kissflow

Understanding No-Code

The Fast Lane to Rapid Application Delivery for Stellar IT Teams

Can Teams Really Build Apps Without Coding?

In today's fast-paced world, it is imperative to catalyze the process of application development and hence make it as simple as possible. Regardless of your technical skills, you need to be able to create a fully functional app that gives your team what it needs.

When you think of the essential software applications that a business or department needs, you normally start with basic office productivity tools like email, spreadsheets, word processing, and more. Most businesses strive to keep using these low-cost technologies for as long as possible, thus turning business processes cumbersome and long drawn out.

There's a reason why we need dedicated business apps.

However, you soon discover that a static database in Excel won't ever suffice your enterprise-level needs. Eventually, you will need something that can migrate, process, and manage data on its own. That is exactly what dedicated business applications do and in an automated fashion. They allow you to transform your business by automating processes and bringing in a multitude of essential features and functionalities inside a single application.
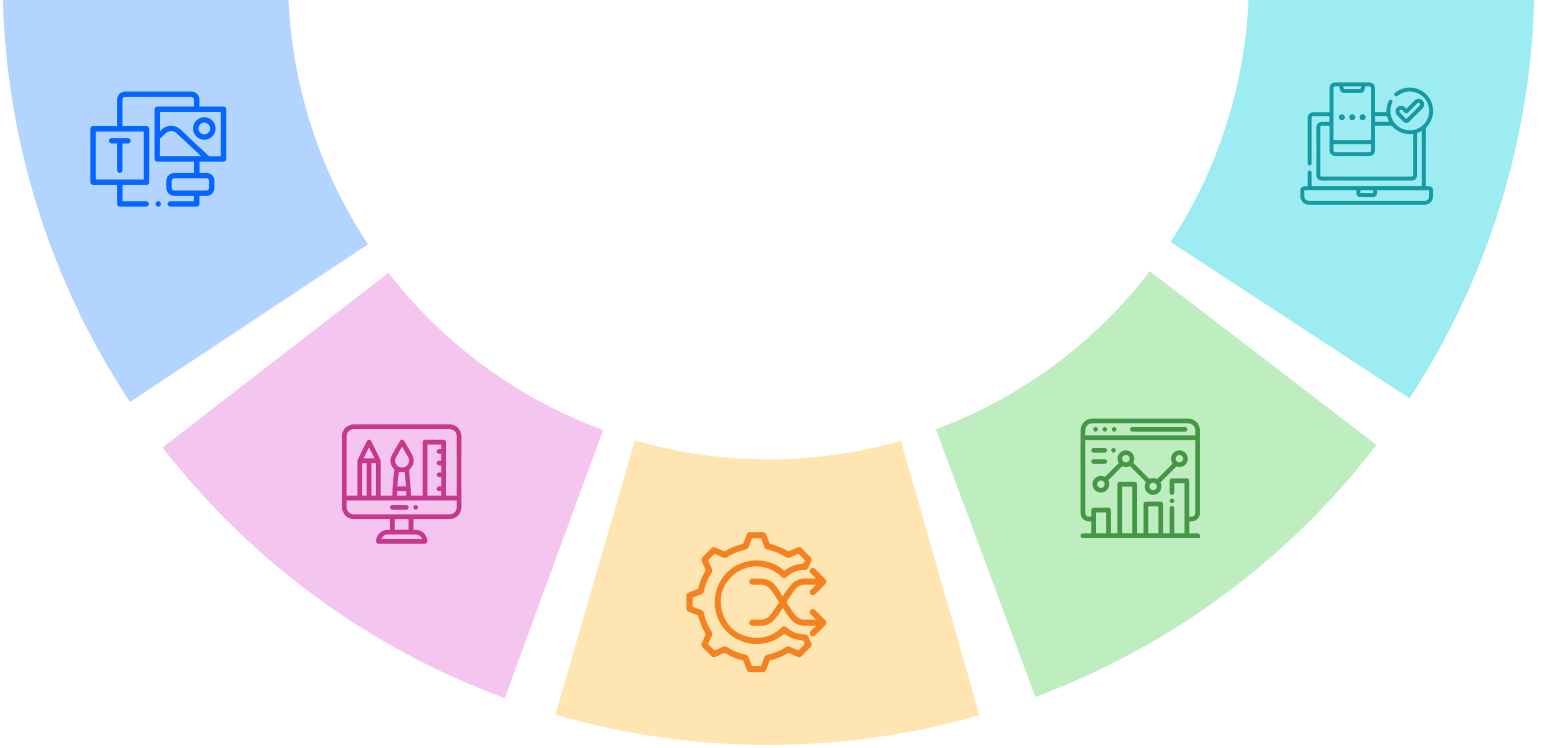
Enter No-code.

No-Code platforms allow citizen developers - teams present in the intersection of business plus IT, to build and deploy applications without writing a single line of code. With nifty features like app builder, you and your teams can create apps using pre-programmed templates and preset functionalities. You can also alter and personalize these templates by modifying the style, content, and other functions to develop your in-house applications.

No-Code is an app-development technology that enables business teams

to drag and drop to build custom applications without having to write a single line of code

2.1 Five Essential Features of a No-Code Development Platform

Pre-designed application template

Visual development

Change management

Analytics

Cross-platform compatibility

What distinguishes a no-code development platform? What drives exceptional software development? Is it all about the speed with which apps are developed, deployed, and modified, or is it all about the quality? Is it the price, or is it something else?

We combed through user reviews on some of the top-rated no-code app building solutions on sites like G2Crowd, TrustRadius, SoftwareSuggest, and others. Then, we sifted through hundreds of unbiased evaluations to find the top characteristics that win highest marks, excluding branding and marketing that has no bearing on the product.

Well, this is what we found in common:

Pre-designed application template

A legitimate no-code application builder focuses on agility, rapid creation, and modification. That's why having a platform that gives readymade app templates comes in handy. App templates are resizable applications that can help you kickstart instantly. The leave request procedure, for example, is a common business process. A prodigious app builder can help you create a basic employee onboarding leave request app that you may personalize instead of starting from scratch. That's a feature that will almost certainly win you a high rating.

Visual development

The finest app builders help you avoid writing lines of code by employing a no-code approach. How is this accomplished? A visual approach arranges the data operators on the screen as shapes connected by arrows showing data flow. Yes, it's similar to drawing a flowchart to depict its functionality before actually implementing it. You can choose to simply build on top of your existing templates, especially if you are looking for your business teams to do rapid processing and distribution of software applications.

Change management

The initial version of an app created using an app builder is never the final one. The former aims to observe and figure out how the solution stack will be built. If your app builder allows you to alter processes and organizational models throughout the app's lifespan, you've got yourself a winner.

Analytics

KPI and SLA based reporting to expedite data and analytical discovery for fast and easy decision making process. This plays a crucial role in defining and molding the business in the way you expect the growth to be.

Cross-platform compatibility

It's not only about your developers; your app builder's end-users are equally important too. Today's business users operate on a variety of platforms, with businesses providing PCs, laptops, and even portable devices, or allowing people to bring their own devices. This implies that any of your employees might use the app you design on any of the devices mentioned above. For this reason, cross-platform capability is a highly rated feature in an app builder.

2.2 Six Easy Steps to Create an App Without Coding: No-Code

Creating an app without coding is simpler and less expensive than you would imagine. You would need to utilize a platform like Kissflow No-Code to create your app and get it up and running in days, if not hours. Let's consider an example of building apps using the Kissflow no-code platform to better understand it in six easy steps:

Selecting a template is the first step in the app development process. You can choose the right template keeping in mind the following conditions:

Clarify the overall objective of the application

Determine who the end-users of the app are

Define the kind of permissions they require

During this step, map the users to the appropriate roles. This way, you will have the liberty to extend or limit the type of access a user needs to hold. This step ensures that the end users only have the right level of access to the application. However, this can be modified at any point of time by the administrator.

Utilize forms and reports to represent data cohesively. You can choose different types of forms based on the use case needs such as process, case and data forms. Send out reports whenever required.

Define the overall layout of the interfaces and bring in the required widgets from the forms and reports which have been created earlier. Ensure to deliver a seamless user journey with the help of intuitive landing pages. Configure access levels to these pages based on the user roles defined in step 2.

Integrate with the existing backend systems to extend the functionality of the app. This way, you can help your organization maintain a single source of truth.

Once the app development is completed using the one-click deployment procedure, you will be able to roll out the application to the production environment. During this stage, all the checks and validations for successful app functioning will be done.

"There is no one-size-fits-all DevOps solution for building custom apps.

Teams must self-equip with the technology and processes shaped to their needs for agility to accelerate development cycles. A legitimate no-code platform integrates proactive security and quality practices to ensure governance and compliance without sacrificing time to market.

2.3
Advantages of Creating an App without Hand-coding

There are several advantages of creating an app without coding, in comparison to the traditional development techniques. Here are a few of those:

Makes it quick and straightforward

A basic app will take no more than a few hours, while a complex business app will take no more than a few weeks. Conventional app development timeframes, on the other hand, start with 'months' and might go on for years.

Update and maintain effortlessly

Software applications must be updated on a regular basis in order to include new features, fix issues, and so on. This is a time-consuming process that frequently necessitates downtime. Apps created without coding, on the other hand, are not bound by these constraints. A new feature can be added at any juncture, even while it is in use. Furthermore, implementing modifications is much faster than previously assumed.

Boost productivity

One of the most significant benefits of no-code app development platforms is their ability to increase productivity for all users, whether they are business or IT. Business customers no longer rely on IT to satisfy their software needs when they adopt no-code app development. Anyone can just drag, drop, and create apps of different shapes and sizes readily. This, inturn, allows teams more time to focus on other important aspects of business

Spend wisely

No-Code platforms are cloud-based, which means businesses don't have to acquire and operate their own hardware to operate them. Because these platforms are cloud-based, they may be scaled up or scaled down to meet the company's demands.

Enable faster coding

Agile techniques are essential for digital transformation because they allow companies to update apps based on the response in each sprint. No-Code encourages rapid development and conceals many technical complexities; agile teams may demonstrate changes to stakeholders during sprint reviews and produce a viable product at a much faster pace

Centralize everything

As an enterprise you might as well want to build different applications for different teams. An efficient no-code platform will allow you to build and manage all your apps from a central console thus making it easy for your IT teams to govern and maintain everything - all at one place.

2.4
Challenges Associated with No-Code and How Kissflow can Help

There are two major challenges associated with creating an app without coding:

Smaller room for innovation

Sure, no-code platforms offer users development agility, but not all the way through. This is partially due to the fact that pre-written code blocks can only be modified to a certain extent. There is no human developer behind the scenes who can adapt your particular product's versatility. The code blocks in the platforms are written based on the most frequent use cases, leaving limited room for creativity. But, with a solution like Kissflow Low-Code, which brings low-code and no-code on a unified platform, your business teams can focus on translating their ideas into apps using features like drag-and-drop to their advantage while your IT teams can leverage some of the powerful custom components to build extensive features with the help of minimal coding. This is why, we say with Kissflow Low-Code you get to experience the best of both worlds.

Lack of complete ownership

As a non-technical user, anything you build on the no-code platform is made possible by its underlying framework. This implies that whatever design component you reinterpret or change in terms of ownership stays with them. But vendor lock-in is a greater problem. Your app service's life is dependent on their platform, which effectively prevents you from getting an inside look at how your application operates. With Kissflow Low-Code, the platform is yours in its entirety. You can have complete control over how you build, test, and deploy your applications which also means greater visibility into every step of an app's lifecycle.

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From employee management to streamlining operations with automated approval apps and processes,

no-code platforms play a vital role in enabling both IT and citizen developers to ship critical solutions for automation, collaboration and communication, allowing thousands of employees to work with minimal disruptions.

Wrapping Up

While custom applications can highly benefit your business teams, in order to build complex custom applications that exactly meet your business needs, your IT teams need to be armed with a powerful platform like Kissflow No-Code.

You can run your operations seamlessly using no-code app development platforms like Kissflow No-Code than you could with conventional hand coding techniques.

There's no need to depend on subpar, off-the-shelf goods or purchase a costly custom solution when you have a way to build software fast and easily. These app development best practices will help you avoid problems and build better apps faster, resulting in a huge uptick in the overall app-building experience. You will be well on your way if you combine an optimal software with a well-thought-out strategy.

Does this resonate with you? Try Kissflow No-Code. Schedule a free demo and see the magic unfold for your enterprise.

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