



What is an Enterprise Applications Platform?

A Comprehensive Introduction to EAP

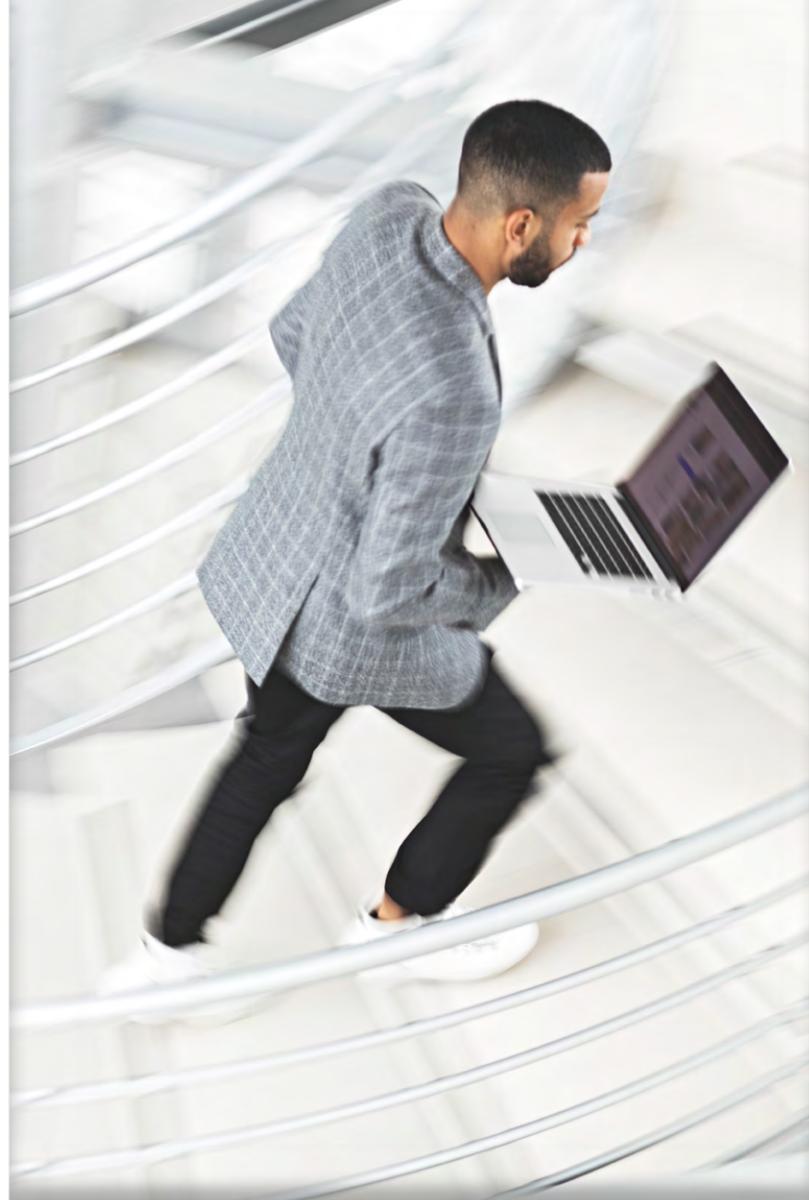


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Introduction

An **Enterprise Applications Platform (EAP)** is a comprehensive software solution that serves as a centralized framework for managing and executing diverse business applications and processes within an organization. Enterprise Applications Platforms are becoming popular for businesses who find themselves slowed down by aging architectures, but don't want to undergo a major rip-and-replace project. Unlike ERPs, EAPs can solve business problems with a modular approach, offering a variety of packaged capabilities that can be singularly used, or used to compose larger business processes and workflows.

An EAP offers a holistic view of an organization's operations, empowering decision-makers with real-time insights and facilitating efficient cross-functional collaboration. It features robust security measures, customization options, integration capabilities, advanced analytics, and user-friendly interfaces. By implementing an EAP, businesses can enhance operational efficiency, agility, resource allocation, customer experiences, and gain a competitive edge in the market, while adapting to industry trends and customer demands.





Enterprise Application Platforms enable rapid innovation and re-invention by stripping away much of the technical implementation behind bringing new ideas and applications into the fold. EAPs have continued to evolve over the last decade. Modern EAPs leverage these technologies to drive automation, improve decision-making with advanced analytics, and enhance customer experiences.

Today, EAPs have become vital for organizations seeking to optimize their operations, gain a competitive edge, and adapt to changing market dynamics. They provide a unified platform that enables businesses to manage their core processes, data, and workflows efficiently, while integrating with external systems and supporting seamless collaboration.

One key point of differentiation between EAPs and ERPs is how they are able to be implemented. ERPs are, by nature, monolithic systems that require complete rip-and-replace projects. EAPs by contrast offer a flexible deployment, where packaged capabilities can be prioritized and implemented over time.



Why EAPs are becoming popular

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, ***organizations face numerous challenges that demand agility, efficiency, and innovation.*** Traditional systems and processes often struggle to keep up with these demands, hindering growth and competitiveness.

Challenges businesses face today:

Outdated technology: Many traditional application landscapes are built on old technologies that are not scalable, require expensive engagements to support, and do not integrate well with other systems.

Customization: Customization is a given for companies who want their business processes reflected accurately into the system. However, customization has historically implied an expensive endeavor that will require future refactoring and maintenance.

Tech talent: Businesses are running software packages built decades ago that require specialized skillsets to support. These resources are often expensive and becoming rarer.

The worldwide market for low-code development technologies is projected to total **\$26.9 billion in 2023**, reflecting the industry's increasing demand for efficient software development solutions
(per Gartner)



of organizations believe ***customization is essential*** for effective channel management
(per Accenture)

The demand for tech talent is outpacing the supply by

2 to 1
(per Gartner)

EAPs are designed to address the challenges faced by organizations in today's dynamic business landscape.

Here's an overview of how EAPs tackle these challenges:



Modularity: While EAPs do deliver the expected and standard application suites for an enterprise like Financials or Manufacturing, they also provide a flexible delivery model where smaller components can be pieced together into a composable experience.

Agility: EAPs provide the flexibility and agility needed to quickly respond to changing business requirements. With no-code development environments, businesses can easily create or customize applications without relying on traditional coding. This empowers organizations to rapidly adapt their systems and processes to meet evolving needs.



Integration: EAPs offer robust integration capabilities, allowing seamless connectivity between disparate systems and applications. By integrating data and processes across the organization, EAPs enable a holistic view of the business, improving decision-making and operational efficiency. This integration eliminates data silos and streamlines workflows, enhancing collaboration and productivity.



Customization: EAPs enable extensive customization options, empowering businesses to tailor applications to their specific needs. Some EAPs provide no-code development capabilities that not only make customizations easy to deliver but also make them sustainable through new releases. This type of toolset eliminates the need to refactor customizations after upgrades and makes them far less expensive to maintain.

Scalability: EAPs are designed to scale alongside the organization's growth. With cloud-based infrastructure and elastic computing resources, EAPs can handle increased workloads and accommodate expanding user bases without sacrificing performance. This scalability ensures that businesses can meet growing demands and effectively manage spikes in activity.

Innovation: EAPs embrace the latest technology trends and innovations, such as AI, machine learning, and IoT. These platforms provide the foundation for integrating emerging technologies into business processes, enabling automation, advanced analytics, and intelligent decision-making. By leveraging these innovations, organizations can drive innovation, improve efficiency, and gain a competitive advantage.



Benefits and Differentiators of EAPs

The architecture of an ERP and EAP differs significantly in terms of their design, structure, and functionality.

An ERP system is typically a monolithic, integrated solution that is designed to manage a wide range of business functions, such as finance, accounting, human resources, supply chain, and manufacturing, among others. ERPs are usually built around a central database that stores all the data related to these business functions. This database serves as the backbone of the ERP system and is the primary source of information for all the different modules within the ERP.

In contrast, an EAP is typically built using a modular, service-oriented architecture (SOA) that is designed to enable the development of custom applications quickly and easily. EAPs are typically comprised of a collection of reusable components, services, and frameworks that can be combined to create custom applications. These components are designed to be loosely coupled, meaning they can be added, removed, or replaced without affecting the overall architecture of the EAP.

The key difference in architecture between an ERP and an EAP is that ERPs are designed to be comprehensive, all-in-one solutions that provide a one-size-fits-all approach to managing business operations. EAPs, on the other hand, are designed to be flexible and modular, allowing businesses to build and deploy custom applications that meet their specific needs and requirements.

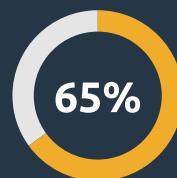


Large enterprise using at least four no-code/low-code dev tools by 2024 per Gartner prediction¹



90%

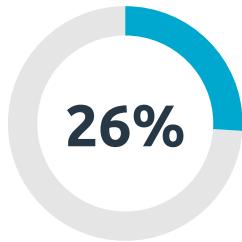
Less time for app development using no-code/low-code platforms²



Application activity from no-code development platforms by 2024 per Gartner³

91%

Of companies already incorporating or currently considering integration of no-code/low-code technologies⁴



**Of executives name
no-code/low-code development
platforms as their *most crucial
automation investment*⁵**

Overall, the architecture of an EAP is more flexible, scalable, and adaptable than that of an ERP. This allows businesses to be more agile and responsive to changing business needs and to take advantage of emerging technologies and innovation opportunities.

Enterprise Applications Platforms (EAPs) enable businesses to quickly and easily build and deploy custom applications. These platforms offer intuitive visual interfaces, drag-and-drop components, and pre-built templates, eliminating the need for extensive coding knowledge. Users can define data models, design user interfaces, and configure business logic through simplified interfaces.

EAPs provide a wide range of pre-built modules and integrations, covering various functionalities such as CRM, HR, finance, and more. This allows businesses to assemble and customize applications based on their specific requirements. The platforms support rapid prototyping, iterative development, and easy modification of applications, enabling businesses to respond quickly to changing needs.

With features like version control, automated testing, and deployment management, EAPs streamline the release of applications. This ensures prompt delivery to end-users and facilitates continuous adaptation to evolving business needs. By leveraging EAPs, businesses can reduce development time and effort, enabling faster deployment and continuous innovation.

How Nextworld's EAP works

Packaged application capabilities: Nextworld® delivers a vast array of packaged business capabilities that offer a powerful framework for creating customized business solutions that meet specific organizational needs. By leveraging these pre-built capabilities, businesses can effectively compose their own tailored solutions without starting from scratch. By selecting and integrating the most relevant packaged capabilities, businesses can rapidly create a comprehensive solution that aligns with their unique requirements. Nextworld's flexible approach also enables organizations to adapt and scale their solutions as their needs evolve over time, providing them with a competitive advantage in an ever-changing business landscape.

EAP elements	Low-code platforms	No-code platform
Cloud-based solution	Some cloud-ported, some on-prem	Cloud-native
Use cases: extend, build, integrate	Extend, build, integrate	Extend, build, integrate
Utilize no-code or low-code tools	Low-code tools (IT required)	True no-code (no technical debt)
Focus is on business user	Business users + coders (required)	Business users (no coders required)
Enables seamless integrations	Selective integrations	APIs for everything
AI/ML capabilities	Light AI/ML capabilities	Built in AI/ML toolkit
Supports multiple languages	Supports multiple languages	Supports multiple languages
		+ Sustainable customizations
		+ Future proof architecture



No-code development and customization: Nextworld's EAP is made up of a true no-code environment, allowing users to build and customize applications without writing a single line of code. This no-code approach ensures that businesses can enact change rapidly and that they don't get penalized for customizing their processes. Nextworld® provides unparalleled flexibility and freedom to evolve and adapt applications as operational needs change.

Future-proof: Nextworld enables its customers to be resilient in the wake of evolving technologies. Unlike software solutions written on dated technologies, Nextworld's architecture is designed to incorporate and leverage new technologies as they emerge without disrupting business operations. This allows organizations to stay at the forefront of innovation without the need for costly and time-consuming system overhauls.

Stepping-stone implementation: Rather than perform a complete rip-and-replace or, Nextworld offers a flexible deployment approach that allows businesses to implement new capabilities incrementally, thereby minimizing disruption and optimizing the digital transformation process. By breaking down the implementation into smaller, manageable steps, businesses can focus on specific functionalities or departments, ensuring a smoother transition and reducing the risk of errors or system failures.



Conclusion

Nextworld® is a leading Enterprise Application Platform that promotes businesses' digital transformation goals, allowing them to compose tailored experiences that solve the most pressing business problem. Select from a variety of packaged capabilities or build your own – without coding. With Nextworld, organizations can embrace innovation, adapt to change, and maintain a competitive edge in the modern business world.

Sources

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- 2) <https://www.zdnet.com/article/enterprises-likely-to-scrutinize-digital-commerce-delivery-platforms-in-2021/>
- 3) ProjectManagement.com, Citizen Development and the Adoption of Low-Code No-Code
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Sources: graphic on page 8
Constellation Research



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