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Mardi Humphreys, Change Agent, Integration Edge

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Bridging the Development Gap: Future of No-Code Bright, but Challenges Remain

Matt Coatney, CIO, Thompson Hine LLP
Technology First Board of Directors

Several years ago, I led professional services for a data analytics no-code/low-code company. We built cutting-edge solutions for healthcare, life sciences, finance, and more using our trailblazing platform.

There was one problem though. Consulting was a great revenue stream, but business wants the recurring revenue of licensing and "citizen developer" self-service. But no matter how much we tried to convince companies they could build applications with our tool, inevitably they would lean back on us instead.

I call this the Development Gap: the gulf between organizations' application needs, the availability and technical sophistication of their business teams, and the state of no-code platforms. The gap is still too wide for the average company to get real, transformative benefit from these tools., But I remain optimistic in the long run.

There is a lot of hype around products like Microsoft PowerApps that promise "anyone can build an app." I recently surveyed the landscape, tried out several tools, and admittedly walked away disappointed. Most tools approach the space in a similar way and focus on basic use cases: form data entry, editable lists of items, and dashboards. While you can create some useful apps with those building blocks, it is not much more than a glorified online spreadsheet with a few more bells and whistles.

But if you want to make an immersive application experience? Forget about it. Even something as simple as uploading a file and performing an action in real-time proved difficult in these platforms. In many cases, the user must write code to accomplish more than trivial use cases, and we are right back where we started. Non-developers are either overwhelmed by the interface or stymied by limited functionality, and developers will not use the tools because, well, they love to write code... >>>[read more](#)

SPOTLIGHT

[Tech First Teams up with Girl Scouts!](#)

Technology First has teamed up with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio for a CSA Cyber Challenge with support of the Ohio Cyber Range Institute!

Volunteers from Technology First's membership will lead a series of "plugged" and "unplugged" cyber challenges to over 50 Girl Scouts grades 6-12. This event will take place on July 23rd at the University of Cincinnati's 1819 Innovation Hub. Participating companies include 84.51, CareSource, Great American Insurance Group, Kettering Health, Kroger, P&G, and the University of Cincinnati.



EVENTS

CIO Council (Tech Forum):

[Digital Transformation](#)

July 15, 2021 | 11:30am-1pm
Virtual Event

Led by: Nick Enger, CTO, ATC
Panelists include: Devon Valencia and Bill Magnuson

Tech Thursday Happy Hour:

[Let us know you're coming!](#)

July 15, 2021 | 4:30-6:30pm
Bock Family Brewing fka Sojourners
In partnership with Recless Tech

7th annual Technology First Leadership Awards

[Celebration Event](#)

July 20, 2021 | 4-7pm
Mandalay Banquet & Event Center

Thank you sponsors:

- Dayton Development Coalition
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- Montgomery County Business Solutions Center
- Project Management Institute Dayton/Miami Valley Ohio Chapter
- Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education

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