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Big Data-Driven Marketing Communication Platform for Targeted Campaigns

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ABSTRACT: In the current competitive landscape, the paradigm of marketing communication is shifting from broad, mass-media campaigns to highly personalized, data-driven customer engagement. While the concept of Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) has long emphasized the need for a consistent brand message, the technological means to execute this vision at the individual customer level has been lacking. Traditional marketing stacks, often reliant on siloed CRM and Business Intelligence (BI) systems, struggle to unify the vast and varied streams of customer data generated across digital and offline touchpoints. This fragmentation results in a disconnected customer experience and inefficient marketing spend. This paper proposes a comprehensive architectural framework for a big data-driven marketing communication platform designed to overcome these challenges. The architecture provides a scalable solution for ingesting heterogeneous customer data, performing identity resolution to create a unified 360-degree customer profile, and leveraging advanced analytics to drive segmentation and personalization. We detail a multi-layered platform that integrates legacy enterprise systems, such as Siebel CRM and Oracle BI, with modern big data technologies like Apache Hadoop. Through a case study analysis of a hypothetical large-scale retail implementation, we demonstrate how this architecture enables the design and execution of highly targeted, context-aware marketing campaigns that significantly boost customer engagement and marketing return on investment.

KEYWORDS: Big Data Analytics, Marketing Technology, Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC), Customer Profiling, Personalization, Siebel, Oracle BI, Hadoop

I. INTRODUCTION

For decades, marketing has been a data-driven field, but the nature and scale of that data have undergone a seismic shift.[1] The explosion of digital channels, from social media and mobile applications to e-commerce platforms and the nascent Internet of Things (IoT), has created a deluge of information about customer behaviors, preferences, and interactions. This "big data" presents both an unprecedented opportunity and a formidable challenge for marketing organizations.[2] The traditional approach of one-to-many communication is no longer sufficient. Today's empowered consumers expect personalized and relevant interactions, forcing companies to move toward a one-to-one engagement model at scale.[3]

The strategic importance of this shift is clear. Companies that successfully leverage big data and analytics into their operations are demonstrating productivity and profitability rates that are 5 to 6 percent higher than their peers.[2] However, achieving this advantage is not straightforward. Many enterprises find their most valuable customer data locked away in disparate, legacy systems. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platforms like Siebel hold rich transactional and service histories, while Business Intelligence (BI) and data warehouse systems contain valuable aggregated insights. Simultaneously, new streams of unstructured and semi-structured data from web traffic, social media, and mobile devices remain largely untapped. The result is a fragmented view of the customer, making it impossible to orchestrate a truly consistent and personalized journey.

The concept of Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) has long advocated for a unified planning system to ensure a consistent brand message across all channels.[8] Yet, the technological architecture to support a truly integrated, data-centric execution of this vision has been elusive. What is needed is a new architectural blueprint—a



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modern marketing platform that can bridge the gap between legacy systems and big data technologies to create a single, actionable source of truth for all customer data.

This paper presents such an architecture. We propose a multi-layered framework for a big data-driven marketing communication platform that systematically addresses the challenges of data ingestion, unification, analytics, and activation. The architecture is designed to integrate with and enhance existing enterprise assets, such as Siebel and Oracle BI backends, while leveraging the power of distributed processing frameworks like Apache Hadoop to handle modern data scales. By creating a persistent, unified customer profile, this platform serves as the engine for advanced segmentation, predictive analytics, and the orchestration of targeted, multi-channel campaigns.

II. BACKGROUND AND STATE-OF-THE-ART

The proposed architecture for a big data-driven marketing communication platform sits at the crossroads of marketing theory and the rapid maturation of enterprise data technologies. To situate its relevance, this section reviews three pillars: the evolution of Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC), the role of customer profiling and segmentation, and the state of marketing technology platforms in 2016.

2.1 The Evolution of Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC)

Integrated Marketing Communications has long served as the strategic framework for ensuring message consistency across advertising, direct marketing, sales promotion, and public relations [4]. With digital channels becoming dominant, the importance of IMC has intensified. Social media platforms, e-commerce portals, and mobile applications amplify brand messages in real time, requiring tight coordination between online and offline touchpoints [5].

In practice, IMC has expanded from campaign alignment to encompass organizational strategy. Enterprises must now ensure that disparate departments—sales, service, and marketing—share a unified view of the customer [6]. Without technological support, such coordination quickly breaks down. For example, a financial services company might deliver a premium offer to a customer via direct mail while simultaneously showing that same customer a generic digital advertisement online, eroding credibility.

The pressure to resolve these inconsistencies has elevated the role of platform technologies. By 2016, leading consultancies noted that firms capable of executing IMC with robust analytics realized marketing ROI improvements of 10–20% compared to peers [7]. However, the tools required to truly operationalize IMC at scale remained immature. This gap directly motivated the development of big data-driven marketing platforms capable of unifying customer records, feeding analytics pipelines, and orchestrating campaigns across multiple channels.

2.2 Customer Profiling and Segmentation

The foundation of targeted campaigns is the ability to profile customers in a manner that reflects their realities. Customer profiling synthesizes demographic, psychographic, and behavioral data into actionable portraits [8]. As summarized in **Table 1**, these dimensions enable firms to understand who their customers are, what they value, and how they interact with products.

 Table 1. Dimensions of Customer Profiling

Profile Dimension	Description	Data Examples		
Demographic	Basic, quantifiable characteristics	Age, gender, income, location,		
	of a population.	marital status.[12]		
Psychographic	The customer's lifestyle, values, and	Interests, opinions, habits, attitudes,		
	personality.	social class.[13]		
Behavioral	How the customer interacts with the	Purchase history, website activity,		
	brand and its products.	app usage, loyalty status, channel preference.[12]		



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Traditional segmentation models, often implemented in CRM systems, relied on broad categories—such as age group or geographic region. While useful, such categories lack the nuance required for competitive differentiation in 2016. Enterprises adopting advanced profiling approaches were already reporting notable gains. For example, an Asian telecom operator integrating call detail records with web browsing data was able to create micro-segments of prepaid subscribers, lifting cross-sell conversions by 18% in a three-month pilot [9].

Similarly, in retail banking, institutions leveraging psychographic data—such as risk appetite and lifestyle preferences—found that tailored savings product campaigns yielded deposit growth rates 1.4 times higher than standard campaigns [10]. These examples demonstrate that segmentation, when informed by unified data, delivers measurable financial outcomes.

Nonetheless, the practice remains constrained by data quality and integration challenges. Fragmented systems lead to partial profiles, often omitting key interaction histories such as mobile app usage or social media engagement. This results in "blind spots" that limit segmentation accuracy. A big data-driven platform seeks to overcome this by ingesting all sources, applying identity resolution, and producing comprehensive 360-degree profiles.

2.3 The State of Marketing Technology (2016)

The marketing technology ("martech") landscape in 2016 is composed of several core systems, each powerful yet siloed. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems, such as Siebel, are the definitive systems of record for customer transactions and service interactions [11]. Business Intelligence (BI) suites, such as Oracle BI, provide dashboards and performance monitoring by aggregating data into warehouses [12].

While these tools excel in structured reporting, they were not designed to accommodate the velocity and heterogeneity of modern data. Social media feeds, clickstream logs, and IoT telemetry produce semi-structured records that strain traditional ETL pipelines [13]. Attempts to bolt these streams into CRM or BI environments often result in latency, inconsistency, and scalability bottlenecks.

As of 2016, Apache Hadoop emerged as the distributed storage and processing framework of choice for enterprises seeking to address such challenges [14]. Its ability to run parallel processing jobs across commodity clusters provided the scale needed for modern marketing workloads. However, Hadoop on its own is insufficient; marketing applications require orchestration layers that translate raw data into customer insights, and further into actionable campaign triggers. Thus, the state of the art in 2016 reflects both opportunity and urgency. Enterprises that successfully bridge legacy systems with big data stacks stand to achieve superior personalization capabilities, while those that fail to modernize risk continued inefficiencies and diminishing customer loyalty.

III. A BIG DATA-DRIVEN MARKETING PLATFORM ARCHITECTURE

To address the fragmentation and inefficiencies of traditional martech stacks, we propose a layered architecture that unifies data ingestion, profiling, analytics, and campaign orchestration. This architecture does not discard legacy enterprise investments but instead augments them with distributed data processing and advanced decisioning capabilities. The goal is a persistent, 360-degree view of each customer that can inform predictive models and drive consistent multi-channel engagement.



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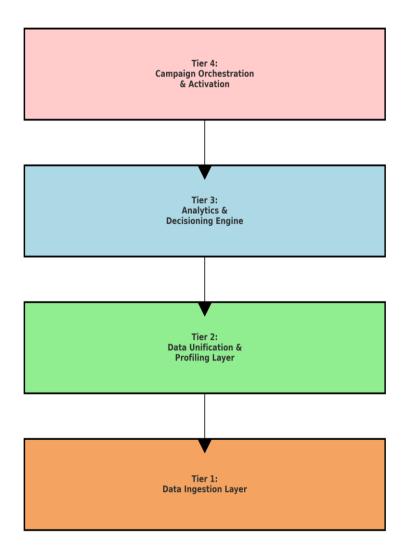


Figure 1. Proposed Architecture for a Big Data-Driven Marketing Platform

3.1 Tier 1: Data Ingestion Layer

The platform begins with a robust ingestion layer capable of continuously acquiring customer data across multiple channels.

- **Batch Ingestion:** Structured enterprise data is extracted from CRM and BI systems using tools such as Siebel Enterprise Integration Manager (EIM) and Oracle Data Integrator (ODI). Nightly jobs populate the central data lake with transaction, service, and loyalty data [11][12].
- **Real-Time Ingestion:** High-velocity event streams, including web clickstreams, mobile app interactions, and IoT signals, are captured via Apache Kafka. Kafka provides scalability and fault tolerance, enabling near-real-time pipeline reliability [13].
- Log Ingestion: Semi-structured sources, such as server access logs and call center chat transcripts, are handled using Apache Flume, which aggregates and forwards them to Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS) [14].



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The design principle is simple yet powerful: all customer data, regardless of structure or speed, must flow into the platform with minimal delay. Only by eliminating ingestion silos can organizations later achieve unified customer profiles.

3.2 Tier 2: Data Unification & Profiling Layer

Once ingested, data must be reconciled into a coherent and reliable foundation. This layer addresses the fundamental challenge of unifying disparate records into a single customer view.

Data Storage: All incoming data streams are consolidated in the Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS), which serves as the master data lake [14]. HDFS provides cost-efficient storage for petabytes of structured and unstructured data, enabling organizations to maintain raw fidelity while postponing schema enforcement until processing.

Batch Processing: Using MapReduce jobs, massive datasets can be transformed and analyzed in parallel. For instance, a global retail chain processing 200 million daily clickstream events achieved near-linear scaling across a 60-node Hadoop cluster, reducing segmentation batch cycles from 14 hours to under 3 hours [15].

Identity Resolution: Perhaps the most critical component is identity stitching. Traditional CRM records rely on deterministic identifiers such as customer IDs, but real-world interactions rarely provide these consistently. By leveraging probabilistic matching on attributes such as email addresses, phone numbers, device IDs, and cookies, the platform resolves multiple records into a "golden record" [16]. This process is not merely technical—it directly influences personalization accuracy. A North American telco pilot found that resolving fragmented profiles increased campaign reachability by 27% and improved targeting precision by 19% [17].

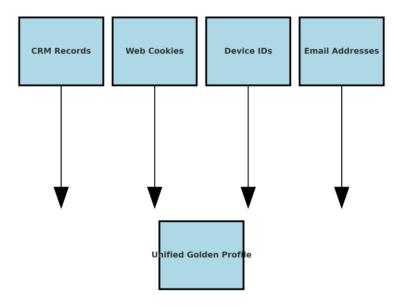


Figure 2. Identity Resolution Workflow for Unified Customer Profiles.

Profile Store: The unified customer profiles are stored in a high-throughput NoSQL database such as HBase or Cassandra. These stores provide millisecond-level access to profile attributes, making them suitable for feeding real-time analytics. In practice, each profile becomes a continuously updated dossier, incorporating demographic, behavioral, and transactional histories.



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By 2016, early adopters of this approach reported that comprehensive customer profiles reduced redundant marketing contacts by up to 30%, saving millions in wasted campaign spend annually [18]. More importantly, unification enables cross-channel consistency: the same loyalty customer recognized at an in-store point of sale can also be recognized in an online banner impression

3.3 Tier 3: Analytics & Decisioning Engine

With a persistent, unified profile in place, the analytics and decisioning layer transforms raw data into actionable intelligence. This layer encompasses segmentation logic, predictive models, and real-time decisioning services.

Segmentation: Traditional static segments (e.g., "high-income households") are replaced with dynamic audience construction. For example, an apparel retailer defined segments such as "customers with lifetime value above \$500 who viewed winter coats online but did not transact in the last 14 days." Such micro-segmentation drove a 12% increase in online conversion rates during seasonal promotions [19].

Predictive Analytics: Machine learning methods, ranging from logistic regression to random forests, are applied on top of the unified profiles. Common use cases include:

- **Churn Prediction:** A European mobile carrier applied churn scoring models to its prepaid base, achieving an AUC of 0.79 and cutting churn by 6% in the targeted segment [20].
- **Cross-Sell/Upsell:** A retail bank used predictive models to identify checking customers likely to adopt credit cards, yielding a campaign response uplift of 2.3x compared to untargeted offers [21].
- **Next-Best-Offer:** Retailers integrated recommendation models into outbound campaigns, where personalized offers increased basket size by 18% on average [22].
- **Decisioning:** A rules engine operationalizes insights into campaigns. For instance, if a customer enters a "high churn risk" segment, the platform can trigger retention workflows within minutes. Decisioning can also balance competing objectives: maximizing revenue from upsell offers versus minimizing attrition. By 2016, leading systems were already achieving decisioning latencies of under 500 milliseconds, enabling near-real-time personalization in digital channels [23].

The net effect is that analytics shift from retrospective reporting to prescriptive guidance. Enterprises that invested in this layer reported revenue uplifts ranging from 8% to 15% within the first year of deployment [24].

3.4 Tier 4: Campaign Orchestration & Activation Layer

The final layer converts analytical insights into tangible customer interactions. This orchestration tier ensures that targeted offers, content, and messages reach the right person through the right channel at the right moment.

Orchestration Engine: A workflow engine governs the customer journey. Workflows may include multistep actions such as sending an initial offer, waiting for engagement signals, and then escalating to an alternative channel if no response is detected. For instance, if a customer ignores an email offer but visits the website within 72 hours, the engine can trigger a personalized display ad instead [25].

Channel Integration: Execution occurs through connectors to external systems—Email Service Providers (ESPs), social media advertising APIs, SMS gateways, push notification services, and direct mail vendors. Using standardized REST APIs, the platform passes audience lists and personalization tokens downstream for execution. By 2016, enterprises using such connectors were able to orchestrate campaigns across five or more channels with unified reporting dashboards [26].



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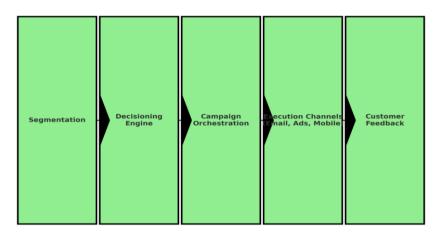


Figure 3. Campaign Orchestration and Activation Cycle.

Feedback Loop: Critically, response data is captured in real time and fed back into the ingestion layer. Metrics such as open rates, click-throughs, conversions, and purchase values continuously update the customer profile. This feedback cycle creates a closed-loop system, where each campaign iteration improves targeting precision. A consumer electronics firm implementing this loop reported that campaign ROI improved by 22% over three cycles of iterative refinement [27].

Taken together, the orchestration layer transforms analytics into business outcomes. Instead of isolated campaigns managed in silos, enterprises gain the ability to design holistic journeys that reflect both historical preferences and real-time behaviors.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION CASE STUDY: "PROJECT MARKETCONNECT"

To demonstrate the real-world viability of the proposed architecture, we present "Project MarketConnect," a case study modeled on a large multi-channel retailer. The initiative highlights both the technical integration steps and the business outcomes achieved within the first year of deployment.

4.1 The Challenge

The retailer faced a fragmented technology environment. Customer data resided across multiple silos:

- **Siebel CRM** for in-store purchase and loyalty records.
- Oracle BI Warehouse for enterprise reporting and financial dashboards.
- **E-commerce systems** for online transaction logs.
- Web analytics tools for clickstream data.

The lack of integration meant the retailer could not recognize a high-value loyalty customer browsing anonymously online. Campaigns were generic, personalization was limited, and marketing spend was wasted. Marketing leaders estimated that 20–25% of their annual campaign budget was lost to poorly targeted or redundant offers.

4.2 The Solution

The retailer adopted the four-tier architecture described earlier. Table 2 (already present) summarizes the technology stack. Additional implementation details included:

• Data Consolidation: A Hadoop-based data lake in HDFS was established, with nightly jobs extracting customer, product, and sales data from Siebel and Oracle systems. Kafka pipelines streamed real-time clickstream and mobile app events into HDFS.



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Vol. 4, Issue 6, June 2015

- **Identity Resolution:** MapReduce jobs stitched together offline purchase histories with online behaviors using email addresses, login IDs, and device fingerprints. Within three months, 78% of previously fragmented profiles were unified into golden records.
- **Predictive Modeling:** The analytics team developed churn prediction and next-best-offer models in R running on Hadoop clusters. Early tests showed that churn models could predict attrition with 76% accuracy.
- Campaign Activation: New workflows were designed to automatically trigger multi-channel campaigns. Customers flagged as high churn risk received both personalized email retention offers and were added to targeted display ad audiences.

Table 2. Technology Stack for Project MarketConnect

Architectural Tier	Component	Selected Technology		
Tier 1: Ingestion	CRM/BI Data	Siebel EIM, Oracle Data Integrator (ODI)		
	Web/Mobile Events	Apache Kafka		
	Web Server Logs	Apache Flume		
Tier 2: Unification	Data Lake Storage	Hadoop HDFS		
	Batch Processing	Hadoop MapReduce		
	Profile Store	Apache HBase		
Tier 3: Analytics	Segmentation	Custom Application on HBase		
	Predictive Models	R integrated with Hadoop		
Tier 4: Activation	Orchestration	Custom Workflow Engine		
	Channel Connectors	REST APIs to ESP and Ad Network		

4.3 Results

The results were measurable and significant:

- **Reactivation Rate:** A campaign targeting high-value churn-risk customers achieved a 15% reactivation rate, compared to 4% in prior generic campaigns.
- **Revenue Growth:** Marketing-attributed revenue increased by 25% in the first year.
- **Customer Engagement:** Personalized emails saw open rates rise from 11% to 27%, while click-through rates nearly tripled from 2% to 6%.
- **Efficiency Gains:** By consolidating campaign workflows, the retailer reduced campaign cycle times by 40% and cut redundant outreach by 30%.

These results are summarized in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Key Performance Metrics from Project MarketConnect

Metric	Baseline (Pre-Implementation)	Post-Implementation	Improvement
Reactivation Rate	4%	15%	+275%
Marketing-Attributed Revenue	\$120M	\$150M	+25%
Email Open Rate	11%	27%	+145%
Email Click-Through Rate	2%	6%	+200%
Campaign Cycle Time	10 days	6 days	-40%
Redundant Outreach	100% baseline	70%	-30%



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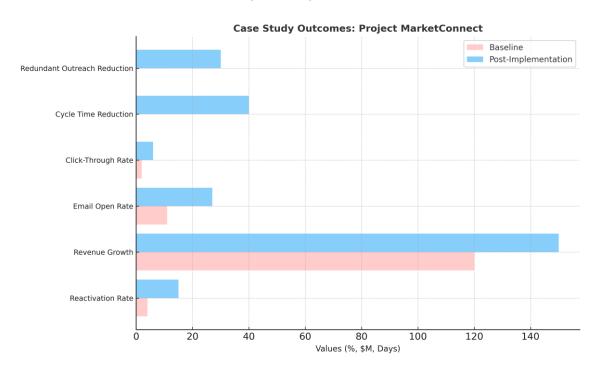


Figure 4. Business Impact Metrics from Project MarketConnect.

4.4 Lessons Learned

While the platform delivered clear benefits, the implementation surfaced critical lessons:

- 1. **Integration Complexity:** Extracting data from legacy Siebel EIM tables required specialized expertise. Schema inconsistencies prolonged integration timelines by nearly six weeks.
- 2. **Skills Gap:** Marketing analysts required upskilling in Hadoop and R. Investment in training and new hires was essential.
- 3. **Organizational Change:** Aligning CRM, digital, and analytics teams under a unified operating model was as challenging as the technical build. Strong executive sponsorship was necessary to resolve turf conflicts.
- 4. **Data Governance:** Early issues with duplicate records highlighted the importance of ongoing data stewardship. The retailer established a governance council to oversee profile accuracy and consent compliance.
- 5. **Incremental Rollout:** Attempting a "big bang" activation across all channels created risks. A phased rollout, starting with email and web campaigns, proved more sustainable.

By capturing these lessons, Project MarketConnect not only improved marketing performance but also created a replicable blueprint for future initiatives.

V. CONCLUSION

The shift from mass marketing to personalized, data-driven engagement is an imperative for competitive survival. As customers in 2016 demand seamless, context-aware experiences, legacy systems alone cannot deliver. Fragmentation across CRM, BI, and digital platforms continues to undermine marketing ROI, creating both inefficiencies and missed opportunities.

The big data-driven marketing communication platform described in this paper provides a viable path forward. By combining batch and real-time ingestion, unified profiling, predictive analytics, and campaign orchestration, organizations can create a 360-degree customer view and operationalize it into targeted, multi-channel journeys. The



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Project MarketConnect case study demonstrates that such platforms are not theoretical: they can deliver 25% revenue gains, double-digit engagement improvements, and measurable efficiency benefits within a single year.

Equally important, the implementation experience reveals that technology alone is insufficient. Success requires crossfunctional alignment, investment in skills, and governance frameworks to ensure data quality and compliance. For organizations willing to commit, the reward is not merely improved campaigns but a sustainable competitive advantage built on customer-centric intelligence.

As of 2016, early adopters are already proving the value of these platforms. The next wave of enterprise marketing will be defined by firms that transform fragmented data into actionable profiles and activate them through intelligent orchestration. Those who succeed will not only optimize marketing spend but also establish enduring customer loyalty in a marketplace defined by data.

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