



3 Reasons to Choose PRO CODE OVER Low Code



In Gartner's 2021-2023 Emerging Technology Roadmap for Large Enterprises, over 60% of IT executives said that the single biggest reason they can't leverage the latest technology is a lack of tech talent.

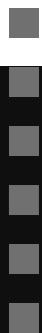
So what if the emerging technology itself didn't require tech talent? If coding isn't easy, what if you didn't have to code at all?

That's the idea behind low/no-code, simultaneously a technology and a movement to democratize app development. It trades all of the syntax, SDKs, and software programming for simple user interfaces and drag-and-drop functionality.

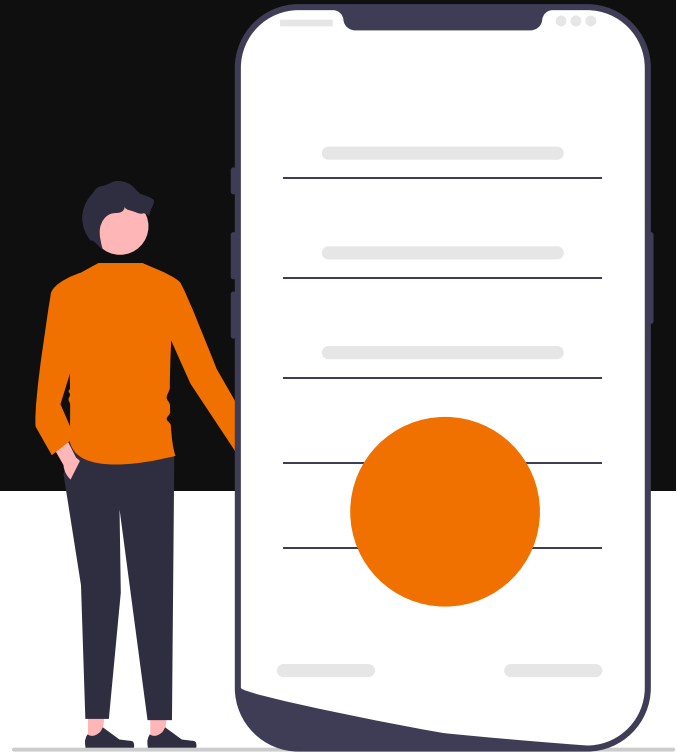
It's no wonder then that low/no-code platforms like OutSystems, Mendix, and Bubble are growing in popularity and making converts out of everyone from non-technical founders to senior software engineers.

Maybe you're asking yourself, should your organization stop being pro-code (that is, using "traditional" app dev tools and technologies)? Should you ask your recruiters to give a little more consideration to applicants with Weebly or Wix experience on their resumes instead of CSS or JavaScript?

Probably not.



< Does low/no-code live up to the hype



Tara Reed, the non-technical founder of the fine arts company Kolleto, was one of Bubble's early success stories. In a guest blog post she wrote for Bubble in 2015, Tara said, "I came across Bubble on Product Hunt and was immediately interested and was able to build a new app in just a few weeks. I was also lucky to stumble upon Airdev, an agency that builds apps for people using Bubble, and they helped me construct my art-matching algorithm."

Tara continues to advocate for low/no-code through her online school, Apps Without Code. But, noticeably, hiring an app development agency to build your (low/no-code) app is not all that different from hiring an app development agency to build your (pro-code) app.



SO, YES, CODING ISN'T EASY, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT NOT CODING ISN'T EASY EITHER.

For example, Matt Varughese, CEO of a no-code app development agency called 8020, said, “More and more people are looking to build their ideas but won’t necessarily want to spend the time learning the ins-and-outs of no-code to make it happen, which is where no-code freelancers and agencies come into play to assist. Since no-code enables all of us to move faster without code, we can, in turn, move faster than traditional dev shops.”

This all sounds very similar to what a traditional app development agency might say to “people looking to build their ideas.” Just replace “no-code” with “JavaScript,” and the reason they can move faster with “our tech stack.”

Skillfully doing either requires deep knowledge of software architecture,



data governance, and much more. That’s why Airdev and 8020 are successful.

There’s no denying low no-code app builders can be the right tools for the job — sometimes. Especially when you need to build static web pages or simple apps you don’t expect to grow or change.

But when you need to build complex projects and scalable prototypes that can turn into MVPs and full-fledged products, using pro-code technologies is still the best solution in 2023.

< 1. Scalability

FINN auto is a car subscription service founded in 2019 and has almost \$1B in funding today. Their staff software engineer, Ishtiaque Zafar, described their success — and its costs,

“Airtable was our database of choice in the initial days. Reason: Ease of use, easy schema changes, quick rollbacks and snapshot recovery. We chose Airtable because everyone (and not just engineers) could work with it. Soon enough we had a database with more than 40 tables and the “cars” table having nearly 400 fields! (Highly inefficient, we know.) To add to that, we had dozens of automated workflow reading and changing that data and soon our database gave up. Airtable comes with a limit of 5 requests per second per base. We were constantly hitting that target and started having more than 100 timeouts per day.”

He concluded,

“No-code is cool and fast, and got us to where we are today, much faster than our competitors, but it won’t help us get where we want to. We have entered the next phase of growth where we take what we have learnt in the last two years and make it even better, more robust and scalable.”

Something similar happened to FastAF, a delivery service that approached top developer agency Torii Studio when it realized its Shopify-based website was holding it back.



Using Shopify’s platform meant that [they] had limited control over [their] store and [their] customer journey. User experience was suffering too: limited sorting and filtering options made it hard for users to find and view products. None of this would be attractive in FastAF, which targeted an upscale and design-conscious audience.

“Plus, operating on Shopify was getting expensive. In addition to the subscription price, Shopify charges merchants a commission on every sale. And integrating third-party apps for value-adding features such as live chats adds to those costs.”

“SOME LOW/NO-CODE ADVOCATES PUSH BACK ON CASE STUDIES LIKE THESE, ARGUING THAT THE COMPANIES IN QUESTION SIMPLY USED THE WRONG TOOLS FOR THE JOB, BUT WHAT ABOUT WHEN THERE ARE NO TOOLS FOR THE JOB IN THE FIRST PLACE?”

Bubble, one of the most prolific low/no-code app builder platforms, only has 70 official third-party plugins. When community plugins are available, they’re not always... enterprise-grade, let’s say.

But even if they recognize low/no-code is holding them back now, companies like FINN still think that low/no-code has one thing that seems to set it apart — speed to market.



< 2. Speed

Do low/no-code app builders help you get to market faster than pro-code tools and platforms in 2023? For solo non-technical founders building simple products, the answer's yes. For everyone else — no way.

Today, pro-code technologies like ChatGPT, GitHub Co-Pilot, Material UI, and Onymos Features-as-a-Service can rapidly accelerate the development of prototypes and MVPs without sacrificing the scalability of your app and the creativity of your developers.

At the start of 2021, the US was on the cusp of mass vaccinations for COVID. Healthcare providers across the country were gearing up to vaccinate potentially thousands of people per day. And one nationwide pharmacy realized they faced a mountain of paper vaccine consent forms.

These forms contained critical patient data and were needed for several reasons, including tracking, reporting, and marketing purposes.

Albertsons was keen to provide its field and in-store pharmacy technicians with a portable device to ingest data while still providing exceptional patient care.

Albertsons turned to Onymos to rapidly develop a mobile app for their technicians to scan in paper forms, utilize the latest cloud-based AI/ML form recognition technology, and submit the extracted data, along with an image of the form, into their electronic patient management system.

And the entire project, from start to finish, needed to be done ASAP.





With essential features like login and OCR from Onymos out of the box, the team was able to build and iterate on the app quickly. They moved initially from an iPad form factor to a smartphone which proved to be much easier for technicians to manipulate.

By combining ML-based OCR with human verification, the app is able to reduce data entry times and improve data accuracy. Plus, putting the app onto mobile devices has given the pharmacy techs previously unattainable mobility to capture data at the point of care.

With Onymos Features-as-a-Service, Albertsons was able to deliver a fully-functional form-scanning mobile app in 4 weeks.



< 3. Security

Abstraction is great. It's how we got from on-prem servers and updates on disks to the Cloud and SaaS.

But abstracting your entire source code away from your in-house security experts might be one abstraction too far. Low/no-code platforms like Bubble not only obfuscate your app's source code — they own it.

Onymos CEO Shiva Nathan says, “Before I started Onymos, I considered if I, the head of platforms and services engineering at a Fortune 500 company, would stake any of my company's applications on software components from another company?

“The answer was, ‘No.’

“When I dug deep into my reasoning, it boiled down to just one thing — trust. I trust my own engineers' work more than any other company. I can see the software code my team creates; I can test it, verify it.

“To get to that same level of trust as if my own engineers' developed it, I need the source code.”

“WHEN YOU USE LOW/NO-CODE PLATFORMS, YOU'RE RELYING ON CODE YOU CAN'T VERIFY — AND THAT YOU CAN'T FIX. THAT'S A PROBLEM WHEN YOU DISAGREE WITH THEIR TEAM'S SECURITY ASSESSMENTS. OR WHEN THEIR BUGS JUST BREAK YOUR APP ENTIRELY.





Onymos Does App Dev Better

Dev teams at companies like Albertsons, CVS, and Walmart are already building apps faster with Onymos Features-as-a-Service. It's a pro-code platform for rapid app development that ensures scalability, speed, and security.

Build the why. We'll take care of everything else.



Contact our Dev Team today to get started devteam@onymos.com or visit our website.



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