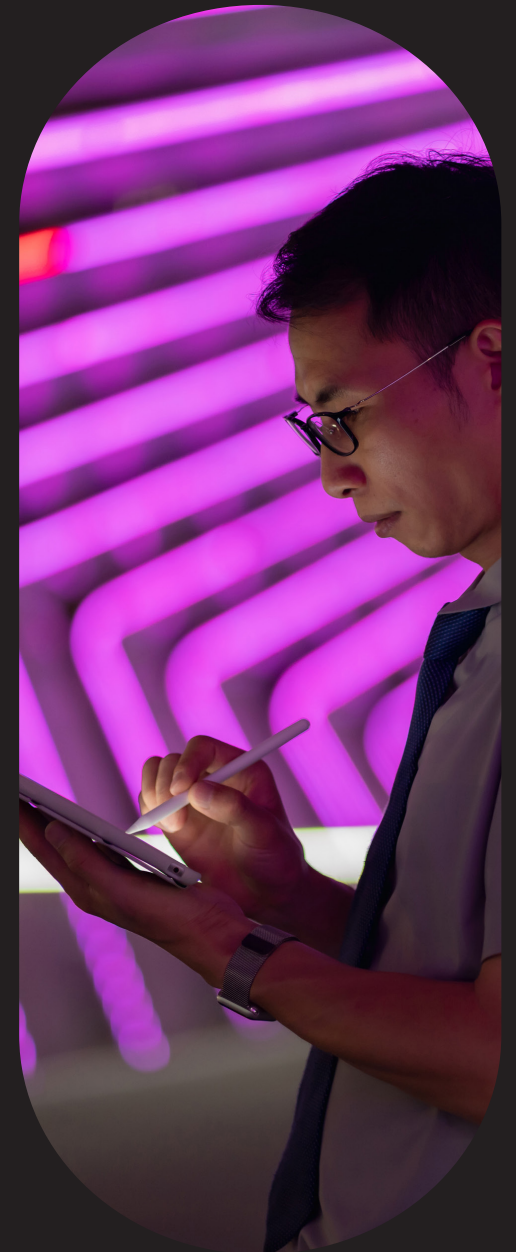


# Buyer's Guide to High-Performance Low-Code Platforms

**TL;DR:** It's nothing like the low-code development you think you know.





## What's your opinion of low-code development?

If you're like many IT leaders, you probably think they are best suited for business users or "citizen developers" who want to build tactical, quick, single-use apps.

However, high-performance low-code is fundamentally different from the rest of the market. With a platform in this class, organizations can reap the benefits of low-code while building the sophisticated, enterprise-grade, mission-critical applications they need to compete and that work seamlessly with the rest of their app portfolio.

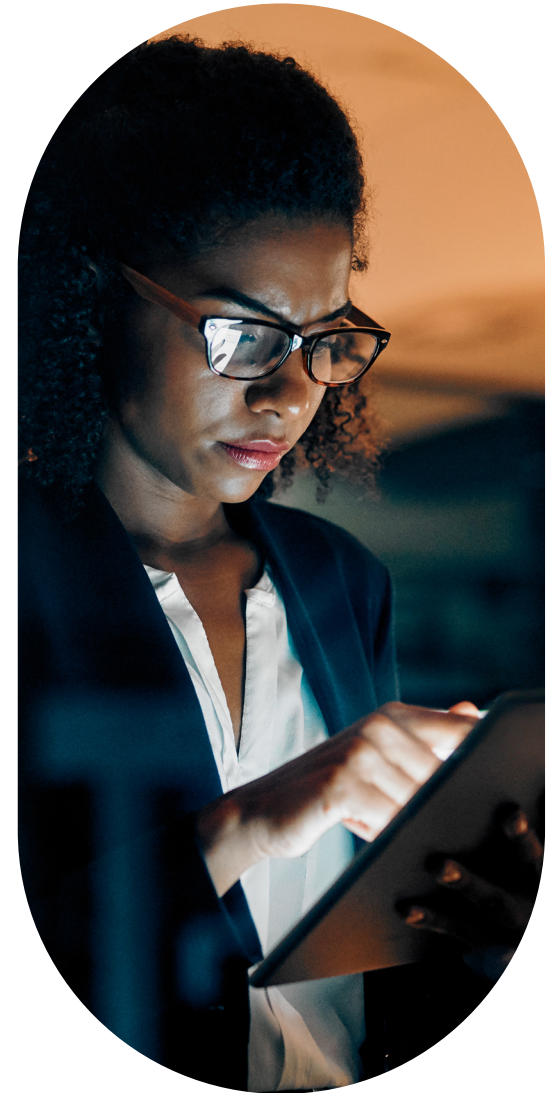
Here are some criteria to help you evaluate whether the platform you're looking at is run-of-the-mill low-code or is actually the high-performance low-code your enterprise requires.

## What Is High-Performance Low-Code?

High-performance low-code is a unique approach to software development that can apply to any type of application — from small, department-level apps all the way up to strategic, mission-critical, and even customer-facing applications. High-performance low-code combines professional-grade, visual development tools with integrated automation for the entire software development lifecycle. They deliver continuous integration/continuous deployment (CI/CD) pipelines, governance for large development teams, and cloud-native infrastructure for running applications.

With this approach, teams can deliver apps — no matter the complexity — and then update and change them as technology and business requirements evolve. High-performance low-code is designed to be systematically secure from design-time to runtime, so you can trust it with your most important assets. Artificial intelligence (AI) and automation for CI/CD shrink deployment cycles to minutes, and state-of-the-art cloud-native infrastructure delivers the confidence that apps will automatically scale and remain available, even under the most extreme conditions.

With high-performance low-code, whatever the business asks, IT has the power to always say, “Yes!”



## How Is It Different from Entry-Level Low-Code?

High-performance low-code delivers the speed and efficiency you expect from a low-code platform, but with the enterprise-grade capabilities required to build any application in your backlog.

Unlike regular low-code, high-performance low-code ensures you can quickly and efficiently develop all the strategic, mission-critical apps that uniquely define your business without having to hire and train legions of additional staff. These benefits extend to not only the mission-critical apps in your backlog, but also to internal workgroup apps and automated workflows.

Overall, high-performance low-code differs from entry-level low-code in terms of power, agility, security, and scalability:

### **Power:**

Most low-code platforms increase productivity by limiting development capability.

High-performance low-code has no such limitations when it comes to the scope of what a developer can accomplish. With high-performance low-code, developers have the power to build any kind of app the business requests — including high-scale, mission-critical, web and mobile apps that directly engage users and customers. With high-performance low-code, developers have all the control they typically enjoy when using traditional tools and frameworks.

### **Agility:**

All low-code platforms offer improvements in productivity. But many are inadequate for keeping pace with change and managing the software development lifecycle (SDLC).

A high-performance low-code platform includes built-in tools, automation, and AI to accelerate the entire SDLC – and when appropriate, integrate with your existing SDLC infrastructure. It also enables the efficient reuse of code across your entire portfolio of apps. Instead of getting you to version 1 rapidly and leaving you hanging, you get to version 100 even more quickly.

## How Is It Different from Entry-Level Low-Code?

### **Security:**

Most low-code platforms offer basic security, governance, and compliance — just enough for internal, tactical applications.

High-performance low-code provides the comprehensive, enterprise-grade security capabilities and governance required for developing mission-critical customer apps. You can apply the same policies and practices used for traditional development to the low-code development process. Your apps are secure from design-time to runtime, and you can be confident that your most valuable data will remain safe.

### **Scalability:**

Most low-code platforms offer just enough scalability and availability to build and run internal, workgroup-style applications.

A high-performance low-code platform is designed for internet-scale web and mobile applications. Developers can build applications that support hundreds of millions of users, allow the geographic distribution of apps, and offer the reliability and availability sufficient for running strategic, mission-critical enterprise applications.



# What to Consider When Evaluating a Low-Code Platform: Is It High-Performance?

To help you evaluate whether a platform is truly high-performance, the following are the key features and capabilities that define high-performance low-code.

## **Power.**

Agility.

Security.

Scalability.

**Power.** Your solution should offer a world-class user experience that provides extensibility and full-stack control with the ability to deploy anywhere. Look for these capabilities:

- Built-in support for developing mobile apps, web portals, web services, kiosks, IoT devices, and more so that multi-experience development is easy
- Easily reusable code, application logic, and UI across multiple channels, delivering high levels of efficiency and consistency for multi-experience apps
- Ability to update code shared across multiple apps once with no need to copy and paste changes across multiple apps
- Pixel-perfect interfaces that fully embrace your company's brand to deliver delightful, customer-facing apps
- Out-of-the-box support for commonly used databases and systems of record so you can integrate with all your internal systems
- Ability to easily integrate existing traditional code libraries into your apps so you can reuse standardized code built outside the high-performance low-code platform

# What to Consider When Evaluating a Low-Code Platform: Is It High-Performance?

Power.

**Agility.**

Security.

Scalability.

**Agility.** High-performance not only accelerates development, but it also provides the agility to adapt your apps as quickly as the business requires. High-performance low-code should enable IT organizations to achieve “Elite Performer” status as defined by the DORA DevOps best practices research. Specific capabilities to look for include:

- AI-based automation built into the platform to accelerate the entire application lifecycle, such as dependency checking when code is reused across multiple applications
- Real, standardized code output that can run anywhere traditionally coded applications can run
- Integration with all your enterprise CI/CD investments if your organization has already developed its own infrastructure
- One-click publishing (no scripting required) to remove the complexity of compiling and publishing apps
- AI-based tools for reducing technical debt and improving code reusability across large, complex enterprise app portfolios
- AI-based impact analysis that enables large teams to work together simultaneously and efficiently as they build large-scale enterprise applications
- Built-in tools for application monitoring and gathering end-user feedback
- Standards-based integration with enterprise monitoring and observability platforms (e.g. Datadog, Dynatrace, New Relic, etc.)

# What to Consider When Evaluating a Low-Code Platform: Is It High-Performance?

Power.

Agility.

**Security.**

Scalability.

**Security.** Make sure that any solution you consider is secure from design-time to runtime. Security capabilities to look for include:

- Multiple built-in security checks across the application lifecycle from design-time to runtime
- Zero trust, role-based governance model that ensures developers only have access to data to which they've been explicitly granted rights
- AI-based code analysis that automatically identifies security vulnerabilities inadvertently introduced during the development process
- Specialized security infrastructure specifically for mobile apps
- Real, standards-based code generation, enabling you to leverage enterprise security scanning tools for static code analysis (such as SonarQube, Checkmarx, Veracode, etc.)
- Support for disaster recovery across cloud regions
- A platform provider that can identify potential vulnerabilities and threats, proactively mitigate risks, and protect against evolving security challenges without impacting application uptime



# What to Consider When Evaluating a Low-Code Platform: Is It High-Performance?

Power.

Agility.

Security.

**Scalability.**

**Scalability.** True high-performance low-code is ready for global distribution with the ability to scale on demand without performance penalties. Look for these capabilities:

- A true cloud-native architecture for the application runtime that is optimized for containers beyond simply checking the “Kubernetes” box. Applications strictly adhere to microservices and microfrontends architectures.
- A platform built on exclusively cloud-native services for data, networking, CDN, compute, and more that are scalable and optimized for a container-based architecture
- Apps can automatically scale up to hundreds of millions of users with both compute and data infrastructures auto-scaling.
- Serverless compute (i.e. function as a service, or FaaS) is integral to the platform architecture.
- State-of-the-art cloud infrastructure that enables apps to be deployed across multiple, geographically distributed data centers, ensuring that they are inherently resilient and meet the most stringent up-time requirements
- An architecture that enables the platform vendor to continuously update the underlying platform and add new capabilities seamlessly without impacting application uptime or availability
- Support for thousands of developers from a single organization in one platform



# Get the Power, Agility, Security, and Scalability You Need with High-Performance Low-Code

High-performance low-code is a completely different animal from the low-code solutions you're familiar with. You can use it to create scalable, secure, mission-critical enterprise-grade applications – including customer-facing and core operations use cases.

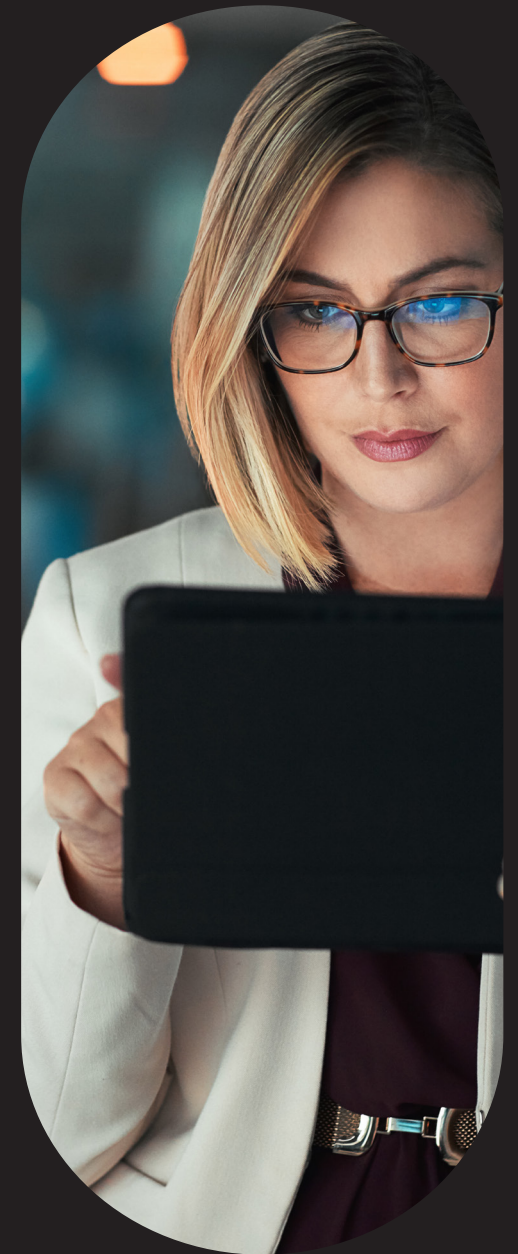
The OutSystems platform is built from the ground up to provide high-performance low-code development and is optimized for developing strategic, mission-critical applications. It combines professional-grade, visual development tools with integrated automation for CI/CD, governance for large development teams, and cloud-native infrastructure for running applications.

With OutSystems, organizations can quickly build secure, resilient applications that scale to hundreds of millions of users and that adapt as fast as the needs of the business change.

With high-performance low-code, whatever the business asks, you can always say “Yes!”

 [Learn more](#) about the OutSystems high-performance low-code platform.

[Schedule a demo](#)



# Checklist

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Use this cheat sheet to evaluate low-code development solutions. Be sure to ask for examples and case studies of actual applications developed on each platform as well as demos of the user interface to verify claims.

## POWER

- World-class user experience
- Extensibility
- Full-stack control
- Deploy anywhere
- Built-in support for all app types (mobile, web portals, kiosks, IoT, etc.)
- Reusable code across channels
- Update shared code once across multiple apps (no cut-and-paste)
- Pixel-perfect interfaces with your branding
- Out-of-the-box integration with all your internal systems
- Ability to integrate existing traditional code libraries

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## AGILITY

- Integrated DevOps and application lifecycle management
- Built-in AI-based automation
- Real, standardized code output
- Integration with all your enterprise CI/CD investments
- One-click publish (no scripting)
- AI-based tools to reduce technical debt and improve code reusability
- AI-based impact analysis for large-scale enterprise applications

## SECURITY

- Zero trust governance
- Built-in security checks across the application lifecycle from design-time to runtime
- AI-based code analysis
- Specialized security infrastructure for mobile apps
- Ability to leverage standard enterprise security scanning tools
- Disaster recovery across cloud regions
- Proactive risk identification and mitigation

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## SCALABILITY

- Scale on demand without performance penalties
- Auto-scale compute and storage infrastructure
- State-of-the-art cloud-native application runtime
- State-of-the-art cloud-native infrastructure
- Ability to deploy across multiple, geographically distributed datacenters
- Resilient apps that meet the most stringent up-time requirements
- Built-in platform and application monitoring
- Ability to integrate with your existing monitoring and observability investments
- Continuous platform updates and enhancements with no uptime loss
- Ability to support thousands of developers concurrently