Low-Code Paves the Way to Digital Transformation

Low-code development platforms are increasingly becoming a favorite among small, medium, and even enterprise businesses. With them, software developers and business users can quickly build needed applications. Low-code platforms improve businesses' efficiency, make them more agile and lead the way to digital transformation and the demands of a rapidly evolving workplace.

Low-code can improve every aspect of how businesses operate, transforming not only the development process, but the entire company. Key benefits include:

• **It offers tools that lets companies innovate by building new, secure web and mobile applications systems.** These applications can be as simple as business forms, or as complex as full-blown mission-critical systems. They can be built using existing staff, without having to hire additional developers and other staff. The applications can be customer-facing or used by employees.

• **It can speed time to market, leading to a competitive advantage and increased income.** MySchoolAnywhere used Alpha Software's low-code tools to meet a tight timeline for launching a web and mobile platform for its school-based software. It sped up development time by a factor of three, and MySchoolAnywhere reaped a 60% revenue increase in less than a year.

• **It can significantly boost the scalability and reliability of apps.** Those apps can integrate with existing back-ends, multiple databases, legacy systems and the cloud.

• **It can significantly fatten a company's bottom line.** When Zerok Construction, a group of Middle Eastern construction firms, built a Web and mobile project management solution using Alpha Software's low-code platform, it cut costs by 50 percent while introducing a suite of powerful new capabilities.

How Low-Code Powers Up Development

By eliminating most manual coding, low-code development speeds up the development process and deploying new applications. That's because using low-code tools, instead of writing and debugging line after line of code to create your application, you instead build your application visually, and let the underlying system write the code for you. That means much of the code base for new applications doesn't need to be created from scratch.

The heart of a low-code platform is a drag-and-drop environment that lets you create entire applications using existing components. Those components are always available, which means they can be reused in different applications. This does more than just speed up the development process. It also makes sure that you create a consistent user interface across all of the applications you build, making it easy for your workforce and customers to move from application to application.

Low-code tools also ensure that safety is baked directly into all the applications you write. And you can easily integrate all your applications into databases, backend systems, and other data repositories. Low-code application development means fewer coding errors, because so little code is written by developers – bug-free, fully vetted components do most of the work.

Tech consultant Terry Large has seen the significant benefits developers gain by using prebuilt drag-and-drop components in a low-code platform. He had to modernize his more-than-40-year-old application CAL Trax, which tracks public defender cases and billing for counties in multiple states. Rather than use a traditional code-heavy development tool, he chose low-code Alpha Anywhere.

He explains, "It's a low-code platform that offers everything I need. What's especially useful is that the people who work for Alpha have created rock-solid genies that generate JavaScript, so when you set up your database and build the web components, it's writing the code you need behind the scenes." He adds, "If you want to write your own code, you can do that as well."

With low-code Alpha Anywhere, he quickly built a full-blown secure, web-based system with a mobile component that lets attorneys and investigators input and track data in real time. He's considering using Alpha Anywhere for other clients as well, including a jet charter company that now uses Google Forms for performing trip evaluations. He is converting it to a full-blown Alpha Anywhere web application with a mobile component for pilots and flight attendants to enter data on the "fly".

The Benefits of Low-Code Development

Thanks to the ease of drag-and-drop tools, low-code development can dramatically reduce development time, speed time to market, ensure businesses have a consistent code base, increase collaboration between business experts and IT, reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve security.

Low-code platforms also make your company more agile and responsive to fast-changing business, economic and social conditions. They helped fight COVID-19 by aiding biotech companies develop vaccines in record time, built tools for healthcare providers to confront the medical crisis, and assisted government agencies in getting aid to those in the struggling economy.

Using low-code tools Alpha Anywhere, Alpha Transform and Alpha Cloud, GJ Stats built a comprehensive web and mobile application to help local government authorities in the U.K. coordinate support for individuals vulnerable to the impact of COVID 19.

Glen Schild, founder of GJ Stats, estimates that Alpha Software's low-code tools reduce the work it takes to develop applications by at least 40 percent. That enables him to get applications to his clients much more quickly. That, he says, leads to greater customer loyalty and more work from them.
Thanks to the speed and quality of his work enabled by Alpha, clients frequently follow up and ask GJ Stats to take on new projects, he says. Some also put GJ Stats on a retainer as a result of the quality of his work.

Schild's comments are echoed by Mark Chasanoff, a programmer for Islip, New York, who has written 50 applications for the town using Alpha Anywhere. "With Alpha Anywhere we can make fully functioning applications in as little as a day," he says.

Both IT staff and "citizen developers" -- business experts and line-of-business staff – can use low-code platforms to write applications. IT staff can quickly assemble applications from components, increasing their productivity. They can use the time saved to concentrate on higher-value work. A study by 451 Research concludes low-code/no-code platforms can increase developers' efficiency by between 50% and 90%. John Rymer, VP and Principal Analyst of Forrester says low-code development can speed up software development by a factor of ten.

Citizen developers, who best know the business needs of their departments and the enterprise, can craft applications quickly, without having to ask IT for help. That allows them to write immediately useful applications. It also allows IT to integrate so-called "shadow IT" into their own work, by providing the proper reusable components, and making sure the finished applications follow a business's standards.

Low-code tools can also easily integrate with the cloud. Ricky Relouw, Director, CIM Applications, uses Alpha Anywhere and Alpha Cloud to build desktop applications, mobile apps, and fully functioning cloud-based web applications for residential aged care homes in Australia. Combining low-code and the cloud, he says, "lets me quickly and easily adapt my projects to an ever-changing business, technical and regulatory environment…it allows me to focus on developing and delivering a stable system to end users."

Choose The Best Low-Code Tools

Not all low-code tools are alike. Make sure to choose a complete front- and back-end, low-code app development platform. Alpha Anywhere is an ideal one.

Developers can use the Alpha Anywhere low-code environment to develop and deploy any (simple to complex) web or mobile business app from scratch, integrate data with existing systems of record and workflows (including data collected via Alpha TransForm), and add additional security or authentication requirements to protect corporate data.

It also lets you build offline apps that offer full functionality even when they're not connected to the internet or a network. With unique "coding-optional" technology, Alpha Anywhere helps new users, while ensuring that experienced developers achieve high productivity without sacrificing flexibility or control.

Tech consultant Terry Large says, "Alpha Anywhere offers everything I need. It just plain works." Glen Schild, founder of GJ Stats adds, "I would recommend it to anyone. It's been a game-changer for me."

AWARD WINNING
OFFLINE APPS

Alpha Anywhere includes these important features:

•It offers the most advanced support for building offline mobile applications with a patented method.

•It's fully integrated with the cloud for scalability and reliability and includes automated cloud deployment.

•It has an advanced security model.

•Its coding-optional design optimizes productivity and fine-grained control.

•Its simple but powerful capabilities easily integrate with existing systems.

•It offers simple licensing: no limits on numbers of users, number of applications or the complexity of your apps.

So how do I get started?
Easy, download a free trial of Alpha TransForm today at
https://www.alphasoftware.com/try-transform
and have your first app running before dinner.