



axiatp

The Custom Software Development Journey

Everything to expect when
building the perfect custom
application for your business

Your Application from Inception to Installation

Are you ready to take the first step towards streamlined workflows and increased efficiency?

Before having custom software built for your business, it's essential to first understand the planning, process, and commitment it takes to implement applications successfully.

In four short parts, this guide will help you:

- 01 Determine if a custom software solution is a right fit for your organization.
- 02 Discover what to expect when you engage with a professional software firm.
- 03 Establish what you need to know and do to make the engagement successful for your organization.
- 04 Learn how to keep your custom software up to date and effective for years to come.

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Beginning the Process

Part 01

Beginning the Process

If you're considering new software for your business, it can be challenging to determine what's best for you. Should you have custom software designed and built, buy an 'off-the-shelf' solution, or possibly even stick with what you have?

These three steps will help guide you towards a successful decision:

01

Assess Your Current Needs

Our team will meet with you to assess your organization's needs to gain insight into how our services would best meet them. We can then determine if custom or pre-packaged software would be more beneficial to your business.

02

Determine the Pros and Cons

Both custom and pre-packaged software have their pros and cons; being aware of those will help you decide whether to build or buy. (Check out our blog '[The Pros and Cons of Developing a Custom Software Solution](#)' to learn more.)

03

Review & Evaluate Existing Processes

Your business processes will drive the software design, so they must be understood and capable of being performed by your business before we can build your automation software. Without reliable processes in place, the automation will be worthless.

Q2

Putting the Plan Together

Part 02

Putting the Plan Together

Once you and our team have decided that a custom application is the best solution for your business, we will begin the next course of action: putting a budget and plan together.



The Initial Budget

You should not expect a specific budget this early in the process, rather an estimated range. Once the initial broad budget is determined, we can get more extensive with the design and further develop more accurate pricing.



The Design

We recommend spending some time learning about our developer's styles and techniques to understand the design process and know what to expect. In doing so, you may hear terms like ['Agile' or 'Waterfall' Methodologies](#). Both are relevant and have their advantages and disadvantages. If you're unsure about the design process, ask us to explain so you know what your role as a client will be during the design process.

Much of the design phase includes a gathering of high-level information and detailed requirement documentation. It will also have many face-to-face meetings between you and our development team to understand your business needs thoroughly.



The Final Budget

After the design phase, we aim to have a 95% complete wireframe. A wireframe is essentially a blueprint of a website or application, and with it in place, we can deliver a final price on what your software will cost to build. It may be a cost estimate of +/-20% based on a time and material quote or a flat fixed bid.



The Timeline

In addition to a more final budget for the development project, you will also have a more clear picture of a proposed timeline. You should also know who is on your development team and what their responsibilities are.



The Contract

Once you know what the project's target is and are happy with the plan, it's time to tighten the engagement scope and move forward with a contract! There are five types of contracts we propose:

- 01 Time and Materials
- 02 Fixed Bid/Fee
- 03 Fixed Budget
- 04 Capped Budget with Accelerated Bonus
- 05 Custom Software as a Service (CSaaS)

Each contract type has its own unique set of pros and cons, and we will have a discussion to determine which will best suit your needs. Once your contract is signed, our development team will begin building your application. Although we have completed the design process together, we still need your input.



Building the Application

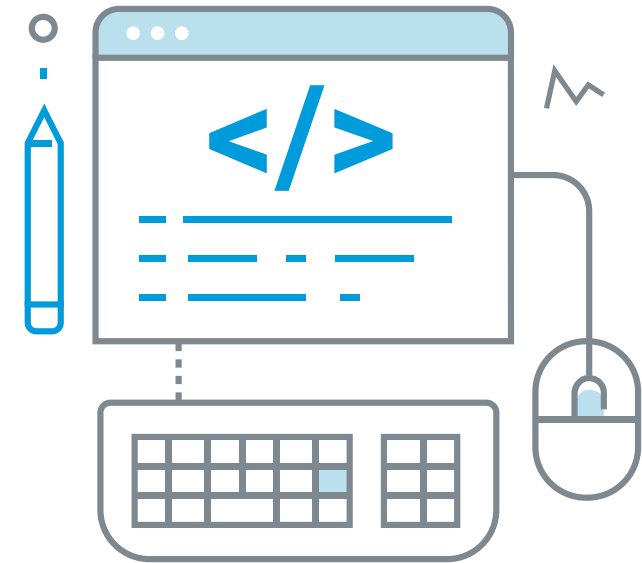
Part 03

Building the Application

At this point, the wireframe design process is complete; however, your input will still be needed, most likely in the form of feedback on changes.

During the build phase, you will receive weekly status reports to stay up to date on your project's progress.

On occasion, these may show that we missed a deadline. We can usually attribute any missed deadline to:



Illness, Other Commitments, or Missed Estimates

These reasons will result in your schedule changing. However, with our time tracking and weekly status reports, you will have constant visibility.

Changes in the Original Project Scope

No matter how many design discussions we have together, things will look and feel different once they're live. Expect the project scope to change somewhat based on improved knowledge, understanding, and desire.

04

After Installation

Part 04

After Installation

The end of your application build is only the beginning of its use. To ensure long-term success, your custom application will require maintenance and enhancements throughout its life cycle.

There are different types of maintenance agreements, and choosing the ideal one will depend heavily on what your business and new application require. No matter which maintenance agreement you choose, you need to consider maintenance as an essential stage to the livelihood of your software.



Agreement Types

Your maintenance and repair may be structured on one of the following agreement types:

Time & Materials

A time & materials agreement is billed as and when maintenance is needed. It's a great option if you don't expect your application to undergo heavy usage. There are no obligations with this agreement, but there may be a waiting period if you do need maintenance.

Custom Software as a Service

Regular maintenance is paid for monthly as part of a CSaaS contract. If you elected to have your software built using our CSaaS model, regular maintenance is included with your set monthly price.

Regular Preventative Maintenance

A regular preventative maintenance agreement has scheduled payments. If your application is business-critical, this may be the right option for you. With this agreement, we block a pre-determined number of hours for you each month, ensuring you don't have to wait for assistance.



There's a lot to consider when it comes to purchasing a custom software application. For successful custom software development, it's important you are aware of the process and prepared for any potential issues. If built correctly, custom software can remain an effective business solution for years to come.

If you have any questions regarding a custom software application for your business or would like to learn more about how we can save your company valuable time and costly resources with custom software tailored to your needs, contact our team for a [free consultation](#).

Contact us to learn more

Email: info@axiatp.com

Call: 866.459.5360