making it a good product overall.

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

[Read full review](#) 

Customer Service and Support

Customer support is quite good; we faced issues with complex queries and reached out to Starburst, and they were very helpful in troubleshooting those issues.

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

[Read full review](#) 

Other Advice

I would advise others looking into using Starburst Galaxy to consider it one of the best tools in the market, especially for ingesting large datasets and federating queries across different data sources. Starburst Galaxy is the best engine currently available, and they should try it for themselves to see the difference in query times. My overall review rating is 8 out of 10.

Niketan Kumar

Advisory Solutions Architect at Dell Technologies

[Read full review](#) 

“I have found that Starburst Galaxy’s flexibility makes it worth experimenting beyond the initial deployment plan. Features I originally viewed as secondary, such as Iceberg maintenance and Kafka ingestion, have become everyday tools. Building a strong relationship with the Starburst team has also helped me optimize configurations and discover new capabilities faster..”

Verified user

VP, Business Intelligence at a outsourcing company with 501-1,000 employees

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“My advice would be to first be very clear about the use case. Starburst Galaxy makes a lot of sense if you have data distributed across different systems and want a common SQL layer without constantly moving or duplicating it. I would recommend starting with a clear use case rather than just implementing the technology. If you have data in different platforms and want access through a common SQL layer, then Starburst Galaxy can be very useful. I would give this product an eight out of ten..”

Pedromachado Ventura

Data Analyst at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“Starburst Galaxy addresses our primary problem of managing and working with data spread across multiple systems. Our teams can access and combine data from any source, enabling faster insights and reducing the time spent on manual data wrangling.

“Starburst Galaxy is becoming a cornerstone of our data platform, empowering us to make smarter and faster decisions across the organization..”

Stephen-Howard

Sr Director, Technology at Spreetail

[Read full review](#) 

“My advice to others looking into using Starburst Galaxy would be to first understand your current data environment and make sure that you have the right connectors that Starburst Galaxy can connect to those environments. Have a dedicated team from Starburst who can help you through all the installation and onboarding, and ensure all your personnel who are going to be working on that environment receive good training with proper use cases. I would also recommend using a sandbox in your environment and putting Starburst Galaxy in it so that you can get a taste of how it works with your data. I gave this product a rating of eight..”

Verified user

Senior Vice President at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“Starburst Galaxy excels as a flexible, adaptable solution for teams dealing with complex, multi-source data architectures. It may not be the absolute best at any single function, but its strength lies in being very good at many things while remaining highly malleable.

I would particularly recommend it for teams that need cross-database functionality and iceberg format support, though dbt-focused teams should be prepared to work around the slower adoption of cutting-edge dbt features. It is important to plan for cluster startup times in your workflows, and if infrastructure-as-code is important, factor in the current lack of [Terraform](#) support.

Overall, if you are looking for a solution that can bridge gaps in your data architecture rather than replace everything, Starburst Galaxy is an excellent choice that provides the flexibility to adapt to your specific needs..”

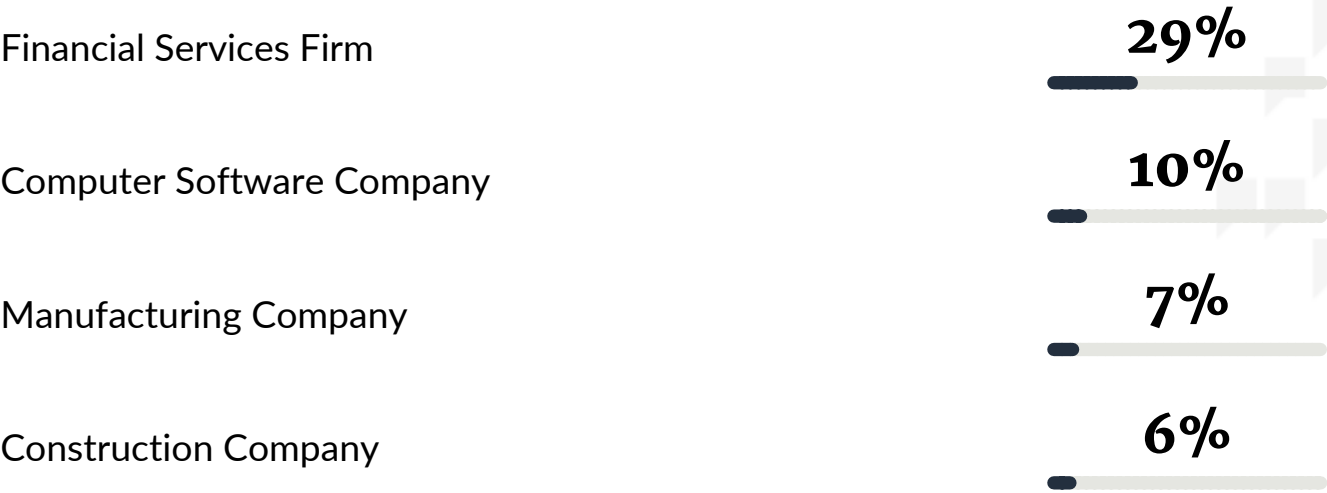
Verified user

Staff Analytics Engineer at a computer software company with 201-500 employees

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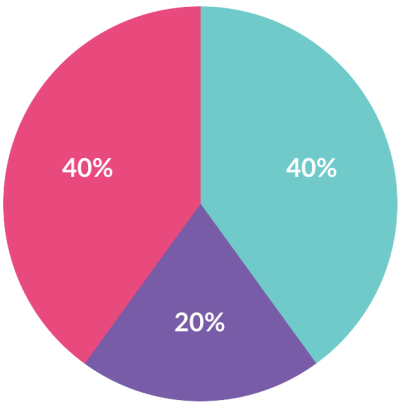
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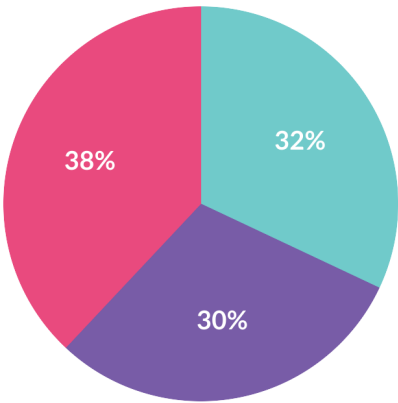


Company Size

by reviewers



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Large Enterprise Midsize Enterprise Small Business

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