

Page: General Information

Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.

Name of Organization/Company

Salesforce, Inc.

Additional Contacts

I do not wish to list additional contacts

Page: Entry Information

Entry Title

Saai Krishnan Udayakumar: Leader in Scalable Access Control & Security Transformation

Category

Q11c. Employee of the Year - Information Technology - Cybersecurity

Employee Nominee Submission Format

Written Answers

a. Briefly describe the nominated non-executive person's employer: the organization's history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required

Founded on March 8, 1999 by former Oracle executive Marc Benioff alongside Parker Harris, Dave Moellenhoff, and Frank Dominguez, Salesforce launched its on-demand CRM prototype in November 1999, pioneering the software-as-a-service model. After raising US \$110 million in its June 2004 IPO (NYSE: CRM), it popularized the “end of software” slogan and — undeterred by the dot-com bust — grew to exceed US \$1 billion in annual revenue by fiscal 2009. Today, it ranks among the Fortune 500 and has evolved into a multi-cloud platform serving tens of thousands of enterprises worldwide.

Salesforce is the leading cloud-native CRM platform built on a unified, metadata-driven architecture that lets organizations pick and extend capabilities as needed. Its core “Clouds” include Sales (lead-to-cash automation), Service (omni-channel support), Marketing (personalized campaigns), Commerce (B2C/B2B storefronts) and Experience (branded portals). Underpinning these are Data Cloud for real-time data unification, Tableau for analytics, and MuleSoft for integrations. AI and automation come via Einstein AI (predictive, generative, low-code) and Agentforce—autonomous AI agents that connect to any data source and execute tasks 24/7. Collaboration and extensibility are amplified through Slack and the AppExchange marketplace of thousands of prebuilt apps.

b. Outline the nominated non-executive employee's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words). Required

Since March 2023, Saai has driven transformative Identity Governance and Administration (IGA) innovations at Salesforce as Lead Member of Technical Staff. He architected and launched enterprise-grade RBAC, Just-In-Time provisioning, and compliance features—streamlining access controls across 50,000+ production assets. He led a seamless legacy data migration into the new Production IGA platform, designed custom connectors for non-standard systems, and co-developed a next-generation SCIM 2.0 connector framework. Currently, he's championing a “day-1 reliance” initiative to compress asset onboarding from months to under 24 hours, while fostering cross-team partnerships and mentoring engineers to cultivate a security-first culture.

Alongside these technical achievements, Saai's expertise is recognized by his election as Fellow of the International Institute of Computer Science Professional Association (IICSPA) and the Soft Computing Research Society (SCRS), as well as Senior Member status in both IEEE and ISA. In parallel, his thought leadership has earned top industry honors—Visionary Cybersecurity Identity Governance & Access Management Expert, Cybersecurity Professional of the Year, and Salesforce's Security Employee Excellence Award—and he has authored multiple IEEE papers on AI-powered cryptography and anomaly detection. A sought-after peer reviewer and program chair at NeurIPS, IEEE, IJCAI, and AAAI, and keynote speaker at ARIIA, ICMR, OWASP Boston, and OCCS GET Series, Saai continues to shape the future of secure, scalable access management.

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c. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other employees or to other workers in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words). Required

Saai's accomplishments stand out in several dimensions—scale, speed, selectivity, and cross-community impact—far exceeding typical benchmarks in identity engineering and cybersecurity:

Unprecedented Scale & Complexity:
Delivering enterprise-grade RBAC and Just-In-Time provisioning across 50,000+ production assets far exceeds the hundreds-to-thousands scale typical in corporate IAM projects, matching the rigor of hyperscale cloud providers.

Elite Professional Recognition:
Election as Fellow of IICSPA and SCRS, Senior Member status in IEEE and ISA, and Full Member status in Sigma Xi—all competitive, peer-validated honors—underscore Saai's standing among the top experts in computing, automation, and scientific research.

Industry-Leading Awards:
Honors such as Visionary Cybersecurity Identity Governance & Access Management Expert, Cybersecurity Professional of the Year, and Salesforce's Security Employee Excellence Award were selected from thousands of global nominees, highlighting the exceptional impact of his innovations.

Publications:
Between 2024 and 2025, Saai authored five IEEE-indexed papers that advance both theory and practice. Authoring multiple IEEE-indexed papers positions Saai among a small cohort of practitioners contributing cutting-edge research to the field.

Peer Reviewing:
Serving as reviewer(50+ papers) and program chair at NeurIPS, IEEE, IJCAI, and AAAI—roles typically held by full-time academics—demonstrates Saai's rare dual influence across both academic and enterprise security communities.

Speaking Engagements:
Presented "Securing Access: Leveraging IGA, JIT & Policy Controls" at OWASP Boston 2025 and spoke on "DevSecOps in CRM" at OCCS GET Series 2025, engaging audiences with real-world case studies and best practices.
These speaking roles underscore Saai's ability to translate complex security and AI concepts into actionable guidance for both technical and executive audiences.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

Webpage Link

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Would you like to add an additional webpage link?

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