

APAC
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Top 10 Artificial Intelligence Consulting/Services Companies - 2019

The evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) from the expert systems in the early eighties to Heuristic analysis, machine learning, and all the way through present-day deep learning have been tremendous. Today, AI is becoming more and more mainstream, and organizations are leveraging it to reduce operational costs, increase efficiency, improve customer experience, and increase revenue. However, to become a true AI-powered company, businesses must fundamentally rethink the ways humans and machines interact within working environments. Business leaders should also consider deploying machine learning (ML) and other cognitive tools systematically across every enterprise operation and core business process to bolster data-driven decision making. As AI tools and techniques standardize rapidly across industries, becoming an AI-powered company will likely be more than a strategy for success—it could be the highest stake to ensure survival.

As an effort to help organizations strengthen their AI capabilities and simultaneously enable growth in the industry, APAC CIO Outlook has compiled a list of top 10 artificial intelligence solution providers along with a list of top 10 artificial intelligence consulting/services companies for the year 2019. The enlisted organizations exhibit extensive knowledge, strategy, and means to delivering solutions and services pertaining to AI. Besides, the magazine also comprises insights from thought leaders in the sector on industry trends, best practices, recent innovations, and their advice for the aspiring CIOs.

We present to you APAC CIO Outlook's "Top 10 Artificial Intelligence Solution Providers – 2019" and "Top 10 Artificial Intelligence Consulting/Services Companies – 2019."

Edge Consulting
 Resolving the AI Talent Shortage

The trend of the hour in the IT sector is to utilize the power of artificial intelligence (AI), a technology that is capable of doing unimaginable things much sooner than expected. Companies in the IT space that can leverage AI will be able to withstand the competition and end up dominating the market over the ones that cannot. Equally important and less understood are the issues revolving around finding the right talent with required capabilities for AI product development and engineering. The census from an IT human resource whitepaper published last year estimates the number of AI engineers to be only 1 percent of the number of IT engineers in Japan. Although IT companies are prepared to pay whatever it takes to develop the best AI/ML projects, there is a fierce battle to hire elite talent. Edge Consulting, a Tokyo-based company, is changing these dynamics by training engineers and data scientists through its educational programs. With a strong track record and vast experience in servicing the Japanese market, the firm provides services for AI implementations, big data, and multivariate analysis and consulting.



Yuta Shimada,
 Director

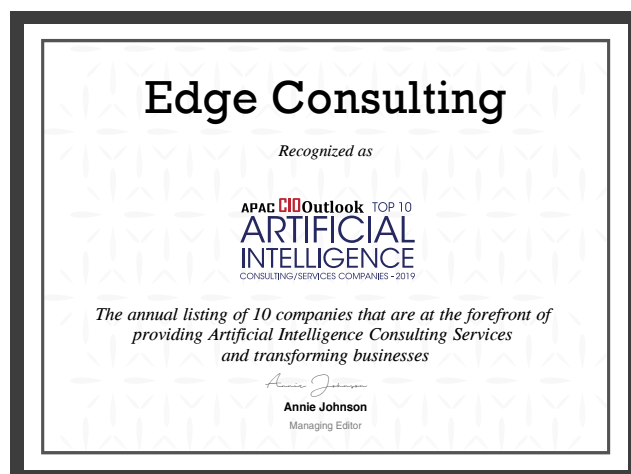
Edge Consulting's goal has always revolved around AI as a result of the founder and CEO, Koji Sumimoto's expertise in machine learning. Under his leadership, Edge Consulting has been assisting businesses to use the most advanced algorithms, such as deep learning to easily automate business processes. Edge Consulting has even developed one of the first AI freelancers' marketplaces in Japan in the form of a matching platform for AI engineers. "We use AI freelancer resources and customize them for our customers. Our approach embodies the national strategies such as Open Innovation, Work Style Reform, and Society 5.0," says Yuta Shimada, director of Edge Consulting. Since 2014, Edge Consulting has been managing this entire network known as Big Data Navi, comprised of over 3000 AI freelance engineers. "We give our consultants the freedom to hear out and evaluate a particular freelancer's technical skillset before assigning them to a project vendor agnostically," adds Shimada.

their services much faster, scaling up the number of models or projects in production.

To mitigate the overwhelming shortage of AI engineers, Edge Consulting has launched a face-to-face AI school in Japan to educate engineers to specialize in AI. This school utilizes machine learning and statistical knowledge, along with Python implementation exercises, to help engineers learn the skills necessary for AI implementation from experienced specialists. The teachers at the AI school are chosen from the Big Data Navi network with assistance from Japan Deep Learning Association (JDLA). The firm's education program is certified by JDLA, Ministry of Economy/Trade and Industry (METI), and Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare.

Edge Consulting has also associated with Yachiyo Engineering & Technology Innovation Laboratory, which is on the mission to realize CivilEngineering2.0, a fusion of civil engineering and digital technology. To achieve the same, Yachiyo was looking forward to deploying a digital twin for space-time, information sharing, and decision-making related to social capital development through open innovation. Edge consulting, with a specialized human network and the Edge Algo Platform that accelerates open innovation, acted as a human resource pool to increase Yachiyo's project productivity, helping them provide value to its customers. Having delivered such capabilities to businesses along with creating opportunities for individuals and corporate to leverage AI, Edge Consulting is at the right place at the right time, ensuring that IT engineers are able to leverage the full potential of this new-age technology. ACO

To further advance data science development in the DevOps area, Edge Consulting has launched its Edge Algo platform, based on the latest state-of-the-art open-source AI components. The company will use this platform to bring new opportunities to the Big Data Navi network of data scientists, giving them access to the latest open-source technologies. Edge Algo helps clients integrate AI with



Company:

Edge Consulting

Key Person:

Yuta Shimada,
 Director

Description:

Supports AI implementation, big data analysis consulting and manages an AI school for engineers and corporate training

Website:

edge-consulting.jp