

# **Application Services – Annual Report 2017: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in SDLC? There is a Long Journey Ahead**

Application Services (AS)  
Annual Report – April 2017 – Preview Deck

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### ▶ Transaction Intelligence

## Custom research capabilities

- Benchmarking | Pricing, delivery model, skill portfolio
- Peer analysis | Scope, sourcing models, locations
- Locations | Cost, skills, sustainability, portfolio – plus a tracking tool
- Tracking services | Service providers, locations, risk
- Other | Market intelligence, service provider capabilities, technologies, contract assessment

## Subscription information

- This full report is included in the following subscription(s)
  - **Application Services**
- In addition to published research, a subscription may include analyst inquiry, data cuts, and other services
- **If you want to learn whether your organization has a subscription agreement or request information on pricing and subscription options, please contact us**



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\* Banking, financial services, and insurance

# Everest Group's application services research is based on three key sources of proprietary information

- Annual interviews and interactions with **200+ Fortune 1000 enterprises** on application services
  - These interviews are designed to capture:
    - Priorities and investments for application services
    - Assessment of application services providers
    - Key technology investments and preferred vendors
- Proprietary database of **applications services** engagements (updated annually)
  - The database tracks the following elements of each contract:
    - Buyer details including industry, size, and signing region
    - Contract details including contract value, term, start date, and pricing structure
    - Scope including coverage of functional activities, processes, and application service towers
- Proprietary database of **market developments across 100+ technology and IT service providers** (updated annually)
  - The database tracks the following events for each company:
    - Major deals / solution implementation
    - New product/solution launches
    - Financial metrics (revenues, margins, and valuations)
    - Mergers and acquisitions
    - Alliances and partnerships
    - Investments in research and development

## Illustrative list of service providers whose deals are included in this study



Confidentiality: Everest Group takes its confidentiality pledge very seriously. Any information, that is contract-specific, will be presented back to the industry only in an aggregated fashion

# Table of contents (page 1 of 2)

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Topic	Page no.
<b>Introduction and overview</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Summary of key messages</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Section I: IT services market – size and growth</b>	<b>14</b>
• Summary	15
• Global IT services market: size and growth	17
• Global IT services market by geography	18
• Global IT services market by industry	19
• Market share of leading service providers	20
<b>Section II: Application services – overview</b>	<b>21</b>
• Summary	22
• Bundling trends	23
• Deal size trends	25
• Deal duration trends	26
• Contract type trends	27
• Pricing trends	28
• Service scope trends	29
• Automation trends	31

# Table of contents (page 2 of 2)

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Topic	Page no.
<b>Section III: Application services – buyer adoption</b>	<b>32</b>
• Summary	33
• Adoption by buyer industry	34
• Adoption by buyer size	37
• Adoption by buyer geography	40
<b>Section IV: Application services – key trends</b>	<b>41</b>
• Summary	42
• AI in SDLC? There is a long journey ahead	43
<b>Section V: Outlook for 2017-2018</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>60</b>
• Glossary of terms	62
• Application services research calendar	64
• References	65

# Summary of key messages (page 1 of 2)

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become the buzzword in the industry, with its subsegments Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) gaining spotlight recently. These are expected to significantly impact the way applications are developed and maintained.

Buyers of application services will benefit from this report to understand the evolving AS landscape, key trends, and outlook for 2017-2018. Service providers will be able to identify areas that they should focus on to capitalize on the AI opportunity, in addition to buyer expectations, market trends, and demand drivers.

**Some of the findings in this report, among others, are:**

## Major highlights and key trends

- Automation is “front end”, with enterprises proactively demanding strategy, vision, and strong PoCs from service providers
- Current AI adoption is doing a disservice by focusing on developer productivity instead of making AI the “coder”
- A decline in deal sizes is a cause for serious concern for application services providers

## Overview

- Stand-alone Application Services (AS) continue to dominate market activity
- Average deal sizes for AS engagements have declined over the previous year
- The three to five years timeframe emerges as the most preferred deal duration for AS engagements

# Summary of key messages (page 2 of 2)

## Buyer adoption

- Deal sizes in the energy & utilities vertical plummeted amidst strong industry headwinds
- Deal durations also witnessed a slight shrinkage across most industries, barring BFSI, which witnessed a jump from less than three years to almost five years average deal duration
- Deal activity continued to be dominated by small buyers (<US\$5 billion)
- Europe has taken the lead from North America for the first time in the last several years

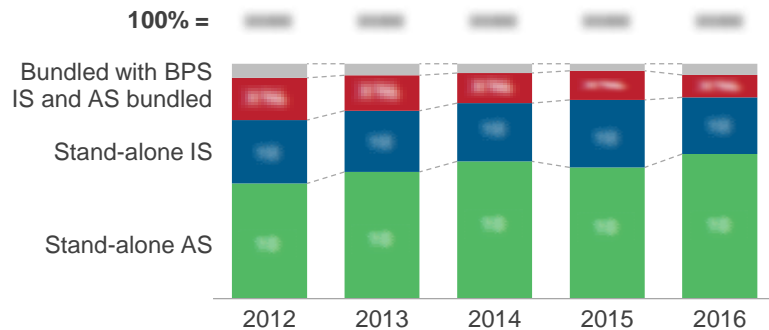
## Outlook for 2017-2018

- Application services will continue to witness increased demand owing to digital pervasiveness across multiple channels, platforms, and devices
- Buyers will expect innovation from service providers beyond contractual commitments, as they undertake digital transformation initiatives to be future-ready
- Automation will become a high-priority investment for buyers owing to its direct impact on application cycles and speed-to-market
- AI, cognitive, and robotics will no longer be fringe technologies dominated by technology majors; they will begin to pervade the enterprise portfolio and will eventually become mainstream in the application landscape

# This study analyzes the application services market in terms of size, growth, deal characteristics, and key trends

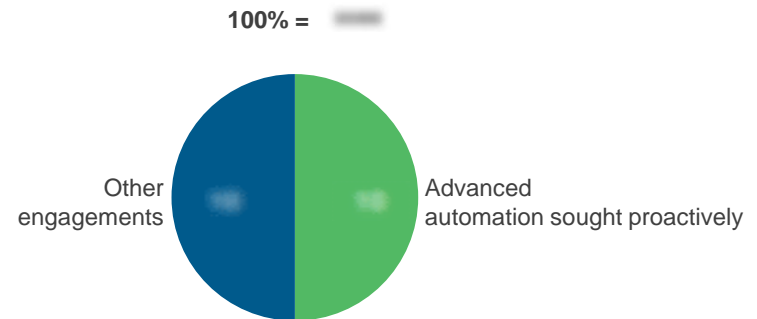
## Stand-alone AS drives the market

**Bundling trend in IT services deals**  
2012-2016; Number of deals

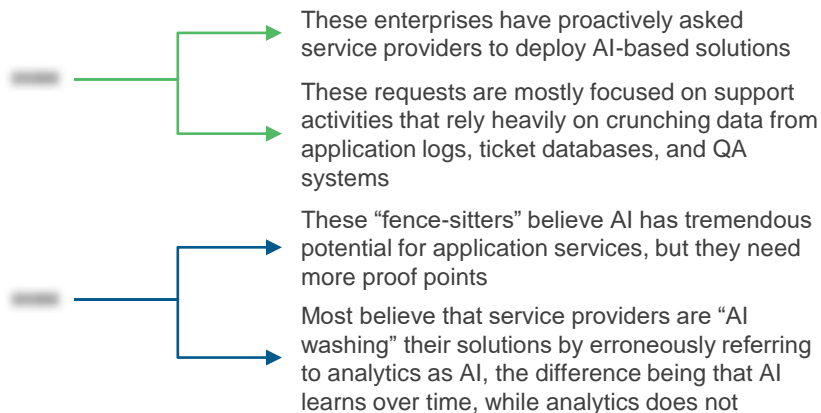


## Automation is “front-end”

**Advanced automation as sought by enterprises**  
2016; Number of deals

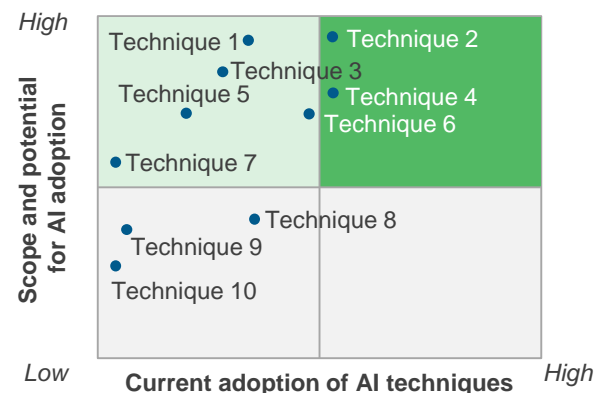


## AI adoption in the enterprise



## AI potential in application services

**Opportunities for AI in application services activities**



Source: Everest Group (2017)



# Application services research calendar

■ Published
 ■ Current

Topic	Release date
Independent Testing Services – PEAK Matrix™ Assessment and Profile Compendium 2015 .....	July 2015
Testing Services Market Update 2015 – Digital Testing, Buyers Beware! .....	February 2015
Upcoming Contract Renewals – Application Services .....	February 2016
SaaS Implementation Services – Market Trends and PEAK Matrix™ Assessment & Profiles Compendium .....	April 2016
CSC-HPE Services Merger .....	May 2016
Application Services – Annual Report 2016: “No DevOps No Digital” .....	May 2016
Independent Testing Services – Market Trends and PEAK Matrix™ Assessment & Profiles Compendium .....	June 2016
IT Application Services Automation: Think Benefits, Not Costs .....	Nov 2016
Customer (Dis)Satisfaction: Why Are Enterprises Unhappy with Their Service Providers? .....	Jan 2017
Upcoming Contract Renewals – Application Services .....	February 2017
Application Services – Annual Report 2017: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in SDLC? There is a Long Journey Ahead .....	April 2017
IT Automation in Application Services – PEAK Matrix™ Assessment for Products/Solutions .....	Q2 2017

# Additional research recommendations

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The following documents are recommended for additional insight into the topic covered in this research. These documents either provide additional details, or complementary content that may be of interest

- 1. Customer (Dis)Satisfaction: Why Are Enterprises Unhappy with Their Service Providers?** ([EGR-2017-4-R-2077](#)); 2017. Insights from our research reveal that almost 50% of the enterprises are dissatisfied with their service providers, whose average performance score as strategic partners is merely 5 on 10. Whereas service providers meet the technical requirements stated in the agreement, in reality, they seldom meet customer expectations on the softer engagement aspects. The enormous gap between the stated and the unstated expectations leaves the majority of customers discontented with their service providers
- 2. IT Application Services Automation: Think Benefits, Not Costs** ([EGR-2016-4-R-1998](#)); 2016. In this era of digitalization, enterprises need to be agile in order to deliver innovative products and services to their customers. As they look for new ways to reduce costs and improve productivity, they are leveraging emerging concepts such as automation and cognitive intelligence. These concepts, though not entirely new, are gaining traction in the context of application services, as enterprises look beyond their traditional lever of labor arbitrage for cost reduction

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## About Everest Group

Everest Group is a consulting and research firm focused on strategic IT, business services, and sourcing. We are trusted advisors to senior executives of leading enterprises, providers, and investors. Our firm helps clients improve operational and financial performance through a hands-on process that supports them in making well-informed decisions that deliver high-impact results and achieve sustained value. Our insight and guidance empowers clients to improve organizational efficiency, effectiveness, agility, and responsiveness. What sets Everest Group apart is the integration of deep sourcing knowledge, problem-solving skills and original research. Details and in-depth content are available at [www.everestgrp.com](http://www.everestgrp.com).

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