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Understanding Low-Code:

The Secret Sauce for a Sustainable Digital Transformation

Digital Transformation:

The Realistic Continuum

1.1
Understanding Digital Transformation

Digital transformation means more than simply integrating digital technologies into a company's operations. Rather than functioning as a collection of siloed tools, a prudent digital transformation program could help you maintain a centralized approach to build a bunch of powerful applications by integrating into all levels of your company thus empowering your teams to work collaboratively.

Identification of business opportunities, personalization of customer experiences, streamlining of workflows and procedures, adoption of data-driven practices, and exploration of future technologies are some of the imperative reasons to undertake digital transformation. In most cases, a digital transformation demands that an organization:

- **Creates new business apps, integrations, and advanced analytics**

- **Adopts cloud**

- **Creates customer-facing mobile apps**

- **Automates operational workflows**

In recent times, IT teams have started adopting microservice designs, public cloud deployments, and DevOps automation to meet customer and business demands. Nevertheless, traditional software development cannot keep up with the speed and scope of digital transformation needs, and most businesses grapple with a lack of adequate personnel and skills necessary to develop and maintain these efforts. To meet these objectives, organizations are shifting towards low-code and no-code development technologies.

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1.2
Top Three Reasons to Care About Digital Transformation in an Enterprise World

There are several reasons why digital transformation is becoming an inevitable journey in every organization. Our needs and requirements for businesses change as the world gets more connected and digitally aware. Here are some of the important goals of digital transformation:

1
Enhance the quality of customer service

Implementing advanced technology and techniques can improve both internal security - in terms of data management, and customer engagement - in terms of services offered by your company. Customers benefit from greater efficiency in their interactions with businesses as well.

2
Improve internal collaboration

Company and employee portals are a good illustration of how you can automate process, decision making and enhance data management procedures. Encouraging teams to adapt to self-serve models provides more space for ownership and saves ample time for your admins from performing manual data entry tasks.

3
Boost operational efficiency

Improved operations provide efficiency as a byproduct. Workflows and user-friendly apps may allow employees spend less time on routine activities, thus focusing on new ideas and breakthroughs. When internal processes and systems are simplified and bring transparency to business operations, organizations begin to reap significant value.

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The secret sauce to a sustainable digital transformation is

adopting scalable solutions that align with your business's goals and requirements

The Fastlane to Digital Transformation:
Low-Code Development

2.1
Low-code Development - A Short Definition

Low-code development platforms are software applications that need only a fair amount of coding experience. Unlike traditional backend computer programming, low-code development platforms use a more visual approach by providing pre-designed templates and a user-friendly drag-and-drop interface for developing and modifying applications. Citizen and professional developers can add custom code and components to enhance the overall application and the building experience.

Remember, it's not just about one department or one process when it comes to automating enterprise-level business operations. Rather, it's about optimizing processes across different departments from end to end and delivering solutions in an agile manner . It's important to remember that this is never a one-off thing. Even when everything looks automated and optimized superficially, the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of business processes could pose potential challenges.

2.2
Considering a Different Approach to Digital Transformation: Low-Code Development

Organizations may utilize low-code/ no-code development approaches to quickly build, deploy, and maintain customizable apps while also improving user experiences. When compared to traditional software development languages and tools, low-code attempts to help professionals — application developers, engineers, business analysts, data scientists, and system administrators — improve their efficiency and hence productivity using its extensive, ready-to-use visual modeling, templates and features with minimal coding. For instance, a drag-and-drop interface can be used typically by citizen developers to create user interface, process, integration, or data visualization. On the other hand, IT/tech teams can expand the framework using core JavaScript, or via custom scripting and meta-language abilities that manage personalization, extension and administration which are examples of coding models that drive this experience.

Not only must you create smooth, consumer-grade digital solutions to replace error-prone manual procedures

or outdated databases, but you must also design them to be adaptable as your organization grows

At first, the effect of low-code development on an enterprise might sound easy, such as creating applications to replace worksheets and email collaborations. But imagine carrying out such basic yet imperative tasks on a day to day basis by your business teams wherein,

- **A field operations staff needs to schedule fulfillment processes**
- **The marketing department needs to link customer data to specific digital marketing platforms**
- **Your partner-facing internal group wants to create a PWA application that can be supported on a budget**

Other strategic examples include building apps that connect to ERP, CRM, HR, and IT systems to minimize the need for data entry in various systems and turn the process automation needs to reality.

However, some of the most essential low-code and no-code apps are periodic in nature. COVID-based apps are a good example. However, in the case of non-periodic/regular apps, it is important to demonstrate the necessity of improving it repeatedly based on customer feedback. People begin to use them, then return requests to developers to alter the graphs, add additional data components, sorting features, and more. It's only the digital revolution using low-code and no-code that can precisely necessitate this kind of rapid delivery and improvements.

The Benefits of Low-Code Development

Democratising IT		Speedy time to deployment	
Greater agility		Value for money	
Building intuitive user interface		Seamless API generation	

Democratising IT

Low-code is simple to grasp and may be utilized throughout the organization without depending on expert developers, allowing people to design their automated procedures to help them with their work.

Speedy time to development

Custom components, deployment style, organization size, geography, and business - are all segments of the low-code development platform market. With the expanding demand for business applications in the IT industry on a worldwide scale, agile application development is critical to ensuring customer satisfaction and facilitating rapid digitization.

Greater Agility

Creating and straightforwardly editing processes enables you to make quick modifications without having to worry about getting your hands on complicated code. This also allows you to stay on top of regulatory changes, market developments, client demands and greater agility needed to address the business demands.

Value for money

Low-code automation systems are capable of meeting the most difficult corporate requirements. Top applications are most likely to be operated on low-code by companies with the lowest tolerance for downtime and data loss, as well as the highest requirements for ongoing audits and independent security certification. Their support for low-code solutions demonstrates that enterprise-ready low-code solutions are currently on the market.

Building intuitive user interfaces

Building a user interface can be more difficult than developing an actual program since user interfaces must generally operate across several devices and platforms, including PCs, mobile devices, and the web. (Operating systems are also important; an interface for one OS requires a set of libraries or toolkits that aren't accessible on other OSes). Low-code can create interface code for an application's user interface that can be easily updated when user preferences change.

Seamless API generation

Manually generating an API is time-consuming, especially for legacy applications and systems that weren't meant to do so. Low-code API generators can help create APIs from scratch using existing application code.

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By 2024, Gartner predicts that 75% of major companies will be employing at least four low-code development tools

rather than just one. The idea of low-code development is quickly gaining acceptance in almost every sector.
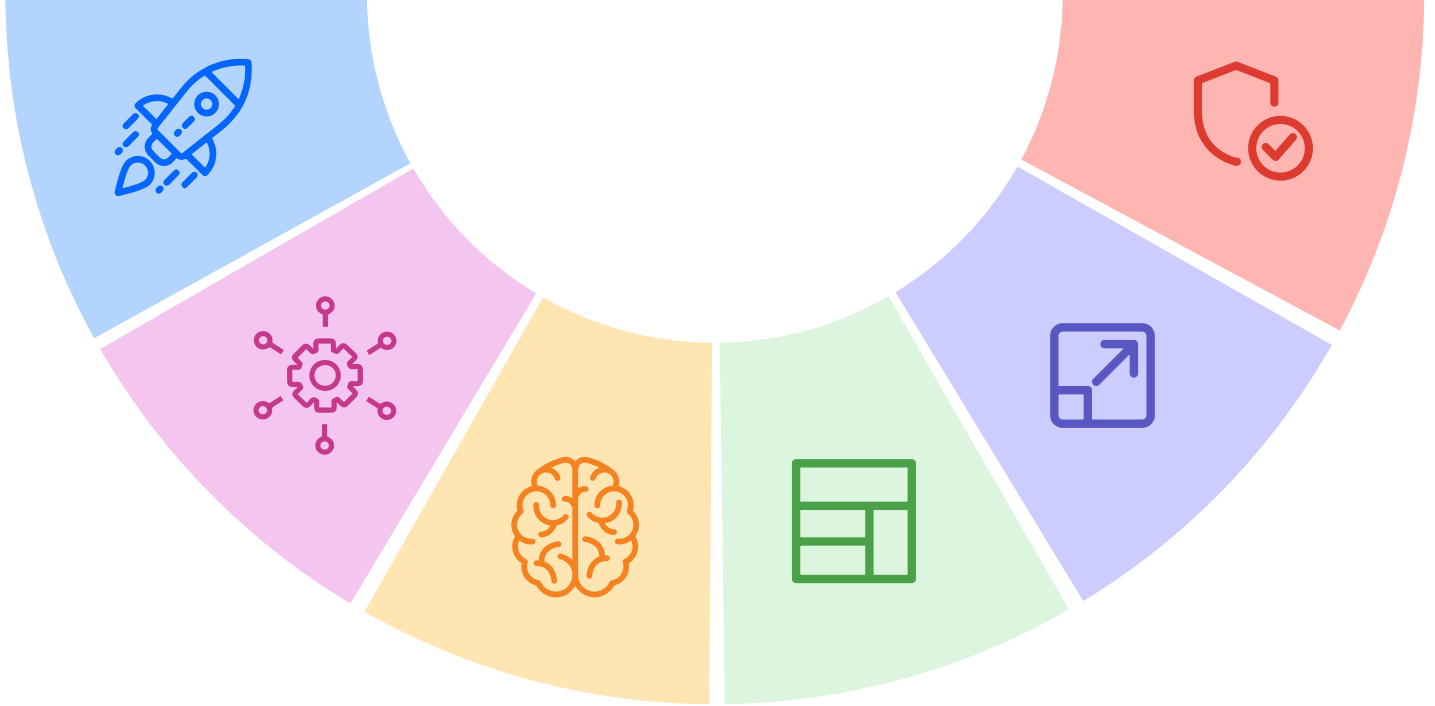
2.4
Heads Up - The Reality of Low-code Development

In the last few years, there has been a huge uptick in the low-code landscape. Hence, this might present a lot of technology leaders with challenges in identifying the right low-code platform for your business.

Regardless of available resources, the low-code technology that you are looking for should enable your enterprise to overcome developer scarcity and leverage the potential of intelligent automation.

Remember, if you have a low-code platform in place already and you're paying for features you don't need, ask the provider if they want to cut the price in exchange for removing those features. The key to success will ultimately be choosing the right platform and following through with a well-thought-out strategy.

But fret not. That's why we have put together a short evaluation guide that can come in handy when you are looking to evaluate a low-code development platform.

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6 Things to Look for in a Low-Code Development Platform

Quick time to market		Seamless integration	
Ability to self-serve		Prebuilt templates	
Scalability		Compliance and security	

Quick time-to-market

One of the fundamental advantages of low-code is its simplicity. The objective should be to have advanced automation up and operating as rapidly as feasible, with a minimal learning curve. If a platform appears too complicated or perplexing, it's generally not worth every penny.

Seamless integration

Low-code should be used to augment and improve your current infrastructure. It must not be a silo. As a result, you should look for a platform that integrates easily with various products and platforms. You'll be able to coordinate complicated workflows involving many systems, as well as automate cleanup using AI-powered tools.

Ability to self-serve

Low-code platforms that assist bridging the knowledge gap by making application development accessible to people of all skill levels such as citizen developers, and also free up the IT staff by empowering end-users to handle IT requests without the need for the service office's involvement win hands down.

Prebuilt templates

Once again, the key here is the simplicity of use. While you may want to leverage automation to develop bespoke apps for your company, there's no need to start from scratch. The more pre-built, ready-to-use templates there are, the better. It will help with faster implementation and hence return on investment.

Scalability

Growth is usually listed as a long-term aim for most businesses. There's no sense in investing in a platform if it can't accommodate your demands as your business grows. Look for a system that can easily manage many business use cases, verticals, occurrences, and activities on demand, even if you aren't quite there yet.

Compliance and security

Examine the platform to see if it adheres to the Global Compliance Assurances Standards, as well as SPC and ISO certifications. Security should be a top priority for your platform. Besides having robust security and governance features, make sure that it has also implemented an ISO/IEC 27001-compliant information security management system (ISMS).

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