

# What Is Low-Code?

Have you heard about the “low-code” phenomenon? Maybe you saw a reference for it on Stack Overflow or perhaps you saw the OutSystems booth at a trade show and wondered what it was all about.

Forrester coined “low-code” a good while back, and Gartner went for “high-productivity application platform as a service” not long after. Here’s a simple description. **Low-code enables you to deliver business applications, software, and core systems with minimal hand-coding, setup, and training.**

## What Low-Code Does

Designing an app with a low-code platform involves all of the same planning and thought processes as developing by hand. When it’s time to start modeling, though, things get different, fast! Here is what a low-code platform should enable you to do (at minimum).

### Create Applications Using Visual Models Instead of Writing Code

When creating an application in a low-code platform, the developer works in a graphical interface to visually model the application by dragging and dropping front-end UI components, business logic and functions, workflow and processes, and database tables and schemas. The same drag-and-drop approach applies regardless of the layer of the application you are building and regardless of the target platform and device.

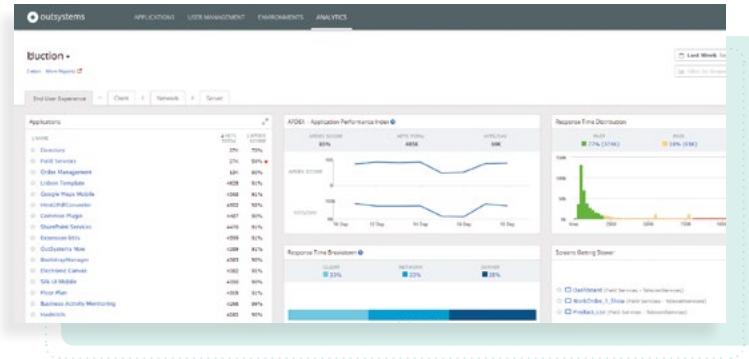


### Worry-Free Application Deployment

Once the application is visually modeled, at the click of a button, the low-code platform uses intelligent automation to generate the application based on the provided model and then handles the deployment of applications to the selected environments. All application changes (to data models, logic, business processes, and screens) are taken care of by the platform, including making all the necessary updates and understanding dependencies between applications.

## End-to-End App Management

After deployment, a well-designed low-code platform will also manage the application throughout its lifetime. This includes providing detailed application performance management with actionable alerts and historical performance trending.



# The Truth About **Low-Code**

In case you have any preconceived notions about low-code, it's time to dispel them. You might have heard that it will replace human coders, that it's programming lite, and that it's picture-based programming. Here's the real scoop.

## Low-Code Was Designed for Human Coders

Low-code development enhances skills developers already have. Their business logic, expertise, and knowledge of their industry all work together with low-code development to make developers faster than ever before.

## Enterprise Development Is Included

In years past, low-code was synonymous with mobile and web app development. Today, industry analysts like Gartner and Forrester recognize leaders in low-code as offering an enterprise-class development platform that meets up to 80 percent of enterprise development needs. As new functionality and features such as AI-assisted development add to low-code's feature-set, look for that number to move closer to 100 percent.

## The Models Are Composed of Real Code and Logic

In as much as the modules in the visual editor are represented as images, yes, there are pictures involved. But those images are self-contained modules of code and logic. Rather than typing (and retyping) the same code over and over, just drag and drop. Visual-based development yields the same results, but more intuitively and faster, without typos!

If you would like to learn more about low-code and how it can help your organization with its digital transformation efforts, or if you are just curious if low-code is right for you and would like to download and evaluate it on your own, visit us online at [www.outsystems.com](http://www.outsystems.com).



OutSystems is the number one platform for low-code rapid application development. Thousands of customers worldwide trust OutSystems as the only solution that combines the power of low-code development with advanced mobile capabilities, enabling visual development of entire application portfolios that easily integrate with existing systems.

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