# **Build & Deploy Web and Mobile Apps in Hours**

**SITUATION** - Organisations must continually evolve their processes in order to compete. This includes improving internal efficiency to perform at a high level and ensuring top quality output to clients.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Modifying existing ERP systems to meet specific needs is extremely costly. Implementing new systems often costs even more.
- Organisations struggle with capacity and skills to respond to business demand for bespoke solutions meaning responsiveness to support the business with the tools they require is often slow.
- Commissioning custom-coded applications externally is often expensive, time consuming and introduces a dependency on the supplier for future development and support.
- Users may take it upon themselves to invest time and money in their own solutions, leading to the rise of Shadow IT. These applications, often Excel based, lack visibility, control, security and scalability.



**SOLUTION** - Choosing an Enterprise Application Platform solves both Business and IT considerations.

- Subject matter experts can quickly self create Apps to meet their needs, addressing the skills and capacity and supplier dependency conundrum.
- IT have control over cost, security and scalability.





Best Practise into DNA: Apps are developed to reflect industry best practise and an organisations unique way of working. Positive lessons learnt can be replicated in other apps across the business.



**Executive Visibility:** Allows management to exercise governance, managing by exception to deliver support and add value.



**Real Time Pulse:** Pull data from enterprise and local systems to gain a single real-time version of the truth, and support agile, informed decision making.



**Zero-code Agility:** Enabling Subject Matter Experts as app builders removes the middleman, a key barrier to process optimisation. Coding = 200hrs / Configuring = 20hrs / Copying = 2hrs.



Mobile: Web Responsive platform enables apps to function on Laptops, Tablets and Mobile Phones out of the box delivering a productive workforce.



Offline: Latest Progressive Web Technology delivers offline working as standard, no need for native (IoS/Android Apps). Employees can get the job done on the move, even in the air or below ground.



API & CSV Integrated: Interoperable with most enterprise systems enabling seamless and costeffective integration.



IOT, IND 4.0 and AI: Future proofed, proven connectivity with emerging technologies such as Microsoft Cognitive Services and Watson to drive innovation and value.



Secure & Scalable Data: Meets IT and compliance standards without compromising on accessibility.

'Softools is a disruptive player in the EAP space that solves the Shadow-IT Problem' - Microsoft

Softools is an Enterprise Application Platform (EAP) on which business process apps can be built and deployed in hours - without the need for any coding. Delivering fast, cost-effective and bespoke solutions.

## Over 100 off-the-shelf apps include;



Project/Programme Management and PMO



Franchise Performance Management



Supply Chain Excellence (e.g. SRM, NCI, SCAR)



**Digital Transformation &** Innovation



Procurement & **Purchasing Optimisation** 



KPI/Performance Dashboarding



Governance, Risk & Compliance



Operations Excellence (e.g. 5S, FMEA, 8D PA)



## Technical FAQs

#### **ACCESS**

Access to the platform is via any modern browser (Edge, Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Opera+). The platform is mobileoptimised and so can be accessed on any device from PCs and tablets to Smartphones. The platform if based on 'progressive web' technology and can therefore be used offline.

#### APPS COMPLEXITY

Applications can range from simple list-based stand-alone apps (e.g. Risk Register), to complex apps (e.g. Supply Chain Assessment) that are linked together, driven by workflow and synchronised to 3<sup>rd</sup> party systems via Softools published APIs.

## **APP BUILD**

Certified AppBuilders use the integral AppStudio to design, configure and deploy apps using a systematic 8step process in hours and with zero coding.

## **BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

The platform is used by many of the world's leading organisations and Governments, and so data is always held in a secure encrypted environment, controlled by clients and exported at any time.

## **DATA INPUT**

CSV import is used to complete a one-off migration of client data during set-up. Then data is entered into the platform in 3 ways: 1) manual data input, 2) export / import via csv, and 3) real-time data synchronisation with 3<sup>rd</sup> party systems via WebHooks / APIs.

## **DATA VALIDATION**

Data field parameters and logic based on field type will validate data input is consistent and complete. Specific fields can be set to be mandatory. Specific input forms can be visible or hidden using workflow based on user team or field values.

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The platform is deployed in a web hosting environment as single-tenant or multi-tenant. Our default hosting partner world-wide is MS Azure and so deployments are instantly secure, scalable and stable.

## **INTEGRATION**

The Softools API is a JSON-based (JavaScript Object Notation) RESTful API with authentication via "OAuth 2.0 Resource Owner Password" flow with support for refresh tokens. Single Sign-On can be enabled using Auth-O.

#### **LANGUAGES**

The platform is configured to enable the dynamic translation feature in modern web-browsers (e.g. Google Translate). This allows users in different regions & countries to work on a common platform in their own language. It is also possible for App Builders to 'hard code' all system labels in local languages.

#### **PERFORMANCE**

Speed of access is fast due to the offline capability that allows saving and pulling data from the browser cache. Saving to the server is determined by the bandwidth of local wireless & wired network connections or via 3G & 4G mobile networks. The size of the app will also determine how much data in transferred and will impact speed, as will the proximity of the database to the user (latency).

## **SCALE**

The platform can scale from 1 app and user to 1,000s of apps and over 1,000,000 users for a single client.

## **SECURITY**

Softools is used by banking, military and nuclear organisations world-wide and can be locked down to any level. Access to the platform is on a named user basis which determines what a user can see (security) and what they can do (permissions). Single Sign-On (SSO) is available as an option.

## SUPPORT

Users gain first line support from on-screen help. Second line support is provided by internal client Administrators. Third line support is provided to certified Administrators via phone, email and WebEx against strict SLAs.

App Builder Support agreements ensure App Builders receive ongoing assistance ensuring they can build the best solutions at speed and gain the most value from the platform

## TRAINING

Users, Administrators and App Builders are trained via webinars or in workshops using an 'action learning' approach:

Level 1 - Basic User (2 hours)

**Level 2** – Super-Users / Administrators (+2 hours)

**Level 3** – Site Administrators (+2 hours)

**Level 4** – Basic App Builders (+ 1 day), and

**Level 5** – Advanced App Builders (+ 2 days)



