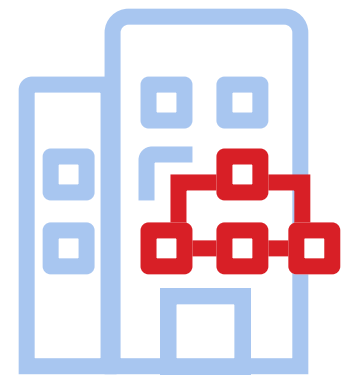


# 7 factors

to consider when  
assessing a low-code  
platform for your  
business

With so many platforms under the “low-code” umbrella, it can be challenging to know which one to choose. You need to identify your needs for now and in the future and look beyond the speed of development to ensure the platform you choose won’t work against you rather than with you.

## 1 Type of platform



Firstly identify your requirements and what category of low-code will suit your immediate and future needs. If your organisation is enterprise-grade, you will need a platform that can support your architecture and the complexity of your future applications and integrations.

## 2 Lock in



**Avoid getting locked in.** Your code and data are an integral part of your competitive advantage. You must always maintain ownership of both of them. Make sure that, if the need arises, you can smoothly and safely transfer your code and data away from the cloud provider with minimal business interruption. SaaS players will often lock you into their cloud and own your code.

**Avoid model-driven execution platforms** as they host the application so that the platform interprets and executes the model directly at runtime.

**Look for code-generation platforms** as they output executable code that can be installed on various standard infrastructures. In other words, you own your code and your data. OutSystems is one such platform.



### 3 Pricing models



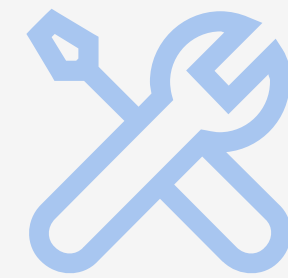
SaaS can be very expensive, especially if you have many users. Imagine if your platform could not support all your businesses needs, you would have to purchase multiple platforms (each with its own user licences) to adequately support your operations adequately. **Ensure you are investing in a platform that allows you to cater for your current and future use cases.**

Not all leading software vendors publish their pricing, but companies can expect to pay an average of \$100 to \$400+ per user per month, depending on required features. For a workforce of 1,000 staff, this means your company will outlay between \$1.2M and \$5.8M per year for software alone.

Make sure you **fully understand the TCO (Total Cost of Ownership)**. Setup, implementation, customisation and integration costs can be significant. Inquire about ongoing maintenance, operations and upgrade costs.



## 4 **Application development tools**



As you evaluate low-code platforms, make sure they offer the following application development capabilities, even if you are outsourcing the development.

**The capabilities the platform provides will impact the development time, the quality of your application and its maintenance, scalability and evolution.**

### 4.1 **USER EXPERIENCE**

In a mobile-first and customer-centric world, all users expect best-in-class UX. Any low-code development platform you consider should make it easy to create frictionless experiences that delight users while maintaining consistency across all devices and media.

### 4.2 **INTEGRATION**

Low-code is ideal for getting the most out of your current IT infrastructure, but only if the applications you build can easily link to enterprise software and databases, on-prem or cloud-based. A low-code platform with a comprehensive library of connectors lets you modernise with speed and agility without rebuilding older applications from scratch.

### 4.3 **EVENTS**

If you hope to incorporate real-time data into applications, your platform should provide event-driven architectures that support loosely coupled, modern and distributed applications. To speed up development, it should include prebuilt integrations for webhooks, streaming and other events, messaging, and notification platforms.

### 4.4 **PROCESS AND CONTENT**

Your low-code platform should allow developers to define and execute processes easily and have the flexibility to include multiple content types, such as contracts, images, video, and more.

### 4.5 **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

An enterprise low-code platform uses artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in two important ways. Firstly, it provides developers with a co-pilot that makes them more productive and effective, guiding them to the most likely next steps. Secondly, it empowers developers to build AI-enabled applications with conversational interfaces, big data analytics, machine learning models, and more.

### 4.6 **REPORTING AND ANALYTICS**

Your solution should provide comprehensive auditing and oversight tools, allowing your IT team to monitor application performance and easily detect problems and performance issues in real-time.

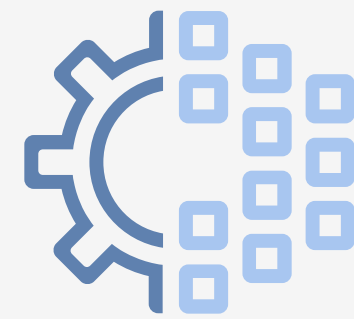
### 4.7 **TOOLS FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPERS**

Your low-code platform should include tools that facilitate collaboration between IT and business users.





## 5 **Platform features and app administration**



Your evaluation process should include a hard look at these non-functional and architectural requirements.

### 5.1 **SECURITY**

Data security should be your number one priority when choosing an application development tool. Look for capabilities like application security checks, identity management, access control, encryption, and auditing. Enterprise low-code platforms have the added benefit of providing enterprise-grade security out of the box, greatly reducing the likelihood that human error will introduce vulnerabilities.

### 4.2 **SCALABILITY**

The ability to scale your applications both in usage and complexity without degrading performance is what elevates great low-code platforms from the pack. Your platform should provide rock-solid performance to millions of users as required and handle mission-critical services without interruptions.

### 4.3 **APPLICATION CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

Your low-code platform should make it easy to extend your product lifecycles with iterative improvements over time and without adding complexity.

### 4.4 **DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SUPPORT**

An Enterprise low-code platform supports the fine-grained configuration necessary to enforce governance rules. As the number of developers and applications grows, your solution should define complex policies and implement federated application development team models.

### 4.5 **MULTI-TENANCY**

Modern enterprise and SaaS applications rely on multi-tenancy to share applications with thousands (or millions) of users while isolating their data from one another. Your chosen solution should make it simple to develop a multi-tenant application to meet these criteria.

### 4.6 **APPLICATION ARCHITECTURE**

Any enterprise-grade application should include a set of architectural best practices that identify how to organise the different application modules into layers for orchestration, user interface, core business, and library modules. This optimises development productivity and ensures sound, long-term, continuous evolution for ever-fresh applications.



## 6 **Deployment and operations**



During your low-code platform evaluation, you should focus on solutions that not only make it easy to deploy and maintain your applications and systems. Make sure they are backed by:

### 6.1 **SECURITY AUDITS AND CERTIFICATION**

Ensuring the security of your applications means not only embedding practices but also having the ability to perform periodic audits to identify potential risks.

### 6.2 **DATA LOADING AND SYNC**

Consider how each platform loads data from external solutions and how each stays in sync with those sources.

### 6.3 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) FOR CLOUD SERVICES**

Research the service-level commitments that the platform vendors offer and how they handle outages.

### 6.4 **APPLICATION MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT**

You need a solid portfolio management tool to understand app usage and performance when working at enterprise scale. Make sure any solution you choose includes this capability.



## 7 **Must-haves when considering a vendor**



### 6.1 **EXPERIENCE**

How long has the vendor been in operation? How deep or wide is its experience in your industry? How reliable is the company? How many customers do they have in your region?

### 6.2 **LEARNING RESOURCES**

Does the vendor supply rich learning materials? How broad and active is the vendor's user community? Is it easy to surface the solutions you need to solve your business challenges?

### 6.3 **STRATEGY**

Is the vendor's strategy breeding success? Examine its case studies. Are organisations similar to yours successfully using the vendor's platform?

### 6.4 **COMMERCIAL MODEL**

Is the vendor's pricing model aligned with your current needs? Will that continue to be true as your needs grow? Does your vendor have a local presence that can give you support when you need it?



# OutSystems for Enterprise Organisations. Build Applications Fast, Right, and for the Future

OutSystems was founded in 2001 with the mission to give every organisation the power to innovate through software. The OutSystems modern application platform's high productivity, connected, and AI-assisted tools help developers rapidly build and deploy a full range of applications anywhere the organisation requires. With more than 486,000 community members, more than 1,600 employees, 350 partners, and active customers in 87 countries and across 22 industries, OutSystems has achieved global scale while helping organisations change the way they develop applications.



## OutSystems is a leader in the low- code market



1,030 Reviews



336 Reviews



172 Reviews



325 Reviews

Thousands of customers worldwide trust OutSystems, confirmed by over 1,600+ positive public customer reviews. They have 20+ years of experience and financial backing from Goldman Sachs and KKR. OutSystems is the pioneer and a leader of the enterprise low-code platform market across the globe in Forrester Wave™ and Gartner Magic Quadrant reports. OutSystems focuses on enterprise application development for agile and continuous customer delivery by offering a combination of omnichannel support and scalability.



## A real enterprise-grade platform

OutSystems is the only independent low-code development platform leader with a focus on productivity and advanced enterprise features. Engineers with obsessive attention to detail crafted every aspect of the OutSystems platform to help organisations build enterprise-grade apps and transform their business faster, right and for the future.

OutSystems is a robust platform that supports all the DevOps lifecycle and is the only platform in the market with two decades of experience and thousands of successful applications, and happy customers.

OutSystems combines the power of low-code development with advanced mobile capabilities, enabling fast deployment of applications for any device.



## Price model without surprises

OutSystems price model is based on the number of users and 3 categories (Basic, Standard and Enterprise). It is very simple to predict cost scalability. You can build and manage as many applications as you want without additional functionality or per-user costs. There is no limit to the number of users you can have; however, once you reach 1,000 users, there are no further per user charges.



## The applications you create are future-proof and optimised for performance and security

As technologies evolve, OutSystems evolves its compiler, taking advantage of new frameworks and their capabilities. OutSystems leverages the best of breed codes patterns, validated for security best practices and optimised for performance, so whenever you redeploy your models; they are entirely future-proof.



## Architecture with no lock-in

OutSystems generates applications that are ready to run on any web farm or cloud environment. This gives you the flexibility to deploy your apps using any Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) or on-premises.

If you ever stop your OutSystems subscription, you can retrieve and keep your data and code. Since OutSystems generates and deploys standard applications, technologies, and database models, with no need for custom interpreters, runtimes, or proprietary library, applications can run independently of the OutSystems platform.

All of your data and code remains under your control and can be amended with standard tools...Your investment is always protected.



## With PhoenixDX, you get more than custom software solutions. You get business value.

### Talk to us

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Technology is not enough to ensure successful software solutions. In addition to making the right technology choice, you need to choose the right partner.

With PhoenixDX, you can be sure that you will deliver custom applications fast, right and future-proof. You can leverage our decades of experience building tailored enterprise-grade applications using the most advanced methodologies in software development.

PhoenixDX is an award-winning OutSystems partner, specialised in custom application development and digital products. We are dedicated to OutSystems with a highly skilled team of experts, including 3 OutSystems MVPs and a dedicated team of UX professionals.

We don't only build applications; we quickly deliver game-changing digital solutions that give organisations a strategic competitive advantage.

Talk to us about  
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