

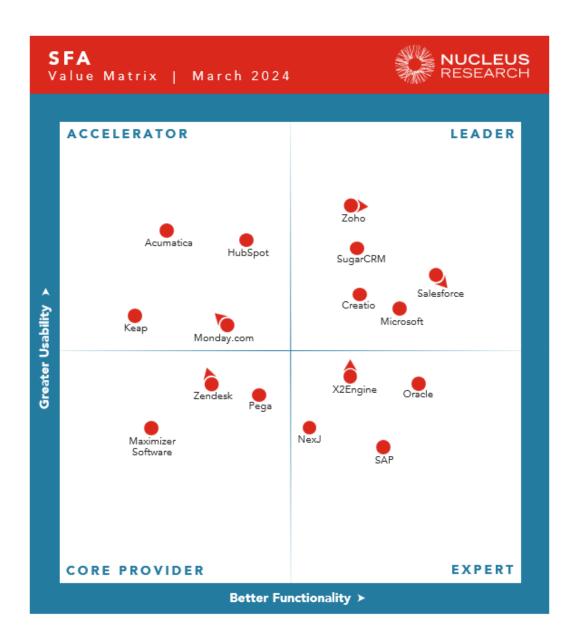


SFA TECHNOLOGY VALUE MATRIX 2024

ANALYST Cameron Marsh

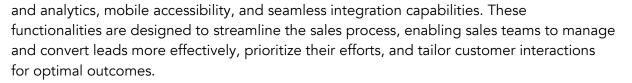
THE BOTTOM LINE

As broader CRM technologies mature, Salesforce Automation (SFA) tools have become increasingly significant in their role of streamlining and enhancing the sales process. Automating tasks such as lead tracking, sales forecasting, order management, and customer interaction tracking are more pronounced than ever, and are designed to help organizations accelerate sales cycles, strengthen customer relationships, and drive sales growth. A key development in SFA is the integration of AI, which has shifted the market's focus from improving agent efficiency to enhancing the effectiveness of sales teams. This involves AIdriven tools that facilitate advanced lead scoring, predictive sales analytics, and tailored customer engagement strategies. Such tools are instrumental in boosting the performance of sales teams while enabling them to close deals with greater precision and effectiveness.



OVERVIEW

In 2024, the reorganization of the CRM Value Matrix into separate matrices for Salesforce Automation (SFA), marketing, and customer service represents a shift to address the complexity and specialization within the CRM space. This division acknowledges the distinct role of SFA in the automation of sales-related tasks. Salesforce Automation technology encompasses essential functionalities critical for the modern salesforce, including lead, contact, and opportunity management, sales forecasting, workflow automation, reporting



The evaluation of SFA vendors focuses on both usability and functionality, emphasizing criteria such as ease of use, customization, integration with existing systems, scalability to accommodate growth, mobile applications, comprehensive analytics without the need for additional add-ons, quality of customer support, and the availability of industry-specific features. Recent advancements in AI have further propelled the significance of SFA technologies. AI-driven tools within SFA solutions are enhancing operational efficiency and strategically augmenting sales teams' effectiveness. These include capabilities for AI-based lead scoring, predictive analytics for sales forecasting, and automated insights for personalized customer engagements. Such innovations enable sales teams to achieve higher conversion rates, foster stronger customer relationships, and drive sales growth.

Another significant development has been the advent of real-time data processing and analysis capabilities within SFA platforms. These enhancements allow for immediate adjustments in sales strategies based on live market trends and customer interactions. In addition, there has been a notable increase in the adoption of natural language processing (NLP) for smarter, more intuitive customer relationship management. NLP enables sales teams to analyze customer communication more effectively, identifying sentiments, queries, and preferences to tailor their approach. Additionally, the emphasis on mobile-first strategies has grown, with SFA providers launching more sophisticated mobile applications to ensure sales professionals have full functionality and access to critical data. These advancements underscore the industry's focus on leveraging technology to streamline sales processes and transform how sales teams engage with prospects and customers.

The Nucleus Research SFA Technology Value Matrix provides an assessment of the market based on how vendors deliver value to customers through the usability and functionality of their solutions (Nucleus Research x222 – *Understanding the Value Matrix*, December 2023). The research is intended to deliver a relevant snapshot of the CPQ technology market, rather than serve as an empirical ranking of the vendors. The arrows indicate each vendor's perceived momentum and are informed through conversations with end users, recently released capabilities, features, and other areas of investment.

LEADERS

Leaders in the Value Matrix include Creatio, Microsoft, Salesforce, SugarCRM, and Zoho.



CREATIO

Creatio continues to solidify its position as a leading cloud-based solution tailored specifically for sales automation. With a firm focus on enhancing sales processes, with its unique ONE Platform, Creatio empowers organizations to achieve maximum efficiency and productivity. The platform's composable architecture remains a strong value proposition, enabling users to seamlessly assemble pre-built components into tailored sales apps or workflows without the need for coding. This approach fosters continuous innovation and customization, allowing companies to adapt swiftly to evolving market demands. In addition, Creatio's commitment to hyper-personalized and automated user experiences ensures that sales teams leverage cutting-edge technologies such as digital process automation and AI, Gen AI, and machine learning capabilities to streamline workflows and boost productivity.

Recent product updates include:

- Quantum 8.1 Release: Introducing a revolutionary Quantum architecture that facilitates the assembly of components, blocks, and apps into end-to-end sales automation solutions without technical skills.
- Composable Apps for Sales: Creatio decomposes its Sales Creatio product into modular components, offering standalone sales-specific applications, such as Customer 360, Lead and Opportunity Management, Order and Contracts, Sales Forecasting, Productivity, and more.
- Creatio Copilot: In March, Creatio introduced its Copilot, a centralized workspace where users can configure and deploy GenAl use cases. For sales professionals, Creatio Copilot acts as a virtual assistant that comprehends natural language, facilitating the efficient completion of tasks. It can generate human-like prompts, suggest necessary actions, create templates, and provide narratives based on visuals and data. Copilot can automate use cases of any complexity, such as content generation, sentiment analysis, opportunity scoring, probability analysis, and more.

MICROSOFT

Microsoft Dynamics 365 continues to excel in the realm of Sales Force Automation (SFA), maintaining its position as a leader in the market. With a comprehensive suite of applications tailored for sales professionals, including Dynamics 365 Sales and Microsoft Viva Sales, the platform enables enhanced visibility into business performance and informed decision-making. Leveraging advanced AI and Power BI capabilities, Dynamics 365 Sales empowers users to capitalize on real-time data, improving customer relationships and streamlining digital sales processes. Despite facing competition from established players



like Salesforce, Microsoft's commitment to innovation and addressing the needs of enterprises and SMEs alike underscores its continued relevance in the SFA landscape.

Recent product updates include:

- Enhanced AI Capabilities: Microsoft Dynamics 365 Sales has introduced cuttingedge generative AI capabilities through its Sales Copilot, facilitating tasks such as email thread summarization, CRM updates, and real-time sales tips. These advancements enable sales teams to work more efficiently and effectively, ultimately accelerating deal progression and shortening the time to close.
- Seamless Integration with Microsoft 365: The latest updates have focused on integrating Dynamics 365 Sales with popular productivity tools like Outlook and Teams mobile apps. This integration not only enhances user experience but also enables sellers to stay productive while on the go, ensuring they have access to critical customer information and actionable insights wherever they are.
- Next-Generation Copilot Capabilities: Dynamics 365 Field Service has introduced the next generation of Copilot capabilities, offering modern experiences, Microsoft 365 integrations, and improved vendor management. These enhancements enable companies to transform their service operations, improving scheduling, performance, and overall customer satisfaction.

SALESFORCE

With Salesforce's Customer 360 platform, businesses can efficiently manage their sales operations, leveraging integrated tools and applications to drive productivity and optimize workflows. The platform's flexibility and customizability remain key features, allowing businesses to adapt to evolving needs and industry requirements seamlessly. Salesforce's commitment to enhancing user experience is evident through its active user community and robust support network, empowering users with valuable resources, insights, and best practices. Recent updates within the past year have focused on optimizing performance and enhancing security measures. Features such as faster account sharing recalculation and enforcement of RFC 7230 validation for REST response headers contribute to improved system efficiency and data integrity. Additionally, advancements in authentication, such as the MFA Auto-Enablement Release Update, prioritize user security by enforcing multi-factor authentication across all Salesforce products. Furthermore, updates like the transition to the Lightning Editor for Email Composers in Email-to-Case demonstrate Salesforce's dedication to delivering a modern and intuitive user experience. These updates reflect Salesforce's ongoing efforts to empower businesses with cutting-edge technology while maintaining a focus on security and usability.



Recent product updates include:

- Implementation of faster account sharing recalculation for improved performance.
- Transition to ICU locale formats for enhanced internationalization and consistency.
- Validation enhancements for Visualforce JavaScript Remoting API to bolster security.
- Introduction of stricter validation for flow URL parameters to ensure secure redirection.

SUGARCRM

SugarCRM continues to evolve its cloud-based platform, Sugar Sell, which equips organizations with a comprehensive suite of sales automation tools tailored to meet the demands of modern sales teams. With a focus on enhancing sales productivity and customer engagement, Sugar Sell introduces powerful new digital self-service capabilities, enabling b2b sellers to efficiently manage customer interactions across digital channels. Sugar Sell also boasts enhanced forecasting and analytics capabilities, enabling users to shorten sales cycles and boost conversion rates with data-driven decision making. These capabilities empower customers to self-serve and connect with brands effortlessly, fostering growth opportunities for businesses. Additionally, Sugar Sell strengthens its position by empowering organizations to leverage AI-driven CRM solutions for strong customer account management and service optimization. In response to the ever-changing sales landscape, SugarCRM collaborates with industry leaders such as Mobileforce and sales-i to deliver integrated solutions that streamline sales operations and provide predictive sales intelligence. The partnership with Mobileforce offers organizations a fully integrated quoteto-cash platform, while the collaboration with sales-i enhances B2B sales performance through advanced customer insights and analytics. Additionally, SugarCRM pioneers the adoption of generative AI to empower sales, marketing, and customer service teams with automated productivity gains and personalized customer experiences.

- Introduction of powerful digital self-service capabilities, enabling seamless customer interactions across digital channels.
- Collaboration with industry partners such as Mobileforce and sales-i to deliver integrated solutions for streamlined sales operations and predictive sales intelligence.
- Pioneering the adoption of generative AI to automate tasks and enhance productivity across sales, marketing, and customer service functions.

 Continual enhancements to the Sugar Enterprise platform, including guided selling, geo-mapping, and integration with Dropbox and Docusign, to empower sales teams and drive revenue growth.

ZOHO

Zoho's SFA solution stands out as a comprehensive tool tailored to optimize sales processes for businesses worldwide. With a robust suite of features, Zoho CRM facilitates seamless salesforce automation, enabling organizations to manage leads, analyze opportunities, and enhance productivity. Through its unified data model and extensive interoperability, Zoho CRM offers a 360-degree view of customers, consolidating vital information across various touchpoints. This approach eliminates silos within organizations, empowering sales teams with contextual insights essential for nurturing customer relationships and driving sales growth. Moreover, Zoho's commitment to continuous improvement is evident in its array of customizable features, automation capabilities, and user-friendly interface, making it a preferred choice for businesses of all sizes across diverse industries.

Recent product updates include:

- Advanced Automation Tools: With innovations like CommandCenter and Cadence Studio, Zoho CRM enhances automation capabilities, streamlining processes and improving follow-up efficiency for sales teams.
- Al Integration: Integration of Al-driven features such as ChatGPT Prompts and Zia's subject line suggestion empowers sales representatives with valuable insights and tools to craft personalized communications, thereby fostering stronger customer engagements.
- Enhanced Customization and Analytics: Updates like Canvas builder and Stage charts provide users with enhanced customization options and deeper analytical insights, empowering them to tailor CRM functionalities to their specific needs and gain valuable business intelligence.
- Interoperability and Integration: Zoho CRM's expanded integration capabilities, such as OAuth login support for email relays and Actions by Zoho Flow, ensure seamless connectivity with third-party applications, enhancing workflow automation and data management processes.

EXPERTS

Experts in the Value Matrix include NexJ, Oracle, SAP, and X2Engine.

NEXJ

NexJ continues to excel in providing tailored Sales Force Automation (SFA) solutions specifically designed for financial service organizations, including wealth management, private banking, and commercial and corporate banking sectors. These solutions are renowned for their high level of customization, ensuring seamless alignment with the unique processes and business models of each organization. With options for deployment both on-premises and through private cloud infrastructure, NexJ offers flexibility to meet diverse client needs. One standout feature of NexJ's SFA platform is its advanced Nudge AI suite, comprising three digital assistants: Inform, Engage, and Insights. Inform aids advisors in establishing personalized communication with clients through targeted content across the customer lifecycle. Engage provides next-best-action recommendations for advisors to ensure compliance while delivering personalized experiences to clients. Insights utilizes natural language processing to extract valuable insights from unstructured text data stored in emails, call reports, and notes, empowering advisors to better understand their clients.

Recent product updates include:

- Integrated Lead Management feature enhancements, offering a seamless experience for managing leads within the Contacts workspace.
- Reporting enhancements, such as the addition of calculated fields and improvements to ad hoc reporting functionality.
- Usability enhancements, including improvements to task management and interaction filter options for predefined reports.
- Technology enhancements, such as loading efficiency improvements and upgrades to automation tools like Selenium.

ORACLE

Oracle's Sales Force Automation (SFA) suite continues to stand out for its robust database technology foundation. The Oracle CX platform remains highly modular, tailored to streamline customer-facing processes with a particular focus on sales functionalities. From lead generation to revenue management, Oracle's suite covers the entire sales lifecycle, ensuring comprehensive support for businesses. Leveraging its extensive repository of customer behavior data, Oracle maintains a prominent position in the market for analytics capabilities, aiding sales teams in making informed decisions. Moreover, recent updates have further fortified Oracle's offerings, with the introduction of cutting-edge AI-powered services like the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) Generative AI service, empowering organizations to automate processes, enhance decision-making, and elevate customer experiences securely.



Recent product updates include:

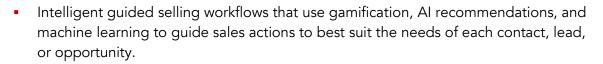
- Generative AI use cases that works on the customer data to generate and automate mundane tasks such as emails, account summary, deal win stories, meeting summary and actions items.
- Sales Orchestration Intelligent guidance removing time consuming guesswork.
- Award winning Redwood user Experience a design that surfaces key data at the perfect moment while facilitating easy user interaction.
- Connected Back Office and Front Office providing a true and complete customer 360 view.
- Data intelligence provides data insights on data shape, size, and discipline to customers

SAP

SAP Sales Cloud is a modern, cloud-native sales automation platform designed to support sales organizations of any size. Through its comprehensive set of tools and capabilities, SAP Sales Cloud helps organizations simplify and optimize buyer engagement. SAP's design approach focuses on natively connected solutions, extended process automation, and embedded insights / artificial intelligence so organizations can easily unite critical sales workstreams with the rest of their organization. Key features include Guided Selling, Relationship and Sentiment Analysis, Generative AI Outreach and Performance Optimization, Digital Sales Acceleration, Intelligent Pipeline and Forecast Management, and Enterprise Analytics; as well as a dedicated mobile app for optimized mobile selling. The solution's focus on improving the buyer and seller experience is evident through the optimized UI and seamless lead-to-cash process that surfaces critical data in real-time. These actionable insights arm sellers with the right data, recommendations, and analytics to make intelligent selling decisions that can proactively address buyer needs before they present themselves or slow the sales process. SAP Sales Cloud is a comprehensive sales automation solution and is part of the SAP CX portfolio of intelligent solutions designed to work together.

Recent product updates include:

 Enhanced artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI capabilities to improve seller performance. Some examples include intelligent lead scoring, generative opportunity highlights and summaries, generative email and call script creation, predictive forecasting, and relationship intelligence.



 New release of the SAP Sales Cloud native mobile app that includes optimized UI workspaces, dramatic performance enhancements, and market leading features like guided selling and generative AI capabilities.

X2ENGINE

X2Engine is a dynamic software company renowned for its innovative suite of enterpriselevel solutions, prominently featuring a highly customizable Sales Force Automation (SFA) platform. The flagship product, X2CRM, stands as a testament to the company's commitment to empowering sales teams with cutting-edge tools and functionalities. By streamlining sales management processes and offering robust automation capabilities, X2CRM enables businesses to enhance productivity and drive revenue growth efficiently. With a unified database architecture, X2Engine facilitates seamless integration across various industry-specific modules, fostering a cohesive ecosystem for optimizing sales operations. Leveraging an integrated workflow, organizations can automate repetitive tasks, thus reallocating resources effectively while ensuring operational excellence.

Recent product updates include:

- X2Engine recently announced the launch of its new X2CRM user interface with Release 9.0, offering a more intuitive and seamless user experience.
- Integration of an in-house alternative to DocuSign, fully embedded within X2CRM for streamlined document management and electronic signatures.
- Introduction of a User Survey app, designed to replace Survey Monkey, for custom survey creation and analysis directly within X2CRM.
- Debut of a comprehensive Project Management application, facilitating efficient project tracking and collaboration.
- Launch of X2 WebBuilder, enabling the creation of custom websites, all seamlessly integrated within the X2 Design Studio for unparalleled customization and brand consistency.

ACCELERATORS

Accelerators in the Value Matrix include Acumatica, HubSpot, Keap, and Monday.com.



ACUMATICA

Acumatica's focus on SFA differentiates it in market, providing a platform that seamlessly integrates SFA features with ERP functionalities. The cloud-based nature of Acumatica allows for unparalleled accessibility, enabling sales teams to operate efficiently from anywhere and at any time. The platform's emphasis on usability ensures that users, regardless of their technological proficiency, can navigate the system effortlessly, fostering innovation and value-added work within organizations. Through recent updates, Acumatica has further enhanced its SFA capabilities by introducing features such as improved business event transparency, optimized approval processes, and enhanced visibility through preview modes, empowering sales teams to streamline operations and drive revenue growth.

Recent product updates include:

- Improved Usability: Acumatica's commitment to usability is evidenced by features like dynamically visible containers on mobile devices and actionable custom field elements, enhancing productivity for users on-the-go.
- Enhanced AI/ML Integration: Leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning, Acumatica has bolstered its platform with intelligent text completion and expanded document recognition capabilities, catering to the diverse needs of businesses operating globally.
- Streamlined Integration: Acumatica's open APIs facilitate rapid integration with external technologies and applications, ensuring seamless connectivity and agility in today's digital economy.

HUBSPOT

HubSpot, a leading cloud-based provider, offers a suite of solutions tailored to streamline sales operations, with a focus on optimizing customer interactions throughout the sales lifecycle. With its highly customizable platform, HubSpot empowers businesses of all sizes to efficiently manage leads, automate processes, and drive revenue growth. Notably, the integration of advanced permissions, robust reporting capabilities, and configure-price-quote functionalities underscores HubSpot's commitment to enhancing enterprise-level automation. Additionally, the Operations Hub introduces innovative features like bidirectional data syncing and AWS Lambda-powered workflows, further optimizing operational efficiency and fostering seamless collaboration between internal teams and customers.

Recent product updates include:

 Operations Hub: This update introduces several enhancements within the Operations Hub, such as Action Sets, Two-way activity sync for more data sync apps, and Custom Code Descriptions. These updates significantly enhance workflow management, automation capabilities, and customization options, catering to businesses seeking efficient operations management and streamlined workflows.

- Embedded Automation in Custom Surveys for CSAT/NPS: This update introduces embedded automation in custom surveys for surveys that contain either a CSAT or an NPS question, enhancing customer satisfaction tracking and analysis for Service Hub Pro+ customers. It represents an advancement in customer feedback management and automation, allowing for more seamless and effective customer satisfaction tracking.
- New HubSpot Embed for Salesforce: The Salesforce integration now offers a new HubSpot embed, providing users with a more comprehensive view of their data within Salesforce. Users can access all timeline insights, contact and company insights, property history, and more directly from Salesforce records, including leads, contacts, accounts, and opportunities. This update signifies a significant improvement in integration capabilities, enhancing data accessibility and usability for users leveraging both HubSpot and Salesforce platforms.

KEAP

Keap's integrated CRM platform offers tailored functionality for sales automation, targeting primarily SMB customers. With a focus on enhancing sales visibility and streamlining processes, Keap offers tools such as InfusionSoft Analytics, which provides daily reporting on key metrics like email deliverability and revenue. Recent updates have further bolstered its capabilities, including the integration of Apple/Google Pay with Stripe for smoother transactions and the introduction of the Playbook Widget, enhancing user experience by providing easy access to tutorials within the product interface. Additionally, bug fixes have addressed various issues, ensuring a more seamless user experience.

- Integration of Apple/Google Pay with Stripe for enhanced payment options.
- Introduction of the Playbook Widget for improved user guidance and onboarding experience.
- Simplification of the email broadcast process, reducing steps and effort required.
- Implementation of lead source attribution in Keap Max, aiding in understanding effective marketing channels.



MONDAY.COM

Monday.com is widely recognized for its flexibility and user-friendly design, making it a viable tool for managing sales pipelines, customer relationships, and collaborative projects. The platform's versatility allows it to be customized extensively to fit various business operations, from small startups to large enterprises. Monday.com's Work OS enables teams to create their workflows using a variety of templates and integration options, facilitating seamless communication and project tracking across departments.

A key strength of Monday.com is its ability to centralize sales and project data, providing a holistic view of business operations and enhancing collaboration between teams. The platform's visual project management tools help teams stay organized and on track with their sales targets and project milestones. Recent developments have been geared towards enhancing automation capabilities, improving reporting and analytics, and bolstering security protocols to protect sensitive data.

Monday.com has introduced several updates to further enrich its platform's functionality and user experience. These include more sophisticated automation recipes that reduce manual tasks and streamline sales processes, advanced analytics features for deeper insights into sales performance and customer engagement, and enhanced security features such as advanced encryption and compliance certifications to ensure data protection.

Recent product updates include:

- Advanced automation recipes to streamline sales and project management processes.
- Improved analytics and reporting features for deeper business insights.
- Enhanced security protocols, including advanced encryption and compliance certifications.
- Expanded integration capabilities with other tools and platforms for a more connected ecosystem.

CORE PROVIDERS

Core Providers in the Value Matrix include Maximizer Software, Pegasystems, and Zendesk.

MAXIMIZER SOFTWARE

Maximizer Software continues to refine its sales-focused solutions tailored for small and midsized businesses, prioritizing user-friendly interfaces and enhanced communication



capabilities. Recent updates have brought significant advances, notably with the introduction of the Interactions feature, which streamlines communication tracking between company representatives and prospects or existing customers. This feature allows for meticulous recording of various interactions, facilitating comprehensive customer relationship management. Additionally, enhancements to the Leads module, including the addition of an Advanced Search feature and bulk lead archiving, contribute to more efficient lead management processes. The user interface has also undergone polishing, ensuring consistency and accessibility across all Maximizer editions.

Recent product updates include:

- Introduction of the Interactions feature, enabling comprehensive tracking of communications and exchanges with customers and prospects.
- Enhancements to the Leads module, including the addition of an Advanced Search feature and bulk lead archiving, streamlining lead management processes.
- UI polishing efforts, with the introduction of new icons in the Administrator module, ensuring consistency in design across all Maximizer editions.
- Accessibility improvements, such as larger icons and bold text, enhancing user experience and inclusivity.

PEGASYSTEMS

Pegasystems offers a comprehensive low-code Sales Force Automation (SFA) platform, centered on streamlining sales operations through automation and AI-powered tools. With a focus on enhancing user productivity and enabling tailored customer experiences, Pega's SFA solution empowers organizations to optimize workflows and deliver consistent messaging in real-time. Recent updates have underscored Pega's commitment to innovation and enterprise readiness, with notable enhancements aimed at revolutionizing user experience, scalability, and security.

- Integration of generative AI capabilities inspired by models like OpenAI's ChatGPT, facilitating natural language prompts for enterprise tasks and application building, thus bolstering user productivity and governance.
- Enhancements to Pega Cloud, including an upgraded Global Operations Center and integration of Kubernetes container orchestration capabilities, ensuring optimal performance, scalability, and reliability for AI-powered decisioning and workflow automation solutions.



- Partnership with Tealium, a leading customer data platform (CDP), enabling connectivity between Pega Customer Decision Hub[™] and Tealium's CDP to optimize customer interactions through first-party behavioral data and AI-powered decisioning.
- Introduction of Pega Process Mining and Pega GenAl, aimed at streamlining process inefficiencies identification, automating workflows, and enhancing developer productivity through generative Al-powered boosters integrated into Pega Infinity '23.

ZENDESK

Zendesk Sell stands out in the SFA landscape with its emphasis on simplicity, usability, and sales automation. Designed to improve productivity for sales teams, Zendesk Sell offers an intuitive interface that minimizes the learning curve and maximizes adoption rates among users. The platform integrates seamlessly with the broader Zendesk customer service ecosystem, enabling businesses to provide a unified customer experience from sales to support. Key features include lead and deal tracking, automated sales processes, and comprehensive mobile apps that ensure sales teams can work effectively from anywhere.

Recent enhancements within Zendesk Sell focus on empowering sales teams with deeper insights and more streamlined workflows. Innovations such as improved lead scoring algorithms help prioritize prospects based on their likelihood to convert, while the integration of AI and machine learning technologies offers predictive sales analytics, enabling teams to make data-driven decisions. Security has also been a major area of focus, with updates aimed at ensuring data privacy and compliance with global regulations. Additionally, new customization options allow businesses to tailor the platform to their specific sales processes and industry needs.

- Enhanced lead scoring algorithms for more accurate prioritization of prospects.
- Integration of AI and machine learning for predictive sales analytics and insights.
- Expanded customization options to align with specific industry and business needs.
- Strengthened security measures and compliance tools to protect customer data.