



Can You Build Functional Applications with No-Code Development?

If you're in Application Development or Support, there seems to be a never-ending stream of requests from the business: Fixing bugs and adding features to existing applications, not to mention requests for brand new applications. As nobody has unlimited budget and staff, there will always be a backlog of valid and useful things that could help the business perform better, that just won't be gotten to.

As the business often really needs a solution to these issues, we see the rise of Shadow-IT, with users cobbling together solutions out of whatever they have access to: Emails, spreadsheets, Google Forms, etc. Proper IT standards and security aren't implemented as the business is creating these "applications" around IT and not with them.

As you won't be getting an unlimited budget and staff, you won't be able to solve the backlog by throwing money and resources at it. What would be ideal is a set of tools that could greatly increase not only the productivity of your existing developers, but also expand the pool of people who can develop applications.

That solution is No-Code development. It allows developers to build functional and secure multi-channel workflow applications in a matter of hours. But perhaps more significantly, it allows tech-savvy line of business people to create their own applications, relieving the demand on IT.

No-Code Development

A No-Code Development Platform is an environment that replaces lines of code with drag, drop and configure tools. Much like Wix and Wordpress hide the HTML, CSS and JavaScript they actually create behind page templates, widgets and themes, a No-Code platform hides the development behind forms, form widgets and a theme.

Perhaps you're thinking that this sounds a bit far fetched. Surely applications are all too unique and often too complex to be made with drag and drop simplicity: Well, some applications are too unique and complex. But, if you think about most business process applications, the ones we deal with everyday at work, they are made from similar blocks: Some forms to take in information, with different types of fields on them, a workflow to get them approved, a way to view or find the information that's already in the application, and security to make sure people can only see and do what they are supposed to. It's these repeating patterns that allow No-Code to solve real world business process issues.

No-Code Delivers Benefits by Changing the Game

No-Code development has many benefits, some of the most important ones being:

Faster Development at a Lower Cost

Just like it's much faster to build a model castle from building bricks than it is to custom build one from wood, it's much faster to build applications on a No-Code platform. Also, a No-Code platform doesn't require the allocation of expensive developers and a project manager. Studies show that you can reduce development time by up to 80% with No-Code development.

More Solutions become Viable

Many proposed business application don't have the return required to justify the cost of traditional development. No-Code development changes the cost basis so much, that many of those unjustifiable applications now become solid business decisions.

Replace Shadow-IT with Business-IT

No-Code gives you the capability to reign in Shadow-IT by giving the business users who are creating these solutions a properly controlled and approved environment in which to build their applications. The business users get the flexibility and access they get from Shadow-IT, but "Real-IT" now has it contained in approved platform with security, centralized management and audit controls. We now have Business-IT instead of Shadow-IT.

Free up Talented Developers to Use their Talents

Your developers won't have to spend so much of their time and talents creating relatively cookie-cutter applications. Instead they can be leveraged to create innovative and forward driving applications that can help transform the core business processes of the organization. Business-IT can take care of many of the common applications themselves, or with only minor support.

Update Applications at the Speed of Business

Change is the only constant, and applications can quickly become outdated as business needs evolve. Making even minor functional changes to an existing application is complex and time consuming in traditional development. A No-Code platform makes such changes quick and simple, allowing for a much faster response to changing business needs.

Does it really work?

Low-Code and No-Code platforms have been around for a while now, but have really started to take off in the last year or so. According to Forrester the 2019 market is expected to be \$7 Billion, and by 2022 it is expected to be \$22 Billion. This predicted growth is due to the real-world benefits that Low-Code and No-Code platforms can bring to all kinds of organizations.

All the major IT publications and research firms have all come to similar conclusions: If you aren't incorporating Low-Code or No-Code development in your portfolio, you will be at a competitive disadvantage as those that do will be more efficient and effective. More recently, as the capability and awareness of No-Code platforms have risen, many are convinced that they will be far more transformative than their Low-Code cousins.