

Your Starter Guide to

# Low-Code Development



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CHAPTER 1

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# What Is Low-Code?

# WHAT IS LOW-CODE?



Low-code application development is suddenly on everyone's mind. While the concepts have been in place for a while, the tools have suddenly become extremely popular.

If you are new to the discussion, low-code platforms reduce the never-ending backlog of requests for IT departments, and gives business users the tools they need, but never get. But what exactly is low-code?

Low-code development creates applications with less manual effort by offering blocks of pre-built code to build programs with a drag-and-drop, or easy-to-follow, visual interface. Low-code development platforms let teams develop apps faster and with fewer errors than traditional coding.



# THE HISTORY OF LOW-CODE DEVELOPMENT

Before low-code, all software was developed manually, by developers sitting in front of their computers and typing out thousands of lines of code.

This was slow, arduous, & didn't meet the growing demand for software from companies and consumers alike.

## **Something had to change.**

By 2011, there were a number of platforms that made development easier. These platforms ensured that code could be reused and modularized in a visual way. This helped developers save a massive amount of time, & promoted code reusability.

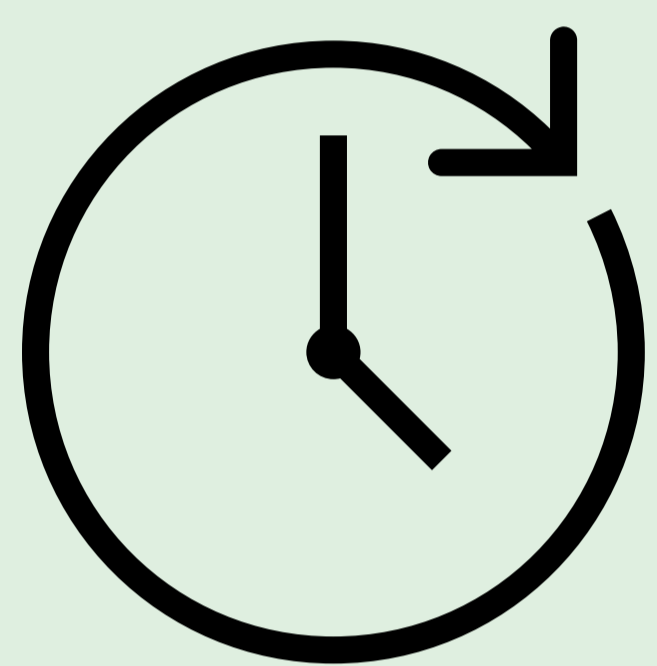
In addition, using already available modules in an application reduced the chance for human error, resulting in less debugging.

These platforms didn't have a name until 2014, when Forrester coined the term "low-code" to signify the reduced manual coding that these platforms promoted.

Over the last few years, the number of low-code development platforms has rapidly increased. There are hundreds of vendors providing low-code features in their platforms, and a lot of them make compelling arguments about why you should use their product.

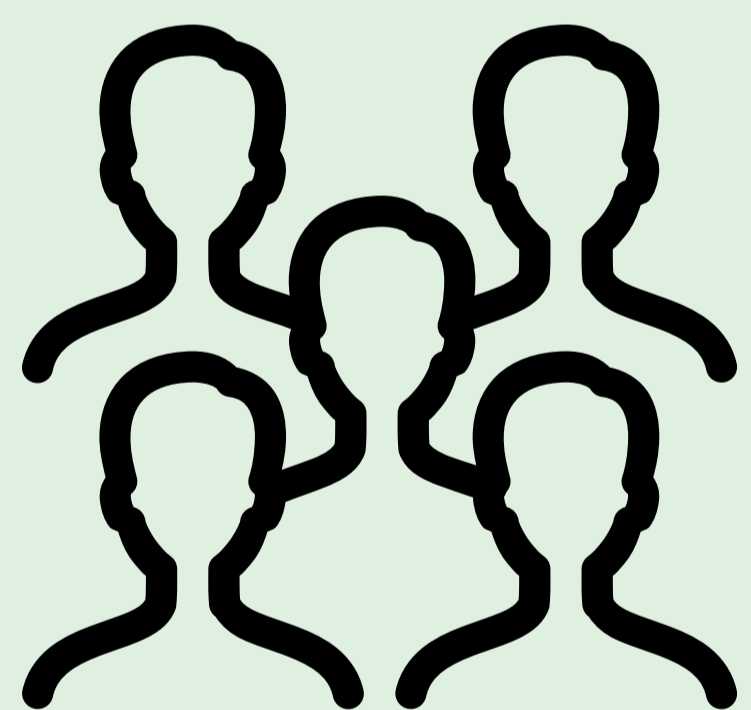
# TWO KINDS OF LOW-CODE

From the beginning, there have been two (mostly) mutually exclusive aims of low-code. Understanding the difference between the two is key to seeing if it's useful for you, and which platform you choose.



## MAKE DEVELOPMENT FASTER

The initial use case for low-code development platforms was to make development faster for developers who already have experience with coding. This is done through visual syntaxes, drag-and-drop modules, and other methods that reduce the need to code. These shortcuts and common tools can dramatically increase production rates and shorten debugging time.



## LET MORE PEOPLE DEVELOP

As coding became easier, non-coders began to get interested. Using visual flowcharts and modules, regular users with a small amount of technical knowledge, known as citizen developers, started to create their own applications without needing to know how to fully code. For complex apps, developers were still required, but these 'citizen developers' could build the basics on their own.

This distinction is important as you continue to learn about low-code platforms. Choosing the right one will depend on your goal. Do you want a tool that can speed up the app-making process for your developers, or something that can open up development to your entire team?

## CHAPTER 2

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# What Do Businesses Gain From Low-Code Development?

# WHAT DO BUSINESSES GAIN FROM LOW-CODE DEVELOPMENT?

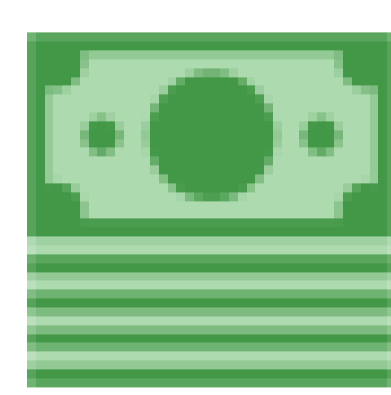
What attracts so many companies to invest in low code? Is it just a passing fad, or are there real, hard benefits to get out of low-code?

Here are the benefits organizations that use low-code platforms claim:



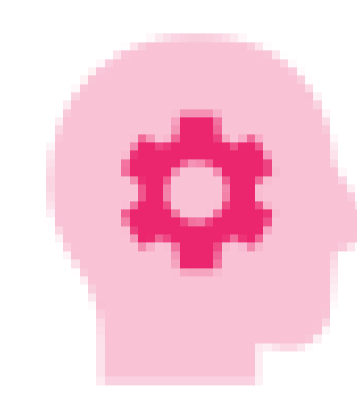
## AGILITY

Changes can be made very quickly and throughout the development cycle



## LESS EXPENSIVE

By using low-code, you need fewer programmers on call for small fixes



## IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

A low-code platform can as much as double the output of a single developer



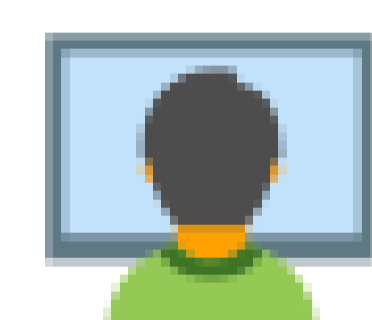
## LESS SHADOW IT

A vetted platform means users don't turn to unsafe software to meet their needs



## QUICKER COMPLIANCE

Updating a low-code application for data security is easy and saves time



## IT PRIORITY

When business users make their own simple apps, IT teams can focus on more strategic work



CHAPTER 3

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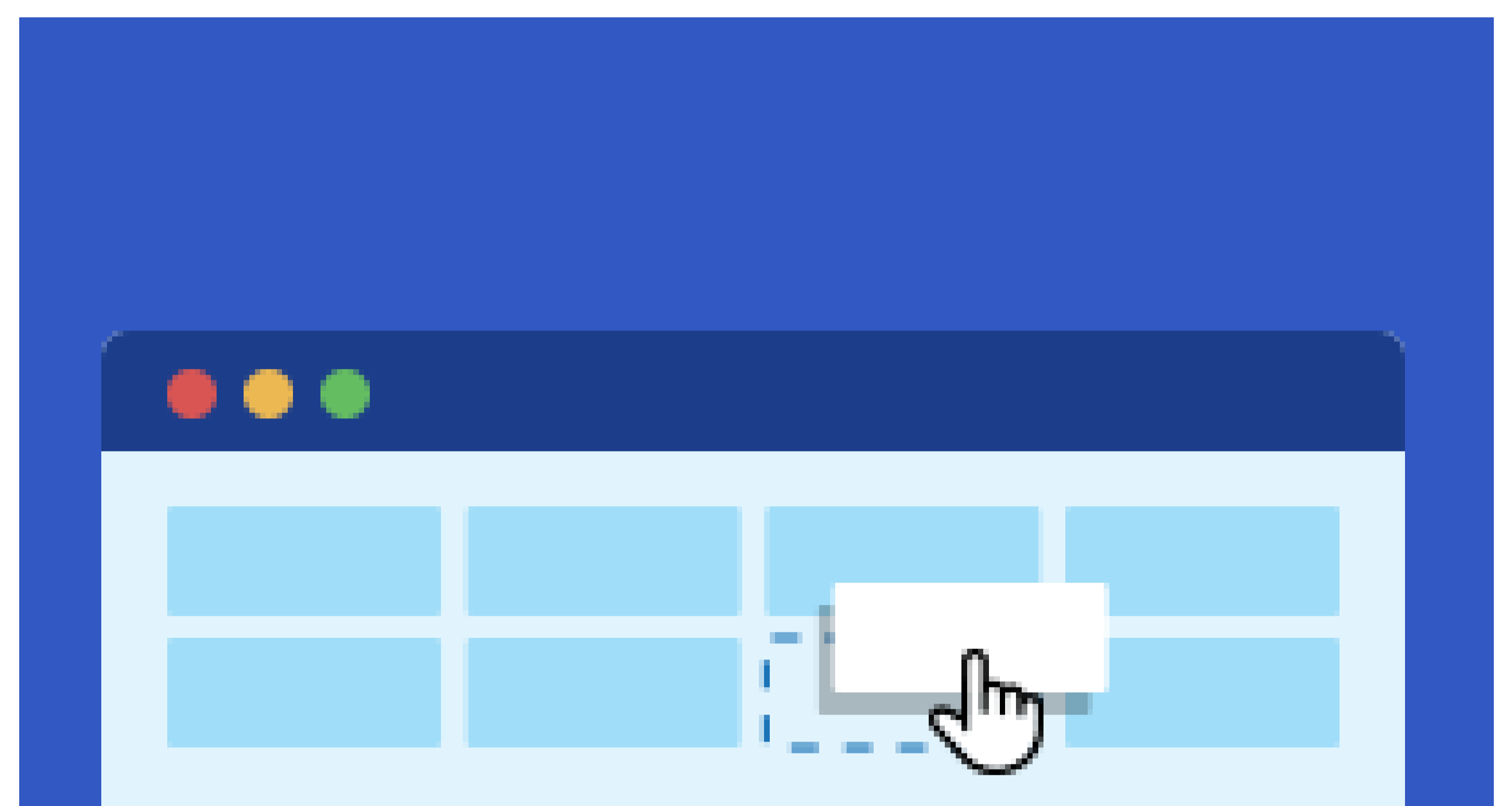
# Key Features Of A Low-Code Development Platform

If you are ready to start looking at low-code development platforms, you need to first clearly identify what kind of goal you want to achieve with it. Do you want to speed up the performance of your developers, or open up development tools to a broader audience?

**Check out some of the key features you need to look for in a low-code platform.**

## 1. DRAG & DROP CONFIGURATION

This is one of the biggest features of low-code platforms, and something all of them need. It's faster and easier to deal with code through visual modules. The drag-and-drop interface with pre-coded components and modules is imperative for a low-code platform.



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## 2. SECURITY

The platform you build on should be secure, and have the tools to make your app secure as well. When handling sensitive data, you cannot risk using something that potentially opens up a gateway to hackers.

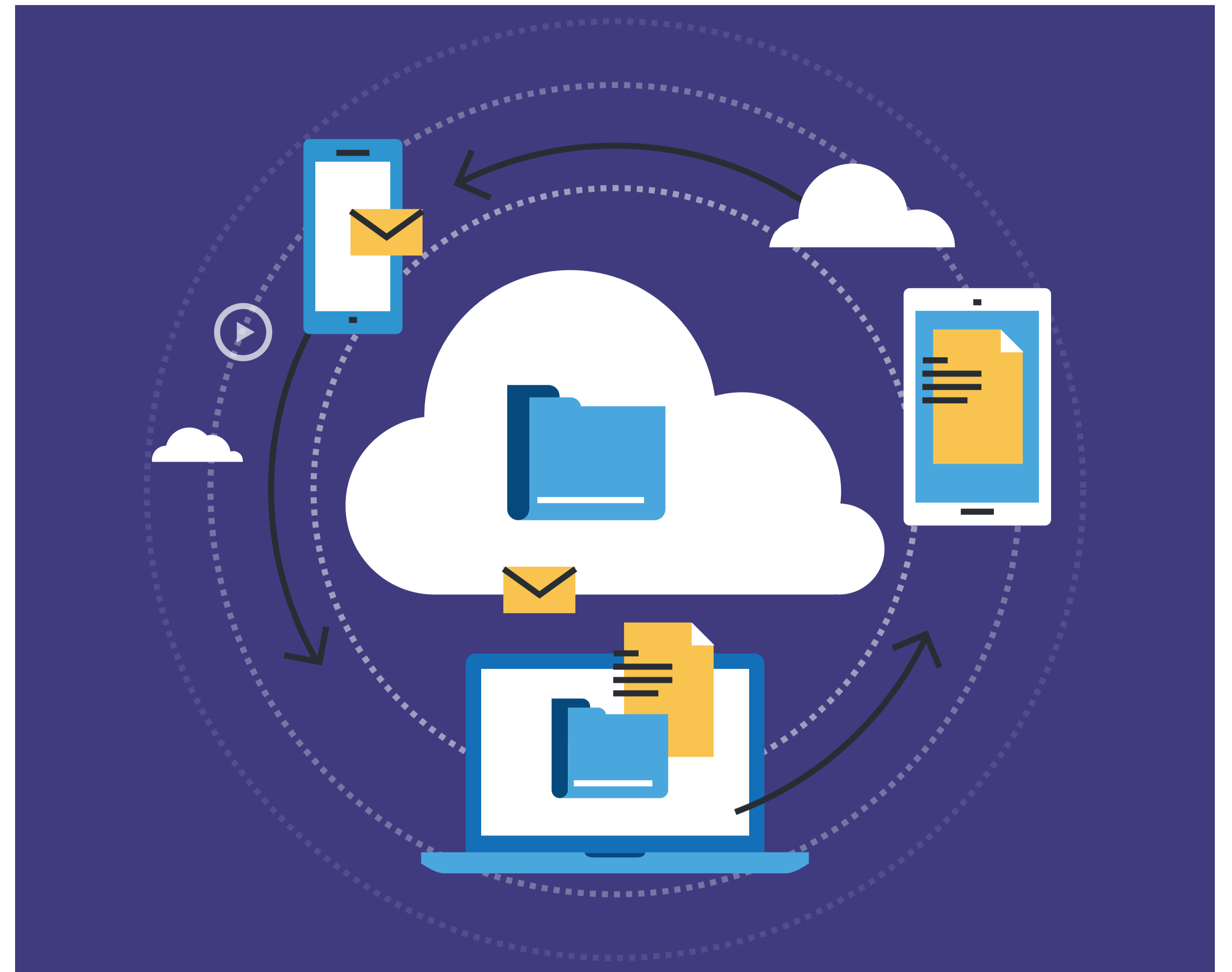
If a low-code platform does not offer adequate security and compliance certifications, it's not worth your time.



### 3. BUILD ONCE, DEPLOY ANYWHERE

You should only have to build an app once, and it should be accessible on any device. Cross-functionality is imperative, since not all of your users will use the same device or platform.

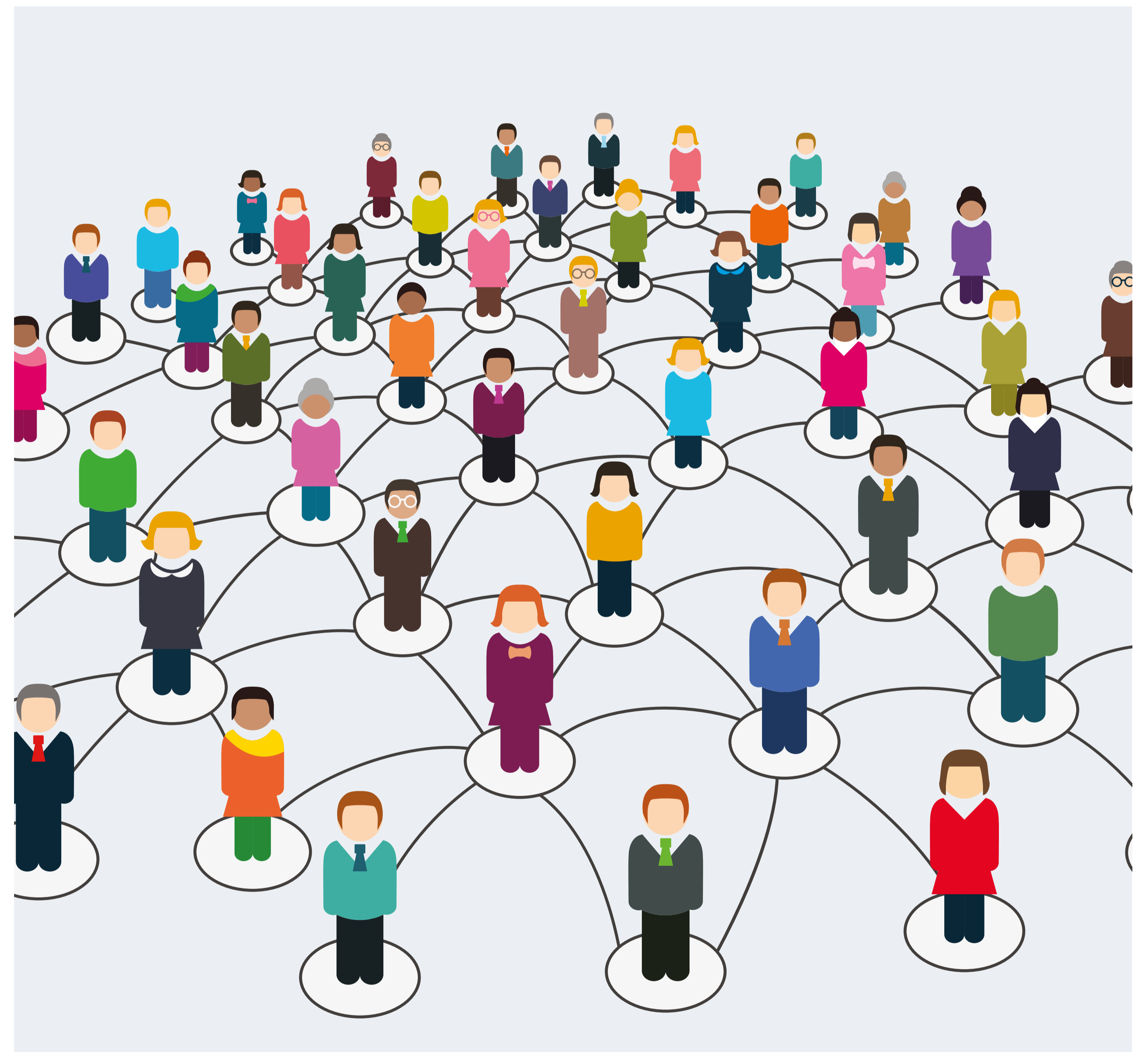
Building an app once and enabling it to be used anywhere makes the development process much faster. There should be no need to code for every single platform and operating system on the market.



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### 4. SCALABILITY

Another major feature that should be noted is the scalability of the low-code platform. The platform, and the apps that it creates, should allow scalability of users. A company can grow in size drastically, and the number of users that it has can change overnight. This is why scalability is important. Great low-code platforms offer scalability according to your specific needs, without overcharging you for it, or forcing you to buy a bundle where you'll have to pay for more users than you actually need.



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Other features are dependent on your primary goal. If you want developers to work faster, the platform should have easy debugging tools that grant access to the main code of the application. However, this can be a big barrier if you want non-programmers to be able to work on the system. For them, a very intuitive interface might be more important.

## CHAPTER 4

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# Is Low-Code Right For Every Business?

Low-code platforms are mostly used by enterprises—those with large IT teams and seasoned developers. These large enterprises have a lot to gain from going to low-code, especially if it means each programmer can multiply the rate of work. Also, the cost of the low-code platform is very manageable when the benefits are so high.

Some enterprises use low-code to encourage more people to get involved in app creation, but this is still rare. IT departments usually like to keep tabs on all of the official application development and usually require a high amount of flexibility. However, some enterprises will adopt a verified and secure low-code platform to let users create all of their own 'long-tail' apps that the IT team will not likely get around to anytime soon.

But what about SMBs? Can they also get the advantages of low-code?

Custom software isn't cheap, and a platform to create it is **not** something most SMBs can just tack onto their IT budget. For the most part, the adoption of a low-code platform is a question of ROI. Spending several thousand dollars a month on a low-code platform might not be a reality for most companies, unless it revolves around the core business.

By choosing a more moderately priced tool, even a small business can get a lot of advantages. Consider a company of 100 employees with an IT team of 2-3 people. As needs expand, management may be forced to consider either adding another programmer to the IT team, or equipping them with a low-code platform to help the same team accomplish more.

Similarly, if the same company prefers making internal apps to help it function better, it can identify department heads who can build their own apps without any assistance from IT.

## IS LOW-CODE RIGHT FOR YOU?

1. Do you have lots of simple applications in the IT backlog?
2. Do you have eager, intelligent business leaders who can create their own apps?
3. Do you need to speed up the development life-cycle?

In fact, many smaller companies want their leaders to start building automated applications as early as possible. This not only saves money over time, but starts to build a culture of automation and technology-focus. With digital transformation coming through every department, no leader can afford to be digitally illiterate. Creating simple apps with a low-code platform is a great way to get started!

The choice for an SMB to use a low-code tool will likely come down to cost. If the company can find a low-code tool that is priced per user, it is often an easier solution. Otherwise, the cost must be justified against the expense of hiring or contracting a professional programmer.

If you are facing mounting requests for custom IT work, and off-the-shelf software doesn't give you the kind of flexibility you need, then it's worth taking a look at low-code.

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## CHAPTER 5

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# How 3 Companies Used Low-Code To Supercharge The Workplace



**CARATLANE**  
A TANISHQ Partnership

## INDUSTRY

Jewelry

## COMPANY SIZE

315+ employees

Operating in the jewelry industry means that Caratlane is required to be even more precise and efficient than other ecommerce companies. Due to the value and nature of their products, shipping, logistics, quality checks, and customer service need to be impeccable to retain their customers.

Caratlane has created 21 apps inside KiSSFLOW, a low-code platform. Most of them were created by their own staff for the functionalities they need. As their [Senior Product Manager Ajit Singh](#) said,

*"I designed it, tested, and had it ready in a week. The platform is highly intuitive, so anyone can use it."*

With KiSSFLOW's low-code platform, Caratlane has been able to create apps for warehousing, quality checks, customer service, and more.







## INDUSTRY

Retail

## COMPANY SIZE

444,000 employees

Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. is a retail and financial conglomerate that operates all over the world. With their dispersed clientele and offices in multiple geographies, they needed a solution that allows them to develop their own applications, without needing programmer input every step of the way.

Currently, Jardine uses a total of 109 apps on KiSSFLOW.

Using the features of the platform, they've been able to create their own applications, such as Reimbursement Requisition, System Configuration Request, Credit Requisition, and more. They found the low-code platform easy to use customizing their own apps with functionality beyond ready-made apps on the market.





## INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

## COMPANY SIZE

200+ employees

Sheenlac is an Asian-based paint manufacturer. With a wide selection of paints and paint-related products, and servicing a massive region, they needed a system connected their different offices together, provided apps that could solve these logistical issues, and enabled them to create apps as and when they required.

Sheenlac uses KiSSFLOW, and has created 67 apps to streamline their processes and automate their workflows.

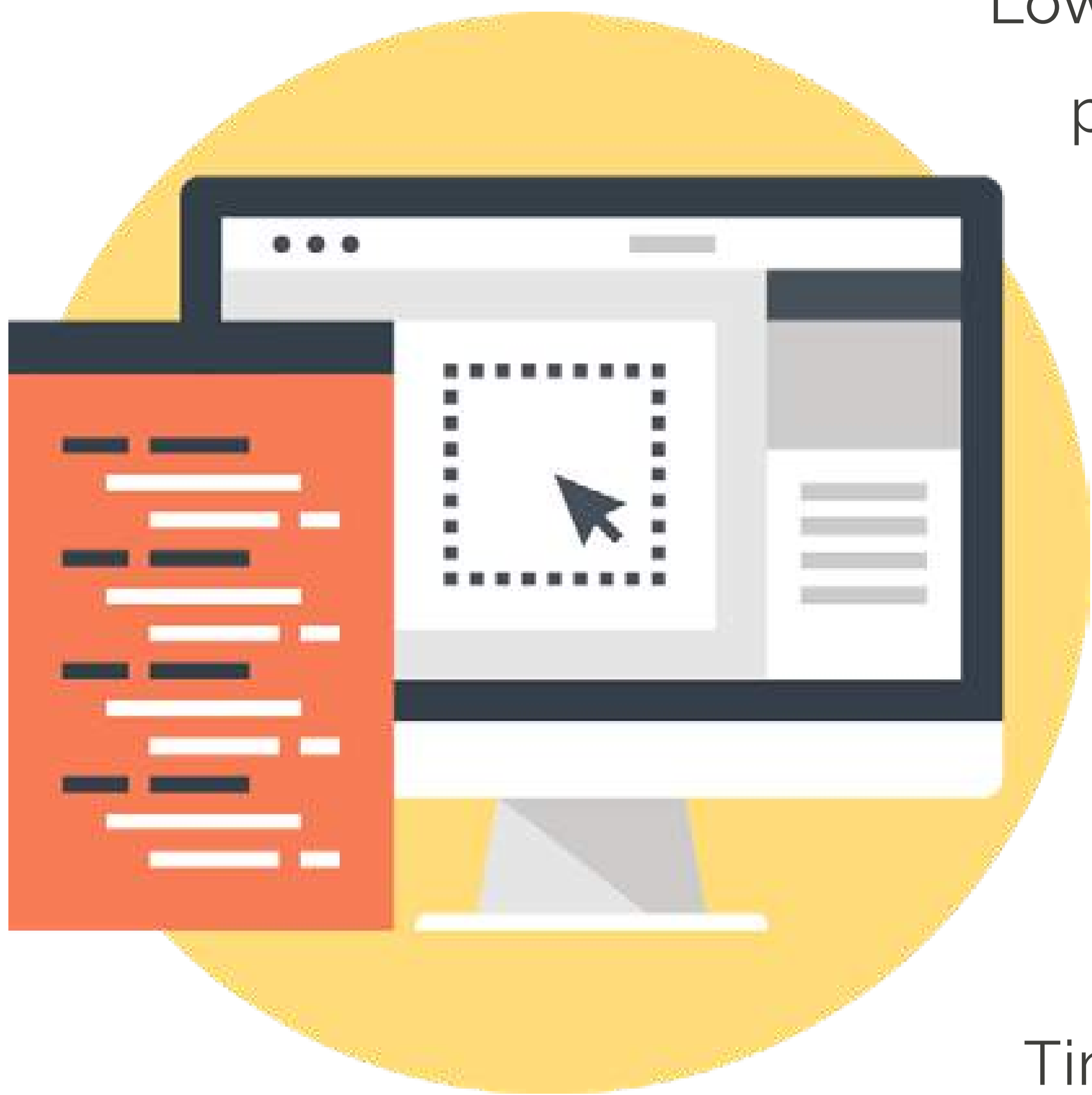
Some of the apps they have developed through KiSSFLOW's low-code platform are Stock Audit (to analyze and verify stocks in different warehouses, factories, and stores), Vendor Payment (to pay vendors automatically for received items), and New Product Development (to provide a streamlined workflow when developing new products.)



## CHAPTER 6

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# Why No-Code Is The Next Big Thing



Low-code has been a huge benefit to the world of programming. It enables coders to put out applications much faster than they ever could have before and allows others to dip their feet into programming without having to dive into the deep end.

However, low-code is in the perfect position to make **no one** happy.

Hard-core coders don't like low-code because they want complete flexibility around every detail.

Time can be saved on development, but only if your application falls within certain parameters.

At the same time, 'citizen developers' are asking for easier and more powerful interfaces to use. And as more and more business users take to building their applications, the platforms must drive out even more of the complexities.

So, while low-code is potentially useful for the programming world, it doesn't have much of a future with regular business leaders.

### **Because now, we've entered the era of no-code.**

No-code is exactly what it sounds like. It is still a development platform, but requires no coding at all. Everything is modularized and built into a drag-and-drop interface. Those making applications see no code at all, and feel like they are building applications out of visual building blocks, rather than code.

No-code is the another daunting wall broken in the world of app development. As no-code platforms continue to expand in influence, power, and features, they will quickly become industry standard. No-code will still have some of the same limitations in terms of where the app can be run and how much customization can be made, but it will be used by every department to create 80-90% of their technical needs. Creating an application will soon be as easy as starting up a spreadsheet.

*The world of low-code development is an exciting space to explore—we are in the midst of a massive change in how IT interacts with other departments. Low-code is an important stepping stone in that journey, but it will by no means be the last one. Now is the time to invest in low- and no-code platforms to create a culture of automation and embracing technology as an important part of your team.*

# A Look At kissflow

KISSFLOW is a no-code development platform where users with no technology background can create, edit, and run their own automated processes.

Its simple layout and drag-and-drop interface make it easy for anyone to be in charge of the processes that matter the most.

KISSFLOW believes that those closest to the problem know how to solve it best, and gives the power of app development to all business users.

Learn more about [KISSFLOW's low-code platform](#), or sign up for a [free demo](#).