aws marketplace

PubSub+ Platform

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users






Powered by PeerSpot

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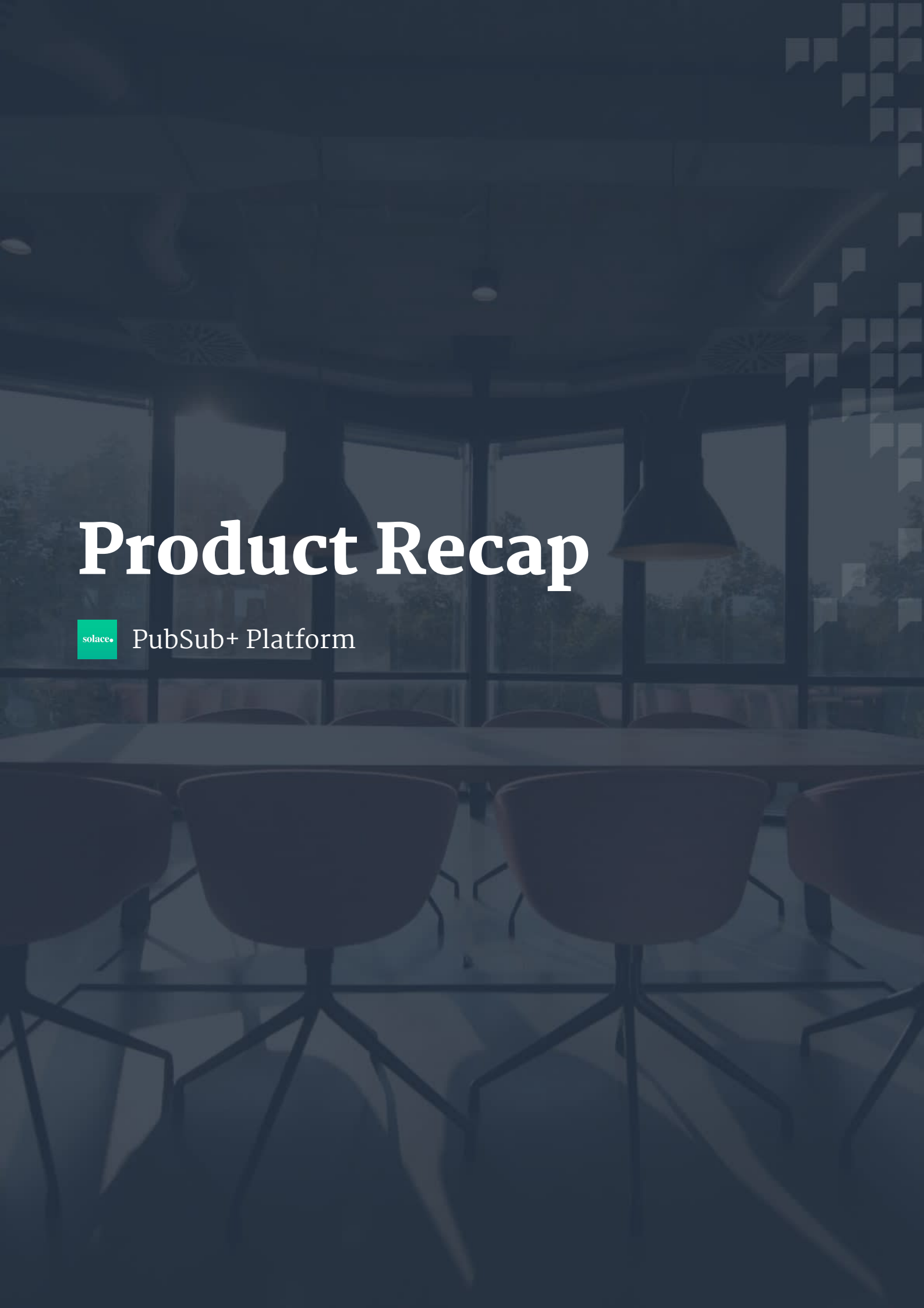

Product Recap

PubSub+ Platform

PubSub+ Platform Recap

PubSub+ Platform supports real-time shipment tracking, IT event management in multiclouds, and connects legacy and cloud-native systems for application modernization. It's utilized for trading, streaming market data, and app-to-app messaging, enhancing event-driven architectures with reliable message queuing.

Organizations adopt PubSub+ to efficiently transport events across hybrid and cloud environments, managing audit trails and long processing tasks. The platform aids integration through dynamic data publication, event mesh capabilities, and WAN optimization. Features like seamless integration, protocol agnosticism, and flexible topic hierarchy enhance versatility. Solace Admin Utility simplifies configuration and management, while the event portal allows hybrid deployment.

What are the key features of PubSub+ Platform?

- Dynamic Data Publication: Enables flexible and responsive data handling.
- Event Mesh Capabilities: Facilitates efficient event transportation.
- WAN Optimization: Enhances data transfer across networks.
- Protocol Agnosticism: Supports a wide range of protocols for integration.
- Flexible Topic Hierarchy: Allows detailed and organized data exchange.
- Solace Admin Utility: Provides intuitive configuration and management.
- Granular Topic Filtering: Offers precise data filtering options.
- Guaranteed Messaging: Ensures reliable message delivery.

What benefits or ROI should users consider?

- Seamless Integration: Reduces complexity in connecting systems.
- Performance and Scaling: Supports high-load environments efficiently.
- Asynchronous Messaging: Improves application performance.
- Robust Support System: Provides guidance and problem resolution.

PubSub+ is implemented in industries requiring real-time data handling and integration between disparate systems. Financial institutions use it for trading and streaming market data, while logistics companies benefit from real-time shipment tracking. Enterprises apply it to modernize operations by connecting legacy systems with cloud-native applications, enhancing their architecture and ensuring data reliability across environments.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "I rate the PubSub+ Platform a 9 out of 10."

Verified user

freelancer at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

- "Some valuable features include reconnecting topics, placing queues, and direct connections to MongoDB. The platform provides a dashboard to monitor the status of messages, such as how many have been processed or delivered, which is helpful for tracking performance."

Nandha Radha

Principal Engineer at Citi

- "We like the seamless flexibility in protocol exchange offering without writing a code."

Verified user

Senior Associate Platform Level 2 at Publicis Sapient

"The valuable feature of PubSub+ Event Broker is the speed of processing, publishing, and consumption."

BhanuChidigam

Sofware Engineering Manager at Wells Fargo

"We've built a lot of products into it and it's been quite easy to feed market data onto the systems and put entitlements and controls around that. That was a big win for us when we were consolidating our platforms down. Trying to have one event bus, one messaging bus, for the whole globe, and consolidate everything over time, has been key for us. We've been able to do that through one API, even if it's across the different languages."

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

"The most valuable feature of PubSub+ Event Broker is the scaling integration. Prior to using the solution, it was done manually with a file, and it can be done instantly live."

Deepankar Bbhowmick

Integration Architect at Aarini Consulting

"One of the main reasons for using PubSub+ is that it is a proper event manager that can handle events in a reactive way."

YogeshKumar1

Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

"PubSub+ Event Broker has a nice dashboard to see the domains and has good asynchronous API documentation. If you are a small or medium-sized company and not very rigorous on the compliance side, and you don't go for production issues on your own cloud, it's a very good tool to reuse.."

YogeshKumar1 Read full review

Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

"The way we can replicate information and send it to several subscribers is most valuable. It can be used for any kind of business where you've got multiple users who need information. Any company, such as LinkedIn, with a huge number of subscribers and any business, such as publishing, supermarket, airline, or shipping can use it.."

Jitendra Jethwa Read full review

Websphere MQ Specialist at a maritime company with 10,001+ employees

“We like the seamless flexibility in protocol exchange offering without writing a code. This is probably the most useful feature of Solace apart from the structural Topic segments.

Solace PubSub+ has understood and implemented the best features of multiple PubSub brokers. I have seen segmenting of topics in IBM MQ PubSub and have used that feature a lot. With such versatility, Solace has implemented one the most demanding PubSub broker, hence a PubSub+. It is a simple portal for event-driven architecture driving the entire microservices framework..”

Verified user
Senior Associate Platform Level 2 at Publicis Sapient

Read full review

“The best features of the tool include multiple impressive capabilities, such as the multi-level folder structure creation. Users can create a queue or topic in a folder structure under C with program files and software. The performance and scalability of the PubSub+ Platform are as impressive as Kafka.

“The solution's ability to decouple message producers and consumers is exactly what we use these messaging solutions for, allowing us to have high cohesion and low coupling, making it an excellent solution for that purpose..”

Verified user
freelancer at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

"The most valuable thing for us is being able to publish a message, then have the ability to subscribe it on the fly. We want to democratize the usage of this going forward.

We are currently using the basic platform, and as we become more mature, I am particularly excited about using the Event Catalog. This was launched recently. There are certain features like event visualisation and event discovery which we want to see in action. It will take some time for us to make more events published on Solace.

The software has been very good because:

1. You can spin off a Solace instance very quickly.
2. Based on your requirements, there are various size levels, similar to t-shirt sizing.
3. When we went to add another installation in our private cloud, it was easy. We received support from Solace and the installation was seamless with no issues.

After publishing, we have seen the solution's topic filtering go into approximately six levels, which is quite granular. These many levels are good enough. Also, the business payload lookup is supported.."

Sushil Sarda
Lead Manager at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

“I've been running messaging systems for most of my career, for over 17 years. The most valuable feature is the ability of the appliances to cope in a way that I haven't seen other vendors do. You always get into types of message-loss states that can't be explained with some other products that are out there. You raise tickets with the vendors and they'll give you an explanation. But in the 10 years that we've been in production with Solace, we've never had something that cannot be explained. I've got tickets open with the likes of IBM that have never been resolved, for years. The Solace product's stability is absolutely essential.

There is also the ability to have so many things laid in, where we're doing guaranteed messaging and direct messaging laid into the same appliance.

There is also the interoperability. We've built a lot of products into it and it's been quite easy to feed market data onto the systems and put entitlements and controls around that. That was a big win for us when we were consolidating our platforms down. Trying to have one event bus, one messaging bus, for the whole globe, and consolidate everything over time, has been key for us. We've been able to do that through one API, even if it's across the different languages. We support a wrapper on top of the vendor's API and we enforce certain specifications for connecting to our messaging environment. That way, we've been able to have that common way of sending and sharing data across all the groups. That has been very important for us.

In terms of ease of management, from a configuration perspective you can have all your appliances within one central console. You can see your whole estate from there. And you can configure the appliances through API calls so you can be centrally polling and managing and monitoring them, and configure them as you need to. There are certain things where that's a little more tricky to do, but at a general level we have abstracted things like user-commissioning into other systems. So we just have a front-end where we change the commissioning and push it to the appliance in whatever region and it updates the commissioning. From a central management and configuration point of view, it's been extremely easy to interact, operate, and support.

When it comes to granularity, you can literally do anything regarding how the filtering works. It has a caching product that sits on top of that, so depending on the region that you're trying to filter, caching level can make it a bit more difficult than the real-time streaming. But from a real-time stream, you can pretty much filter at any level or component and it's extremely flexible in that regard..”

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

Other Solutions Considered

“We have used IBM MQ pubsub and Kafka. We were moving away from the IBM stack and implementing microservices. Kafka would have been a good choice, yet keeping the future scope in mind; we opted for Solace..”

Verified user

Senior Associate Platform Level 2 at Publicis Sapient

Read full review

“We're also familiar with RabbitMQ. If you compare PubSub Event Broker and RabbitMQ, PubSub is more reliable. RabbitMQ requires a line to be installed, and it was a bit of a tedious process to get it installed. After that, it was smooth enough. My use case, whichever I use, is satisfied. I haven't explored either very deep beyond my own use cases. .”

Namrata G

Independent Technology Consultant - Financial Softwares at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

Read full review

"We stopped using AWS EventBridge because they had some issues with the API specifications regarding how to design the governance and other features. Even though it is a very good tool with all the necessary mechanisms, it does not offer an easy replay function. The dashboard to monitor events is missing in PubSub+ Event Broker. The solution is also complicated and not easy to use, making it difficult to map domains and monitor events. The implementation is entirely in Docker, and to scale it, it must be deployed into a cluster queue or an ECS machine, which is costly and operationally intensive. The architecture of this distribution needs improvement.."

YogeshKumar1
Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"We compared a few messages bus solutions, like TIBCO. At that point, Solace came out ahead, both in throughput and probably cost.

We haven't really used any competitors. I don't think there are many on the market still. I don't think the solution really compares that well with any of the open source solutions. Maybe the setup ease with MQ is similar to Solace, but then to keep it operational, Solace is much easier. It's a hardware appliance that you can install in a data center, which just keeps working. That is amazing. It is something that software or open source solutions don't offer.."

Sachar De Vries
Head of Infrastructure at Grasshopper

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“Our journey to Solace was not very long. We started interacting with Solace leadership probably about a year and a half year back. That was the first time that we spoke with them about this concept and product. There were a few things that we asked for as part of product roadmap. Then, we moved to the product evaluation where we also brought in a couple of other competition tools. Finally, we selected Solace.

The challenge with open source is they give you a basic flavor, which is decent enough. However, when you look at enterprise level, you need the following:

- A good support mechanism available
- Reporting
- Administration
- A distributed license, since there is talk about how to decentralize usage.

These are the challenges that come with an open source product. They do the basic thing well, but if you need to make the solution fit for purpose, you need to maintain the custom solution on your own. This becomes a problem from a resource and investment perspective, as technologies keep on changing.

If we talk about Solace, you see the value-add layer. I can say that Solace is a basic Kafka. But on top of that Kafka layer, they have added their own layer. That is really good, as this is where it adds value and why we went for it.

There are a lot of good things that made us decide to go for Solace. Looking at Kafka, the value-added monitoring, Event Catalogs, and visualization are not there. When we talk about Solace's competitors on certain aspects, we rank them a little lower. Overall, when ranking them, Solace was the one who has scored highest, so we went for it.

We do not use other competitor products, so we don't have direct experience with their ease of design. We also evaluated:

- A Microsoft solution: This solution was the closest to Solace.
- OpenText
- Kafka (open source)

Sushil Sarda

Lead Manager at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

- Confluent

"We did an RFP and pulled all the vendors in, including Thomson Reuters, TIBCO, and a whole bunch of others such as Informatica, and we did a proper vendor evaluation. It came down to Informatica and Solace, head-to-head, in the final decision.

The choice to go with the Solace appliances has actually paid off massively in savings from an infrastructure point of view. The reason is that, in our old platforms, for example our RMDS Thomson Reuters platform, we had about 500 servers around the globe sending all the data to each other, meshed up in a huge administrative nightmare. The Informatica solution was going to be very similar, as in commodity hardware that you would mesh up to send all the data. We looked at that and said, "Well, a server in our data center is going to cost us $20,000 a year to run," so if we still had 500 of those, you can do the math. If we were to buy the Solace appliances, working out to about $100,000 each, we would then only have to pay support and maintenance on them for the next two or three years, at about $20,000 a year. We only needed 30 of them, compared to the 500 servers. This has been a huge cost saving for us. The 500 servers that we used to have are all gone, and we have replaced them with 30 to 40 appliances. The cost of running things in the data center has, therefore, shrunk significantly.Although people do view Solace as being this premium product you pay a lot of money for, if you're going to put a lot of data through these things, the amount of servers you need to do that with is also extremely costly. We have saved millions a year by having the appliances, and that was something we picked up right at the beginning. We said, "If we go down this path and these appliances can truly do what they say, then the footprint in our data center is going to shrink 10-to-one, and the cost of running this in our data center is going to be significantly less."

We also support multiple instances of Kafka. There's an enterprise version within our bank, which is the biggest one, and we have some small pockets of it within capital markets. The configuration and support around Kafka, and the quantity of components needed to keep it going, are a configuration nightmare. We use the software broker for development and now in the cloud.

In our non-production environments we have a non-appliance based version running in things like Docker. But the ability to have one component that does everything, as opposed to having to layer in multiple components to be able to build the ecosystem for messaging or storage, is extremely powerful from a support perspective. The time spent on keeping Kafka running, compared to Solace, is not in the same league.

We have a lot of problems with Kafka, generally, that we do not have on Solace. The enterprise runs the majority of the Kafka, the stuff that we support is for our regular Cloudera stack. To try to give an idea of scale, the enterprise bank is doing, maybe, less than a billion messages a day on its Kafka environment, which is still a big environment for them. But we're doing 120 billion messages, so we're not even in the same swim lanes. We know they have a lot of problems on that and had to build a second instance after issues with the 1st instance. And in our own Cloudera Kafka, we have problems with Cloudera over time - our current setup is stable but we are not upgraded to latest versions. Whereas our Solace stuff is bulletproof.

Kafka has its place. There's absolutely no question about that. There is some stuff that it does really well, like some of the elastically expanding storage concepts that people have where they want to keep storing everything forever. They can keep elastically expanding their Kafka brokers to do that. Whereas, with a Solace appliance, you are going to have a SAN storage connected to it and you're limited by the size of the SAN you can put on there, or you're going to need to buy another appliance and buy another SAN. With their software broker you could elastically expand that, but you still have the storage issues.

The one real positive with Kafka is that you have a big community of people, and this is something I've spoken to Solace about too. There is this groundswell of community around it, where there are a lot of adapters that are off-the-shelf to a lot of other things. It's a double-edged sword. Sometimes we have new users join the bank who say, "Yeah, but Kafka has a SQL adapter off-the-shelf." We say, "Okay, but we already have written a SQL adapter for Solace. Here you go. It was 10 minutes' work." At the same time, it is nice to

have a catalog of 200 adapters that you can use on Kafka. That is definitely a benefit of Kafka, with the community around it. But at the same time, when you scratch the surface of it, the amount of work to do a plugin isn't actually much more, and with the Kafka stuff you need six or seven different components to run it.

In my last design overview with the console group they said, "And then we're going to add this component, and if you want global..." and I said, "Well, actually, all our stuff is global. We don't do anything that's just one region." They said, "Well we haven't gotten our global solution built yet so you could run two versions and start copying data." I said, "Well, I don't really want to do that. We want you to be able to replicate data between regions, under the covers." They're now doing that. They're getting up to speed on some of those things. It all depends on what your use case is.

We even have some stuff where, at the edge of our environment, we might bridge data between Solace and Kafka and there is a bridge component to do that. It would be when there's a very specific use case around what someone wanted to do. For example, if a third-party vendor is only supporting Kafka, we'll plug in Kafka there, but we don't want people then connecting to Kafka because there's no need for it. So we'll then bridge from Kafka to Solace so the data is all on Solace. There are definitely use cases for Kafka. It's just that the scale of Kafka, depending on what the use case is, is a little bit different. I feel people use Kafka because they're just trying to lazily store everything as a long-term retention process.

The implementation of Kafka compared to Solace is very different. As I mentioned, there are multiple components to build up Kafka. Additionally having reviewed Confluent it is not cheap and we would be more interested in using Apache Kafka supported by the cloud providers if we need that in the future. But our future is very much on the Solace environment. We're far more comfortable supporting the Solace environment than our Kafka environment.."

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“The ROI was good initially, but we eventually found that it would cost too much in recurring operations cost to maintain. So while I don't remember the figures, it wasn't worth it. And if you compare it with other solutions like Kafka, they are much cheaper and easier to maintain than PubSub+..”

YogeshKumar1
Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

“We have not seen ROI.

The operational efficiencies that we intend to gain should result in a reduced internal chargeback of tech resources. That's really the ROI that we're going after: operational efficiency and better mean time to resolution for our incidents. .”

Daniel Nepton
Enterprise Automation Architect at CIBC

Read full review

“Capital markets couldn't operate today if Solace were down. Our turnover on a daily basis is significant. To put a dollar value on it would be very difficult. But by not having 500 servers across the globe and having about 60 appliances at the moment instead, we've got a 10-to-one footprint, so in pure infrastructure costs we have hard-dollar savings. By having the appliances in, we've enabled the business to make millions on a daily basis..”

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

“We have seen ROI because we started with the free version. Even now, we have a basic enterprise license and are getting the business value from its cost.

We have seen at least a 50 percent increase in productivity (compared to using Kafka) when using Solace for the following use cases:

- Sharing changes in real-time.
- Onboarding new subscribers.
- Modifying data sets.

Verified user

Head of Enterprise Architecture & Digital Innovation Lab at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“ROI would be hard to calculate but just talking from a storage perspective, we've been able to use Solace storage appliances. We've been able to say that would have cost around $2 million a year in storage costs to half that amount as an initial investment. We've been able to pay that business casework off in year one, whereas three years would be perfectly acceptable from a cost-savings perspective. And that's just on the storage side. We can pay up to $10,000 and $20,000 a year for internal charges per server versus just paying for rack space costs for our infrastructure. It's a significant amount when you consider that often you'll need many commodity hardware servers to replace a single appliance pair. It's a significant cost saving..”

Verified user

Senior Project Manager at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

“We haven't seen return on our investment with Solace yet because it's pretty new in our environment. But we do see there is a value it brings to the table from a digital-transformation point of view. Both the companies that I was part of, where I was fortunate to lead the digital transformation projects, identified Solace as the platform to make that change: from a heavyweight, old or legacy model of middleware, or MQ platform, to a very lightweight, modern, completely distributed model. It's quick and nimble and agile in all types of setups. That is a huge shift in the way that we do things and make things notably faster. Qualitatively, this has definitely been a great tool.

Quantitatively, I would not be able to disclose any numbers, but we sense that there is going to be a huge return on investment because we might shut down some of those old, heavyweight, on-premise-only platforms. Because this is also a pay-as-you-use model, we can effectively make use of the license, as and when we require it. There are definitely going to be good cost savings as well..”

Verified user

Technology Lead at a pharma/biotech company with 10,001+ employees

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Use Case

“An enterprise-grade event broker for mediation of events produced by a heterogeneous hybrid landscape of SAP and non-SAP systems at scale.

An event registry/catalogue and a user-friendly visualization of event flow..”

Vadim Klimov
SAP Integration Architect

Read full review

“We use PubSub+ primarily for long processing messages. For instance, we generate customer forms, which take a longer time. We place these requests in queues, process them, and return them to the queues. This ensures that messages are not lost due to the time-consuming nature of such tasks. We also use PubSub+ for audit trails where we intercept requests, apply them, and store them in MongoDB, placing them in the queue before final processing..”

Nandha Radha
Principal Engineer at Citi

Read full review

"We handle publishing/emitting events to the PubSub+ Broker via one protocol, and it seamlessly makes the event available for multiple consumers with different protocols without writing code is one of the primary use cases for us.

As an architect, I wanted to implement an event-driven architecture, majorly focusing on a cloud solution with a PubSub pattern.

Out of curiosity, our CoE team explored Solace PubSub+, and after several months of testing with our requirements, this was the kind of solution we needed.."

Verified user

Senior Associate Platform Level 2 at Publicis Sapient

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"One of our use cases at our global company went live recently. We have a lot of goods that move via sea routes. While there are other modes of transport, particularly for the sea route, we wanted to track our shipments, their location, and that type of information and generate some reports. Also, there are multiple applications which need this data.

With Solace, we are bringing information in every minute (almost real-time) from our logistic partners and putting it on Solace. Then, from Solace, the applications that want to consume the information can take it. E.g., we are generating some dashboards in Power BI using this information. We are also pushing this information into our data lakes where more reporting plus slicing and dicing is available. In future, if more subscribers want this information, they will also be able to take it.

We have both our private cloud and a version completely hosted on SaaS by Solace. ."

Sushil Sarda

Lead Manager at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"There was a challenge in the market that needed addressing. While some tools could serve as event managers, they were not proper event brokers. For instance, Kafka is referred to as an event broker but not a proper one. If you want to use it as an event broker, you would have to implement your event manager, which could be quite complex. The same can be said for Kafka, a text-based broker that stores events in a text file on disk and then consumes them. In other words, an event is just a message stored in a text file that is not reactive. If you introduce events into the system, you cannot react to them in any way. It creates a problem that needs to be addressed by implementing tools that can react to events or pre-defined topics. The way topics are created is also an issue. For instance, if you want to consume a specific topic, you have to create a new one, and you cannot filter events using the mechanism provided. If you wish to query events, there is no provision.

It is where PubSub+ comes in. It provides the option to query events and route messages from one topic to another, as well as clients, to facilitate this process. **We primarily use PubSub+ for event-driven applications**, where we react to and process applications based on those events. For instance, when we receive an order, we react to that event and create multiple other events based on it. This reaction is based on events, so we use PubSub+ Event Broker.."

YogeshKumar1
Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

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"We do a lot of pricing data through here, market data from the street that we feed onto the event bus and distribute out using permissioning and controls. Some of that external data has to have controls on top of it so we can give access to it. We also have internal pricing information that we generate ourselves and distribute out. So we have both server-based clients connecting and end-user clients from PCs. We have about 25,000 to 30,000 connections to the different appliances globally, from either servers or end-users, including desktop applications or a back-end trading service. These two use cases are direct messaging; fire-and-forget types of scenarios.

We also have what we call post-trade information, which is the guaranteed messaging piece for us. Once we book a trade, for example, that data, obviously, cannot be lost. It's a regulatory obligation to record that information, send it back out to the street, report it to regulators, etc. Those messages are all guaranteed.

We also have app-to-app messaging where, within an application team, they want to be able to send messages from the application servers, sharing data within their application stack.

Those are the four big use cases that make up a large majority of the data.

But we have about 400 application teams using it. There are varied use cases and, from an API perspective, we're using Java, .NET, C, and we're using WebSockets and their JavaScript. We have quite a variety of connections to the different appliances, using it for slightly different use cases.

It's all on-prem across physical appliances. We have some that live in our DMZ, so external clients can connect to those. But the majority, 95 percent of the stuff, is on-prem and for internal clients. It's deployed across Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, New York, and Toronto, all connected together. We are currently working on the cloud setup to connect on-prem with cloud based virtual message routers all connected together.."

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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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.

"It is a bit complex, but you get instructions. Once you know what to do, it is fairly straightforward. The installation takes about 30 minutes, but configuration takes a long time. After you gather all your data, it could sometimes take a day or two.."

Jitendra Jethwa

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Websphere MQ Specialist at a maritime company with 10,001+ employees

"The initial setup of PubSub+ Event Broker is easy. We can simply connect the solution to an SAP S4/HANA. We had no difficulties.

To install SAP in the public cloud, we need to provide SAP with a basic configuration file, which is a straightforward JSON file. SAP takes care of the entire installation process based on the configuration provided by PubSub+ Event Broker. Therefore, most of the installation work is handled by SAP, and we only need to specify our requirements and the duration of the process. It's a relatively straightforward process.."

Deepankar Bbhowmick

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Integration Architect at Aarini Consulting

"The initial setup is straightforward. One of the good features about Solace is their documentation and onboarding scripts are very intuitive, easy, and simple to follow.

The broker took three to four hours to deploy.

We had an implementation strategy before we actually deployed it. In terms of:

- How are we going to create this event mesh across the organization?
- Where are we going to deploy this broker?
- Which applications are going to onboard as a publisher, or which events?
- Defining the topic schema.

We did spend some time planning for that process in terms of how we were going to do the maintenance of the platform.."

Verified user

Head of Enterprise Architecture & Digital Innovation Lab at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The initial setup was pretty straightforward.

The deployment took four to five weeks. When we got the first use case, we started understanding the requirements pretty well, then built the solution, did the testing, and made it live. After the solution is live, if anyone else needs data, that can be done very quickly. It won't take a couple weeks like first time. You can just connect, pull the data, and test it.

From implementation strategy perspective, we wanted a simple use case, e.g., just publish and subscribe. The easiest case could be a point-to-point where there is only one publisher and one subscriber. Things that are non-business critical, we wanted to put them first on Solace and see the performance, learn how they worked, their challenges, and dos and don'ts.

Later, we gradually wanted to move into business critical cases. The next set of our use cases, which are running on other middleware, we are trying replicating them on Solace. However, we will not be jumping to Solace directly. Rather, it is like a parallel solution, which is being built on the Solace layer. We want to see whether it is working fine. Gradually, we'll start switching from those scenarios which are running on other middleware to the Solace layer.During this journey, we have also been targeting our topic building mechanism/approach, which will get firmly established. That is how we are approaching Solace overall. At the same time, we have also brought in our partners of other middleware - MuleSoft, Dell EMC, and SAP. These are some of our strategic partners. It is not just a big product which you take, then you forget. It's ability of that tool and how well it fits into your ecosystem as well. Solace can be a very good tool, but if other applications are not able to communicate with it, then it will be not of use to us. Therefore, we are also seeing that how Solace with Dell EMC, MuleSoft or SAP could create value for us. That's another thing which we are doing from a strategic perspective..”

Sushil Sarda

Lead Manager at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

“First, we experimented with an on-premises model and then we tried the cloud model for production. However, we encountered some issues. The cloud model is successful and does not have these kinds of issues because it's in its own ecosystem. But when you move to your own cloud, you want to manage the security and everything yourself.

The problem is that you have to deploy and recreate a VPC, and they will manage the VPC. You will not manage the VPC and the security of the system. This is a compliance risk that no management team would allow, where a third party manages your own or else account. There are solutions like creating a separate account and then keeping it there, but still, it's deployed in our own cloud, and we can manage the network or security of the whole account in which it was deployed. This is a tradeoff. The main challenge of using PubSub+ Event broker was deploying it to their own environment and integrating it with their applications.

The first deployment challenge is deploying it into Kubernetes. When it is only, it is the only model that they offer. So, in our teams and our company, we are not fond of using Kubernetes unnecessarily because it adds overhead to the Kubernetes cluster. Then you have to hire people who can manage this complexity, and there are many complexities inside. It's a huge thing to deal with. And even PubSub+ is also one of the complicated solutions. So you must manage two complex solutions in one place, working together. So it was too much operations work for the team.

It is one thing. And then after that, keeping this ECS content thing, so it's like one ECS, small ECS content cannot run it. You need to have a very heavy ECS cluster that can connect to the broker. Otherwise, if you have a very large-scale application, this federal will die, and then after that, you will lose the connection to the PubSub+ Event Broker. So you must keep one extra layer of a very heavy ECS cluster that can communicate with the broker. And then, after that, it can forward the requests to the APIs or the targets. And this ECS cluster also costs extra money for this..”

YogeshKumar1

Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

“We spent about two to three months designing out our topic hierarchy when we started this 10 years ago. In the last 10 years we've made very few changes to our topic hierarchy and schema. But we sat with Solace and designed it out. We created a 90-page manual for how we wanted to stand up our event mesh at the time. Bear in mind that our first implementation was not guaranteed messaging, but direct messaging. It was between Sydney, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London, New York, and Toronto. We had primary and secondary data centers in every region. I would never characterize it as simple because of the overall scale of what we were putting in place. The actual configuration, and working with Solace to implement that originally, that wasn't the difficult piece of it. Actually standing it up — once we had the appliances in our data centers and all on the network — hooking them up and making them work together that wasn't complex.

What was more complex was the fact that we were meshing up six regions at the same time, and turning on a brand new environment. We didn't stay in one region. We didn't just turn London on. We went big from day one, so it was complex from a geographies perspective, but not complex from a Solace-configuration perspective.

We paid for their heads of engineering to come and sit onsite with us and work through that document. I've actually recommended to Solace that they shouldn't sell their product to anyone without doing that design work upfront because I think it's extremely valuable.

This is true of any system. If you take a good system and don't architect it well, then you can make a good system really bad. Two years down the road you've got people saying, "Okay, I want to go somewhere else," because we've done a bad job of this. Anecdotally, I was talking to the CEO of Confluent a while back and he told me that a large, well-known company has redone its Kafka implementation three times in two years, because they hadn't architected it properly. You can take any technology and make it bad.

Our deployment took about six months, start to finish, from initial discussions and purely white-boarding through to being live in six regions. The first five years after

it was implemented, we weren't allowed to build any net-new application that didn't go onto the bus. Every application has a three-year life cycle within the bank. In that five years, a good 80 percent of our applications had been completely rewritten, at which point we only had 20 percent left on our old environment to force over and bridge between old and new environments. After a couple of years of doing that, we didn't have to run any of the old environments anymore and just had one major platform that everyone connects to. That has been the state for the last five or six years.

I speak to other Solace clients occasionally, new ones who are looking at starting up, and they say, "Well, can we be done in a year?" And I say, "Well, your Solace can be done. That's not the issue. It's your life cycle of applications. If anyone tells you you're going to switch all your applications in one year, it's nonsense." Yes, it depends on the scale. If you're a small company, sure. But if you're a company of our size, you've got hundreds of applications and you're not going to rewrite them all overnight. But, we did a migration of JMS users from TIBCO EMS a few years ago and that was actually very simple. It was two or three lines of codes for each of the 200 applications that were connected. Within about three months we'd moved 200 applications. So it is easy to do pure JMS conversions, for example. But if you've actually got to rewrite the application completely, because you're changing how it operates, that's very different.

In that three months of discussion that I mentioned, we were working on our topic hierarchy and making sure that we didn't have any pitfalls. The rest was that it takes a long time to get things set up at data centers, racked and networked and dealing with the firewalls. But the actual configuration of the appliances between all the regions was only about two weeks' worth total, for 12 different data centers. That was not the lion's share of the work. The planning for doing it across multiple regions was the lion's share of that.

The topic hierarchy is hugely flexible, but you do have to put time in to plan your hierarchy and try to think through all the eventualities of how you're going to use it. Otherwise, it can become a bit of a free-for-all if you don't govern and control it in some way. You need a good onboarding process for how you want to use things.

If you leave it totally open to your teams to choose, you're going to end up with a bit of a mess.

For naming, we start everything with a region and go from there:

- where the data is coming from or to
- what business area the data is related to
- what type of data it is
- what application team
- what instances they're coming from
- then we get into the actual data name itself.

There are six or seven layers of our topic schema that we have published. After that, the application teams can be specific on how they want to name the seventh or eighth level. But the first several levels are defined by us and we say, "Okay, if you're this, you're going to be choosing New York, you're going to be choosing fixed income, you're going to be choosing that this is market-data price, and then you're going to be choosing that your application name is this, and the datatype is real-time. And the message instrument itself is X and the data it contains is Y." So we've already mapped out our schema for all those levels, and then they can put their payload in at that level.

This way, it becomes really easy if you're trying to wildcard things at a higher level. You can say, "I just want to see all the market data prices." I can wildcard three levels and be able to pick those up without having to know anything else. I can look at pretty much any topic name that someone has. And you've got 255 characters to choose from. I've seen people who try to map everything, but then it becomes unreadable. Unless you've got a guide to figure out what topic schema look like, it becomes very difficult for a human to interpret. It has to be readable to them. Six to eight levels works, without needing some sort of decoder to work out what things mean.

In terms of staff involved in the deployment at the time, we had about 16 people, globally, across the different regions. But this wasn't the only thing they were doing. We also support 20 or 30 different systems because we look after the market

data system for the bank as well. Solace isn't our only job. In addition to those 16 people for the initial implementation we had 30-something in compliance across Prod, QA, and Dev, etc.

Today, the number of people we have doing maintenance on it is in the high 20s . We haven't exponentially grown our staff around what we're charging back to the business for the true staffing of this. The only thing we have grown out a little bit, over time, is our development team that supports the applications, as we've had 400 applications come on. They have general, day-to-day questions. We only have three people in that Dev team, but they're acting like a first-responder before we raise a question to Solace's support team around API issues. A lot of the questions people ask are common questions that we've answered two times already. We have a lot of Confluence pages with basic how-to and FAQs. But sometimes people just want to jump on a call, go WebEx, and walk through what they were thinking of doing. We only had one developer doing that originally and we've got three now.

We're currently running version 9.6.0.38 in production.

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Verified user

Read full review

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Customer Service and Support

"The technical support is very good. Our questions have always been answered and resolved in a very good way. They seem very knowledgeable about their product and can go into depth about how and why we should implement it in certain ways.."

Sachar De Vries
Head of Infrastructure at Grasshopper

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"Their technical support is pretty quick. We are bound by an SLA and we have the highest tier of support from them. The turnaround time is pretty good and they are strong technically. I would rate their technical support as good.."

Verified user
Technology Lead at a pharma/biotech company with 10,001+ employees

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"We have used their technical support as well as their professional services.

- They have a very strong support team.
- Some improvement is required with Solace professional services. The professional services really needs to drive the solutions for the customers and share best practices. They also need to guide the teams through the right things.

Verified user

Head of Enterprise Architecture & Digital Innovation Lab at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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"I have not personally dealt with their technical support. They are always responsive. I know I like to talk with them on emails that go back and forth, but it's really about sales, e.g., trying to get statuses on our proof of concept and how it's going. We've not had any reason to reach out to them for tech support issues.

Occasionally, we have needed help for HybridEdge when we were trying to build a new protocol transformation adapter, then we will reach out to them. However, this is not in incident mode. It's always in a sort of a how-to mode for a PoC. We have never had to reach out to them for urgent requests.."

Daniel Nepton

Enterprise Automation Architect at CIBC

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"The technical support helped us in all the aspects. So far, there are no complaints. We got really fantastic support from them. Their leadership is also very much committed. Their senior VP joins us in weekly review, which is the kind of commitment coming from them since their leadership is involved. Their technical teams are definitely involved and fully committed to our success.

A year and a half ago, the Event Portal was not available when we started our journey. This is a strong feature that they added based on feedback that they heard from us. This would not had been something that we could have requested with an open source, like Kafka. We would have had to outsource it to a partner for them to build it.."

Sushil Sarda
Lead Manager at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

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“Solace is truly the best company that we have to deal with when it comes to tech support. In the role that I have I deal with about 100 different vendors, everything from market data exchanges to software vendors, through the likes of IBM and Microsoft, etc. Ten years ago, when we first started dealing with them, Solace was obviously a much smaller company. They've grown. They were only some 50 or 60 people at the time and I think there are a couple of hundred now. All their support team who were there originally are still there — they've added more over time — were excellent. They know everything about their APIs and their systems.

If I reach out to IBM, for example, I'm going to get passed to six help desks before anyone I reach even knows what product I'm talking about. I support Cloudera for our company, as well. Cloudera has sold its support to IBM and when I raise a ticket with IBM, I wait a week to get a response. I have had some pretty shocking support experiences.

We always felt that Solace's support wasn't going to survive as they grew as a company. It was so good. That was one issue I kept raising because it was so good I couldn't see how it would scale. Surely it couldn't. But I can tell you, 10 years later, Solace is still the only company where I have zero outstanding issues, or unknown items, or support tickets that they haven't resolved. If you have a problem, they jump on a WebEx with you and, within minutes, we know what it is. Whereas I can't even get IBM to respond to a support ticket.

I deal with a lot of different people in my role and I can genuinely put my hand on my heart and say they're the best support company that we deal with..”

Verified user

Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

Other Advice

"I recommend considering Solace due to its enterprise-level features, high throughput, cloud integration, and security. It is a top competitor among similar products and offers significant benefits in reliability and scalability.."

Nandha Radha
Principal Engineer at Citi

Read full review

"I'd recommend the solution to other users, so long as it aligns with their use case. This product is more suited to a small to medium-sized company.

I'd rate the solution seven out of ten. If it was faster and perhaps had some security enhancements, I would rate it higher. ."

Namrata G
Independent Technology Consultant - Financial Softwares at a tech services company with 51-200 employees

Read full review

"We use approximately four people for the maintenance of the solution.

My advice to others is this solution has high throughput and is used for many stock exchanges. For business critical use cases, such as processing financial transactions at a quick speed, I would recommend this solution.

I rate PubSub+ Event Broker an eight out of ten.."

BhanuChidigam
Sofware Engineering Manager at Wells Fargo

Read full review

"My advice is mainly technical. If you're a big corporation with thousands of applications running, then PubSub+ is a good choice. But if you're a very small or mid-range start-up, it may not be necessary if your application doesn't require high computing or compute-intensive operations. However, it's important to consider the investment required, including licensing and operations costs. For example, even just for basic connections, the server cost for 100 or 250 connections can be around 100,000 euros.

Overall, I would rate the solution a seven out of ten.."

YogeshKumar1
Cloud Architect at a transportation company with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"I have experience working with Kafka, PubSub+ Platform, and IBM MQ, all three of them.

"We are customers, meaning my company uses Solace. We use it and customize it

based on our needs.

“Based on my experience, I would recommend other people use PubSub+ Platform.

“Interested parties can contact me if they have any questions or comments about my review.

“I rate the PubSub+ Platform a 9 out of 10..”

Verified user
freelancer at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

“If I was coming into this cold, and knowing what I know today, the one thing we would do differently is we'd have the network team involved throughout the whole process of bringing it into the bank. Bring your network team on that journey with you, because if it's going to become like it has with us — the biggest thing on the network — then you want to have the network team at the table from day one. That way, networking knows things are coming. We're putting these huge things into the data centers and they're going to send huge amounts of data around. That team needs to be ready, so they need to be at the table.

In terms of the onboarding and governance processes, fortunately we did think ahead and plan that stuff. But I speak to other customers that didn't and they're struggling with having the right onboarding processes and the right governance around things. At the end of the day, if you've got 120 billion messages going around, if you don't have a good onboarding and governance process, you could just have a 120-billion message mess. We don't have that because we had a good governance and a good architecture to begin with.

As I mentioned, I've suggested to Solace that they shouldn't sell their products without enforcing a bit of the architectural piece to begin with. The problem is that everyone has their own budgets and thinks, "Oh, I don't need you to help me, and I

don't want to pay for it," figuring that Solace is trying to push its Professional Services a bit. But that small investment in Professional Services, when you first stand it up, could be hugely involved in the success of your platform. The Solace Professional Services that we've experienced, and the general value out of that, is worth the dollars you pay for it.

From a maintenance point of view, every time Solace releases a new version of the API, we review what has changed in that and whether it affects us in any way. Sometimes a release is for something specific that another client has asked for and that doesn't have any value to us. We don't force applications to upgrade every time a version changes. We tend to do a yearly request of the application teams to upgrade their API to the latest one that we vetted. It's like a yearly maintenance to update the API. And to do that work, to integrate the new API version, it's generally not more than half an afternoon's work to put it in. It might take longer than that to QA, test, and validate your application to put it into production, but the actual coding piece takes an hour or two at most. It's not a huge overhead to be able to do that.

In terms of the event mesh feature, we're a bit of a "halfway house." They have multiple things. One is called dynamic message routing (DMR) and another is multi-node routing (MNR). We use the multi-node routing piece. We are working on the DMR piece of it, which is their newest function for public cloud use. We're in in final stages of setup for expanding Solace into both Azure and AWS.

Internally, we're using their MNR so it's all an event mesh and everything is automatic. If you publish a message in Sydney and you want us to scribe it in New York, we have to do nothing to get that message from A to B. You subscribe and it gets there. Depending on which terminology you're using around event mesh, we consider ourselves to be on event mesh, but we have not deployed that for guaranteed messaging for our general population. We're still using their multi-node routing, which means direct messages fly on demand, and we have to bridge guaranteed messaging.

The clustering feature is really designed around trying to make things easier for clients on configuration, so that you don't have to look at things as an HA pair in a

DR device, by representing that as a cluster node. This is all work related to trying to make things easier from a support perspective. Today, if you make a change on an HA pair, you can then force-sync that to DR. It automatically happens to the HA box so you only make a change on the primary; it syncs to the backup. You can then choose whether you want to sync that to the DR device or not by putting it into a cluster node. They're just making it simpler for people. It's definitely a positive. We've actually been involved in helping them design that because we were one of their first and one of their bigger customers. We sit in with their engineering at least every six months and they walk through things they've got coming down the road and we talk about how they go about implementing stuff.

As for the free version of Solace, at the time, 10 years ago, the free version — that's the software version — didn't exist. With the software version there are limits to the number of messages, something like 10,000 messages a second. We're doing 1,000,000 messages a second. We could run lots of 10,000 messages-a-second instances, but then we would need a lot of commodity servers to run them on. If you are a small company that has some messaging requirements and you are looking for a good way to do that, the free version is absolutely an option. It doesn't come with any support either, obviously. You can pay for support on top of that version, but it's only going to do you 10,000 messages a second. At the scale we have, that wouldn't work. For non-production, giving that to a developer to run on their machine, to play around with, absolutely. So we don't really pay for any of the Dev stuff that we have. We're only paying for the physical production appliances and the reason we need those is just the scale of messaging that we do.."

Verified user
Managing Director at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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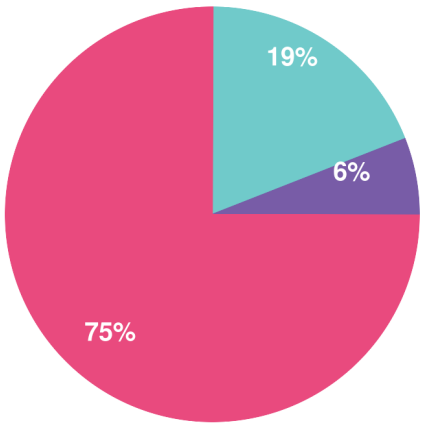

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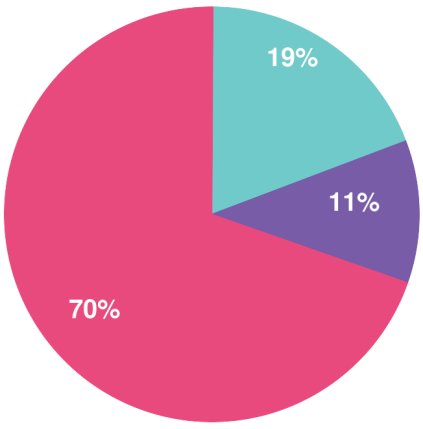

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