



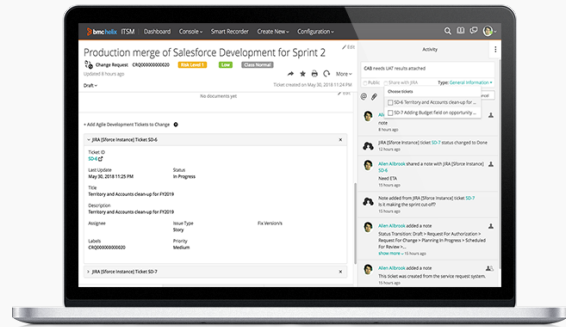
Gartner Magic Quadrant for Cloud Infrastructure as a Service 2018

Every year, organizations and industry experts alike eagerly anticipate the findings released from [Gartner](#) research group regarding their Magic Quadrants, and this year's Magic Quadrant for Cloud Infrastructure as a Service is no different.

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The Magic Quadrant for Cloud IaaS 2018 is shown here:

Figure 1. Magic Quadrant for Cloud Infrastructure as a Service, Worldwide



Amazon Web Services is named as the leader again for the 8th year in a row, with Microsoft's Azure closely behind it. As a comparison, not much has changed in the past few years among the relative leaders of the quadrant – however, there are quite a few providers that were previously on the list that have since been dropped out. Another major difference for the IaaS Magic Quadrant is that Google has now entered the Leaders segment.

New Leaders in the IaaS Magic Quadrant 2018

With the research firm cutting 14 vendors from the Magic Quadrant consideration, the field has been dramatically narrowed to the top global leaders: Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, Google, Alibaba Cloud, Oracle, and IBM.

Offering an explanation for their 2018 decision, Gartner stated:

“This year, we chose more stringent inclusion criteria, which had the effect of only including global vendors that currently have hyperscale integrated IaaS and PaaS offerings, or that are currently developing those offerings. These changes reflect Gartner’s belief that customer evaluations are currently primarily focused on vendors for strategic adoption across a broad range of use cases.”

The addition of Google Cloud Platform to the Leaders segment has created a “big three” in IaaS, with industry experts noting that Google has quickly risen to become a viable cloud option that is moving to differentiate the market with artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Key Takeaways From the Report

Gartner identified multiple strengths in choosing Google as one of the top leaders in the Infrastructure-as-a-Service Magic Quadrant:

- Innovative IaaS and PaaS capabilities
- Customized machine types
- Next generation of cloud-native containerized development
- Strong investments in advanced analytics and machine learning

- Emphasis on portability and solid grounding in the open-source ecosystem

The Big Three

Although the IaaS market continues to consolidate around the two major players, AWS and Azure, other providers such as Google are quickly giving them a run for their money. With innovative leaps in machine learning and artificial intelligence, they will be a competitive vendor that should be kept on everyone's radar.

[Download the full report](#) to:

- Learn where the market stands and where it's going
- Evaluate vendor strengths and compare scores on various criteria
- Understand why Google was named a Leader in the IaaS market

Why Use a Gartner Magic Quadrant?

Gartner's Magic Quadrant is the first step to understanding the technology providers you might consider for a specific service. Depending on the types of investments you are looking to make, each quadrant has its own benefits and advantages.

How Does a Gartner Magic Quadrant Work?

Utilizing a graphical illustration, a Gartner Magic Quadrant provides a snapshot of four types of technology providers that can help you best meet your business goals:

- Leaders – Competitive providers that are known to execute well against their current vision and are often innovative giants in their industry

- Visionaries – Full of providers that understand where the future market is going or have a strong vision for where it will end up
- Niche Players – Highly focused on a small segment
- Challengers – Often dominate a large segment

Magic Quadrants Help You:

- Quickly understand the market's competing technology providers as well as their ability to innovate and provide options for the future
- Understand how providers are competitively positioned and the strategies they are using to compete for end-user business
- Compare a technology provider's strengths and challenges with your specific needs and business goals

Additional Resources