

aws marketplace

IBM Security Guardium Data Protection

# Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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# Product Recap



IBM Security Guardium Data Protection

# IBM Security Guardium Data Protection Recap

IBM Guardium Data Protection automatically discovers and classifies sensitive data from across the enterprise, providing real-time data activity monitoring and advanced user behavior analytics to help discover unusual activity around sensitive data.

Deploy the solution to help discover regulated data in your data stores and use pre-built templates for regulations such as PCI, SOX, HIPAA, CCPA and many more, to streamline and automate compliance workflows.

# Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✓ “IBM Security Guardium Data Protection has had a positive impact by giving me much better visibility into how sensitive data is being accessed across my database environment.”



**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

- ✓ “The best feature is how many databases we can protect with one solution because it has compatibility with different databases, including Oracle, SQL, and DB2.”



**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

- ✓ “The investment return was good because IBM Security Guardium Data Protection provided significant security and compliance benefits.”



**David Plazer**

Chief Executive Officer at Kipustec

- ✓ “The valuable features enable us to track all activities on the database, it has helped improve the visibility for our data usage, and it is very useful.”



**Carolina Pereira**

Analyst/ Manager at Itaipu Binacional

- ✓ “Guardium is easily integrated with other IBM solutions, a significant advantage and a key reason we chose Guardium. Both platforms share the IBM infrastructure, enhancing compatibility and integration. Additionally, Guardium offers a vulnerability analyzer, which is another compelling feature of the platform.”



**Muhammad Misbah**

RETAIL BANKING AND AML/KYC MANAGER at National Bank of Pakistan

- ✓ “The maturity of the agent is the most valuable feature of the solution”



**Ahmer Faisal Khan**

Director | CTO at COMMTEL

- ✓ “It is very easy to obtain reports and manage the reporting interface.”



**Oscar Ojeda**

Owner at Xelere

## What users had to say about valuable features:

The most valuable features, in my opinion, included the alerts and protections for specific tables and fields. The solution was not complicated to manage. It is a very important solution for security and compliance, ensuring we did not need any alternative option. It is a compliant solution, making it necessary for us.

**David Plazer**

Chief Executive Officer at Kipustec

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“The most valuable features of Guardium are its ability to discover data more efficiently compared to competitors and its comprehensive platform with many features. We appreciate its ease of implementation and the local support available for the product..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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“The most valuable feature is the visualization of data and the ability to monitor our databases. We regularly use it to send logs to QRadar, which is also a significant benefit..”

**Verified user**

Cyber Security Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“It can help with PCI compliance. It includes features like data masking, especially during queries, which supports compliance efforts. The tool also performs compliance and audit checks and allows auditors to generate ad hoc compliance reports. This helps guide organizations on areas for improvement..”

**Jared Ochieng**

Information Technology Security Specialist at infoark

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“The best features of IBM Security Guardium Data Protection are its database activity monitoring, real-time alerting, and compliance reporting capability. The database monitoring provides detailed visibility into who is accessing sensitive data, what actions they are performing, and when those actions occur. The real-time alerts help security teams identify potential risks and unauthorized activities more quickly. Another feature I find valuable is the centralized reporting and audit trail functionality. It makes it much easier to prepare for compliance audits and demonstrate data access control without manually collecting information from multiple sources.

“The visibility and compliance support are probably the features I have found most beneficial for the organization..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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“The best feature is how many databases we can protect with one solution because it has compatibility with different databases, including Oracle, SQL, and DB2.

“The data activity monitoring feature is very good because we can check the PDS and have the information for that.

“We can schedule the reporting and receive it by email, which provides very important information for different areas of the company. We don't need to have a seat and a case or access to the portal, we just receive the report.

“The user-friendly interface is very good..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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# Other Solutions Considered

I did not use another solution before Guardium. I was searching for another database security solution, but other options, like Imperva, were also expensive.

**David Plazer**

Chief Executive Officer at Kipustec

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“Here, we use IBM Security Guardium Data Protection for some databases and audit tools from Oracle for others. The switch to Guardium was likely due to commercial reasons and security considerations..”

**Verified user**

Cyber Security Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“We evaluated Imperva. The main differences we found were in the implementation experience and the support from the vendor. We found Guardium easier to implement and better supported..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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“When it comes to databases, our company prefers to work with IBM Security Guardium Data Protection. The product is more mature and well-designed and offers enhanced agents compared to competitors' solutions. In our company, we feel highly confident that the solution will not fail when deployed on a critical machine; usually, deploying an agent on a critical production machine involves risks. I believe IBM Security Guardium Data Protection is the best product on the market. In our country, Pakistan, enterprises prefer to choose IBM Security Guardium Data Protection when considering database security systems. .”

**Ahmer Faisal Khan**

Director | CTO at COMMTEL

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“I evaluated a few other options during the selection process before choosing IBM Security Guardium Data Protection. Some of the solutions that were considered include Imperva Data Security and database auditing capability available through various database vendors. I also looked at how some SIEM and security monitoring platforms could support database activity monitoring requirements. The evaluation focused on factors such as database activity monitoring, compliance reporting, scalability, integration with existing security tools, and support for a mixed environment. IBM Security Guardium Data Protection stood out because of its strong focus on data security, detailed audit capability, and its ability to provide centralized visibility across multiple databases..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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“Before IBM Security Guardium Data Protection, I primarily relied on a combination of native database auditing features and manual log review along with some monitoring capability from other security tools. I did not have a dedicated data activity monitoring platform that provided the same level of centralized visibility across multiple database environments. One of the main reasons for moving to IBM Security Guardium Data Protection was the need for stronger compliance reporting and a more centralized approach to monitoring sensitive data access. As the environment grew, managing separate audit logs and reports across different systems became increasingly time-consuming and difficult to scale. Another factor was visibility. Native database tools are useful, but they often provide information in silos. IBM Security Guardium Data Protection offered a more unified view of database activity, along with policy-based monitoring and alerting capability that helped simplify investigation and compliance processes..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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# ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“We cannot actually evaluate the ROI for the information security solutions, but it's one of the recommended and leading solutions in the market. So with that aspect, you can say we are pretty much confident and believe that our ROI would bring good results for us..”

**Usman Rasool**

VP - Head Enterprise Technology Infrastructure at MCB Islamic Bank Ltd.

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“It's still too early to tell if there's ROI from IBM Guardium Data Protection, but I hope that it gives the company ROI. The solution is very popular all over the world, so my company procured it and deployed it in the environment..”

**Farkhund Abbas**

Internet Security Specialist at National Bank of Pakistan

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“It's difficult to quantify the solution's ROI in dollars, but our organization's customers are able to realize its value. The solution is compliant with industry standards or government rules and regulations. For instance, our company's customers who have been using the solution for four to five years are still reliably using it, as the DBs are secure, the product runs efficiently in their system, and the desired results for audit, monitoring, and compliance can be obtained. The influence of the aforementioned advantages on the ROI has allowed our organization's customers to continue using the solution for several years. .”

**Ahmer Faisal Khan**

Director | CTO at COMMTEL

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“I have not specifically calculated the ROI for any of our customers. However, I have shown them general ROI. For example, one incident of losing one record, either by mistake or intentionally by one of the admins, will cost you a certain amount. Moreover, it is important to consider how much you will pay to not have this happen again. These types of losses in the database may be critical data and can affect the company's reputation.

In general, deploying this solution will cost very little compared to the cost of losing data..”

**Verified user**

Trusted Security Advisor at a tech services company with 501-1,000 employees

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“In my environment, audit preparation time was reduced by roughly 30% to 40% because much of the required database access and compliance information could be generated from IBM Security Guardium Data Protection rather than being collected manually from multiple systems. I also saw investigation time decrease significantly. In some cases, security reviews that previously took several hours could be completed in less than an hour because the relevant activity data was already centralized and researchable. IBM Security Guardium Data Protection reduced the need for additional headcount or did not eliminate the need for security personnel. Instead, it helped my existing team work more effectively and focus on higher-value activities rather than manually collecting and reporting data. Another important benefit, although harder to quantify, is risk reduction. Avoiding a compliance issue and identifying inappropriate access earlier can save an organization significant time and cost in the long run..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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# Use Case

“The primary use case of the product is for compliance, in order to create a report on the security of data, where the data is, and access to the information..”

**Oscar Ojeda**

Owner at Xelere

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The primary use case of IBM Security Guardium Data Protection was within our assurance company. We needed the solution to secure our database, which stores users' information and assurance data.

**David Plazer**

Chief Executive Officer at Kipustec

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“We have been using Guardium for data protection. In my company, we use it primarily to test the database for personal information protection. We also use it in conjunction with other data security measures..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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“We use it for monitoring database activity. This includes tracking databases such as MySQL, Oracle, and others. It monitors activities such as logins and logouts, capturing whether they were system or user logins. It also records the execution of scripts and the details of each script run. Additionally, it performs vulnerability assessments on databases and can enforce database lockdowns..”

**Jared Ochieng**

Information Technology Security Specialist at infoark

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“We deal with IBM Security Guardium Data Protection for not more than six months, because we are implementing a project with it.

“Currently, it is only being used for monitoring and checking personnel connecting with a database..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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“My primary use cases are database activity monitoring and compliance reporting, but I also rely on IBM Security Guardium Data Protection for ongoing visibility into database activity. Beyond compliance reporting, it helps me establish baselines for normal user behavior and investigate unusual access patterns when alerts are triggered. It is particularly useful in environments where multiple teams or applications access the same database because it provides a centralized view of what is happening.

“One practical challenge is that data environments keep growing and becoming more complex, especially with hybrid and cloud deployments. Although IBM Security Guardium Data Protection provides strong monitoring capabilities, organizations still need clear policies and regular tuning to reduce false positives and ensure the alerts remain meaningful. In my experience, the tool is most effective when it is part of a broader data security and governance strategy rather than being treated as a standalone solution.

“One example of how I used IBM Security Guardium Data Protection in my work was during a compliance audit where I needed to demonstrate who was accessing sensitive customer data and whether that access was appropriate. I used IBM Security Guardium Data Protection to monitor database activity and generate reports showing access patterns, privilege activity, and policy violations. During the review, I identified a service account that had broader access than it actually needed. It was not a security incident, but it highlighted a potential risk. I worked with the database team to reduce those permissions and documented the change for the audit. The tool helped me provide the required audit evidence while also improving my overall security posture..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack


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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.

“The initial setup was straightforward. It involves setting up the aggregator and the agents on the databases. In a big environment, it doesn't take too long..”

**Verified user**

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Cyber Security Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

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“The process of installation and management of the solution is very easy. You can ask for IBM's expertise, since they have been using this for years. The implementation does not really need more than three months under normal conditions..”

**Olawale Ayuba**

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Head Management GRC and Privacy Solution at activedge

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“The solution itself is straightforward. The implementation was fine.

We set up the central manager, the archive, agents on the database servers, and S-TAPs on the collectors. Then, we configured policies and reports..”

**Peter Arabomen**

Security Engineer at Fidelity Bank Plc

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“Deployment is straightforward for an engineer like me. However, due to the solution's robustness, it might be a bit complex for someone new. Understanding the solution is key to effective deployment. For optimal results and best practices, it's advisable to have a specialist handle and implement the solution.

It is available both on-premises and in the cloud. However, about ninety percent of our deployments are on-premises since we primarily work with financial institutions. Cloud deployments are typically chosen if the data is already hosted.

The deployment of the solution itself and the integration of databases can vary in time. Depending on the organization's size and the complexity of the integration, it may take anywhere from one day to two weeks..”

**Jared Ochieng**

Information Technology Security Specialist at infoark

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“Initially, we faced challenges integrating the software we currently run in our organization. With the passage of time and the deployment of more vertices and resources within the organization, we try to overcome challenges, but challenges occur from time to time.

The deployment depends on the type of integration being performed. For example, in our recent data marketing project, we encountered four days of connectivity issues. Typically, connectivity is established within two to three days. We then utilized the SDP functionality in the third-party data, successfully completing the integration. However, on the fourth day, when we started pushing folders, we encountered issues and generated a ticket with IBM. IBM identified a few problems, indicating that the time required for deployment varies based on the product and the specific tasks being performed. Some databases can be integrated within an hour, while others may take four to five days..”

**Muhammad Misbah**

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RETAIL BANKING AND AML/KYC MANAGER at National Bank of Pakistan

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“Usually, in our company, we have deployed IBM Security Guardium Data Protection in a similar and suitable environment, where the data flows in one direction, but there have been use cases where bidirectional integration was required. The product efficiently sends the data and logs to the desired destination. The product exhibits an easy setup process; additional configuration might be needed in some cases, for example, if a customer wants to implement an enterprise load balancer on the agent side. Overall, IBM Security Guardium Data Protection is easy to deploy and maintain. For the deployment process, the first step is to understand the customer's requirements, which is followed by recommendations for our company on how to implement them efficiently. After the aforementioned step, our company assists the customer with the licensing of IBM Security Guardium Data Protection. Post the aforementioned step, our company team works on the deployment model and pre-discussed policies or end objectives. After the solution's deployment, our company team carries out fine-tuning and monitoring. Our company shares the customized implementation plan with the customer on how we are going to deploy the solution; for instance, if we need to implement it in an enterprise environment, we ensure the features are redundant and the solution is safe from failures. On average, the solution's deployment takes around four to five weeks, given that there are around 20 databases and our company team has environment access to install the agents. As our organization is highly experienced in deploying IBM Security Guardium Data Protection in Pakistan, we require a minimal number of resources and professionals for the deployment process of the solution. Three or four professionals are more than enough for the deployment of IBM Security Guardium Data Protection. .”

**Ahmer Faisal Khan**

Director | CTO at COMMTEL

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# Customer Service and Support

“In our company, when we faced issues we could not solve on our own, we contacted tech support, and they were quite helpful in resolving the issues within the allocated time. I would rate the solution's tech support an eight out of ten. .”

**Ahmer Faisal Khan**

Director | CTO at COMMTEL

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“The support manager of IBM in Pakistan supported us in onboarding the technical and salespersons. They helped us draft and create the solution for our company. The support was above average..”

**MUHAMMADNADEEM1**

Deputy Director at Board Of Revenue

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“The support level is based on your license. There is a seating license based on the number of users and a concurrent license that is unlimited. If you're at L1, the support is very responsive. For L2 and L3 things move more slowly..”

**Viswanath Tharigonda**

Inforomatica tech lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The support for IBM Guardium Data Protection is good if you're communicating with techs from the US, the UK, or Europe, but where I'm located, the support you'll mostly get is from India and South Asia because of matching time zones. India-based or South Asia-based support isn't very experienced, so at the end of the day, you have to escalate the ticket to the US or Europe team for issue resolution.

On a scale of one to five, with one being the worst and five being the best, my experience with IBM Guardium Data Protection technical support is three out of five..”

**Farkhund Abbas**

Internet Security Specialist at National Bank of Pakistan

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“My experience with IBM support has been positive for routine issues, configuration questions, and product guidance. The support team was generally responsive and knowledgeable. Most cases were handled within a reasonable time frame, and I was usually able to get the information needed to move forward. For more complex issues, especially those involving integration, performance tuning, and large-scale deployment, resolution could sometimes take longer because multiple teams or escalation levels might need to be involved. I appreciate access to documentation, knowledge base articles, and support resources, which often help resolve issues before a support case is even required..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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“The response time could be improved. Navigating support for the solution can be challenging, especially when finding the right contact for specialized issues. Improvements could make raising tickets and identifying the correct support channels easier. While general support information is provided, specialized support may require contacting different teams.

We guide our clients through this process to ensure they know where to turn for various needs. Typically, we are the first point of contact for any issues, big or small, and then direct them to the appropriate resources. The quality of technical support largely depends on the expertise of the partner who implemented the solution. If you have a partner who is well-versed in IBM, the technical support is usually excellent. If not, support might be less reliable..”

**Jared Ochieng**

Information Technology Security Specialist at infoark

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# Other Advice

“We highly recommend Guardium for its application and data protection capabilities, especially with its strong local support.

I'd rate the solution nine out of ten..”

**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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“I would recommend [Guardium](#) because it is a very solid and stable protection, mainly due to its extensive cloud coverage and support for multiple platforms.

I'd rate the solution nine out of ten..”

**Oscar Ojeda**

Owner at Xelere

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“Regarding data activity monitoring, I have used it. [IBM Security Guardium Data Protection](#) does have a user-friendly interface, and it is a friendly one. The solution is very useful for us to track how the systems and the DBAs interact with the database. Regarding the documentation experience, I cannot rate it on a scale of one to ten. I would rate this product an eight overall..”

**Carolina Pereira**

Analyst/ Manager at Itaipu Binacional

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“As a database activity monitoring tool, it automates most tasks related to database management, minimizing the need for human interaction. It is precious in terms of cost savings for financial institutions such as banks and credit unions. It provides comprehensive monitoring of database activities, which can be crucial for preventing audits and fraud.

I recommend the solution.

Overall, I rate the solution a nine out of ten..”

**Jared Ochieng**

Information Technology Security Specialist at infoark

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“My advice to others looking into using IBM Security Guardium Data Protection would be to start with a clear understanding of data security and compliance objectives before implementing IBM Security Guardium Data Protection. The platform offers a wide range of capabilities, but you will get the most value from it if you know which databases, sensitive data, and regulatory requirements are most important to your organization. I would also recommend taking time to properly

plan policies, alerting rules, and reporting requirements during the initial deployment. Another recommendation is to begin with a pilot deployment and gradually expand coverage. This has helped teams understand normal database activity patterns and fine-tune policies before rolling the solution out more broadly. I would rate this product an 8 out of 10..”

**Ahitesh Anumala**

Bdm at Digitaltrack

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“We are implementing IBM Security Guardium Data Protection now.

“I just have experience with Data Protection.

“I have not used the granular access control capabilities.

“I don't know about the effectiveness of IBM Security Guardium Data Protection's threat detection through advanced analytics.

“I rate IBM Security Guardium Data Protection as ten out of ten..”

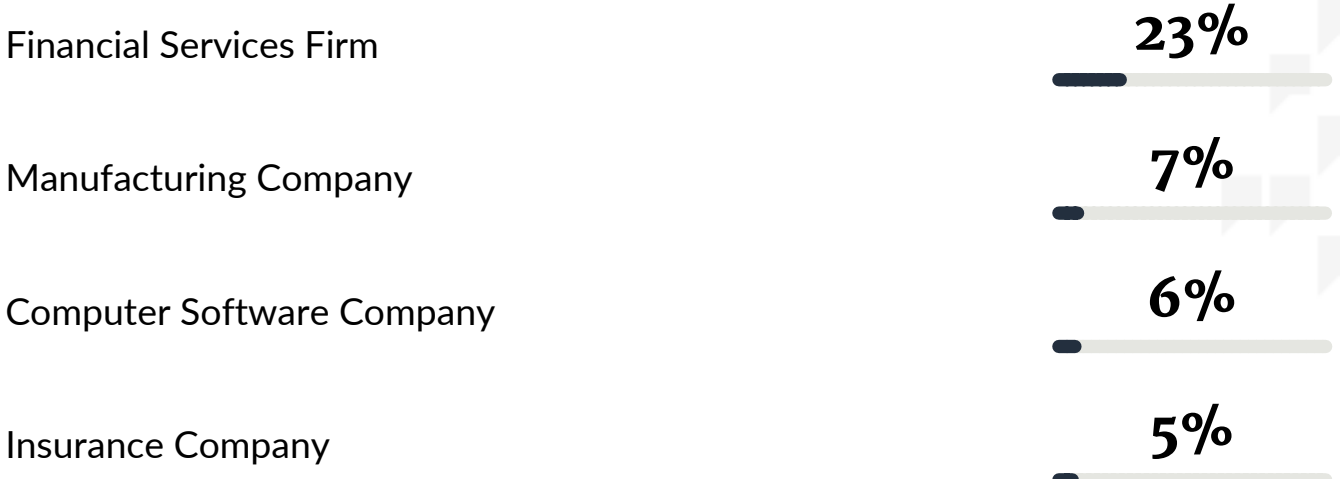
**Marylennis Franco**

Jefe De Continuidad Operacional at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

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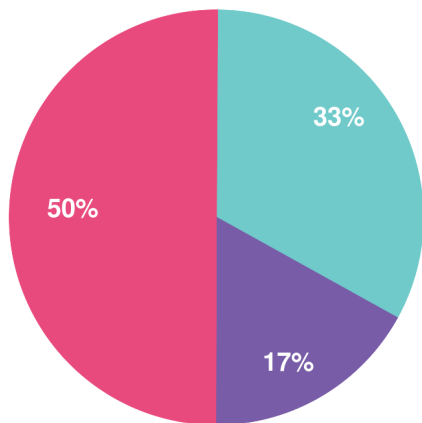
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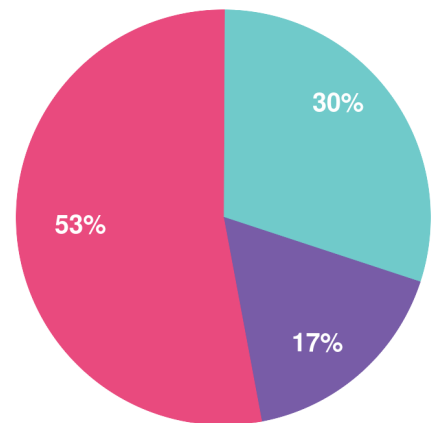


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