



Algolia

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



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Product Recap



Algolia Recap

Algolia helps businesses across industries quickly create relevant, scalable, and lightning fast search and discovery experiences. Algolia's mission is to make every search interaction meaningful and rewarding. Our hosted platform reduces the complexity of building relevant digital experiences. More than 7,500 companies like WW, Lacoste, Twitch, Medium and Stripe rely on Algolia's enterprise-grade APIs to manage over 60 billion search queries a month.

Founded in 2012, Algolia is backed by \$74M in funding from Accel Partners, Alven Capital, Point Nine Capital and Storm Ventures. The team is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in Paris, London, New York, and Atlanta. To learn more, visit www.algolia.com.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“It has many fine-tuning configurations. Essentially, every single piece of information you pass through it is a free document you can tailor.”



Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley



“The tool provides users with personalization features that can be used to improve user interface.”



Kamil Ghori

Co-Founder at Dynamik Techworks



“Since Algolia is a SaaS solution, we didn't have to maintain servers, look at the indexes, and monitor services.”



Debarshi Banerjee

Specialist Programmer L3 at Infosys



“The tool is worth the money, and I have seen an ROI.”



Awais Kamran

Senior Software Engineer at Conrad Labs



“The tool is easy to use, but you need to know how it works.”



Luiz Guilherme Silva

Líder técnico at CotaBest



“Algolia provides some cool functionalities like filtering, indexing, and searching.”



Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees



“It's scalable. It can be scaled massively.”



Suresh Badavath

Head Data Engineering at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“Since Algolia is a SaaS solution, we didn't have to maintain servers, look at the indexes, and monitor services. Not having to maintain the servers was less of a headache for us. Algolia's similarity to other search services like Elasticsearch has greatly helped us..”

Debarshi Banerjee

Specialist Programmer L3 at Infosys

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“I really like the recommend feature. Almost all the features and the search feature are pretty seamless. I think what really worked for me is the recommend feature and the InstantSearch.js feature through which you can just build a page, and you have some of the filters on the left, and you can just select from it. You don't have to worry about building a UI or UX out of it as it is already built-in. The tool is great in terms of integration..”

Awais Kamran

Senior Software Engineer at Conrad Labs

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“In my experience, I used Algolia because it made searching and filtering products much easier. Algolia provides some cool functionalities like filtering, indexing, and searching.

If I implemented such functionality without Algolia, I would have to create the filtering functionality customly. But with Algolia, it's much easier because they already have these features built-in.

I implement their inbuilt hooks or components, like InstantSearch, which is a React UI component provided by Algolia. It helps me with searching and filtering the products. I used Algolia for basic purposes because I haven't worked on any advanced projects with it yet..”

Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees

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“The most valuable features of the solution are the indexing servers and search servers, which are really fast. I don't remember the size of our database, but it was really big, and its ability to make decisions in a few minutes compared to Elasticsearch to deal with the indexing is good. The business layer is really incredible because business people should keep the organization off from the results of the search. Algolia is a good business solution. The intelligence of Algolia and how it works to deliver the information is good. We faced problems at the beginning of the project with the tool, especially with the user of the tool who was making the request because of the intermediate server. We take a long time to integrate, and we lose the tool's intelligence for personalizing the experience the solution can offer to its users. We should use a lot of Algolia's services, especially in terms of price and cost. Some of the servers had limitations..”

Luiz Guilherme Silva

Líder técnico at CotaBest

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“I like the fact that it's very powerful. It has many fine-tuning configurations. Essentially, every single piece of information you pass through it is a free document you can tailor. This allows me to craft the information in a manner that it can be easily searched.

For example, with our listings, we tailored them based on the individual's name, geographic location, and information specific to us, such as access to golf clubs and tennis courts. This very narrow information could then be used as part of the search results, providing our clients with a very intuitive search service.

The idea is that good search results lead to better commercial opportunities and customer retention because clients are satisfied with an easy-to-use service. That was definitely the greatest aspect of Algolia – it's a very powerful search engine..”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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Other Solutions Considered

“I used to use Magento's default search functionality. Magento has some programming languages for indexing and search boxes. Algolia offers a very heavy functionality for search-related tasks..”

Kamil Ghor

Co-Founder at Dynamik Techworks

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“My company decided to use Algolia. It's a very big and complicated web application. I asked them why we use Algolia, and they told me that implementing such functionality or filtering functionality customly would take too much time. But if we use Algolia, it helps us save time on maintenance, and we can use it frequently..”

Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees

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“We played around with Python, which was part of a different part of our stack, but we didn't consider other options.

When I came in, Algolia was already integrated into the product, so, I couldn't change the existing product, only improve upon it..”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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“I have experience with OpenSearch from AWS. I started using Algolia since it had almost the same price as OpenSearch but with a few extra features. In Algolia, you could really store big objects and records. The tool also has the recommend feature, which we need. With OpenSearch, we had to build a sidelined solution for it, so we had to put extra effort into it, but it was already built in Algolia..”

Awais Kamran

Senior Software Engineer at Conrad Labs

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“It's worth the money if the search is the core feature of your product. If you just want to impress your customers, it might not be that great. But if you really want to run the business with search as the core feature, this would be a great fit.

You can invest a bit of money into the search, which will give you a good output because you don't have to spend a lot of time setting up infrastructure. They have quite a lot of SDK packages that will help you move the build very quickly..”

Suresh Badavath

Head Data Engineering at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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Use Case

“I have used the solution in my company since we started building a product, and we have worked on it in terms of building a search engine and searching some of the microblogs we built..”

Awais Kamran

Senior Software Engineer at Conrad Labs

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“I developed an application solution for the Economist Group, a think tank based in London. They were planning a new initiative, which was a publication tech. We use Algolia Search to give users the capability to search documents in the application we created..”

Debarshi Banerjee

Specialist Programmer L3 at Infosys

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“I use the solution in my company since we wanted a solution to be delivered for search purposes, and we got the tool named Algolia.

In my company, we didn't use the tool's intelligence because it was not in the business plan, but the solution is amazing and one of the best solutions..”

Luiz Guilherme Silva


Líder técnico at CotaBest

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“I use Algolia for Magento 2 e-commerce websites so that I can enhance user search functionality. Throughout Algolia, our company can enhance our search results as per the user type, which can improve the user experience and reduce the time it takes for them to find a product. Algolia is also useful for filtering products. It can also be used to add any promotional banner, product ranking, product review, and product boosting..”

Kamil Ghori

Co-Founder at DynamiK Techworks

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“I like to describe it as an embedded Google that you can tailor with your own information. You can input your proprietary information and modify the weights and configuration of the search to tailor the results for your clients or services, like for internal tooling.

I can have a built-in flexible search engine. We used it specifically to return results to our clients in terms of listings based on their search and geographic location..”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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“I used Algolia to implement search functionalities. When I had too many products and wanted to improve search functionality, I built custom webhooks in the backend using ExpressJS and NodeJS. The product information was passed to Algolia, which I used only for search functionalities..”

Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 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.

“If someone reads the documentation well, then anyone can use Algolia. But for beginners, it's hard because the documentation is not beginner-friendly, in my opinion.

Deployment model: I used Algolia in the cloud for search recommendations to make the site's searching faster. .”

Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees

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“The initial setup is fairly easy. It's not trivial, but it's not hard either. There are two sides to it:

1. the application side and
2. the cloud information side.

You have to make sure your information is correct on the cloud side to see it reflected on the application side. It is not 100% easy, but it is not necessarily hard because any good developer should be able to handle it.

Deployment time: It depends on the amount of data. They do have to index the information, so if you have less than a hundred thousand entries, it should be super quick. They have a great capability that allows you to demo it on a test set so you don't mess with your real-time production information. You can play around with Algolia on a development set and then pass it into production when you're ready.

However, if you have a lot of indices, let's say a million or more, it does take a couple of minutes to pass that information into the system, index it, and test it in development before passing it to production. It's not super slow, but it is worth mentioning..”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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“Setting up Algolia and making it run on their cloud is quite fast. However, if you want to run things and see them in your front-end development, it will probably take a day or so.

Algolia also has UI demos, which means as long as you have the data uploaded, you just have to click a few buttons and see a demo within a minute. So, if you have the data in place, it's quick.

However, you need an expert to optimize the dataset because there's a limit on the record size. Every record cannot go beyond 100 KB. You have to figure out what matters to the customer and push those points, which can help you get a better result/ROI.

It's only available on the cloud. It's a SaaS product, not open source. You have to trust their infrastructure and deploy it there.

Challenges with integration:

I wanted to have different indexes, similar to SQL tables where you can join things. I wanted multiple indexes to run them isolated. But joining indexes is not possible.

For example, I have a million companies with a hundred data points each, and ten million people with ten data points each. The constraint from the development team and the community is that you have to use one single index, which makes things complicated on the back-end.

To overcome that, you need to work on integrating into one single pipeline and optimizing the record size limit. You have to come up with better ways of searching for the data that really matters. If you have something that doesn't matter for searching, just take it off.

Joining is quite complex. I raised a request last year to support joining between indexes, just like an SQL table, but I'm not sure if they have made it live. .”

Customer Service and Support

“I'm very happy with it. I would give them ten out of ten. They were responsive, active, and even followed up to see if everything was okay and if we needed more support..”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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“I hardly need to talk to them because they have written very good documentation. The support is good. I had some support from the Australia team. I met that person personally. I haven't faced many issues.

I usually find things in their community webinars or documentation. In the event I don't find them, I might reach out to their developer community or integration team, but I have rarely done that so far..”

Suresh Badavath

Head Data Engineering at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

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Other Advice

“It's a really great solution. The more you work with it, the more intuitive it gets. I think Algolia is onto something that is very valuable.

Overall, I would rate the solution an eight out of ten. .”

Alejandro Salazar

Chief Investment Officer at University of California, Berkeley

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“I would recommend the solution to users looking for an easy search service. It is very easy to set up and do a POC with Algolia. If you are looking for custom sorting, Algolia is not the right solution for you.

Overall, I rate the solution an eight out of ten..”

Debarshi Banerjee

Specialist Programmer L3 at Infosys

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“It is a super easy tool to use. You just need to download, install, and use the extensions. If you need more extensions, then it may get harder for you to be able to customize Algolia. In general, it is a cool tool.

I recommend the product to other people.

If a user wants super search functionality in their e-commerce store to enhance the user experience, they can go for Algolia. Algolia can also enhance the search results as well as provide enhanced analytical reports related to the search by analyzing the customers, and seeing how customers interact with the search bar. The tool provides users with personalization features that can be used to improve user interface. One can also customize the search-related user interface. The features of Algolia are extremely good.

I rate the tool a nine out of ten..”

Kamil Ghori

Co-Founder at Dynamik Techworks

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“In terms of integrating the tool with the e-commerce platform, I would say that I have a Python server, so I am leveraging its APIs to sort of migrate the data and build an index out of that.

A developer can use it easily.

I did not face any challenges when integrating the product with other tools.

Within the recommend feature, the tool was pretty similar where we didn't really have to do anything extra. AI did enhance the recommended feature in the tool.

The tool is very easy, and you don't have to spend a lot of time doing anything extra. Integration is also seamless.

I rate the tool a nine out of ten..”

“There are two ways to work with the tool. You can use it directly from the front end to the operating endpoints or use an internet gateway server. We worked with the intermediate server, helping prevent problems with credentials. Also, doing work becomes better with the tool, but other tools do it better than this, so it is not the best choice.

Speaking about the challenges faced when integrating the product with other tools, I would say that the documentation of the solution is really good, and they have a good service and a good help desk. When we have specific problems, the communication or help from Algolia is a little bit low. There is no information on the internet about the problems my company has with Algolia or Elasticsearch. I don't remember a specific problem. The integration of the middle servers was the most difficult for us because there are certain ways to deal with IT, such as through user education or from the front end. Some solutions from Algolia are directly for usage and not for using the intermediate server. It was a little bit hard to explore the tools' services.

The tool is easy to use, but you need to know how it works.

For people working at a technical level or business layer, the tool can be easy, but to use the tool, you will have to understand how searches work.

I would recommend the tool to others but not to small companies.

I rate the tool a ten out of ten..”

Luiz Guilherme Silva

Líder técnico at CotaBest

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“First of all, I want to know why you would ask me this. If you have a complicated project, then I definitely recommend Algolia. But if the project is simple and not too complicated, then you can use custom filtering or functionality.

There are two types of beginners:

1. Those who want to learn just from watching YouTube videos.
2. Those who are willing to read the documentation and research the features.

For the latter, it will be okay, but for beginners who don't want to read the documentation and just want to watch YouTube videos, it will be hard for them to learn to use Algolia.

Overall, I would rate it a nine out of ten. When I use this product, it reduces my time and saves me from time-consuming tasks because everything is automated. Every back end, Express, Scrappy, and others, they already told us that if we use Algolia, they already provide us with webhooks.

If we implement the webhooks, it only takes two to five minutes maximum. Then we work on the front end just for designing. If I created the functionality without Algolia, it would take too much time, like 30 minutes or an hour.

But when you use Algolia and webhooks, it takes only five minutes, and Algolia has its own component, InstantSearch, for filtering. We just implemented the component, and it's okay. That's why, from my side, I rate Algolia as nine out of ten..”

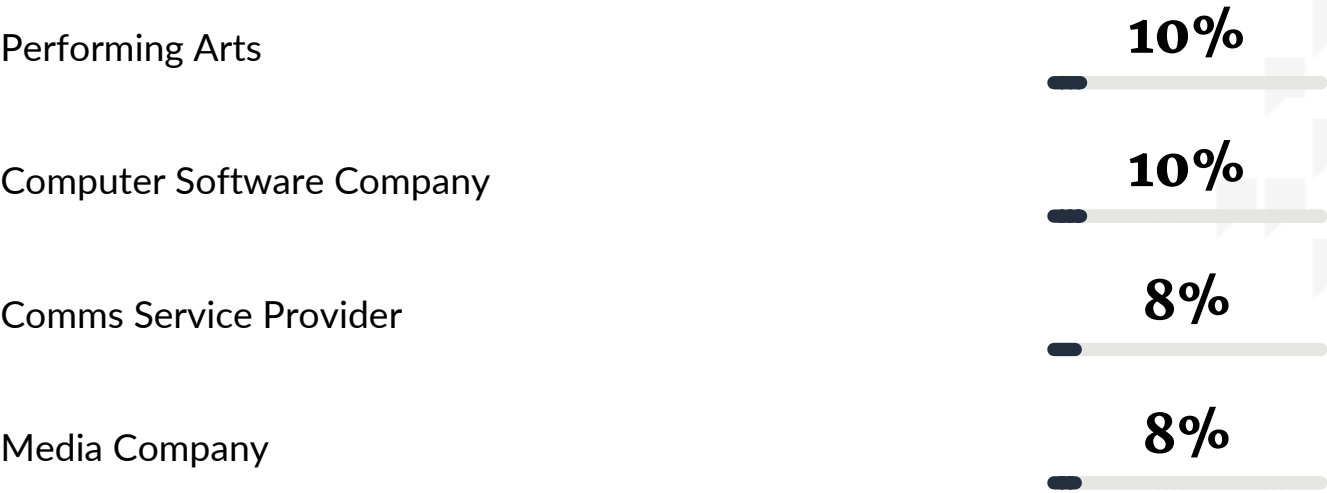
Azmir Uddin Alif

Full-stack Developer at a tech vendor with 501-1,000 employees

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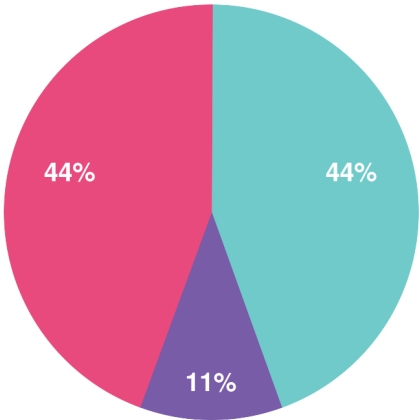
Top Industries

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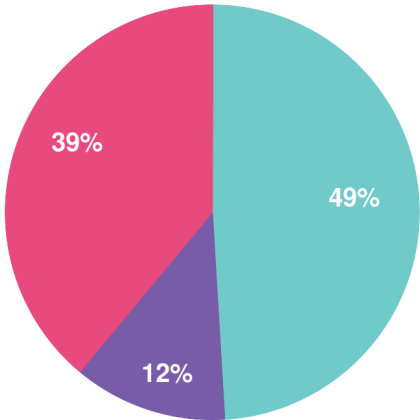


Company Size

by reviewers



by visitors reading reviews



Large Enterprise Midsize Enterprise Small Business

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