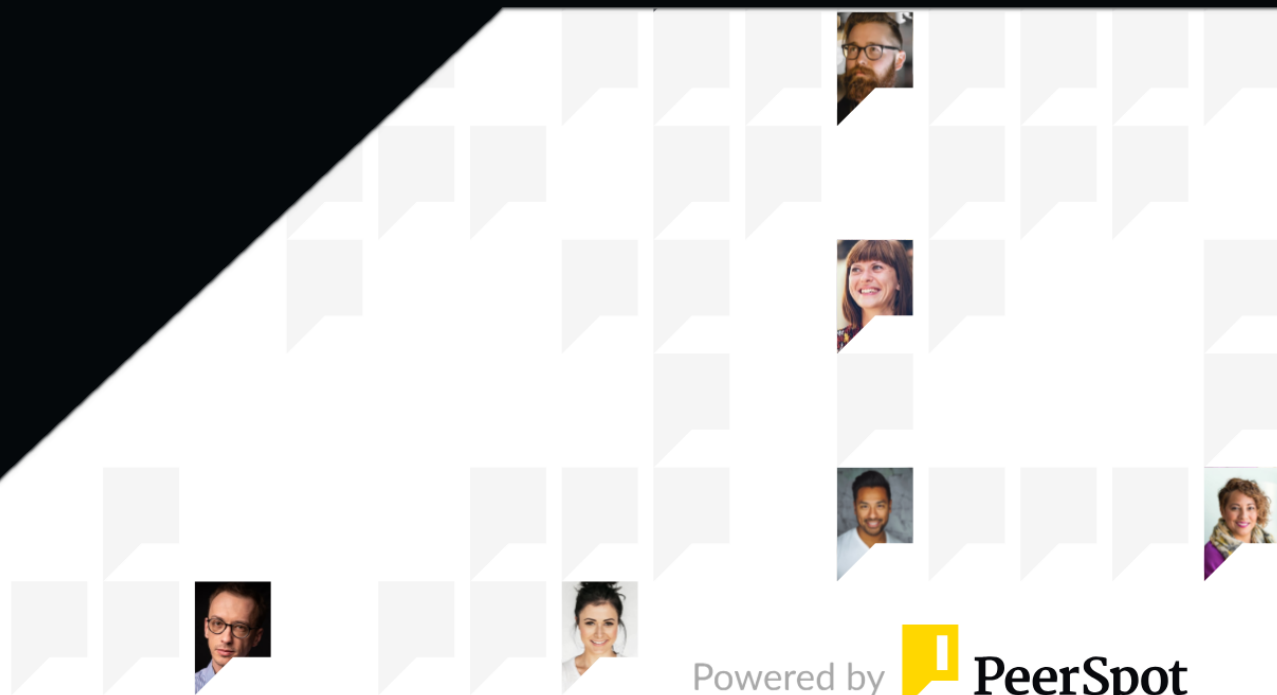




Stonebranch

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



Powered by  **PeerSpot**

Contents

Product Recap..... 3 - 4

Valuable Features..... 5 - 11

Other Solutions Considered..... 12 - 15

ROI..... 16

Use Case..... 17 - 19

Setup..... 20 - 23

Customer Service and Support..... 24 - 26

Other Advice..... 27 - 30

Trends..... 31 - 32

About PeerSpot..... 33 - 34

Product Recap



Stonebranch Recap

Stonebranch automates enterprise-level workload and task scheduling across platforms like Linux, Windows, and mainframe, managing thousands of daily tasks for improved efficiency and visibility.

Stonebranch enables organizations to streamline job scheduling by replacing older systems with a robust solution that automates complex workflows, batch processing, and secure file transfers. Its compatibility with multiple platforms and enhanced visibility aid teams in efficiently managing business processes, database interactions, and IT workflows. Equipped with a Universal Controller and Agent, it provides seamless integration across diverse systems, empowering users with greater control over their tasks. While it fosters digital transformation, there are opportunities for enhancements in areas like graphical workflow overviews and API functionality.

What features does Stonebranch offer?

- User-friendly interface for intuitive navigation
- Robust agents ensuring reliable task execution
- Comprehensive workflow automation tools
- Platform-agnostic compatibility for diverse systems
- Secure file transfer capabilities
- High scalability for growing needs
- Effective error handling features

What benefits should users expect?

- Improved efficiency in task management
- Streamlined processes reducing operational complexities
- Enhanced visibility and control over workflows
- Seamless integration with existing systems
- Support for digital transformation initiatives

Organizations in industries such as finance and healthcare implement Stonebranch for its ability to automate complex processes, manage mainframe and distributed environments, and securely transfer sensitive data. Its platform-agnostic nature caters to the demanding needs of these industries, providing a reliable backbone for essential operations.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“We like that it has GUI and is not just a command line.”



Siddharth Matalia

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees



“The support is good from Stonebranch Universal Automation Center.”



Atul Pednekar

Senior Manager at Colgate



“The features are upgraded, and every six months they're releasing patches.”



Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis



“Stonebranch performs well, and the graphical representation is excellent. Overall, it requires more technical effort from our teams, but the solution is intuitive, so anybody can use it.”



Atul Pednekar

Senior Manager at Colgate



“The Universal Agent is the most valuable feature. Being agent-based and being able to go across multiple technology stacks, which is what our workflows do, Stonebranch gives us the ability to bridge those disparate technologies. It enables us to remove the dependency-gap with the agent so we know the status of the workflow at each step.”



Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PCSU Financial Services



“The tasks are incredibly capable, and as long as you name them with a nice, uniform naming convention, they are very useful. You can create some interesting workflows through various machines, or you can just have it kick off single tasks. All in all, I really like the Universal Task. You can do some mutually exclusive stuff, such as an "A not B" kind of thing. It has a lot of capabilities behind the scenes.”



Frank Burkhardt

Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp



“The ability to monitor tasks that are on the open-system side as well as our mainframe side gives us a one-window view of all our processes.”



Mike Booher

Systems Programmer II at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees


What users had to say about valuable features:

“The features are upgraded, and every six months they're releasing patches. There are features like dependencies. Some jobs are one block, and some jobs are different blocks. That dependency can be set, and many jobs can be dependent or in one block. You can do many automations.

The rerun portion is quite easy and very fast. If the database is good, then it is very nice..”

Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis

[Read full review](#) 

“We like that it has GUI and is not just a command line.

The task monitor is quite useful in most cases.


It's stable.

The solution can scale.

Technical support is helpful. .”

Siddharth Matalia

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“The installation of the product is very straightforward.

The interface is very user-friendly and easy to navigate.

The solution is very stable.

The product can scale easily.

We've found the pricing to be reasonable..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Architect & Technical Director at a tech consulting company with 11-50 employees

“The most valuable feature is the reliability of the agents, because we need them accessible and we need to run stuff. The agent technology and compatibility are top-notch. The agents are wonderful. I've spoken at several of their conferences and always give them high marks. I would put the agents' resiliency at number one in the industry.

We have used the Universal Task a little bit and it seems to be fully functional. It's good.

The Stonebranch Marketplace is decent as well..”

Doug Perseghetti

[Read full review](#) 

Consulting Systems Engineer at a healthcare company with 10,001+ employees

“The Universal Agent is the most valuable feature. Being agent-based and being able to go across multiple technology stacks, which is what our workflows do, Stonebranch gives us the ability to bridge those disparate technologies. It enables us to remove the dependency-gap with the agent so we know the status of the workflow at each step.

Workflow development in Stonebranch is straightforward. There is something of a learning curve, but it's not very steep. Being able to develop workflows without having to train and develop some very specialized skillsets to use the tool is very useful.

Stonebranch absolutely helped enable digital transformation in our company and it still is. In our automation efforts, we're pushing everything to Informatica and, as we move those ETLs, we're automating the entire workflows. In phase-one and phase-two, there were 244 jobs migrated in from other ETL platforms to Informatica, and we've automated all of those. We have almost 200 jobs remaining. We're going to have something approaching 450 workflows in Stonebranch when we're done..”

Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PSCU Financial Services

[Read full review](#) 

“I like that the users can kick off the tasks that the administrators have allowed them to kick off so that they are more in control of the data that they need. They don't have to contact IT or other people to get the data they need. It makes the users very self-sufficient and they like it too. They don't have to wait on people. When they know they need it, they can just go start the job and whenever it's done they get the data.

We're using the Universal Controller and, while it took a little while to get everything we needed into it, once it was there it became a really nice tool. We can delegate tasks through it or we can delegate all tasks for certain machines through it. It's a really nice, central point to let us know which tasks have failed. I come from a programming background and, as a programmer, I would output a log file from our jobs. After a while, people forget to check log files. With Stonebranch, as long as the error code is there, it displays on the dashboard right away, so you don't have to remember to go check the log file. It gives us a lot better visibility, and a lot more quickly. The Universal Controller, and everything we do with Stonebranch, is on-premise.


The tasks are incredibly capable, and as long as you name them with a nice, uniform naming convention, they are very useful. You can create some interesting workflows through various machines, or you can just have it kick off single tasks. All in all, I really like the Universal Task. You can do some mutually exclusive stuff, such as an "A not B" kind of thing. It has a lot of capabilities behind the scenes. We don't use it to its full capabilities, but it is very strong and a very capable interface.

I really like the agents. We've had no trouble with them interfering with any of our other systems or vendors — and some of the machines they're running on are very flaky. But I've never been able to trace any problems back to Stonebranch. The problems we had after Stonebranch were the same problems we had before we put the Stonebranch agents on those machines. The interoperability is really nice. It has a minimal footprint, it doesn't consume much RAM, and there is very little network overhead unless the machine is actually doing something and sending data back. It's really nice to fire-and-forget. The syscontroller tells the task to start on the remote machine. The remote machine executes it and when it's done

it sends back the package of data that the control holds and consumes. It's really a very well thought-out system..”

Frank Burkhardt

Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp

[Read full review](#) 

Other Solutions Considered

“I was one of the key parts of the implementation process of this solution, and we migrated from AutoSys. Therefore, before this product, we were using CA AutoSys..”

Siddharth Matalia

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“We looked at a few automation schedulers. The long-term direction is that we're looking at a ten-to-15-year plan to migrate off the mainframe. It made sense to get an enterprise solution that was open-systems based. That's what Stonebranch brought to us..”

Mike Booher

Systems Programmer II at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“We had Cisco Tidal going before Stonebranch. It was an older product which was being retired. Cisco's core competency is not automation, it's networking. The product was somewhat clunky and difficult to work with. Stonebranch is a lot easier to work with. We made the decision to do a PoC and find a different scheduler and selected Stonebranch..”

Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PSCU Financial Services


[Read full review](#) 

“We evaluated BMC and we looked at CA's products – we already had CA in house. Tivoli was another we looked at. There were four or five on the list, and we dropped it down to three pretty quickly.

BMC would have been in the running, but they were... "arrogant" is the word I want to say. They just brushed us the wrong way. I think they have a great tool but the sales pitch that they sent to us did more chopping of other products instead of selling their own..”

Brian

Sr. System Programmer at a retailer with 1,001-5,000 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“I have also used Control-M. Compared to Control-M, Stonebranch is also cheap. If Control-M is down, it will be up within five seconds and will be working fine. Control-M is very stable, and many companies are using it. Stonebranch is new and has been in the market for 5 to 10 years.

Their structure is very nice, and it's better than Stonebranch. Control-M is more complex, but the security and stability are better than Stonebranch..”

Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis

[Read full review](#) 

“In terms of Stonebranch’s agent technology and compatibility with other vendors, it's been very good. We migrated off of the SAP platform or BOE; we had an old instance of Data Integrator. There were a lot of things that the other tools that we looked at when we did our PoC – tools such as Automic and Automate It – just simply wouldn't do. They had problems integrating with the old version of Data Integrator. We PoC'ed three platforms before we made the decision to go with Stonebranch. Automic was one, who was subsequently bought, about four months after we made our decision, by CA.


We looked at a Windows-based solution called Automate which wasn't anywhere close, at the time, to Stonebranch as far as schedulers go. Automate had a lot more UI-manipulation capabilities, which Stonebranch and Automic didn't really have – you don't usually go in and automate processes with the latter two. They're more straightforward workflow tools, rather than automating UI processes.

From our experience in the PoC, Stonebranch's web-based platform wasn't converted from a client-server platform like some of the other platforms we looked at. And being agent-based, it was easy to use. It didn't require a steep learning curve.

And, again, that integration to some of the technologies that we were using was important. We're now about 75 percent of the way to migrating all the Data Integrator services and some of the SSIS ETL jobs we have running out there to Informatica. Stonebranch integrated to all three of those ETL platforms right out-of-the-box through the REST API. We really didn't have to struggle with those integrations, so that was great..”

Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PCSU Financial Services

[Read full review](#) 

ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“ROI is tricky because it's really more of an expense item than it is an investment. We all like to say "return on investment," but we are not a profit center. It all works itself out..”

Doug Perseghetti

Consulting Systems Engineer at a healthcare company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“The way we run the shop is that Infrastructure has a specific budget. I don't think we did a business case to see how this would improve the business at all. We just looked at what we spend a year and decided, let's spend money on this. It's less work for us, so we went ahead and did it..”

Verified user

Senior Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

Use Case

“Basically, it is a workload automation that we are using to run our various SAP application jobs. The background jobs are scheduled from third-party tools. We used to trigger from AutoSys. This is a replacement product for AutoSys..”

Siddharth Matalia

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“We have 35,000 jobs that are running in SAP at different times of the day and at different frequencies. All those have been configured in Stonebranch Universal Automation Center..”

Atul Pednekar

Senior Manager at Colgate

[Read full review](#) 

“The primary use case is that we are now at the point where we are creating workflows and it is allowing us to shorten the time it takes for tasks to go through multiple machines. We wanted something that would give us better visibility..”

Frank Burkhardt

Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp

[Read full review](#) 

“We use it for enterprise scheduling and workload automation. For the most part, it runs our internal mainframe batch jobs and does file transfer processes in and outside the company..”

Mike Booher

[Read full review](#) 

Systems Programmer II at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

“We started off with replacing mainframe batch scheduling for some of our distributed applications, and then it grew into not just batch but workflows and file transfers.

The volumes that we throw at it are in excess of 15 million tasks per month..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

“We use it for IT workflow automation. We have three main categories: billing, reporting, and analytics. We automate the entire workflow, end-to-end, including the file movement from our managed file-transfer solution to our NAS storage point and then kick off the downstream workflows. Most of them are ETL-based in Informatica. And the loads are done to a database and/or storage with output. It's the entire workflow.

We host it on-prem.

It is our enterprise scheduler; we're migrating everything to it. We'll only have Stonebranch as the enterprise scheduler controlling all of our jobs when we get to the end of our project. So it's being used extensively. We'll be somewhere north of 450 jobs when have completed the project and we will increase usage. As more workflows come online, Stonebranch is the platform we will use to automate them..”

Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PSCU Financial Services

[Read full review](#) 

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 of Stonebranch Universal Automation Center is a bit complicated. The migration added some complexity. If it was not for the migration it would have been easy..”

Atul Pednekar

Senior Manager at Colgate

[Read full review](#) 

“Setup is easy. You can install the engine controller and whatever system that people want. You can take the details from them. You can set it up and try running a job in quality test systems. Then after that goes live, you can go to production systems.

Implementation takes one to two years..”

Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis

[Read full review](#) 

“We've found the initial setup to be quite straightforward. It's not complex at all. It's very easy and this is one of the solution's selling points.

The deployment is quite quick. Within the hour I had everything pretty much up and running..”

Verified user

[Read full review](#) 

Architect & Technical Director at a tech consulting company with 11-50 employees

“I would rate Stonebranch somewhere in the middle for ease of setup. It wasn't too straightforward for us because our infrastructure is complex. There were a few parts we had to move. We have decommissioned 5 percent of our jobs annually. Total deployment took us around six months because we went system by system, so that's why it took a long time..”

Atul Pednekar

[Read full review](#) 

Senior Manager at Colgate

“The initial setup was very straightforward. I've come from a programming background, so distributed systems like this are something I'm very familiar with. It seemed pretty straightforward. It was a simple cut-and-dry task. It seemed very basic to me.

It took us between eight months and a year to deploy it across our organization. The implementation strategy was to get it done and make it work as quickly as we could..”

Frank Burkhardt

Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp

[Read full review](#) 

“This was a migration project where we provided our database, the previous one, and there was a tool that automatically converted the awarded job into Stonebranch. All the conversion was done from the Stonebranch side, and we got a person as well from Stonebranch during migration. There was a person who worked with us a decade back for the AutoSys install as well. He was well aware of our environment, so he helped us a lot. It was easy. It was not that complex.

It is much more GUI. That said, we are looking for how the various automation can be done since, through command lines, you can create a number of jobs. While you are creating a single job, it takes 15 minutes with the GUI, however, if you go for the command line, within two or three minutes, your job gets completed. We have built our own solution for automation using some REST API and all those various integrations. It is working for our organization right now. However, we are requesting some kind of solution from Stonebranch. They should have been providing that to us already.

For deployment, three or four people were engaged with the setup on their side. To manage everything, they provided us with a person who required help to manage it. Eventually, since it was a cloud platform on their side, if there is some configuration necessary, which they do it. They get a notification, and they fix it very immediately if there is an issue. The response time is very good from their side, and we don't have to worry about maintenance..”

Siddharth Matalia[Read full review](#) 

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

Customer Service and Support

“When we have a problem, we create a support ticket with Stonebranch. Usually, inside of two or three hours, we're talking with somebody at Stonebranch. They're really responsive and we're very happy with the support side of the product..”

Earl Diem

Sr. Manager - Performance and Automation Engineering at PSCU Financial Services

[Read full review](#) 

“I typically communicate with them a couple of times a year if I have an issue. They have a good helpdesk process and ticketing process that work very well.

Tech support is excellent..”

Mike Booher

Systems Programmer II at a insurance company with 501-1,000 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“Technical support is very good. They're not available on weekends. If you raise a ticket, they will resolve it within half an hour. They'll take the remote system and know what the problem is.

They are very technically very sound and familiar with this tool..”

Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis

[Read full review](#) 

“I haven't dealt with technical support directly, but I have worked with people in the company who have worked with Stonebranc technical support.

There are no complaints, but they have to work on some of the criteria they use. Some of the things suggested didn't work well and didn't get converted properly. I have had to redo it because of that..”

Verified user

Application Architect at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“Technical support is very capable. The helpdesk is very responsive and knowledgeable and if they don't know, they will reach out to somebody on the engineering team. About 90 percent of the problems that I've had to talk to their helpdesk about have been through error on my part. Either I thought something was supposed to do something it obviously doesn't do, and I would have known if I had read the documentation better, or I had misconfigured something. They are very responsive and very knowledgeable..”

Frank Burkhardt


Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp

[Read full review](#) 

“Stonebranch is one of the best support vendors. They leverage their expertise on the mainframe and IBM i. I could not find that anywhere else in the market. That is something that we really needed. Their Unix knowledge is impeccable. They've always helped us. They're always able to do deep dives easily; same thing with Windows. They're quick to getting to the solution. They're quick in helping us to recover outages if there are any. They're always quick to escalate up the chain on their side of the house if they need to. If the level-one person is looking at a problem and says, "You know what? It's been 30 or 40 minutes. I don't see it," they will get someone from level-two or a developer to take a look..”

Verified user

Senior Technical Analyst at a financial services firm with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

Other Advice

“I would rate this solution 8 out of 10.

My advice is that it's very easy to use, and you can schedule the jobs on all applications, Informatica, and SAP, and it will run fine..”

Sushil-Singh

Associate Software Engineer at Mphasis

[Read full review](#) 

“If it's a fresh implementation, I'd recommend the solution to others.

I'd rate the solution seven out of ten. There are still a few features missing, like having a mobile app. .”

Siddharth Matalia

Senior Technical Specialist at a manufacturing company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“The project using Stonebranch has finished. I don't have access to the Stonebranch environment now. We last used it six to twelve months ago.

It was not complex for me, but you have to follow the documentation. Spend some time to learn about it, then it's no big deal.

I would rate this solution an eight out of ten..”

Verified user

Application Architect at a computer software company with 10,001+ employees

[Read full review](#) 

“We are a reseller. We are a software company.

So far, we've had a pretty good experience using the solution. We need a bit more time with it, however, to get more comfortable with everything.

Overall, I would rate it at an eight out of ten, as so far the experience we've had has been positive..”

Verified user

Architect & Technical Director at a tech consulting company with 11-50 employees

[Read full review](#) 

“My advice to others is that if there is a migration project they have to be thorough. The planning phase is really important when the migrations are happening. However, for a straightforward implementation, it's an easy process. If you are doing it as a vanilla installation, then it will be easy. If you are migrating from one automation to another, then the Stonebranch Universal Automation

Center is going to be challenging because much of the terminology and the way of automation is going to get changed.

I rate Stonebranch Universal Automation Center a seven out of ten

The solution can complete most of the requirements we need with our SAP system..”

Atul Pednekar

Senior Manager at Colgate

[Read full review](#) 

“Go at this slowly and methodically. When they came in, they did a lot of things very quickly, and we didn't really understand the implication of the answers we were giving. We have gone back to re-do a lot of that work. Now that we're smarter, and much better at this, we have found that being slow and methodical pays off in the long-run.

The solution has enabled digital transformation at our company but it's been a very slow process, and that is because the people we have are very traditional, old-school people. This is a little outside of the norm for people who grew up using the Windows Task Scheduler. They are having a little trouble with this. The idea of correcting workflows is still new to some of these people. It is allowing us to have the digital transformation — we're able to move things through quicker — but I don't know that everybody is aware of this or is taking advantage of it. New systems are being bought and spec'd out, and we can get Stonebranch to work with them, but it's kind of as an afterthought. They aren't used to thinking of Stonebranch when they're looking at the new systems.

We've got a couple people in engineering that are using the solution but it's mostly IT people who are using it, programmers and their managers. Our ERP coordinator uses it a lot. In engineering we've got CAE administrators using it to shut down and restart processes for their systems. And we have a couple of other users using it, but their use is very limited. We give them the tasks but we don't give them a lot of tasks as they are a small cog in the wheel. You can't give them too much power or they'll be messing up somebody else's job. We're mostly giving knowledge workers the ability to handle their own tasks if they can do it in a vacuum. That amounts to a few people in finance, a few in production, a couple in engineering and most of the people in IT. I'm the only person who handles deployment and maintenance of the solution. But that is not my full-time job. Once tasks get set up, they go and they run and they just work..”

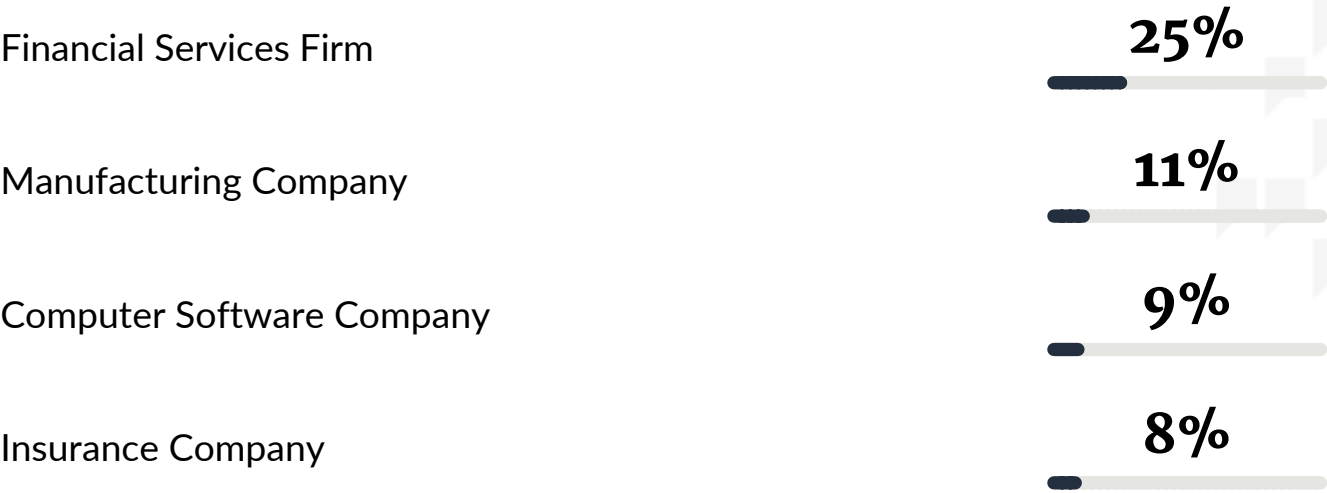
Frank Burkhardt

Application and Database Administrator at Blue Bird Corp

[Read full review](#) 

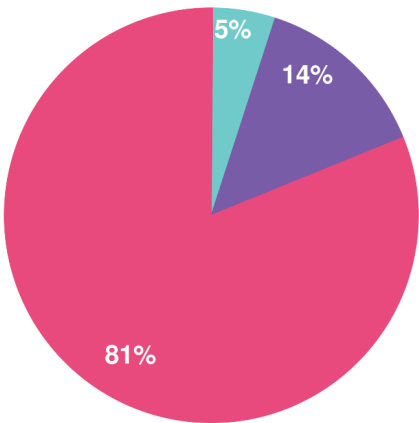
Top Industries

by visitors reading reviews



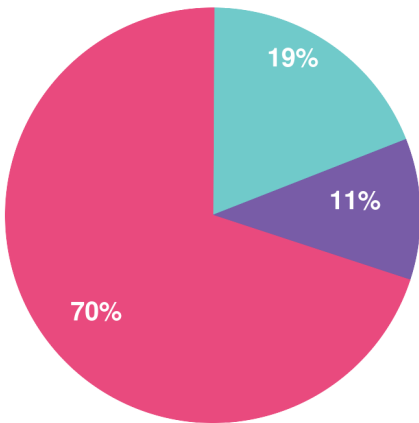
Company Size

by reviewers



Company Size

by visitors reading reviews



Large Enterprise Midsized Enterprise Small Business

About this buyer's guide

Thanks for downloading this PeerSpot report.

The summaries, overviews and recaps in this report are all based on real user feedback and reviews collected by PeerSpot's team. Every reviewer on PeerSpot has been authenticated with our triple authentication process. This is done to ensure that every review provided is an unbiased review from a real user.

Get a custom version of this report... Personalized for you!

Please note that this is a generic report based on reviews and opinions from the collective PeerSpot community. We offer a [customized report](#) of solutions recommended for you based on:

- Your industry
- Company size
- Which solutions you're already considering

The customized report will include recommendations for you based on what other people like you are using and researching.

Answer a few questions in our short wizard to get your customized report.

[Get your personalized report here](#)

About PeerSpot

PeerSpot is the leading review site for software running on AWS and other platforms. We created PeerSpot to provide a trusted platform to share information about software, applications, and services. Since 2012, over 22 million people have used PeerSpot to choose the right software for their business.

PeerSpot helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of products recommended by real users
- In-depth reviews, including pros and cons
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

Use PeerSpot to:

- Read and post reviews of products
- Access over 30,000 buyer's guides and comparison reports
- Request or share information about functionality, quality, and pricing

Join PeerSpot to connect with peers to help you:

- Get immediate answers to questions
- Validate vendor claims
- Exchange tips for getting the best deals with vendor

Visit PeerSpot: www.peerspot.com

PeerSpot

244 5th Avenue, Suite R-230 • New York, NY 10001

reports@peerspot.com

+1 646.328.1944