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## 01 Perspectives

### IT Services and the Rise of Digital Commerce

#### IT Services Focused on CX & Digital Commerce

Many IT Service providers have shifted from solely designing, deploying, and managing their client's IT environments to offering Customer Experience (CX) services through enhancing the customer journey. In an era where Generative AI is accelerating the convergence of commerce, marketing, sales, and customer service, a holistic and adaptive approach to CX is vital. Often at the heart of a holistic approach to CX is the underlying digital commerce platform.

Digital commerce is a rapidly expanding market as B2C and B2B enterprises increasingly rely on online channels to interact with their customers. Digital commerce platforms such as those offered by Shopify, Salesforce Commerce, Adobe Commerce, SAP Commerce Cloud, and BigCommerce allow enterprises to easily design their digital storefronts, manage order systems, process payments, and streamline customer communications. In a recent survey, 45% of businesses reported that they plan to increase spending on digital commerce<sup>(1)</sup>.

Digital commerce platforms often span multiple layers of the customer journey including the CX layer, the Commerce layer, and the Payments layer. These platforms are also cloudbased and integrated with best of breed ERP and CRM software. Lastly, the leading digital commerce platforms offer multiple tools and API integrations with ancillary applications to enhance functionality across these layers. For example, Shopify's App Store is an online marketplace of thousands of third-party integrated apps that customers can leverage to enhance and customize their online stores. These apps range from Klaviyo for email marketing to Spocket for dropshipping.

Digital Commerce Platform				
CX Layer	<ul> <li>Customer Mapping Journey</li> <li>Marketing Management Automation</li> <li>Customer Service</li> <li>Customer Web / Content Communications</li> <li>Quoting Engine Social Media</li> <li>Management</li> <li>Web / Content Management</li> </ul>			
Commerce Layer	<ul> <li>Shopping Cart</li> <li>Site Search</li> <li>Merchandising</li> <li>Configuration and Quoting</li> <li>Catalog Management</li> <li>Recommendations, Upselling, Cross Selling</li> <li>Pricing Order Management (Validation, Life Cycle, Orchestration)</li> </ul>			
Payments Layer	<ul> <li>Payment</li> <li>Processing</li> <li>Point of Sale</li> </ul> • Fraud Prevention			
ERP/Back Office Layer	<ul> <li>Financial</li> <li>Management</li> <li>Product Life-Cycle</li> <li>Management</li> <li>Inventory</li> <li>Management</li> </ul>			
Infrastructure Layer	Cloud Platforms (laaS, PaaS, API Management, Application Performance Management)			



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## 01 Perspectives

## IT Services and the Rise of Digital Commerce (cont'd)

#### Key Players' Market Size and Partner Ecosystem

As digital commerce platforms scale, partner ecosystems play a critical role in driving adoption and innovation across market segments. The digital commerce partner services ecosystem consists of solution providers that deliver end-to-end commerce experiences. These providers often fall into one of the following categories:

#### Technology Partners

- Platform/system integrators
- Independent software vendors
- Payment processors
- Analytics/data partners

# Implementation & Service Partners

- System integrators
- Solution partners
- Digital agencies
- Consulting partners

# Distribution & Sales Partners

- Resellers and distributors
- VARs
- Affiliate partners
- Marketplace partners

#### Specialized Service Partners

- Logistics and fulfillment
- Content and marketing
- Customer support

The strength and volume of partner ecosystems directly ties into the market share that platforms consume. Shopify continues to outpace its commerce peers in building out its robust network of over 3,800 partners. Shopify has gained significant market share over the last several years growing to over 10% of the global market today due to its scalable infrastructure, lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), and ability to effectively serve not only the SMB segment but also larger enterprise segment<sup>(1)</sup>. Lastly, partners often hold certifications across multiple platforms, enabling them to serve a wider range of clients and adapt to shifting market trends.

Commerce Platform	Market Share <sup>(2)</sup>	Partner Ecosystem <sup>(3)</sup>
shopify	10.3%	3,805
salesforce commerce cloud	9.5%	151 <sup>(4)</sup>
Adobe Commerce	8.2%	1,216
SAP Commerce Cloud	7.1%	150
BIGCOMMERCE	3.2%	1,296



## 01 Perspectives

## Digital Commerce M&A and Valuation Trends

#### M&A and Consolidation Across Digital Commerce

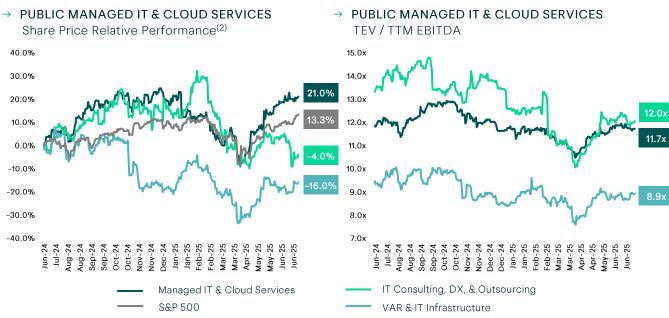
Digital commerce transaction activity in the partner services segment is driven by the consolidation of subscale players in a fragmented market, convergence of digital marketing agencies and digital commerce technology, and IT Service providers moving into digital commerce. Several IT Service firms such as Accenture and Tech Mahindra have expanded their offerings into digital commerce. As an example, Tech Mahindra recently purchased European Shopify partner, *We Make Websites*. Private equity is also circling the market, with firms like Superstep Capital doubling down with two platform investments focused on B2C and B2B digital commerce, CQL and Zaelab, respectively.

Investor / Platform	Platform Focus	Select Add-Ons
superstep capitalCQL	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Various Platforms)	
PERISCOPE eHouse Studio	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Shopify)	POINTER COMMERCE (12)
INVESTMENT PARTNERS  SMCE DISS  DOMAINE	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Shopify)	Code Half Helix
superstep capital Z ZAELAB	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Shopify)	tmg> 🌣 TRELLIS
ICREON	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Salesforce Commerce)	CHANGECX REVOLVE
SUNSTONE DIGITAL	Pure Play Digital Commerce (Salesforce Commerce)	DIGITAL Oe:gen ARIN  nost Digital company  netnomics  not of Digital company  not of Digital company
INTERLOCK A APPLY	CX and Digital Commerce (Big Commerce)	E2X An Apply Digital Company  reign  sisu
DEUTSCHE PRIVATE EQUITY Valantic	DX and Digital Commerce (Various Platforms)	AiOPSGROUP ORIANDA a valentic company  INSPARI SAITONIS VENZO a valentic company a valentic company

#### 02 **Industry Spotlight**

## Managed IT & Cloud Services M&A & Valuation Trends

Managed IT & Cloud Services: Public Market Data<sup>(1)</sup>







#### 03 Q Advisors Profile

### Global Boutique Investment Bank Focused on TMT

- → Founded in 2001 as a Partner-owned and operated boutique investment bank that combines a sector focused approach with depth in experience. We're not just bankers by training, we're also operators, lawyers, and consultants.
- → Proven capabilities in structuring and negotiating M&A and financing transactions for private and public companies

#### Facts & Figures

#### 500+

## 30

#### 20+

Closed approx. 500+ transactions since inception with value over \$24B Team of approx. 30 professionals with offices in Denver and Munich

Approx. 20 – 25 transactions closed per year

#### Sector Expertise











#### Service Offering

#### M&A Advisory

#### Sell and Buy-Side M&A • Equity and Debt

- Divestitures
- Carve-Outs

#### **Private Placements**

- Equity and Debt
   Financings
- Recapitalizations
- Minority Interest

#### Strategic Financial Advisory

- Valuation Analysis
- Strategic Competitive
- Analysis
- · Fairness Opinions

#### Financial Restructuring

- Balance Sheet Reorganization
- Corporate and Operational Analysis



## 03 Q Advisors Profile (cont'd)

## Dedicated Specialists Across the US and Europe

#### Managed IT & Cloud Services Sector Team



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#### Firm Transaction Experience (Select Recent Transactions)



REVELSTOKE CAPITAL PARTNERS

acquired

omega systems

















