

A photograph of a modern office environment. In the foreground, a man in a striped shirt is seated at a desk, focused on his work. In the middle ground, a woman in a yellow shirt stands and leans over a man in a grey shirt who is seated at a desk, appearing to be in a collaborative discussion. In the background, another woman in a white top is leaning over a man in a dark shirt who is seated at a desk. The office has large windows, wooden desks, and modern computer monitors. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

# How to Go Low Code Without Sacrificing the Power of BPM

# How can IT prioritize when everything is important?

Ten years ago, business process management (BPM) solutions changed the way enterprises **think** about process automation by enabling them to reduce costs and increase efficiency. Now, low-code platforms are changing the way enterprises **build** process automation solutions. IT leaders are embracing low code because it empowers them to:

- ✓ Lower labor costs through the use of junior-level and business users in lieu of senior-level developers.<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Increase ROI from their existing IT investments by creating simpler, unified portfolios and leveraging cloud as a way to drive higher scalability and flexibility.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Accelerate app delivery by dramatically reducing the amount of hand-coding required.<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ Help organizations respond more quickly to customer feedback after initial software releases.<sup>3</sup>

*“People always ask me ‘can you do this in K2?’ Honestly I can do whatever you want me to do. We’ll get really excited about the little things we discover.”*

– Emily Dorsett, Vice President of Project Management, Situs

## Top 5 Business Goals of K2 Customers in 2017

1. Increase revenue
2. Decrease cost
3. Reduce risk
4. Provide better, customer-centric service
5. Differentiate from competitors

Because low code helps address critical CIO concerns, the industry is “growing like crazy,” with total revenues expected to reach USD 15 billion by 2020.<sup>4</sup> Looking beyond the hype and selecting a vendor that can actually support your quest for process excellence now and in the future is a daunting task. End users, customers and your business demand that processes align with what’s best for each of them, yet accepting the kinds of compromises to control, security and integration that low code can bring often turns into an IT nightmare.

<sup>1</sup> [The Total Economic Impact™ of K2 blackpearl: Cost Savings and Business Benefits Enabled by the blackpearl Business Application Platform.](#) Forrester. August 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Rymer, John R. and Clay Richardson. [The Forrester™ Wave: Low-Code Development Platforms, Q2 2016.](#) Forrester. April 14, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Richardson, Clay, John R. Rymer with Christopher Mines, Alex Cullen, Dominique Wittaker. [New Development Platforms Emerge for Customer-Facing Applications.](#) Forrester. June 9, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Fisher, Anne. [How Companies Are Developing More Apps with Fewer Developers.](#) Fortune. August 30, 2016.

By the time you have researched all the low code vendors, read the reviews and been through a few demos, you might feel ready to throw your hands up in exhaustion and make a recommendation based solely on the project that's right in front of you.

You could end up making a checklist looking something like:

What We Need	Vendor A's Strengths	Vendor B's Strengths	Vendor C's Strengths	Vendor D's Strengths
Minimize Coding		✓		
Can be used for one to thousands of solutions			✓	
Integrates with existing systems	✓			
Real-time visibility into processes + rich reporting				✓

Truthfully, all of these project goals are probably urgent for your department and your business, but if unified data access is the most pressing need, the vendor that does it best gets picked. The other three objectives are left by the curb – hopefully to be prioritized again when IT has the adequate skills and time, or the next time your organization approves a buy.

# Combine the best of low code and BPM to get ahead.

K2's business process application platform fills an unmistakable void in the low code space – it was specifically designed so that you don't have to choose between the fast, test-and-learn delivery of low code and the scalability, extensibility and customization capabilities of traditional BPM.

Organizations using K2 don't have to pick sides when it comes to supporting immediate, small scale needs and future goals. K2 believes that process automation applications are most successful when **power users get the ease of use they need while IT keeps power and control.**

What We Need	Vendor A's Strengths	Vendor B's Strengths	Vendor C's Strengths	Vendor D's Strengths	K2's Strengths
Minimize Coding		✓			✓
Can be used for one to thousands of solutions			✓		✓
Integrates with existing systems	✓				✓
Real-time visibility into processes + rich reporting				✓	✓

*“Our business, end to end, is run on K2, and the number of issues when it comes to these processes is practically zero.”*

– Gary Cocker, Head of Program Management, FMG Support

*“Without the K2 platform, building these processes and integrating them with the company’s line-of-business systems would take months of solid developer time. Instead, we can build very complex, meaningful applications in about four to six days per process.”*

– Pilam Rajatanavin, Managing Director at Thai Business Solution

To help you and your team evaluate the quality and flexibility of K2's platform, we've outlined K2's capabilities in nine key areas of business process automation success:

## 1. K2 Workflow Tools

- ✓ Graphical, drag-and-drop, wizard-driven workflow designer
- ✓ Support for any type of workflow scenario – including rework, parallel processing, multi-level approvals and more
- ✓ Save workflow steps and common functions as a template that can be shared and reused across applications and departments
- ✓ Integrate workflows across LOB systems, on premises or in the cloud, through wizards and a reusable business object architecture (SmartObjects)
- ✓ Configure automated task management with built-in scheduled escalations and/or multiple escalations – on the same task or tasks assigned to groups of users

## 2. K2 Forms

- ✓ Browser-based, drag-and-drop responsive designer
- ✓ Build a form once and reuse it anywhere
- ✓ Connects with LOB and data systems
- ✓ Validation using built-in logic (simple and complex), rules and checks
- ✓ Works on any device, online or offline
- ✓ Can be hosted within third-party solutions
- ✓ Runs independently from the workflow or integrates with workflows

### 3. K2 Integration

- ✓ Visually configurable connectors
- ✓ Deep integration with industry-leading solutions, without coding
- ✓ Reusable, extensible and easy to integrate
- ✓ Expose as service to share and receive data
- ✓ Leverage native security settings
- ✓ Able to integrate with external LOB systems, including SharePoint on-premises and online, SAP, Salesforce.com, SQL Server, Box, DropBox, PowerBI, Tableau and more
- ✓ Data integration points can be reused across multiple processes, forms and reports
- ✓ Evolves to keep up with newer and modern information silos

### 4. K2 Mobile

- ✓ Applications are built in responsive design, so processes can be built once and accessed from any device – online or offline
- ✓ Information can be captured when offline, from a mobile device, with forms automatically syncing with back-end systems once the user is back online
- ✓ Data secured using industry-standard file encryption and security settings
- ✓ Scan bar codes, take pictures and annotate

### 5. K2 Preconfigured Apps

- ✓ 50+ free, ready-to-use, preconfigured process apps (SmartStarters)
- ✓ Incorporate workflows, forms and business object architecture
- ✓ Enables citizen developers and business analysts to get started quickly
- ✓ Customizable
- ✓ Include IT service request, training request & more

### 6. K2 Reporting, Analytics and Monitoring

- ✓ Customizable reporting, with no coding
- ✓ Free, out-of-the-box reports for process overviews, process details and user overview
- ✓ Real-time graphical process insights can be natively embedded in forms or with third-party tools like PowerBI or Tableau
- ✓ Centralized task management dashboard

## 7. K2 Management

- ✓ Centralized UI
- ✓ Modify users, policies and rules without redesigns
- ✓ Process management with rights configuration, version control and error logs
- ✓ Management of OAuth Resource types, resources and tokens
- ✓ Ability to schedule workflow processes

## 8. K2 Support/Services

- ✓ Updates to K2's on-premises software are scheduled for release approximately every 12 months and are noted as a point release; cloud-based software will release more frequently
- ✓ K2 Services offers technical and business training courses, and consulting services – according to specific needs and requirements, including job roles
- ✓ K2 Support is available for troubleshooting and more advanced help, and can be contacted online or over the phone
- ✓ K2 users can access both user-generated and K2-generated online help manuals and articles, and collaborate, share information and get ideas for building new apps

## 9. K2 Deployment

- ✓ On premises:
  - Manage K2 servers in your data center
  - Purchase software/hardware and installs using physical hardware or virtualization
  - Troubleshoot, updates and upgrade
  - Achieves compliance as required by business
- ✓ IaaS
  - Choose the cloud provider to host K2
  - Configure all components required to deploy K2 and connect to your data centers
  - Achieves compliance as required by business and not delivered by cloud provider
- ✓ Cloud platform
  - Deployment of cloud services and K2 software
  - Daily operations, security, updates and upgrades
  - Global scale and deployment as needed
  - Industry certifications for operations with SLAs
  - K2 Support, CAMs, services and training



# The low code that IT asks for.

The movement of budgets and shift of control out of traditional IT departments and into the broader business is unstoppable. But, K2 doesn't believe that it has to be painful or catastrophic. The reality is that no matter who directs technology adoption in your company, IT is expected to be responsible for making everything work together – ensuring that every worker can connect seamlessly and securely to the infrastructure.

With K2's low-code platform, IT can deliver on the basics while trying new things, and assist in turning functional processes into strategic assets.

**To learn more about building applications that offer business users ease of use and keep power and control with IT, [schedule a demo](#).**



LOW-CODE BUSINESS  
PROCESS APPLICATIONS

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[K2.COM](https://www.k2.com)

Check out our [Meet the LowCoders](#) blog series that highlights individuals using K2 within their organizations to solve business challenges.

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