HCLSoftware

Building
Innovative Apps

Low-code Development Is a Necessity for Your Digital Journey

HCL Volt MX

Introduction

The new world economy has forced many organizations to fast-track their digital journeys and brought about new challenges and hurdles:

*   Rapidly changing customer expectations
*   Shifting business priorities
*   Simultaneous economic, logistical, and health crises

Today, digital transformation is fueled by speed, adaptability, scalability, automation, and innovation — the five benefits of low-code development.

Organizations across industries recognize the importance of low-code for building innovative apps that address the current challenges of our ever-changing world. For example, Forrester Research found that improving mobile experiences is a significant priority for over 72% o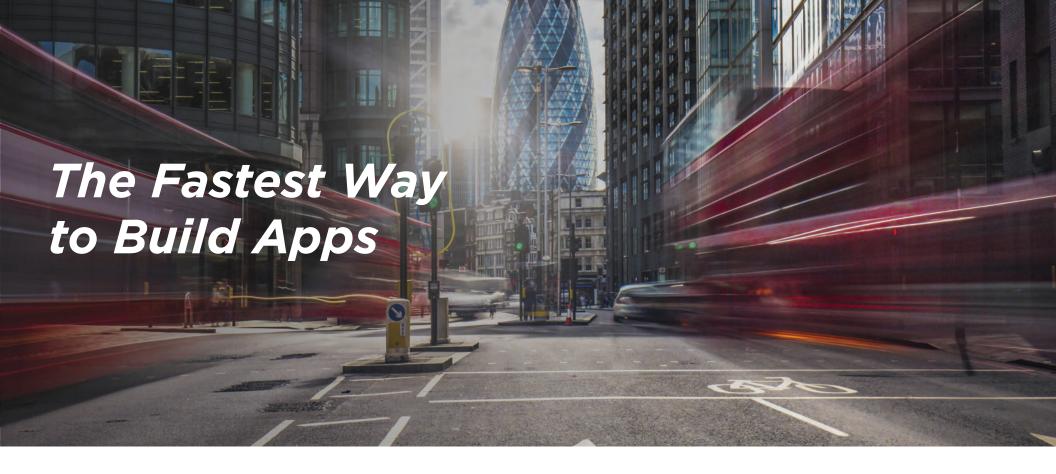f decision-makers it surveyed in 2021, and 68% of these respondents consider low-code development as key to increasing the scale and velocity of their mobile application needs.

Take a look at the low-code benefits to organizations' digital journeys:

*   Low-code makes it easy to get started, evolve, and get it right.
*   Low-code allows for greater IT agility and velocity your customers and employees demand.
*   Low-code delivers significant cost savings and limitless innovation.

This eBook dives into the specific capabilities for building innovative apps and the benefits of HCL Volt MX, an industry-leading low-code platform for mobile and multi-experience app development.

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The Fastest Way to Build Apps

Successful digital-driven organizations build apps— fast! Whether delivering a business-critical solution to employees or providing an improved customer experience, companies turn to low-code to save time and money.

Low-code platforms allow professional developers to design and deliver enterprise mobile and multi-experience apps — within hours instead of weeks!

Volt MX enables rapid app development because it's easy to use and it combines all the necessary components for your needs at any stage of your digital journey — in the cloud or on-premises, for native mobile or PWAs, with AR/VR or NLP capabilities, and more.

Volt MX includes tools for the full app development cycle, such as design and prototyping, user experiences, backend integration, security and data protection, deployment, testing and analytics, and ensures reusability across the organization.

Design and Prototyping

In app development, the design stage is arguably the most important one. Traditionally, significant time and resources spent in the development phase ensures the app's success with users, procures engagement, and determines whether your business retains or loses customers. According to a Forrester study, every $1 USD invested in UX results in a return of $100, while, according to PWC research, **32% of the customers would leave a brand they loved after just one bad experience.**

Low-code platforms provide pre-wired components and templates to build front-end interface and user experience. Instead of hand-coding all elements, developers and designers can use the included tools to speed up the process. **Volt MX, for instance, reduces coding by 80%**.

Inherently a collaborative app development stage, designing and prototyping within a low-code platform must allow for various team members — stakeholders from across the organization — to work together. It must also ensure that designers can use common design tools such as Photoshop and Sketch, instead of being constrained by an unfamiliar tool in the platform.

To that end, the front-end development tool within Volt MX, includes plugins to convert your UI designs built on third party design tools. Overall, it supports rich user experience development across different channels and extensive WYSIWYG tooling.

Recognizing its multi-experience UX and mobile app development capabilities, **Forrester has ranked Volt MX a 5–its highest ranking!**

With a WYSIWYG canvas and design toolsets, designers can easily create nuanced application UI and UX without compromise — for any audience, across any device. These application designs can then be advanced into highly engaging application interactions using the no- or low- code.

Application prototyping does not end with design and interaction. By using Volt MX's unique no-code integration tools such as mapping editor, the design and interaction can be hooked into data from the enterprise with only a few clicks.

Empowering collaboration, Volt MX allows team members across the organization to preview and provide feedback throughout the design and prototyping process.

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Volt MX reduces coding work by **80%**

5-Star Award

Ranked by Forrester Wave™: Low-Code Development Platforms for Professional Developers

High Fidelity UI and UX

Still not convinced that low-code is the way to go? Consider this success story of a premier Volt MX client, who is a global manufacturer of consumer and professional products.

The company tasked the Volt MX services team with building a personalized and fully customizable dashboard for its executives to keep track of global sales numbers, orders, and shipments during the global supply chain crisis in 2021.

Working together with the end business users, HCL designed a solution that not only met those business metrics but was also simple and clear!

Ultimately, the UI was drawn in Figma files and imported into Volt MX. At every stage, development and prototyping was shared and discussed among all the relevant business units and the development team members. The result? We cut the app development time down to four weeks, start to finish!

Now, C-level executives use this app online and on their mobiles, leveraging the UI that turns complicated data and statistics into actionable insights.

Automated Security and Data Protection

68% *of organizations in the United States had experienced a ransomware attack and had paid the ransom as a result*

At the time when even the largest enterprises aren't safe from cybercriminals, finding the right solution for every app can become a daunting task.

A 2020 cyber security survey shared on Statista revealed that 68% of organizations in the United States had experienced a ransomware attack and had paid the ransom as a result; the average cost to businesses affected by a data breach in the United States amounted to $84.6 million USD!

What's the solution to this massive crisis? Low-code and high security!

Low-code platforms include enhanced security and data governance tools, at no additional cost to our HCL customers. At HCL, we recognize that data protection and cybersecurity is a top priority. So every app built within Volt MX is protected with a number of methods such as:

- Design time security
- Critical business logic security
- On-device encryption
- White Box Cryptography
- Cryptography and Encryption APIs
- And most importantly, network security

Volt MX allows you to quickly and easily ensure the apps you deploy are protected, adhere to industry regulations, and align to your existing governance policies.

Standardization and Reusability

Volt MX does more than build and protect your initial app development! The reuse of common components, assets, and microservices across channels, applications, and platforms is critical to realizing organizational efficiency.

VMX frees up developers to concentrate on more meaningful tasks and saves resources and time. Instead of coding from scratch developers can simply reuse already existing components. Instead of debugging and maintaining code in several different apps, they can concentrate on one component in one centralized location. This means **consistent code**, **unified design**, and **accelerated app development**.

Instead of keeping track of various standards, best practices, security requirements, and guidelines in various business units — potentially creating data silos — a low-code platform entails a central location, or a catalog, for all that information.
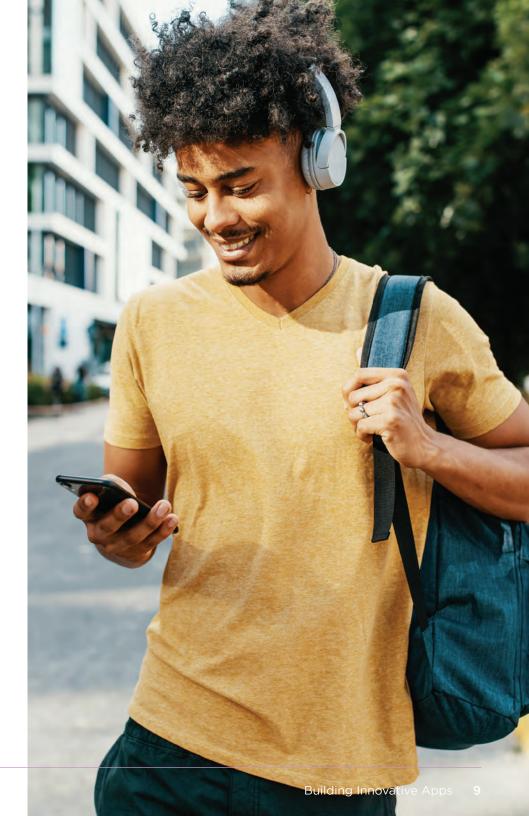
Volt MX provides enterprise-grade capabilities to define such components centrally and use them across any number of applications and device types. These components can consist of simple UI assets, user interface elements, and application component functionality definitions.

Success Story Highlight

One global marketing and consumer goods company, an HCL customer, centralized its app dev, enabling developers to easily build and share apps across teams in over 60 countries, reducing project times and costs by half.

The company's developers from around the world can assemble apps faster using reusable components, an approach that effectively combines the targeted ability to develop locally with the efficiency of a shareable and centralized global repository. So, if one team builds a component, it becomes available to all teams.

Instead of building an app from scratch, the other team can put it together from components created in other parts of the world. This reduces costs and time, it improves collaboration within the company, inspires innovation, and reduces the overall burden on IT.

Integration, Assembly, and DevOps

One of the biggest challenges in the creation of any application is accessing data from backend systems and then transforming or optimizing that dataset back to a smaller form factor device.

Integration with API management provides a simplified interface to backend data sources. From the API interface, mobile and web applications can take what might be a large dataset and parse through only what is relevant for display on a much smaller form factor and in an environment that is often characterized by limited or intermittent network connectivity.

Low-code platforms like Volt MX greatly simplify such backend integrations. Avoid investing in additional IT infrastructure to find solutions for connecting your enterprise systems or your databases. Our products mean not only simpler integrations, but eliminated

maintenance costs and freed time for developers to focus on delivering the best possible user experience.

Volt MX includes not just backend services, but API management and object services, enabling model-driven application design and development by following a microservices architectural approach to create reusable components and link them to fit into your app.

Whatever your app needs, a low-code platform can provide a comprehensive set of integrations and services, including testing, DevOps, analytics, diagnostics, and security. These benefits don't apply just to the initial release of the app. Subsequent releases are also three to four times faster due to the reuse of assets and integration, and new apps can be delivered more quickly and more efficiently — leveraging a simpler app development process.

Conclusion

Low-code platforms have many benefits, and adopting one is a must on the road to becoming a successful digital-driven organization.

Behind each solution's success lies a combination of the right people and the right technology. While your digital journey depends on your own combination of the two, we strive to make Volt MX the ultimate solution for your tech needs. We are focused on Volt MX being the most comprehensive, secure, advanced, and simple to use low-code application development platform available.

Learn More

Start a 30-Day Free Trial