

No-Code Development

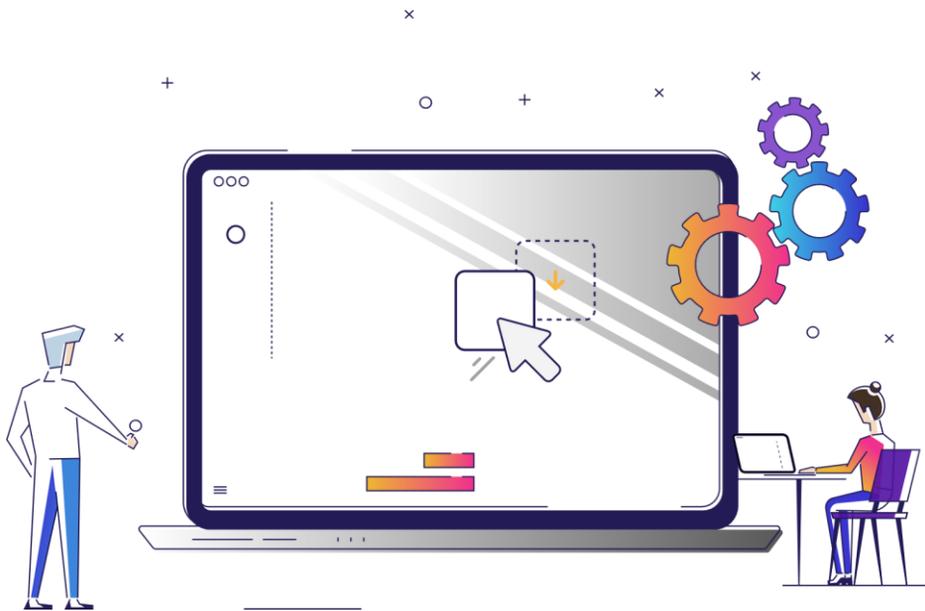


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What is No-Code Development?

You probably don't know how to write code. At the beginning of the 1980s, that meant you couldn't use a computer because early devices didn't really do anything unless you manually typed out commands.

This is no longer true. You don't have to be able to code to scroll through Instagram or Facebook. Computers have become an integral part of our daily lives, from an obscure hobby to something we enjoy every day. If they had to learn programming languages, most people wouldn't have taken the time to learn how to use computers. It probably sounds so obvious that it's not worth saying, but it's a big deal.

On the other hand, organizations have had two options when it comes to new information systems for decades. You could either build the system yourself or hire an outside vendor. This approach is similar to a custom-made suit. It allows for a more tailored fit to your business needs. However, custom tailoring can be costly and take a while to complete. Vendor systems, such as off-the-rack clothes, may not fit as well, but they are usually cheaper and more efficient. These systems can sometimes be configured by companies, but it is often easier for firms to adapt their business to the system than vice versa.

Today, nonetheless, there is an alternative to the traditional code that is growing in popularity. Building software applications and interactive things on the internet, historically, required at least some knowledge of code. That's changing, thanks to the tools that allow anyone to create these interactive things without any coding knowledge. No-Code is a method/approach of developing software that uses visual programming languages that allows you to create functional software solutions without writing a single line of code with just with point-and-click, drag-n-drop features or write business logic with **pseudo-code** (very similar to your everyday Office experience).

No-Code apps, now can be tailored to meet business needs, are easy to implement, and often cost less than in-house development. No-Code approach allows business domain experts to develop the software instead of IT professionals.

This increases the number of people who can build software applications. No-Code mainly is used by non-technical businesspeople (today named as "**citizen developers**"), as it is easier to digitize and automate processes with the current human resources within the company, than hiring and onboarding highly paid software developers.

Recently, the term No-Code is catching on among tech enthusiasts and is slowly breaking into the mainstream. Apps built using No-Code tools are showing up every day which changes the way the internet works.

What is Citizen Developer?

Citizen developers are business users with little to no coding experience, that build software solutions with technology approved by IT.

A citizen developer is a persona (not a title or targeted role) which reports to a business unit or function other than IT. Gartner defines all citizen developers as **Business Technologists** that must be legal employees of an organization.



Ryan

Business domain expert at Transformify

The Need of Citizen Development

The IT perspective

An ever-growing IT backlog is the result of a mature digital business model. Recent research has shown that 77% of IT executives and 71% of business leaders agree that IT teams are overwhelmed with requests for developing IT solutions that in the end are not even being developed.

Tech leaders are under tremendous pressure to improve the IT infrastructure of their organizations due to the inability to develop and deliver new software solution on time. Furthermore, the market has a small pool of software developers, with the unemployment rate for software developers below 1.9%, which puts IT under additional pressure due to a severe shortage of real talent.

The Business perspective

On the other end of the spectrum, business users are using outdated methods such as spreadsheets and desktop databases to solve their problems. The explosion of SaaS has facilitated a lot of uncontrolled development by business users. This has led to a complex network that IT does not have visibility into.

Recent research shows that 78% of the IT and business leaders agree that shadow IT has grown significantly over the last five years. Although shadow IT can be a good thing (yes, it is real), if it isn't controlled it can cause IT to become a technical wild west. IT should instead manage it through citizen development. This way, IT can control the quality and security of all must-have solutions by ensuring that a recognized citizen-development program is in place.

The Company perspective

The lack of innovative applications developed at rapid speed according to the increased market demands, is leading to increased pressure from the competition and more likely losing your competitive advantage. And while you are wasting valuable time into the everlasting and slow development process due to the insufficient and limited human resources in IT, the competition already has MVP or fully functional live applications to offer to their customers.

Why is No-Code movement popular now?

Over the past decade, the tech industry has come under fire for not being inclusive and diverse. Silicon Valley has created a generation of founders that look and talk alike and solve the same problems. The new No-Code movement could make a huge impact on the future of tech. Today, anyone can launch their own product no matter if they don't have access professional developers or capital. The demand for tech democratization has fueled the No-Code movement.

*"We believe that now is the time to **DEMOCRATIZE SOFTWARE and SYSTEM ENGINEERING**. Creating advanced software is a **RIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE**, not just for real engineers" - Ratko Projkovski, CEO of Transformify Inc. (2018)*



What is a No-Code platform?

Platforms that allow businesses to quickly develop software without the need for coding are called No-Code Development Platforms. These cloud-based platforms offer drag-and-drop tools and WYSIWYG editors that allow users to quickly build and design applications. These tools can be used by both developers and non-developers to create applications quickly with custom workflows and functionality. Many of these platforms are targeted at large businesses that require a fast way to design applications based on workflows and business processes on a large scale. These tools include templates for workflow, element libraries, and interface customization that allow you to create fully functional applications without the need for coding.

These products differ from low-code development platforms because they allow for less functionality and customizability. Instead, they offer tools to quickly organize data and processes rather than input unique code. Products in this category will offer no source code access or code modification capabilities.

To qualify for inclusion in the No-Code Development Platforms category, a product must:

- Have user interface builder and visual modeling
- Drag-and-drop elements to assemble applications
- Integrate with databases, web services, or APIs to connect data
- Allow non-developers and non-technical users to build cloud native applications optimized for cloud scale and performance.

Use of No-Code platforms

Regardless of the size, most of the startups or enterprises which adopted a digital transformation strategy (or at least plan in near future) will embrace the latest trends and opt to develop applications or digitize their business processes with No-Code development platforms.

Many No-Code tools are intended for end-users with business domain knowledge rather than traditional IT users. By focusing on them, No-Code tools can speed up the software development lifecycle. These platforms bypass budget, time, and human resource constraints that are traditionally associated with IT development, thus allowing alignment the business strategy with the rapid and efficient development process.

If you add, for example, the option to purchase tried and tested SaaS software solutions as ready-made solutions to common problems, many No-Code development platforms can help many startups and companies to speed up their go-to-market strategy and go live with their business in few days.

The ideal use cases for No-Code platforms include:

Startup business

When you first start a business, everything is very lean. It is not possible to have a large team and unlimited funding. Without investing massively in an idea that may never work, you need a method to establish a minimum viable product. No-Code tools provide a framework for bringing your vision to life and making the most of what you have available.

Proof of Concepts and Prototypes

Even if you are not a startup, there are many businesses that can benefit by proof of concepts and prototypes using No-Code solutions. It doesn't take much to create basic functionality. This allows you to concentrate on the unique aspects and strengths of your project. It's useful to create prototypes in order to validate product-market fit and verify that users really want this type of solution.

Solutions with quick time-to-market

If there's a gap in your market, and you want the opportunity to exploit it before the rest of the competitors, No-Code instruments can give you the boost you need. If you feel confident in your market position, you can look into other development approaches.

Knowledge leverage at all levels across the company

Your company has a wealth of knowledge and skills that you may not be aware of. Business users can share their knowledge and ideas with No-Code tools. They can, for example, optimize workflows and transform business processes digitally based on the time they spend in each role.

Companies with limited developer resources

You may not have a dedicated team of developers if you are not a software company. Custom solutions shouldn't be privilege only to large enterprises. No-Code development lets you create tools that are uniquely aligned to your business goals and needs which likely may offer inclusion of ready-made SaaS solution templates that are easy to provision and use.

Self-sufficiency for business users

It can be irritating to be stuck in a backlog of feature requests. When business users have access to tools that don't require code, they can be more self-sufficient.

Business wanting to empower citizen developers

If non-technical users frequently have great suggestions and ideas for internal tools, you can help them realize these ideas with No-Code solutions.

Benefits of No-Code Development

No-Code platforms have the potential to revolutionize application development. The industry seems to agree that No-Code will close the gap between business needs, IT development and engineering.

To survive in the new era of rapid and agile development, and high-performance applications, No-Code development can be a viable option for individuals, businesses, or organizations.

Below are some key benefits of No-Code platforms:



Expand the Developer Workforce

No-Code development allows you to expand your "developer workforce" and make it easier for people with less technical skills. This means that anyone can create a solution, regardless of their coding skills.

Help your workforce create solutions. Citizen developers can develop technical solutions by themselves and be tailored to your specific business requirements, while IT teams can be engaged in more complex development tasks and real engineering challenges.

Align Business Processes with IT

Businesspeople, managers, as well as other non-technical people can use their years of experience to find technical and scalable solutions that solve the problems they understand, as well turn innovative ideas into development of new software applications on your own terms. This however, without No-Code, is not possible.

Decrease Time to Market

When it comes to enterprise application development, developers often sacrifice function in favor of speed. Consumers expect seamless product experiences and quick delivery in today's highly competitive app market. Developers do everything they can to ensure that their products are available to consumers quickly to meet demand and maintain their competitive edge.

No code provides rich functionality and can turn projects around in half the time it takes if built with traditional or low-code options. Visual interfaces in No-Code bridge the gap between an idea and a workable application. This allows you enterprise to get products to market quicker with fewer headaches.

Govern Shadow IT

Shadow IT are IT projects (like cloud services) that are used, managed outside of, and without the knowledge of, the IT department. This rapid growth of using Shadow IT in companies and organizations can be partly attributed to the high quality of cloud consumer apps such as file sharing apps, collaboration tools, and social media. However, it is also driven by business departments that want to build and deploy enterprise-class SaaS software.

No-Code platforms may represent centralized place where you can put under one roof, govern and control the quality and security of the apps that your employees are utilizing.

Eliminate IT backlog

Complex coding projects can have a negative impact on an organization's bottom line. This is not only because of the cost of hiring IT engineers but also because of the potential for legacy maintenance.

Legacy maintenance can cause significant financial and IT department costs. To modify or fix an engineer's work, you need to dive into the code and perform tedious reverse engineering. Bad documentation and developer quirks can make it even more difficult for you to see what is happening and where. This means that companies are spending a lot of money on developers to maintain the status quo.

The exact opposite happens in a No-Code environment. No-Code development eliminates the need to maintain legacy code. Transformify allows you to create custom applications without the need for coding. You can integrate them with legacy systems so your developers can keep what works and make changes. This allows faster building of apps and lower maintenance costs. IT and business teams can then focus on what is important - creating competitive advantage.

Improved Agility

You can quickly create functional solutions and applications using built-in templates, page and form designers, rule engines, workflows, and many easy-to-use features that No-Code platforms offer. They provide faster development, and deployment of solutions in the cloud, that can easily be customized and tailored for specific business needs.

Reduce costs

Talented developers are expensive. No-Code solutions can help you reduce the cost of hiring skilled employees. You also have shorter deployment time for web solutions if you use No-Code development. Save on development time, and other billable hours.

Higher productivity

It is pointless to be agile if you can't actually produce anything useful or if your teams spend too much time on troubleshooting and debugging. You can create No-Code solutions quickly and with minimal upfront investment. No-Code development allows you to achieve the business goals with fewer people and frees up your workers for more valuable activities.

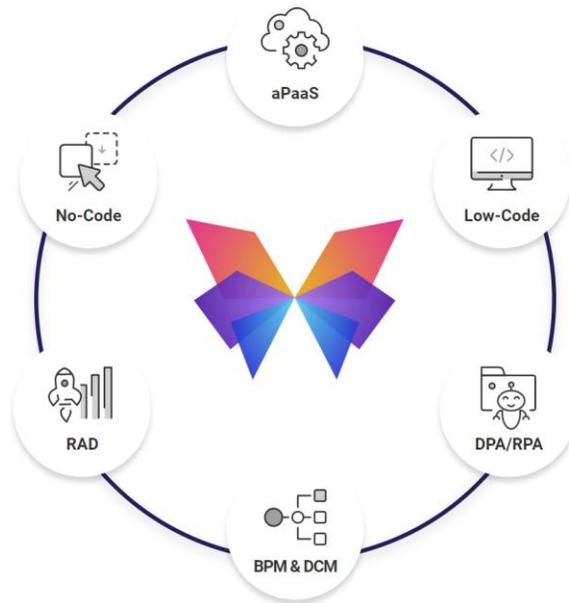
Interoperability

It can be difficult to make changes to a function or feature in traditional coding. This is especially true if you don't know the language your solution was written. Even if you understand the language, bad documentation and developer quirks can make it difficult for you to see what is happening and where. The exact opposite happens in a No-Code environment. You just need to modify a part of the solution that you want to change, and the No-Code backend will take care the rest.

Eliminate silos

Companies grow and so do silos. IT and business are already at odds. By allowing business users to collaborate with professional developers, citizen development and No-Code can help fix this disconnect. If a citizen developer's solution build with No-Code becomes too complex, they can invite a professional development team to assist with building complex parts.

No-Code Development the Transformify Way



Transformify is the best platform for your digital transformation.

Cloud application platform to transforms ideas, dreams and ambitions of millions of entrepreneurs, businesses and governments around the world in advanced Enterprise Grade software and Software-as-a-Service business.

TURN MORE PEOPLE INTO DEVELOPERS

Citizen developers and No-Code technologies are crucial for every successful digital transformation strategy. With No-Code approach in our Transformify platform your business can:

- Decrease the gap levels between ideas and execution
- Empower your employees or your various domain experts to create solutions without writing a single line of real programming code
- Improve allocation and utilization of your IT employees by assigning only professional development or engineering tasks
- Break down team silos by creating unique opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration between true IT and non-IT employees
- Eliminate or decrease your shadow IT (software or systems outside the ownership, control or approval of IT) by providing one central platform

**Ready to start with our No-Code platform?
Request an invite for Transformify private
preview (limited availability) to try out our
amazing all-in-one platform.**

