

Top Rated Enterprise Technology 2016

Based on product reviews,
crowdsourced rankings, and
buyer intent data as of
January 1, 2016



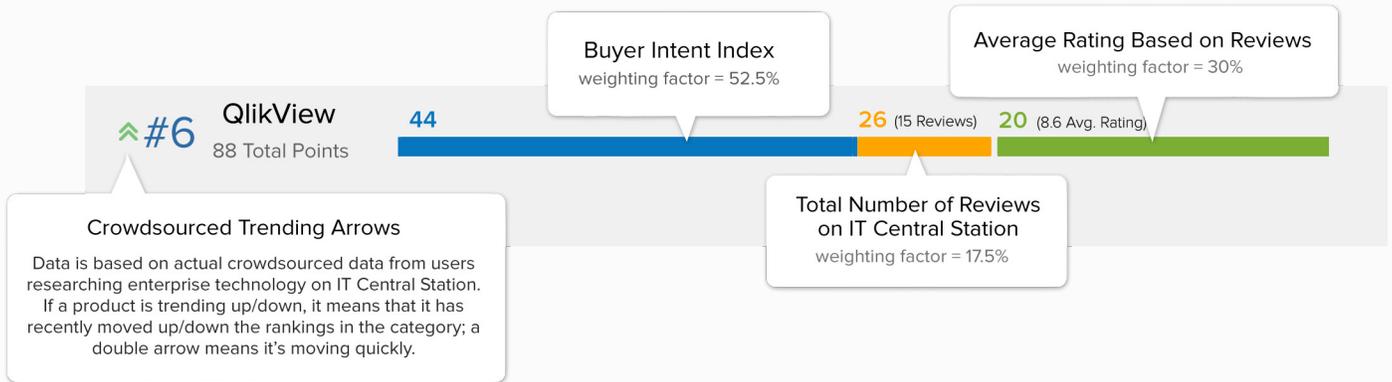
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About This Report

Rankings

The **total ranking of a product** (i.e. bar length) is based on a weighted aggregate ranking of a product's Buyer intent, Total Number of Reviews on IT Central Station, and Average Rating Based on Reviews. For each ranking factor, the score is calculated as a product of the weighting factor and its position for that ranking factor. For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews in its category, then the product's ranking score for reviews would be 17.5% (weighting factor) * 80% = 14.



About Us



User reviews, candid discussions, and more for enterprise technology professionals.

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users. IT Central Station provides technology professionals with a community platform to share information about enterprise solutions.

IT Central Station is committed to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We validate all reviewers with a triple authentication process, and protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

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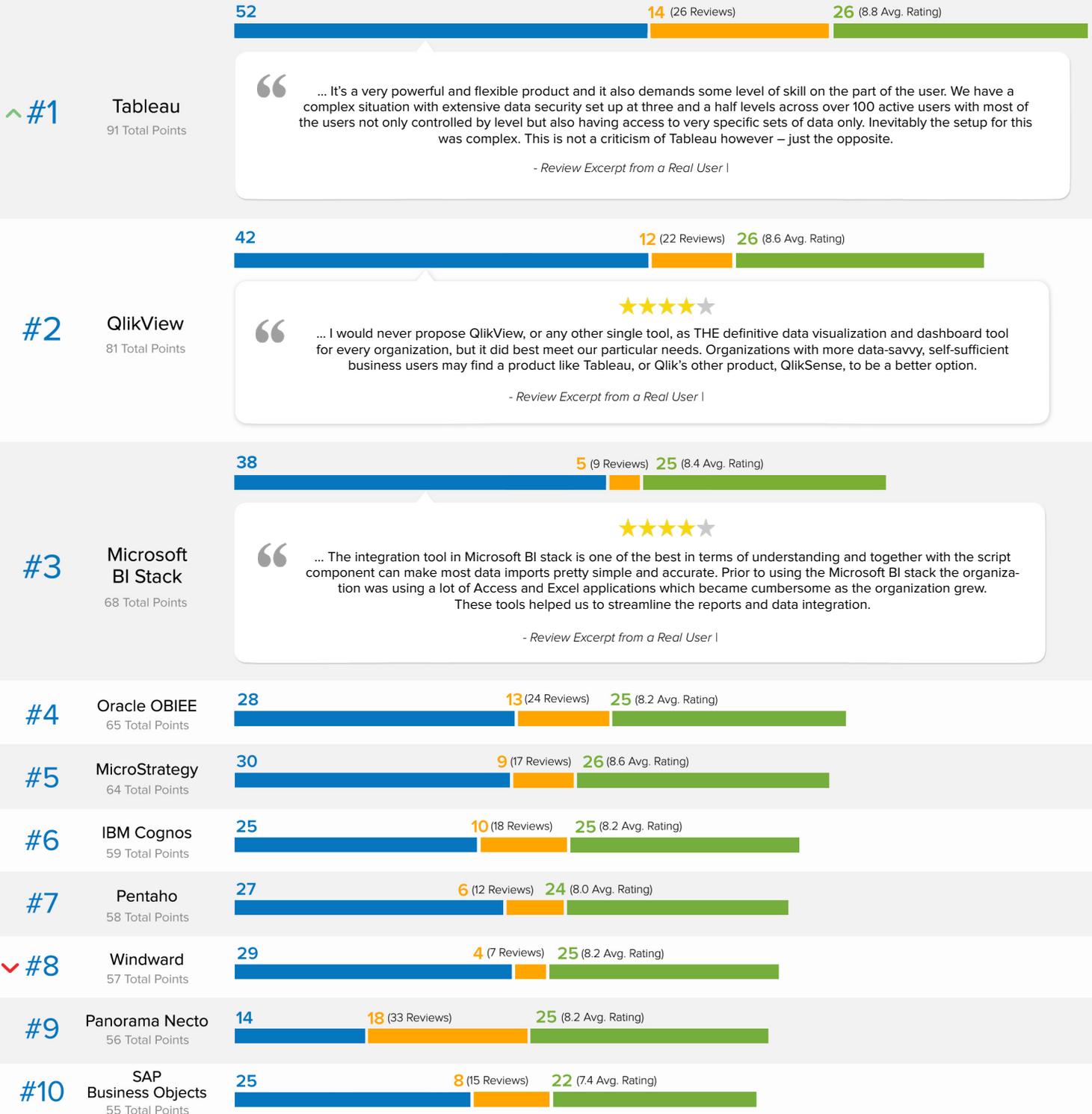
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BI Top 10 Business Intelligence Tools

According to the IT Central Station community, the most important buying criteria for BI tools are scalability and performance, usability and UI, ease of development, and mobile/cloud based customization. An effective BI solution should be able to access any data source and provide capabilities for internal and external users from the same platform, as well as provide better integration with other systems (e.g. CRM, ERP).

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



“ ... It's a very powerful and flexible product and it also demands some level of skill on the part of the user. We have a complex situation with extensive data security set up at three and a half levels across over 100 active users with most of the users not only controlled by level but also having access to very specific sets of data only. Inevitably the setup for this was complex. This is not a criticism of Tableau however – just the opposite.
- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★★
“ ... I would never propose QlikView, or any other single tool, as THE definitive data visualization and dashboard tool for every organization, but it did best meet our particular needs. Organizations with more data-savvy, self-sufficient business users may find a product like Tableau, or Qlik's other product, QlikSense, to be a better option.
- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

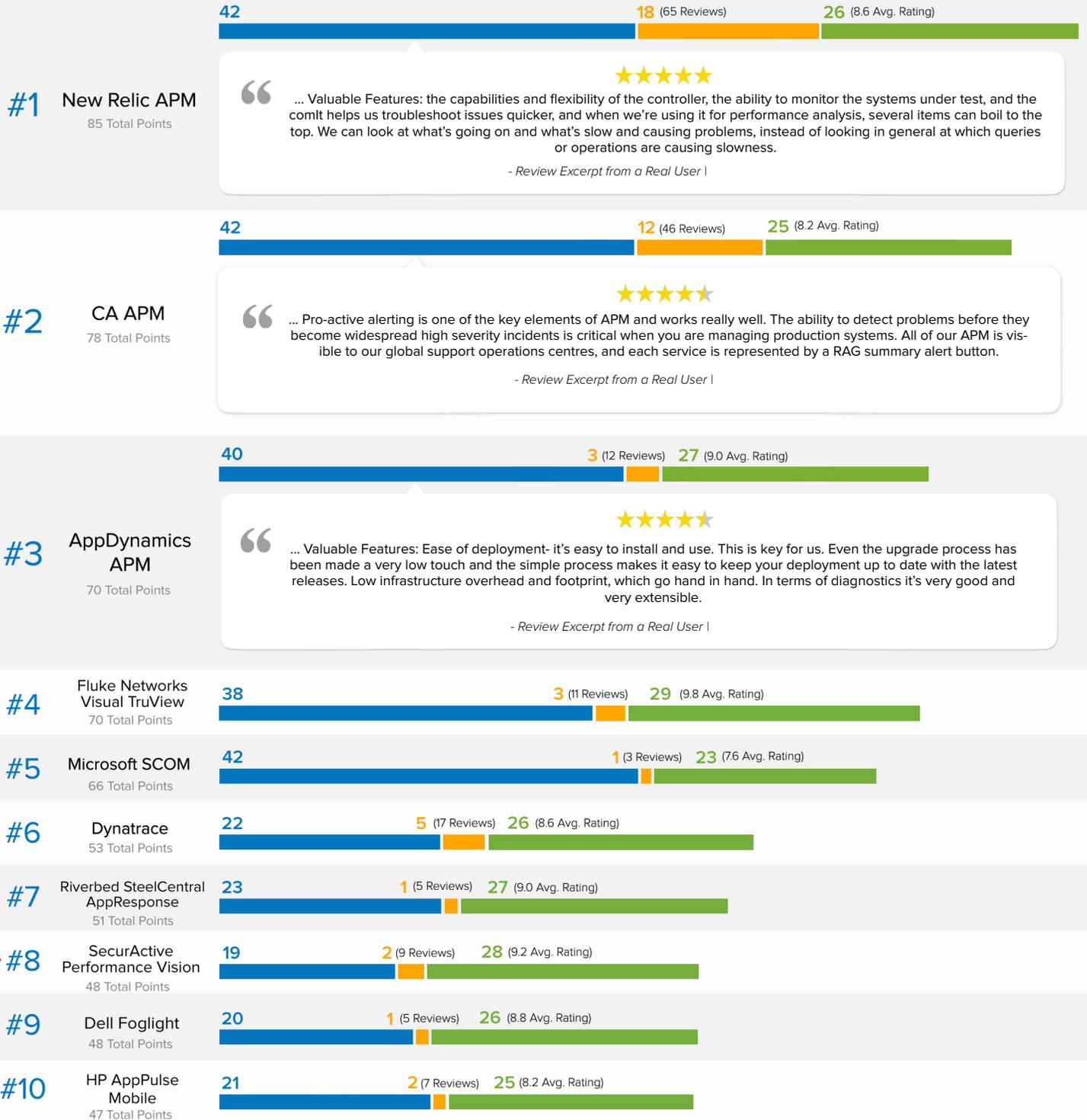
★★★★★
“ ... The integration tool in Microsoft BI stack is one of the best in terms of understanding and together with the script component can make most data imports pretty simple and accurate. Prior to using the Microsoft BI stack the organization was using a lot of Access and Excel applications which became cumbersome as the organization grew. These tools helped us to streamline the reports and data integration.
- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

APM Top 10 Application Performance Management Tools

According to the IT Central Station community, the most important buying criteria for APM tools are accessibility, manageability, and scalability. Not only must an effective APM tool give accurate data to different audiences on the business side, but must also allow developers to dive deep on stored data in the long run.

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Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



“ ... Valuable Features: the capabilities and flexibility of the controller, the ability to monitor the systems under test, and the comlt helps us troubleshoot issues quicker, and when we’re using it for performance analysis, several items can boil to the top. We can look at what’s going on and what’s slow and causing problems, instead of looking in general at which queries or operations are causing slowness. ”

★★★★★

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

“ ... Pro-active alerting is one of the key elements of APM and works really well. The ability to detect problems before they become widespread high severity incidents is critical when you are managing production systems. All of our APM is visible to our global support operations centres, and each service is represented by a RAG summary alert button. ”

★★★★★

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

“ ... Valuable Features: Ease of deployment- it’s easy to install and use. This is key for us. Even the upgrade process has been made a very low touch and the simple process makes it easy to keep your deployment up to date with the latest releases. Low infrastructure overhead and footprint, which go hand in hand. In terms of diagnostics it’s very good and very extensible. ”

★★★★★

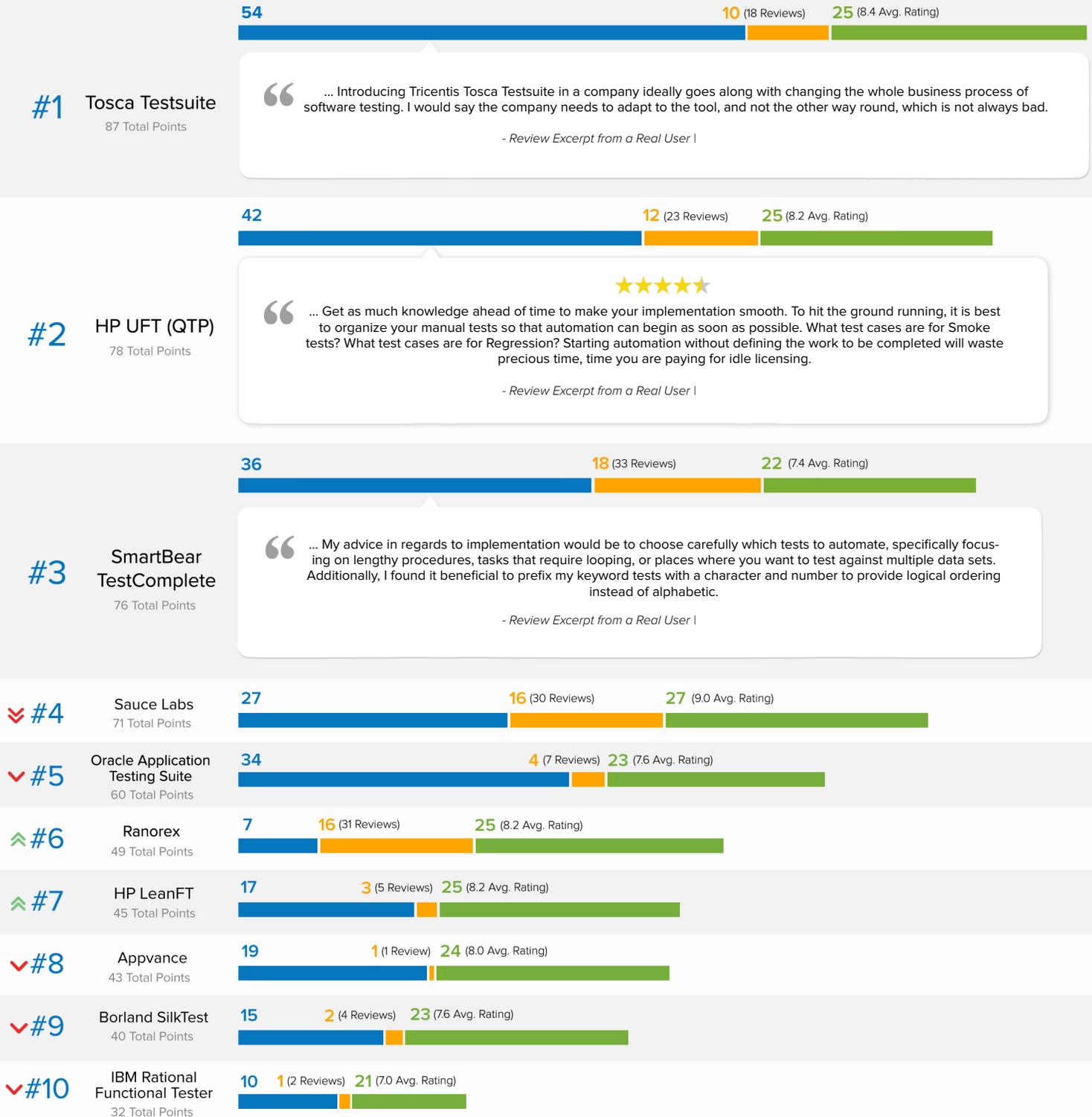
- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

FT Top 10 Functional Testing Tools

When selecting a functional testing tool for your organization, IT Central Station community members recommend considering the maturity of the product, support, reliability, compatibility, reporting capabilities and ease of use. Users also suggest evaluating which platforms, devices and environments the various tools support. Additionally, it's important to examine how the tool will fit into your existing environment and QA team.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



“ ... Introducing Tricentis Tosca Testsuite in a company ideally goes along with changing the whole business process of software testing. I would say the company needs to adapt to the tool, and not the other way round, which is not always bad.
 - Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★★
 “ ... Get as much knowledge ahead of time to make your implementation smooth. To hit the ground running, it is best to organize your manual tests so that automation can begin as soon as possible. What test cases are for Smoke tests? What test cases are for Regression? Starting automation without defining the work to be completed will waste precious time, time you are paying for idle licensing.
 - Review Excerpt from a Real User |

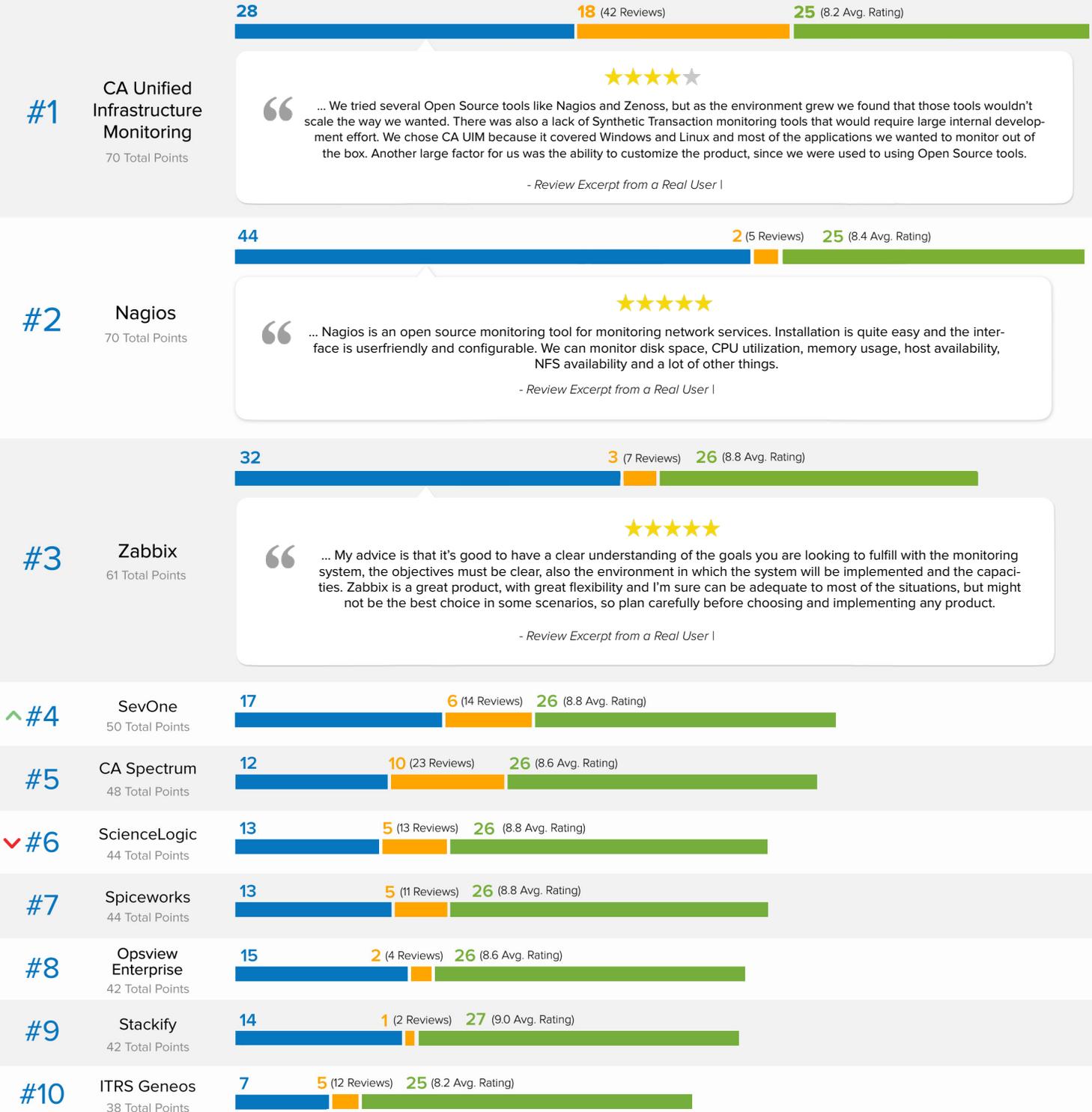
“ ... My advice in regards to implementation would be to choose carefully which tests to automate, specifically focusing on lengthy procedures, tasks that require looping, or places where you want to test against multiple data sets. Additionally, I found it beneficial to prefix my keyword tests with a character and number to provide logical ordering instead of alphabetic.
 - Review Excerpt from a Real User |

IM Top 10 IT Infrastructure Monitoring Solutions

According to the IT Central Station community, the most important buying criteria for buying monitoring software are functions such as packet loss, latency, jitter, downtime, interoperability with the largest amount of vendor devices possible, performance and behavior of the application. Network monitoring should also focus solely on the network and avoid application monitoring. The ability to customize the monitoring and presentation of the data are key but the software should have an easy to view default dashboard.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



★★★★★

“ ... We tried several Open Source tools like Nagios and Zenoss, but as the environment grew we found that those tools wouldn't scale the way we wanted. There was also a lack of Synthetic Transaction monitoring tools that would require large internal development effort. We chose CA UIM because it covered Windows and Linux and most of the applications we wanted to monitor out of the box. Another large factor for us was the ability to customize the product, since we were used to using Open Source tools.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★★

“ ... Nagios is an open source monitoring tool for monitoring network services. Installation is quite easy and the interface is userfriendly and configurable. We can monitor disk space, CPU utilization, memory usage, host availability, NFS availability and a lot of other things.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★★

“ ... My advice is that it's good to have a clear understanding of the goals you are looking to fulfill with the monitoring system, the objectives must be clear, also the environment in which the system will be implemented and the capacities. Zabbix is a great product, with great flexibility and I'm sure can be adequate to most of the situations, but might not be the best choice in some scenarios, so plan carefully before choosing and implementing any product.

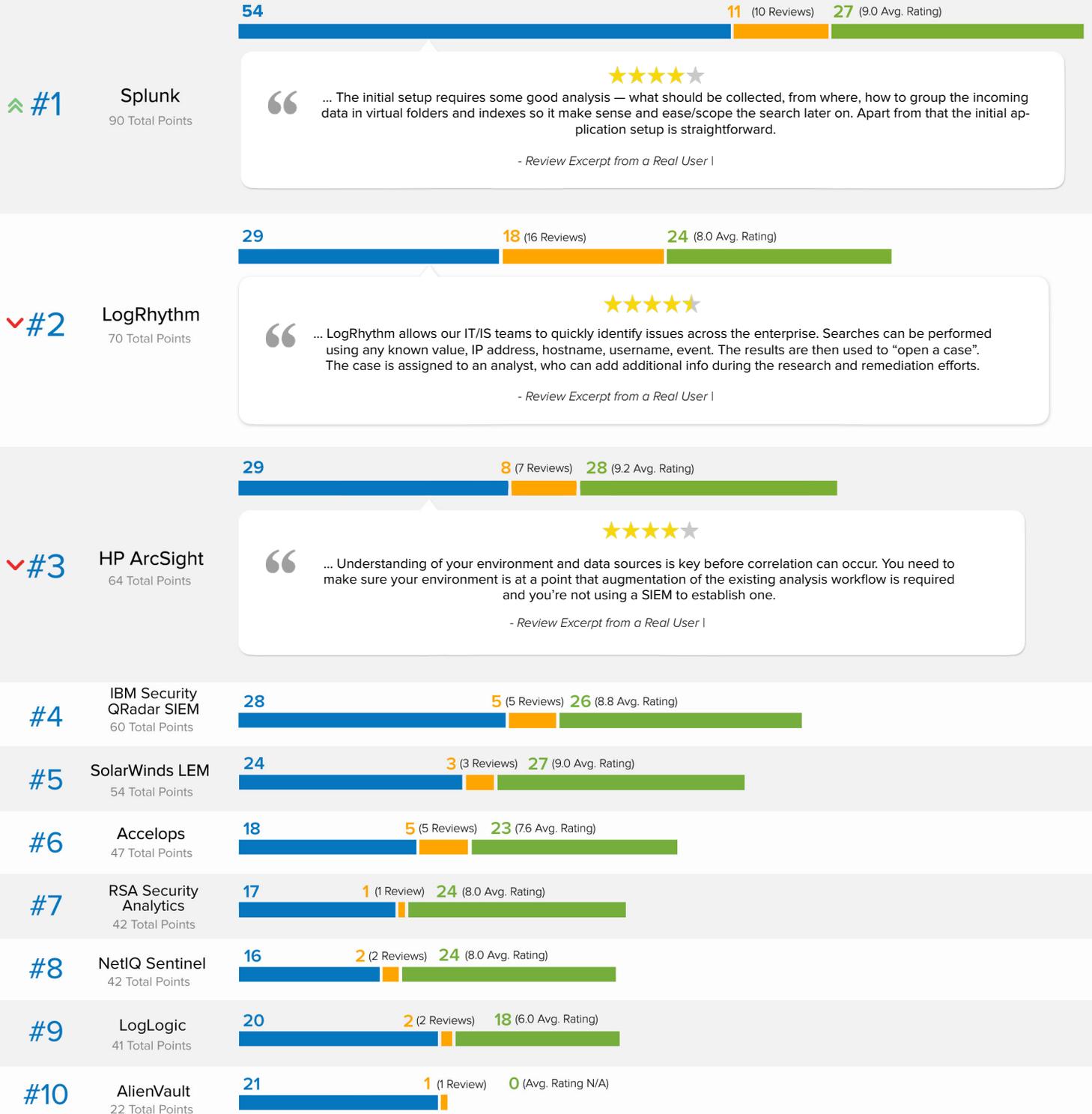
- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

SIEM Top 10 Security Information & Event Management Solutions

Our IT Central Station members had a lot to say about what the most important aspects of Security Information and Event Management were. Most people thought that the ability to combine information from several sources (even unknown ones) and do intelligent queries on that information, was the most important factor. Other features contending for first place among our users include: real-time threat analyzing/intelligence, security related logs and incident reporting capabilities, log/packet/engine analytics, search performance, log parsing (regardless of format or price), costs-benefits balance, and multi-level correlations.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



IAM Top 10 Identity & Access Management Tools

When selecting Identity and Access Management solutions, it's important to examine your organization's requirements including if internal and/or remote access is required. According to IT Central Station users, key aspects of I&A solutions to consider include: multi-platform support, robustness, integration options, stability, automation options, and SDK availability.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

#1 Oracle Identity Manager
75 Total Points

46 7 (11 Reviews) 23 (7.8 Avg. Rating)

★★★★★

“ ... The most valuable features are the attestation of identities and the robust set of identity analytics. Initial setup: as with any Oracle product, it's never straightforward. We knew what goals we needed to achieve but the challenge was having numerous design sessions to cover the possibilities, risks, and impacts in order to achieve those ambitious goals.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

#2 CA Identity Manager
75 Total Points

35 18 (27 Reviews) 23 (7.8 Avg. Rating)

★★★★★

“ ... The most valuable feature is probably the rolebase access granting, so we actually control everyone's access through roles. There are ad hoc accesses, but for the most part by being onboarded as an employee or as contractor, you get a different set of baseline accesses. Those are managed through the Identity Management suite. Those will give you things like email, active directory account, access to our remedy ticketing system, and access to CA PPM.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

#3 IBM Tivoli Access Manager
65 Total Points

34 7 (11 Reviews) 23 (7.8 Avg. Rating)

★★★★★

“ ... Centralized policy management and reverse proxy based architecture makes it very flexible in terms of deployment, adoption and implementation. SSO capabilities over various technologies is another strength of this product.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

#4 IBM Tivoli Identity Manager
58 Total Points

28 7 (11 Reviews) 23 (7.8 Avg. Rating)

#5 SailPoint IdentityIQ
56 Total Points

26 6 (10 Reviews) 22 (7.4 Avg. Rating)

#6 CyberArk Privileged Account Security
55 Total Points

25 1 (2 Review) 29 (9.6 Avg. Rating)

#7 Symantec VIP
48 Total Points

20 2 (3 Reviews) 26 (8.6 Avg. Rating)

#8 CA Privileged Access Manager Server Control
47 Total Points

21 4 (6 Reviews) 23 (7.6 Avg. Rating)

#9 Microsoft Bhold Forefront Identity Manager
46 Total Points

19 5 (8 Review) 22 (7.4 Avg. Rating)

#10 ForgeRock OpenIDM
44 Total Points

17 1 (2 Reviews) 26 (8.6 Avg. Rating)

CI Top 10 Converged Infrastructure Solutions

When selecting a Converged Infrastructure solution for your organization, users recommend looking for a true end to end solution and choosing a vendor who will be able to assist with the migration. Common concerns which should be taken into consideration include flexibility of configuration, scalability and overall cost of the solution.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

Rank	Solution	Total Points	Buyer Intent Index	Reviews	Average Rating
#1	VCE Vblock	78	54	2 (4 Reviews)	24 (8.0 Avg. Rating)
	<p>“ ... Legacy delivery times are usually known for being slow. Buying computing, storage and network components usually takes time as you multiply providers. Vblock products are fully engineered and delivered operational. Over the years, VCE has acquired good experience, and the product lifecycle is now completely under control. ”</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
^ #2	FlexPod	70	27	18 (38 Reviews)	26 (8.6 Avg. Rating)
	<p>“ ... I think that the most valuable feature is the prevalidated design, the reference configuration, as all the integrations have been done, and you don't need to go through a teething phase. ”</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
✓ #3	HP ConvergedSystem 500 for SAP HANA	50	20	1 (2 Reviews)	29 (9.6 Avg. Rating)
	<p>“ ... Upon implementation, we found that its stability, performance, and speed, plus HP's ondemand support, were really important to us. Our organization is relatively new in this space, and we needed a process that involved hand-holding. We also found a scalability in the product of increasing economy, such that as our footprint increases, our cost goes down significantly. ”</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
#4	IBM PureSystems	44	19	1 (2 Reviews)	24 (8.0 Avg. Rating)
✓ #5	Rackspace OpenStack	26	25	0 (1 Review)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
✓ #6	Atlantis HyperScale	21	21	0 (0 Reviews)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
#7	Oracle Exalogic	17	17	0 (1 Review)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
✓ #8	IBM CloudBurst	14	14	0 (0 Reviews)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
^ #9	Pivot3	12	12	0 (0 Reviews)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
#10	Riverbed SteelFusion	6	6	0 (1 Review)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)

EFA Top 10 Enterprise Flash Array Storage Solutions

When selecting an Enterprise Flash Array Storage solution for your organization, it's important to identify the proper technology for your environment. Several of the most common requirements include ease of use, improved data management, performance (IOPS), deduplication algorithms, lower footprint and lower power usage. Additionally, users recommend evaluating the canned reports to determine if they provide sufficient information to manage your data. Furthermore, does the solution include reports which can show the business the efficiency provided by the storage infrastructure.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

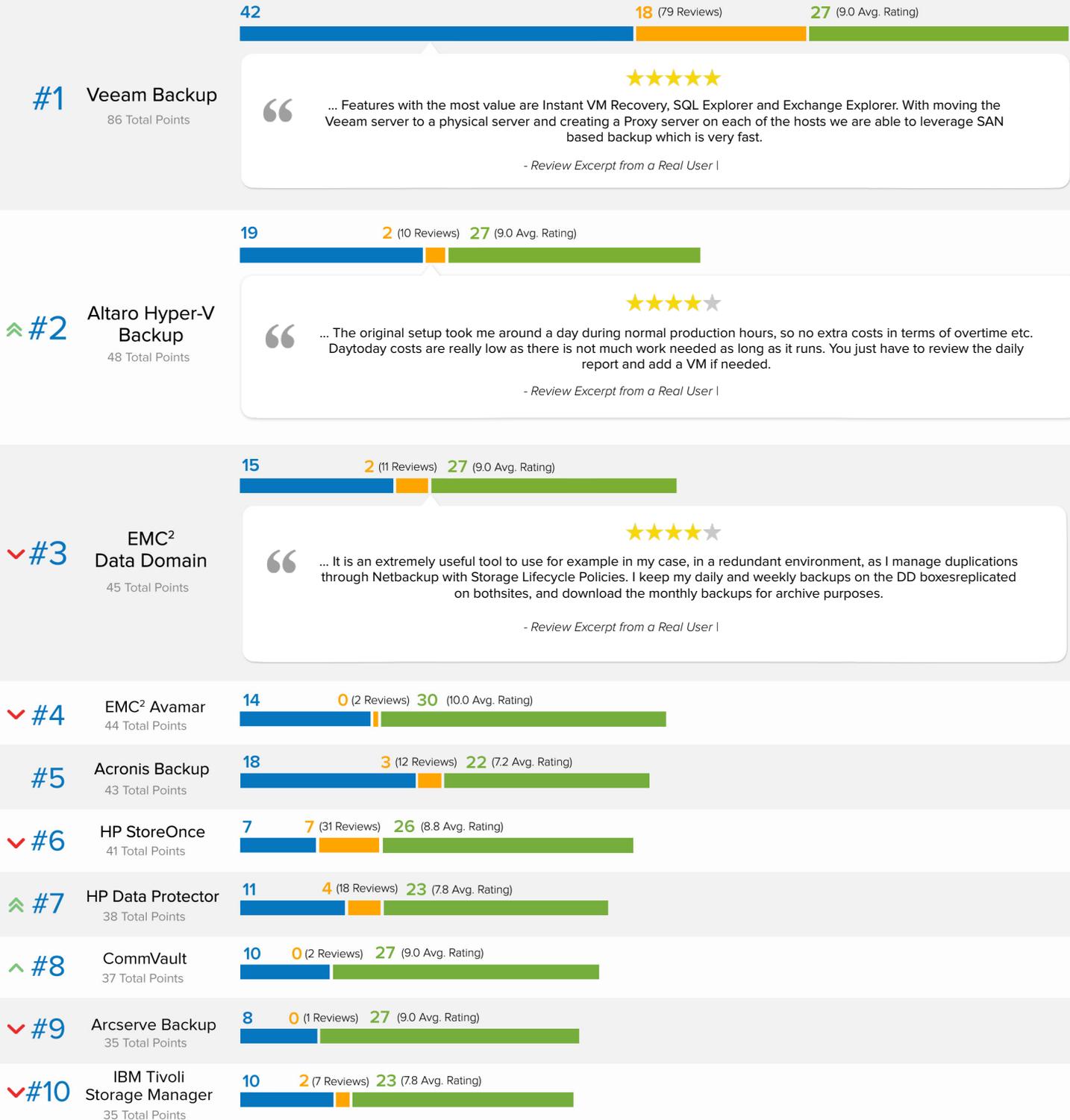
Rank	Solution	Total Points	Buyer Intent Index	Reviews	Average Rating
#1	HP 3PAR Flash Storage	97	54	18 (53 Reviews)	27 (9.0 Avg. Rating)
	<p>★★★★★</p> <p>“ ... One of the things that I really liked about the 3PAR solution is its unified architecture for their entire suite of products. [Other] companies have a very broad spectrum of products, but as you go through their portfolio, the way that they're managed, the way that their team would have to interact with our product, it differs. I feel very comfortable that if I was to choose another product within the 3PAR suite, that my team could get it off and running off the ground very quickly.</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
#2	NetApp All Flash FAS	59	23	10 (31 Reviews)	26 (8.8 Avg. Rating)
	<p>★★★★★</p> <p>“ ... For me it's important that my flash system is a part of the NetApp storage system. [We] can use the same comments, the same tools, the same application integration as they did before. The VDI migration for example, my VDI guy doesn't change anything. That's a really good offer for us because then all the tools we can reuse all the integration. It's just another disk wipe that's there.</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
#3	Tintri VMstore	57	24	4 (13 Reviews)	28 (9.4 Avg. Rating)
	<p>★★★★★</p> <p>“ ... Look at where datacenters and virtualization are going. Many people consider “Software Defined” as simply a buzzword, but the truth is software is driving the datacenter. With Tintri you can save on compute resources by taking advantage of their VM-aware Storage. I honestly stumbled upon Tintri when I was looking into VVOLS with vSphere 6.0 and our NetApp. After lots of research it was apparent that VVOLS is not ready for prime-time and Tintri does A LOT more than what VVOLS can accomplish.</p> <p>- Review Excerpt from a Real User </p>				
#4	Pure Storage	56	27	2 (6 Reviews)	28 (9.2 Avg. Rating)
#5	Nimble Storage	55	25	2 (7 Reviews)	28 (9.2 Avg. Rating)
^ #6	EMC ² VNX	47	20	3 (9 Reviews)	24 (8.0 Avg. Rating)
#7	Kaminario K2	40	15	1 (2 Reviews)	24 (8.0 Avg. Rating)
#8	IBM FlashSystem	40	10	0 (1 Review)	30 (10.0 Avg. Rating)
#9	EMC ² XtremIO Flash Storage	28	26	2 (6 Reviews)	0 (Avg. Rating N/A)
^ #10	NetApp EF-Series All Flash Arrays	26	1	1 (3 Reviews)	24 (8.0 Avg. Rating)

BS Top 10 Backup Solutions

According to the IT Central Station community, the most important criteria for choosing a backup solution include short backup windows, ease-of-recovery, storage consent, and rolebased access management. Other key features include having a high level of recovery options, flexibility to choose storage media based on corporate needs, and the ability to see the average of daily or weekly changes in the data.

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Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating

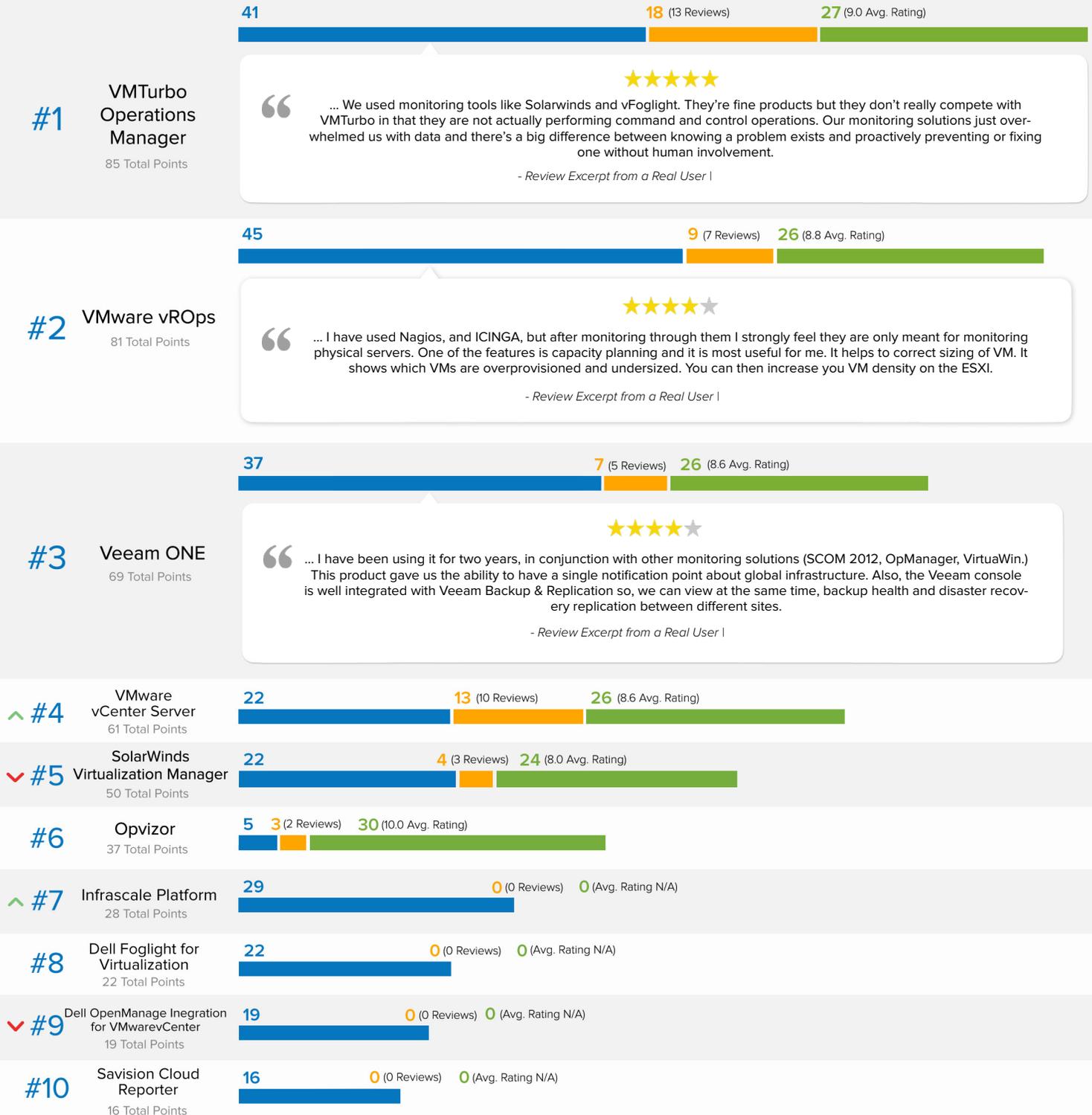


VM Top 10 Virtualization Management Tools

According to the IT Central Station community, the most important buying criteria for Virtualization Management Tools are their scalability and storage support. The right tool should have both mobility and availability to your business infrastructure while also providing ease of use. Furthermore, the ability to monitor and manage network activity and cyber security to detect, alert, respond to, and mitigate problems is of importance.

Access all reviews at

Points Key ■ Buyer Intent Index ■ Reviews ■ Average Rating



★★★★★

“ ... We used monitoring tools like Solarwinds and vFoglight. They're fine products but they don't really compete with VMTurbo in that they are not actually performing command and control operations. Our monitoring solutions just overwhelmed us with data and there's a big difference between knowing a problem exists and proactively preventing or fixing one without human involvement.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★☆

“ ... I have used Nagios, and ICINGA, but after monitoring through them I strongly feel they are only meant for monitoring physical servers. One of the features is capacity planning and it is most useful for me. It helps to correct sizing of VM. It shows which VMs are overprovisioned and undersized. You can then increase you VM density on the ESXI.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |

★★★★☆

“ ... I have been using it for two years, in conjunction with other monitoring solutions (SCOM 2012, OpManager, VirtuaWin.) This product gave us the ability to have a single notification point about global infrastructure. Also, the Veeam console is well integrated with Veeam Backup & Replication so, we can view at the same time, backup health and disaster recovery replication between different sites.

- Review Excerpt from a Real User |