



As the marketing technology landscape continues to grow and new vendors, services, and solutions providers expand the ability of CMO's to drive growth through the increased performance of their marketing efforts, today's marketers demand a trusted resource to better understand the myriad of terminology associated with increasingly complex tech stacks. Intended to aid this effort, the ANA's Data and Technology Practice has curated a collection of marketing data and technology terminology citing publicly published definitions from industry leading data, MarTech, and AdTech companies and trade organizations including:

- Adobe
- Gartner
- Hubspot
- IAB
- IBM
- Lean Methods Group
- LiveRamp
- The Customer Data Platform Institute
- The Performance Marketing Association

What is MarTech?

MarTech (Marketing Technology) refers to any piece of technology a marketer uses to automate or streamline processes, collect and analyze data, or provide various means of reaching and engaging with existing or potential customers. The full suite of these interconnected tools a company leverages to achieve marketing goals and objectives is known as the MarTech Stack.

This glossary contains over 30 MarTech specific terms such as CDP, DAM, API, CRM, CDN, COS, DMP, IPaaS, and CMS.

These terms are highlighted in green throughout this publication which also contains important data and AdTech terms relative to the MarTech ecosystem and overall MarTech discussion.

The ANA will provide periodic updates to this publication as the MarTech ecosystem continues to evolve and additional technologies are developed and added to this space.

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1st Party Data

1st Party Data is information collected from a business (and its activities), for that business, by that business. This commonly refers to details about audiences or customers, but also covers performance of marketing strategies and advertising campaigns. Some common sources include CRM, website, mobile app, customer feedback, e-commerce platform, etc. 1st Party Data is owned by a brand which has complete control over how it is collected, processed, and used. Information is unique to that business and generally the most accurate type of data.⁶

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2nd Party Data

2nd Party Data is simply somebody else's 1st Party Data. It is procured through a direct transaction and is normally the result of a reciprocal partnership, though not always. In theory, it enables a data exchange benefitting both parties and involves a pre-determined and defined agreement. An example could include a hotel chain and airline sharing information to target audiences with relevant offers.⁶

3rd Party Data

3rd Party Data is information compiled from a variety of sources by an unrelated company, which is then anonymised and packaged into off-the-shelf segments. A 3rd Party Data provider might have relationships with multiple publishers and companies to build a scalable audience of 'in-market automotive shoppers'. This can then be purchased and plugged into either data management platforms or demand-side platforms for use in targeting ads and marketing messages. ⁶

Ad Network

Ad network provides an outsourced sales capability for publishers and a means to aggregate inventory and audiences from numerous sources in a single buying opportunity for media buyers. Ad networks may provide specific technologies to enhance value to both publishers and advertisers, including unique targeting capabilities, creative generation, and optimization. Ad networks' business models and practices may include features that are similar to those offered by ad exchanges.⁹

Ad Server

Ad servers store ads, serve them to publishers and their website visitors, count the clicks and generate reports. There are ad servers for publishers as well as advertisers, though the technology is roughly the same. The reason they have different ad servers is to gain greater control over inventory and reports.⁴

Agency Trading Desk

An Agency Trading Desk is a team within an ad agency that executes online media buying as a managed service. 15

Algorithm

An algorithm is a computing procedure or software code that performs calculations to solve a problem or deliver a business outcome. They are not static, but continually learn over time using live data to drive results. Algorithms exist within demand-side platforms to plan and buy ad spots, where they take into account campaign parameters and bid information, then purchase the most cost efficient and best performing media. They also power things like dynamic creative and landing page customization tools.⁶

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Analytics (Web & Mobile)

Analytics in the context of MarTech refers to the data captured from a brand's owned and operated properties. Analytics tools enable brands to understand how their digital destinations are performing and the way audiences are engaging with them. Web analytics provides information such as the total number of visitors to a web page, performance of specific pages and e-commerce data. The field of mobile analytics includes mobile web and app data, such as interaction with features, navigation and monetisation statistics. Both areas include a vast suite of tools and metrics that provide a detailed picture of overall audience and customer engagement.6

The basic aim of attribution modeling is to figure out which marketing actions or channels contributed most to a certain customer action. It's about using analytics to give credit where credit is due, and knowing how much credit is due. This gives you the data you need to optimize everything from budget allocations to messaging to campaign strategies.4

Application Program Interface (API)

An Application Program Interface (API) can be viewed as the pipes that connect web programs and software systems for the purpose of sharing data. APIs enable digital products and services to send and receive information in a way that makes sense to both platforms. While there are a number of ways to use an API, a common example would be when a marketer wants to have both web and mobile analytics pushed into a data visualization platform for graphical representation. This can be plugged in using an API.6

Attribution Tools

Attribution

Modelina

Attribution Tools refer to technology which helps marketers assign value to each of the touchpoints a brand has with a customer in the lead up to an online purchase or conversion. Attribution models vary in complexity from those that simply look at last click (what was the last thing a consumer engaged with) to more sophisticated multi-touch systems. A good attribution tool will consider exposure to advertising (on the AdTech side), as well as engagement with email marketing and website offers (on the MarTech side), then assign the right amount of influence that each has had on the consumer's purchase decision.6

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) interprets vast reams of data to enable decisions to be made at a scale and pace not possible by humans. It helps fill the gap between the huge amount of information marketers have and the ability to comprehend it. Al is different to traditional computing in that it can not only interpret data, but act on it — by deploying algorithms that learn over time. This can be applied to the world of search engine marketing, digital advertising, e-commerce, marketing forecasting, and other initiatives that need analysis of large volumes of data.6

Brand Safety

Brand safety refers to ensuring an advertiser's creative does not appear alongside objectionable content or anything that might impact the brand negatively, resulting in unsafe, off-brand, or wasted advertising opportunities. Obvious examples include nudity, extremism, and bad language. It also extends to fast food brands not advertising to children and alcohol labels not advertising to people under 18. Most demand-side platforms have inbuilt defenses, but it is critical that advertisers and agencies customize brand safety thresholds and use appropriate technology to safeguard against failure.6

The percentage of ad impressions that were **Click-Through** clicked on as compared to the entire number of Rate (CTR) clicks [CTR% = (clicks \div imps) x 100], ratio of users who click on a specific link to the number of total users who view a page, email, or advertisement. CTR is commonly used to measure the success of an online advertising campaign for a particular website as well as the effectiveness of email campaigns.9 A term used by web-based companies offering Cloud users the ability to access files or services from devices that are connected to the internet (the opposite of storing files or programs on a hard or external drive).9 A distributed computing system hosted and **Cloud Computing** running on remote servers and accessible from anywhere on the internet.14 **Cloud Integration** At its most basic level, cloud integration means bringing multiple cloud environments together, either in a hybrid deployment or as multiple public clouds, so that they can operate as a single, cohesive IT infrastructure for an enterprise.¹²

Cloud-based Technology

Cloud-based technology are products and services hosted on the internet. Most AdTech and MarTech platforms are cloud-based solutions that users log into and execute via web dashboards. This concept has been extended further to represent an aggregate of technology services that enable businesses to outsource digital processes to a single vendor (such as Adobe's Marketing Cloud or Advertising Cloud).⁶

Compiled Data

Data aggregated from publicly available offline sources and partnerships; usually nontransactional offline data.¹¹

Content Delivery Network (CDN)

A large, distributed system of servers deployed in multiple data centers on the internet with the sole purpose of serving content to end-users with high availability and high performance.¹⁰

Content Management System (CMS)

A content management system is a platform used to create, store and manage digital assets. The platforms provide multiple users with access to brand-approved content such as business information and images used in the course of everyday marketing operations. Different permission levels can be set up enabling users to edit, distribute, publish or simply discover content. It includes systems that facilitate collaborative authoring of a website or app, as well as document and digital asset management for version control.⁶

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A COS is basically a CMS (Content Management System), but optimized to deliver customers the most personalized web experience possible.²

Cookies

Content

Optimization

System (COS)

These are the little pieces of data that a website sends through a user's browser to recognize a device for a future visit. They're mostly used to relay information about a user's portrait and previous activity on the site — such as how many items were in their shopping cart. They can also be used to connect the marketing platforms in your tech stack based on matched data sets.⁴

CRM Data (Customer Relationship Management)

CRM data is information collected on the customer or potential customer and managed by the marketer in their customer relationship management system (CRM). It is considered to be 1st party data. It can include offline data, which is customer data from offline activations such as coupon mailers, sales flyers, or loyalty cards; online data, which is customer data from online activities such as website visits, website registration, or online transactions; or personally identifiable information such as email, name, address, phone number, and purchase information.¹¹

Cross-Channel

Technology or media that applies across multiple formats and across multiple devices. This is different from "cross-device", which implies only multi-device application rather than multiple formats within devices.¹⁵

Customer Data Platform (CDP)

A Customer Data Platform is packaged software that creates a persistent, unified customer database that is accessible to other systems. This definition has three critical elements:

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- "packaged software": the CDP is a prebuilt system that is configured to meet the needs of each client. Some technical resources will be required to set up and maintain the CDP, but it does not require the level of technical skill of a typical data warehouse project. This reduces the time, cost, and risk and gives business users more control over the system, even though they may still need some technical assistance.
- "creates a persistent, unified customer database": the CDP creates a comprehensive view of each customer by capturing data from multiple systems, linking information related to the same customer, and storing the information to track behavior over time. The CDP contains personal identifiers used to target marketing messages and track individual-level marketing results.
- "accessible to other systems": data stored in the CDP can be used by other systems for analysis and to manage customer interactions.⁷

Customer Journey Map

A customer journey map is how you visualize your customers' experience with your brand. A customer journey map documents your customers' touch points online and offline and documents how you measure each touchpoints effectiveness. This enables marketers to better understand how customers are interacting with you so that you can optimize the customer journey, remove gaps and roadblocks, in order to increase customer satisfaction, engagement, conversions and upsell opportunities.¹⁶

Data Center

A physical facility that houses a large number of servers and data storage devices. Data centers might belong to a single organization or sell their services to many organizations.¹⁴

Data Cleansing

The process of reviewing and revising data to delete duplicate entries, correct misspelling and

Data Enhancement or Enrichment

Data, typically 3rd party, that is used to add more information to first party data. Examples includes data such as: Industry, Company Size or Annual Sales Volume for B2B markers. For B2C marketers some examples might be Home Ownership, Pres-

A large repository of enterprise-wide data in raw format. Supposedly data lakes make it easy to access enterprise-wide data. However, you really need to know what you are looking for and how to process it and make intelligent use of it.14

Platform (DMP)

Data Management A Data Management Platform is a central system that houses and manages both audience and campaign data. For marketers it can provide a single source of truth that informs both AdTech and MarTech platforms and a unified view of their audience. A good DMP will enable the creation of custom audience segments and facilitate look-alike modelling, where users with similar attributes are grouped together to increase the scale of a segment. These can be used to target relevant advertising creative to specific audiences and/or customize an offer on the website. It is one of the few components in the stack that bridges both

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other errors, add missing data and provide consistency.14

ence of Children, etc.¹¹

Data Lake

marketing and advertising functions.⁶

12 // 2020 ANA MarTech Glossary 2020 ANA MarTech Glossary // 13

14 // 2020 ANA MarTech Glossary

Data Mart	The access layer of a data warehouse used to provide data to users. ¹⁴
Data Matching	Data matching is the process of connecting the anonymized identities assigned to people and devices in one platform and the anonymized identities assigned to people and devices in every other platform. This is what powers people-based marketing. To protect users privacy, comply with regulations, and adhere to industry best practices, offline data needs to be anonymized before it can be matched to online devices or digital IDs. ⁴
Data Onboarding	Data onboarding is the process of transferring offline data to an online environment for marketing needs. Data onboarding is mainly used to connect offline customer records with online users by matching identifying information gathered from offline data sets to retrieve the same customers in an online audience. ¹¹
Data Science	A discipline that incorporates statistics, data visualization, computer programming, data mining, machine learning and database engineering to solve complex problems. ¹⁴

Platform

Data Visualization A Data visualization Platform is software that helps marketers bring together the multitude of data outputs from different systems (e.g. advertising performance, website analytics and offline sales stats) and analyze them into graphical representations that demonstrate patterns, trends and correlations. Most data visualization platforms will easily connect to common MarTech systems through an API (see bridging terms). They also enable businesses to customize dashboards using language that aligns with their internal terminology, making data-driven insights more accessible and relevant.6

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Data Visualization Data visualization is the process of translating data and metrics into charts, graphs and other visual reports. These visualizations let viewers discover patterns and relationships in the data that they otherwise might not see — helping to turn the information into a cohesive story. Data visualization enables organizations and individuals to gain a clearer understanding of their performance and goals.13

Database Management System (DBMS)

Software that collects and provides access to data in a structured format.14

2020 ANA MarTech Glossary // 15

Demand-Side Platform (DSP)

A demand-side platform is software that enables buyers — brands, agencies and ad networks – to purchase advertising spots from ad exchanges and publishers. The role of a DSP is to assess all available inventory, layer in a buyer's requirements around audience targeting, price and campaign objective, and buy spots that meet these parameters at the most cost efficient rate. A DSP can then measure and optimize a campaign in realtime. It's important to understand if a DSP partner owns media or also functions as a supply-side platform, as this can mean it is partial to delivering campaigns across certain websites that it benefits from — rather than focusing on achieving the objectives of the advertiser.⁶

Digital Asset Management (DAM)

Digital Asset Management platforms are used by enterprises to organize, store and share content for business use. This commonly includes images, photos, creative files, audio, video, documents, presentations and more. It is an essential tool for ensuring version control and compliance with brand and regulatory guidelines, particularly when multiple stakeholders are working on projects. DAM software has evolved to support creative approvals and serve as a centralized hub for content distribution across channels including social platforms, the website and other media.6

Discrete Data

Data which is not measured on a continuous scale. Examples are binomial (pass/fail), Counts per unit, Ordinal (small/medium/large) and Nominal (red/ green/blue). Also known as attribute or categorical data.14

Frequency Capping

The limit of how many times a given ad will be shown to a unique cookie during a session or within a specified time period.9

Hadoop

An open source software framework administered by Apache that allows for storage, retrieval and analysis of very large data sets across clusters of computers.14

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

A nationwide regulation that maintains the privacy and security of certain medical information pertaining to an individual.¹¹

Identity Graph

An identity graph, or ID graph, is a database that houses all the known identifiers that correlate with individual customers. 11

Identity Resolution

Identify resolution is the near real-time process of connecting hundreds of identifiers, used by different channels, platforms and devices. It enables marketers — along with supporting agencies, technology platforms, data owners and publishers — to tie them back to the same person in a deterministic, privacy-safe way for peoplebased targeting, measurement and personalization.4

Integration Platform as a Service (iPaaS)

Integration Platform as a Service (iPaaS) is a suite of cloud services enabling development, execution and governance of integration flows connecting any combination of on premises and cloud-based processes, services, applications and data within individual or across multiple organizations.8

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Live Chat

Live chat is a tool usually available through an app or platform that enables your team to directly connect with your visitors. Think targeted instant messaging. Traditionally, live chat tends to skew more toward the sales and services industries, as it connects visitors directly with a member of your team and is best used in places where automation cannot solve for unique questions or situations.¹

Machine Learning

A method of designing systems that can learn, adjust and improve based on the data fed to them. Using predictive and statistical algorithms that are fed to these machines, they learn and continually zero in on "correct" behavior and insights and they keep improving as more data flows through the system.14

Marketing **Automation**

Marketing automation is the concept that underpins the use of MarTech. It encompasses the multitude of platforms that help companies improve engagement with customers and increase efficiency by automating manual tasks and processes.6

Marketing Resource Management (MRM)

Marketing Resource Management helps brands manage the production of content and collateral in a systemic fashion. Closely aligned with CRM and DAM systems (both covered in this section), a good MRM approach helps marketing departments to produce and dispatch assets and manage workflows. A key objective of MRM is effective brand management – most can be set up to templatize the look and feel of content, along with appropriate messages to deliver to customers.6

Marketing Stack

Your marketing stack is essentially all the technology you use to manage your marketing activities. The "stack" is an old technology idea that aims to order things by "layer." Roughly speaking, the marketing stack starts with technology used to store, manage, and analyze your data. This is what's often called "the data layer."

On top of that, you'll usually find technology to execute and optimize and manage campaigns. Your "application layer" includes marketing applications that are increasingly delivered as "SaaS" offerings, as well as media platforms, like Facebook, Google, Twitter, and Yahoo.

To get maximum value from your data and technology investments, you need a "connectivity layer" that connects your data to your applications and media platforms. Connectivity ensures data can be used to drive better experiences and results and also provides the marketing team with the flexibility to add in or swap out applications at will.4

Offline Data

This is data that's collected and stored in 'offline' systems, like CRM platforms, point of sale (POS) systems, email marketing platforms, and contact center applications. Typically, this data is tied to some form of personally identifiable information (PII), such as an email address, name and postal address, or customer ID.4

Omni-Channel Experience

Omni-channel experience is a multi-channel approach to marketing, selling, and serving customers in a way that creates an integrated and cohesive customer experience no matter how or where a customer reaches out.3

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People-Based Marketing

People-Based Marketing is a growing discipline in which marketers target people rather than individual cookies, devices, channels, or browsers. Leveraging real-time behavioral data combined with first party brand data to connect the right people at the right time, with the right message brands can ingest and respond strategically to consumers in real-time across devices and channels, unifying the customer journey, and delivering an omnichannel experience. N/A

Personalisation Engine

Personalisation Engines are software that power a brand's owned and operated channels (website, mobile app, email, etc.) to deliver customized experiences for users based on what is known about them. This data-driven approach can dynamically tailor content including messaging, imagery, and offers based on customer attributes, previous behavior or interests. This service is typically used to drive online retailer and entertainment offerings, and on social media platforms. It is also used to improve customer engagement and conversion, branding, and to increase the time that consumers spend on particular websites. ⁶

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Personally Identifiable Information is data that uniquely identifies a consumer. PII is deterministic — i.e. you know it is the person, as opposed to probabilistic — meaning it is likely to be the person. The data can include full name, address, email address and date of birth, for instance. PII data is mostly collected when consumers sign up for services and share personal profile details. There are strict laws in place about ascertaining, storing and using PII for marketing and advertising purposes.⁶

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Spark (Apache Spark) **Structured Data Tag Management** System **Taxonomy**

Topological

Data Analysis

A fast, in-memory open source data processing engine to efficiently execute streaming, machine learning or SQL workloads that require fast iterative access to datasets. Spark is generally a lot faster than MapReduce. ¹⁴
Data that is organized according to a predetermined structure. 14
A tag is a piece of code that helps track users' online behaviour and engagement with a brand's assets, whether on the website, with a digital ad or with an email. Brands with an extensive digital presence (website, mobile app, social media pages, large digital ad spends etc) commonly have a high volume of digital marketing and advertising tags. A tag management system helps manage these tags and ensures all possible touchpoints with prospects and customers are tracked. Solutions inside tag management can include campaign analytics, audience measurement and conversion tracking tools. ⁶
A way of organizing data into categories and subcategories to enable greater segmentation and filtering. ^{N/A}
Analysis techniques focusing on the theoretical shape of complex data with the intent of identifying clusters and other statistically significance trends that may be present. ¹⁴

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2020 ANA MarTech Glossary // 25

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