



Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN Recap

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN offers centralized management and integrates seamlessly with existing Cisco ecosystems. It simplifies deployment with zero-touch provisioning, delivering robust security and optimized application routing.

Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN provides essential capabilities for organizations seeking secure remote connectivity and cost reduction, notably through its support of hybrid environments. While pricing and complexity present challenges, its advanced application control and cloud compatibility make it a valuable asset for connecting branches and data centers. Users benefit from enhanced security, network assurance, and simplified management, driving operational efficiency.

What are the key features of Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN?

- **Centralized Management:** Streamlines network operations through a single interface.
- **Zero-Touch Provisioning:** Simplifies deployment, reducing manual setup efforts.
- **Application-Aware Routing:** Enhances performance by prioritizing critical applications.
- **Robust Security:** Integrates strong security measures for data protection.
- **Hybrid Environment Support:** Facilitates connectivity across various environments.
- **Integration with Cisco Products:** Ensures seamless operation within existing networks.

What benefits can users expect from Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN?

- **Cost Efficiency:** Reduces networking expenses by optimizing resource usage.
- **Operational Simplicity:** Streamlines processes, reducing resource strain.
- **Enhanced Security:** Strengthens defenses with integrated security features.
- **Improved Connectivity:** Ensures reliable communication for remote sites.
- **Scalability:** Supports varying enterprise sizes with tailored solutions.

In banking, retail, and enterprise sectors, Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN facilitates effective network management by enhancing connectivity between branches and data centers. Its security features and zero-touch deployment are particularly valued, providing scalable solutions for locations that demand reliable, application-prioritized networking.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN supports cloud, on-premises, and hybrid environments for my organization because it allows for scalability and faster deployment in the cloud.”



Henry Rosenstiehl

Solution Architect at Sonda S.A.



“I would consider Cisco support a 10 out of 10.”



Wayne Kilbride

Information Technology Consultant at Island Networks



“Application-aware routing offers flexibility in using different lines for traffic, depending on the policy implemented.”



Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz



“Cisco SD-WAN is valued for its operational efficiency and ease of operation.”



Sreejesh Soman

Security Consultant at Vertex Techno Solutions (B) Pvt Ltd



“If one of your ISPs goes down or has latency in your environment, Cisco SD-WAN will detect the issue and explain why the ISP is down.”



Ganesh Khutwad

Network security architect at ATOS



“The technical team is very competent.”



Rachid-Rachidi

Director of Human Resources at Axians



“I would recommend Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN as it is a good product.”



Marco Flores

Technology supervisor at a non-profit with 1-10 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

With Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN, I can automate processes, ensure network assurance, and configure network settings. The tool offers centralized management, which enhances visibility for both wired and wireless end users, and security with features like micro-segmentation.

Rachid-Rachidi

Director of Human Resources at Axians

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With Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN, I appreciate the flexibility of its functions and the pricing. It offers various modules that can be changed and integrated with the core and other solutions. It also provides robust security features, including port security, analysis, mirroring, and multiple other security solutions.

Marco Flores

Technology supervisor at a non-profit with 1-10 employees

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“The valuable features of Cisco SD-WAN include its security policies and zone-based firewall that are applied to every site, as well as application-aware routing. Security is standard compliant, eliminating config drift that was prevalent before manual configurations. Application-aware routing offers flexibility in using different lines for traffic, depending on the policy implemented..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“Cisco SD-WAN is valued for its operational efficiency and ease of operation. It allows prioritization of packages based on production requirements, and integration capabilities provide comprehensive security. Integration with Cisco ISE, Cisco Firewalls, and other Cisco solutions is beneficial. Furthermore, it is appreciated for its insights, visibility, and ease of use..”

SreejeshSoman

Security Consultant at Vertex Techno Solutions (B) Pvt Ltd


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“The most useful feature for Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN is the single pane of glass management because we also use Meraki onsite. It's a standard Cisco solution, and because Cisco is who they are and what they can provide, we use Cisco for compute and network, and we use NetApp for storage, so that's what we generally do.

“I have absolutely seen scenarios where the decentralized management capability improved operations and workflows..”

Wayne Kilbride

Information Technology Consultant at Island Networks

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“With Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN, I have centralized orchestration and management. The transport independence of MPLS or connectivity and internet connectivity is another excellent feature. End-to-end segmentation is also provided.

“I use the application-aware routing feature. Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN supports dynamic policy-based routing decisions based on application type or different performance metrics such as jitter or latency.

“The benefit of that feature is that it improves user experience. The principal benefit of application-aware routing is that critical applications are prioritized or routed over the best performing paths to reduce outages and service degradation. There is full visibility of applications.

“Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN has integrated security features which include base firewall, URL filtering, IPS, and secure segmentation, and it supports integration with other Cisco products such as Umbrella or Snort. This feature is beneficial for the client because the information is secure.

“It is important that Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN supports cloud, on-premises, and hybrid environments for my organization because it allows for scalability and faster deployment in the cloud. It reduces operational needs because I don't need to manage physical controller hardware, and updates and maintenance can be centralized and automated.

“The zero-touch provisioning feature is very important for the speed of deploying new branch locations. I can deliver the device to the branch, and it is important because simplified deployment makes the implementation start more easily since devices are auto-configured and authenticate without manual intervention..”

Henry Rosenstiehl

Solution Architect at Sonda S.A.

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Other Solutions Considered

“Before Cisco SD-WAN, I used traditional MPLS or eVPN, IPVPN networks. The switch was made for easier management and standard compliance, which is enforced by the SD-WAN product itself..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“We evaluated other solutions but chose Cisco SD-WAN due to its flexibility, support for our requirements, and the preference of many of our customers who were already using Cisco-based solutions..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“I evaluated Mushroom Networks, but they did not meet corporate standards. The company may have considered Cradlepoint, Peplink, or Mushroom networks, but they ultimately decided to go with Cisco or Juniper, which are more widely used..”

Samuel Romero

Field data engineer at a energy/utilities company with 501-1,000 employees

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“I also have experience with Fortinet and Palo Alto.

I don't really like the solution so I don't position it by design. I only follow up on existing use cases. .”

RuiAraujo

Senior Presales Consultant at Sysconnect Lda

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“The decision to opt for Cisco SD-WAN over other tools depends on various factors, such as the specific environment, customer requirements, and the solution's scalability. Ultimately, it emerged as the best fit for these customers and their budgets. While acknowledging that it can be costly, it's imperative that the customer can afford the solution, considering its functionality. For instance, it facilitates seamless application delivery by enabling the migration of applications to the cloud..”

Praneeth Hanumansetty

Cloud Network Engineer at Pearl Technologies Ltd

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“I have used SilverPeek. It is made for the end user, not for technical engineers. It is easy to deploy and has better visibility of how the network is performing than Cisco.

I have used both solutions. I have evaluated some other solutions. Technically, all the SD-WAN solutions work the same, so it depends on the organization. Cost is a factor. Cisco is on the higher side but is stable. There have been a few upgrades..”

Sammy Njoroge

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Sr Manager Infrastructure at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“Operational ROI is observed by cutting down internet and branch connectivity costs, while securely accessing hosted applications using various types of connectivity like 3G, 5G, or MPLS..”

SreejeshSoman

Security Consultant at Vertex Techno Solutions (B) Pvt Ltd

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“While the initial deployment costs are undoubtedly high, the significant monthly savings are notable, particularly in terms of operational efficiency and online-centric functions. The achievement is at least a thirty percent reduction in overall costs..”

Hock Lye

Solutions Architect at Comstor Brasil

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“In my experience, customers are realizing the return on investment with Cisco in 12 months. Within the year, I've done work with customers in the last couple of years that we've upgraded from Avaya six to Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN in a Cisco network environment, and they are now back to do that with the remainder of their company, so they've realized the value in 12 months and are willing to invest in the remainder of their organization..”

Wayne Kilbride

Information Technology Consultant at Island Networks

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“From a technical perspective, we used to experience failures, especially when using two service providers where data wouldn't come up if one link went down. We no longer encounter that issue. We're able to utilize both links simultaneously. Thus, we haven't faced the necessity of quick upgrades as we did when relying on a single link. Having one link operational at any given time was less elastic..”

Sammy Njoroge

Sr Manager Infrastructure at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

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“We have observed a return on investment (ROI) with Cisco SD-WAN. The timeframe to realize this ROI varies based on several factors, such as the number of locations being addressed and the core objectives of the deployment. External factors like SLAs with third-party vendors and internet service providers also play a significant role in determining the timeline. Therefore, it depends on the unique circumstances of each deployment..”

Praneeth Hanumansetty


Cloud Network Engineer at Pearl Technologies Ltd

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“There has been a return on investment since we began deploying Cisco SD-WAN in 2018, prior to the onset of COVID. They are still functioning, and they will begin refreshing their devices and changing them out at five years. They usually start changing the model when they are able to write off the product, and they typically acclimate over a three-year period or when Cisco discontinues the product. They are still hanging in there..”

Samuel Romero

Field data engineer at a energy/utilities company with 501-1,000 employees

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Use Case

“My client wants to use SD-WAN to reduce their line costs. By using SD-WAN, they aim to lower transport costs and better use internet traffic and bandwidth..”

MienkuanSung

Presale director at a hospitality company with 11-50 employees

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“The main use cases for Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN are in the retail sector and enterprise. The product is used for Cisco routing, specifically for configuring traffic engineering with protocol BGP..”

Henry Rosenstiehl


Solution Architect at Sonda S.A.

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“The primary use case for Cisco SD-WAN is to connect multiple offices or branch offices across the globe or within a country securely. It facilitates branch-to-branch or office-to-office transactions and provides easy access to primary data centers..”

SreejeshSoman

Security Consultant at Vertex Techno Solutions (B) Pvt Ltd

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“We are working with telecom companies and many government companies. The main request is to tie the branches, separate the bandwidth depending on the application, and have a unified orchestrator to see all these connections from one centralized management center..”

HassanAhmed

Senior Security Pre-Sales at Business Management Company

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“The main use cases for Juniper vSRX would be primarily for a data center scenario device, and there's a significant focus on the other core elements.

“Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN's main use cases for us will be data center deployment for enterprise level..”

Wayne Kilbride

Information Technology Consultant at Island Networks

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“The primary use case for Cisco SD-WAN is the standard configuration across all sites, facilitated by templates. This solution helps in the ease of management and compliance configuration, which is deployed everywhere.

It also simplifies troubleshooting and provides full mesh topology for branch connectivity to data centers. All branch locations, along with central locations, are on SD-WAN and gathered in the data center. Many customers combine it with local Internet breakout for SaaS applications..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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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 challenging, especially for plug-and-play deployments, but improvements have been made in newer versions. Full deployment takes a few weeks.

Rachid-Rachidi

Director of Human Resources at Axians

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“The solution's initial setup is neither very simple nor too complex. Someone with good network knowledge can easily configure the solution to their environment..”

GaneshKhutwad

Network security architect at ATOS

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“The initial setup involves getting the underlay and controllers in place to migrate from the old to the new network. I deployed in parallel, allowing both networks to coexist, and then migrated sites to the new central control plane..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“Our banking customers trust Cisco. I work for a company that serves these banking clients, and we provide Cisco's CX service to help them build their SD-WAN solution. They purchase the product and the associated service, and the Cisco team assists with the deployment, making the process straightforward. It takes a couple of hours to deploy completely..”

MienkuanSung

Presale director at a hospitality company with 11-50 employees

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“The initial setup is straightforward. Initially, it may seem a bit complex, but overall it is straightforward.

Deployment typically takes from four to six months to complete. Additional time may be needed, especially if issues with procuring hub routers were not included in the original plan. Developing the actual network implementation plan may take around six months. However, the actual migration process after that is quick. It usually takes less than three months to migrate the network fully..”


Sammy Njoroge

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Sr Manager Infrastructure at a financial services firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

“Regarding the initial setup experience of Cisco SD-WAN, I rate the process a ten out of ten. While I wouldn't describe it as easy, the setup process is highly professional and efficient. As for the deployment environment, Cisco SD-WAN can be used in any configuration, whether public, private, or hybrid cloud. However, it may be most suitable for companies with a private cloud infrastructure focused on web applications rather than high computing and storage environments. Deployment time depends on various factors, such as planning and available resources. If everything is well-planned and resources are readily available, onboarding a device can take less than an hour. However, for greenfield deployments without existing infrastructure components, deployment time can vary significantly based on the organization's planning and commitment, making it difficult to provide a specific estimate..”

Praneeth Hanumansetty

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Cloud Network Engineer at Pearl Technologies Ltd

Customer Service and Support

“I would rate Cisco's support, their customer service, and technical support as excellent. The support of Cisco is very good, and the attention is immediate..”

Henry Rosenstiehl

Solution Architect at Sonda S.A.

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“The impressions of Cisco SD-WAN's tech support have been positive. Whether from Cisco directly or through our service level management (SLM), the support is quick..”

Thuy Truong

Administrator at SOUTHERN WAVES Solution

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“The customer service and support for Cisco SD-WAN are satisfactory, rated as eight out of ten.

However, Cisco's ongoing reorganizations have affected the quality of technical support, which varies depending on the engineer handling cases..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“The technical support experience has been consistently positive. If there are any delays, they are minimal, and the overall efficiency is commendable. Notably, the support structure allows for direct engagement with the assigned support personnel without the need for multiple escalations. Opening a case typically connects me directly with the responsible assistant, avoiding the frustration of having the case passed through various levels. I would rate it eight out of ten..”

Hock Lye

Solutions Architect at Comstor Brasil

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“I have contacted Cisco support for one-on-one support for a very unique or bespoke configuration where there are a lot of rules and policies going on in the background, maybe some interconnecting or conflicting with one another, but in terms of the actual product or problems with the product, nothing I'm aware of.

“I would consider Cisco support a 10 out of 10..”

Wayne Kilbride

Information Technology Consultant at Island Networks

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“It's an evolving technology with lots of changes happening and releases. So, it's the shared load of support requests that's causing the issues. But otherwise, Cisco Tech is very helpful.

However, they might be offloading tech support a little too much, which sometimes results in situations where we do not receive the expected level of technical support and the right quality of technical support due to the outsourced model. They were already outsourcing, but now, with additional vendors outsourcing, it's causing some confusion..”

Harish Nair

Principal Solution Architect at Criterion Networks

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Other Advice

I would recommend Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN as it is a good product. It is suitable for medium to enterprise levels. I would give the overall solution a nine.

Marco Flores

Technology supervisor at a non-profit with 1-10 employees

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“I would recommend working out detailed use cases and requirements before implementation. Cisco SD-WAN is quite flexible, however, without a solid foundational design, users might struggle with too many options, leading to a poor rollout design.

Overall, I rate Cisco SD-WAN as nine out of ten..”

Igor Van Den Ouden

Engineer at Routz

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“For enterprise customers with significant security concerns, Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN is a recommended choice. It offers comprehensive integration under a single umbrella, which is advantageous compared to other OEMs.

I would rate the overall solution as a ten out of ten..”

SreejeshSoman

Security Consultant at Vertex Techno Solutions (B) Pvt Ltd

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“Cisco provides the best support, and that's why most people are using it. Cisco is a brand right now that provides a fast solution for networks. Cisco SD-WAN is a cloud-based solution. Users who want the best support can choose Cisco SD-WAN.

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

GaneshKhutwad

Network security architect at ATOS

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“I have sixteen years of work experience in enterprise architecture with Cisco, including networking, switching, routing, and solution SD-Access.

“AWS is the main cloud provider in my use cases.


“My company, Sonda, is a Gold partner of Cisco.

“I am a solution architect at Sonda.

“I rate this solution 10 out of 10..”

Henry Rosenstiehl

Solution Architect at Sonda S.A.

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“I am working on the [Juniper vSRX](#) solution.

“I work with switches, routers, firewalls, and any IT consultant tasks, and I work at the core. I have a CCNA, and I'm actually doing a Juniper certification exam in 3 hours, so I continually work on upskilling, as part of what I do.

“If it's enterprise level, you'll deploy your Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN in a couple of hours. You can draw it down there if you've already got a [Catalyst](#) or an existing environment. If you are starting up from scratch, it's hard to put a timeframe on it because it depends on criteria, but if you're replacing something with a Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN and you know what you're doing along with using the CLI and your backups, a couple of hours would be plenty of time, a half a day or maybe a little bit more wouldn't hurt.

“There are AI features, and I'm not 100% privy to them because I just haven't been involved in that element, but they do exist.

“I would rate Cisco Catalyst SD-WAN an eight.

“My title is Information Technology Consultant at a company named [Island Networks](#)..”

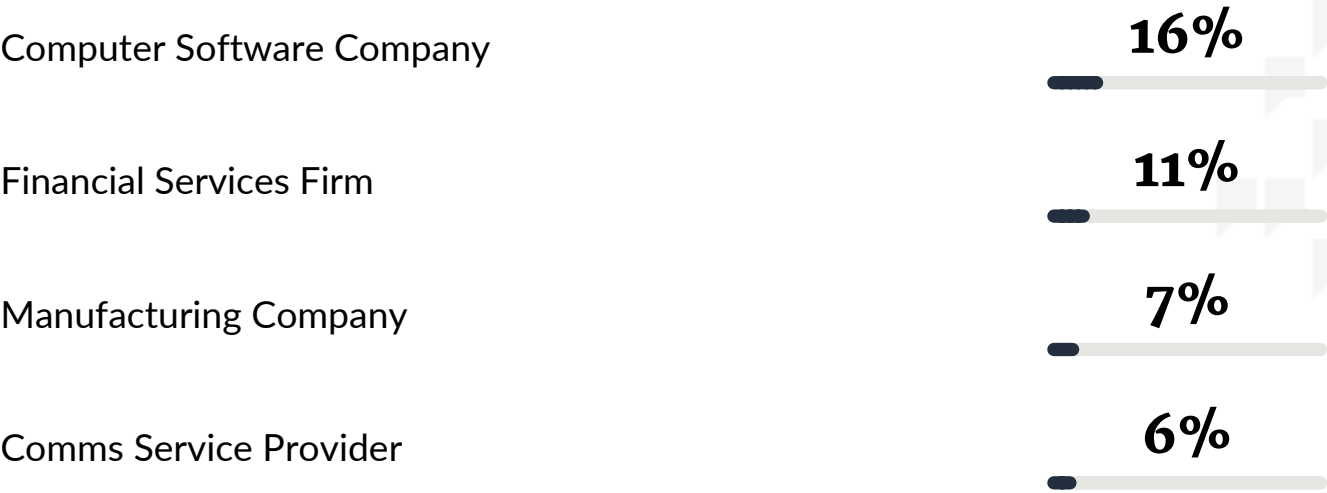
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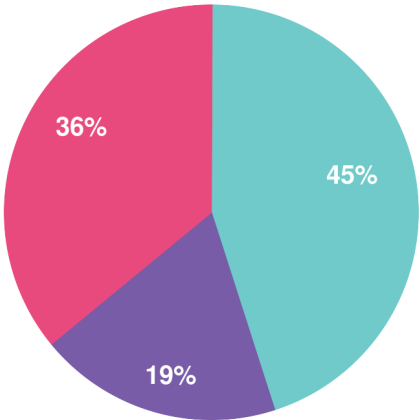
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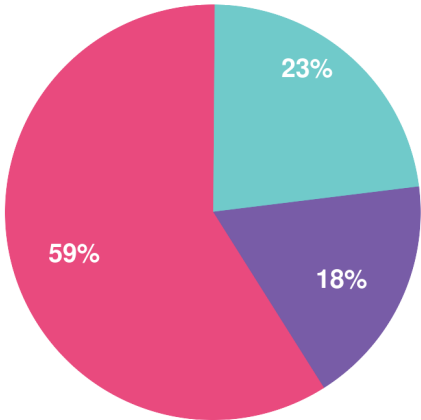
Company Size

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Company Size

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Large Enterprise Midsize Enterprise Small Business

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