

Traditional Code vs. Low Code vs. No Code: A Comparison

While low-code and no-code development platforms have the shared goal of speeding the development process and making it more responsive, they also have distinct differences. These differences are summarized below.

	Traditional Code	Low-Code	No-Code
Development	Requires skilled programmers and lengthy requirements gathering phases	Engineer required to do initial coding and upgrades	Doesn't require technical skills or training to use; developed in partnership with end user
Product	Output is a hard-coded system that requires engineers to maintain	Output is "soft"-coded system which can be republished as needed; often requires additional steps	Output is a live configuration that can be read/used immediately
Integration	Engineers needed to complete integration with other systems	Engineers needed to complete final ~20 percent to integrate with other systems	Drag-and-drop interfaces integrate with legacy and backend systems
Time To Market	Varies, but typically 9-18 months	Varies, but typically 6-12 months	2-4 weeks for delivery and training
Updates	Updates completed by engineers in costly sprints or requirements/development cycles	Updates completed by business users with possible engineering support and development needed	Ongoing iteration to improve product and experience completed by business users
Legacy or No Legacy	Even in the most modern programming languages, creates the legacy system of the future	Creates legacy code that must be updated and integrated with other software	No code = no legacy, eliminating issues with updates and changes