



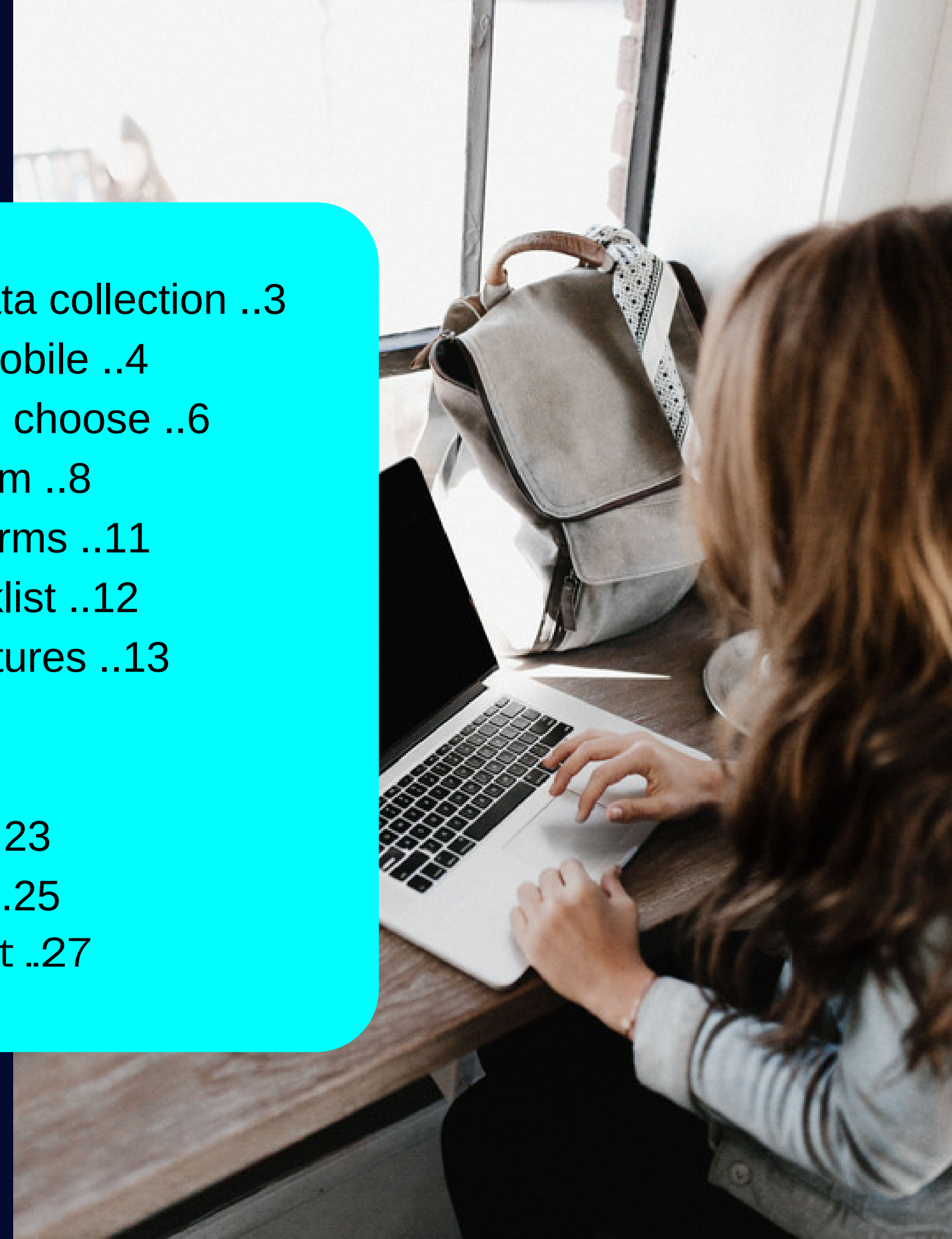
# Data Collection Form Builder Buyer's Guide

How to evaluate modern  
mobile form vendors



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# Importance of Data Collection

Information gathering has become an indispensable task for every organization.

From billion-dollar tech companies to rural nonprofits. Businesses and corporates use data to make better decisions, increase profits, grow revenues and improve efficiency. But not all data collection methods are equal. For example, **paper forms get lost, are slow to arrive, often contain erroneous data, or errors are made during data entry.**







# Value in going mobile

**Eliminate errors, ensure compliance, and improve analytics**

Outdated processes are limiting the organizational **visibility into field level statistics** making it difficult for the back offices to manage the teams and communicate instead of instantly contributing to the big picture for the business.

# **With mobile tools, you enable workforce to**

**Get their jobs done  
faster**



**Bring overall cost +  
time to complete  
down.**



**Improve the quality  
of data collected**



**Gain visibility over  
data and operations**



# The platform you choose

Custom workflow automation apps have become central tools to reaching business goals. The platform you ultimately choose to build those apps should depend on your teams' needs.

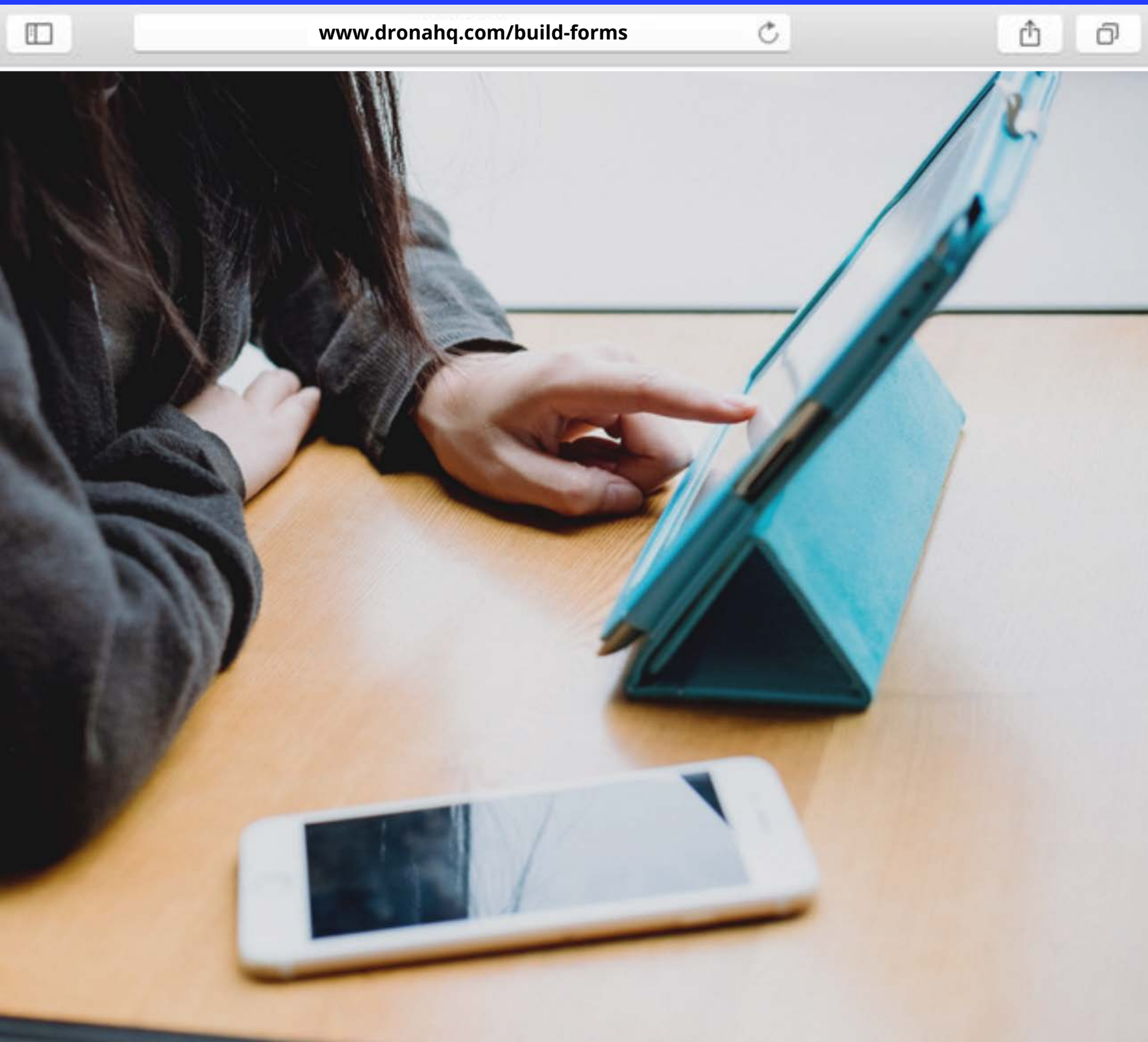
Teams responsible for data collection, data entry, and reporting such as field service, sales, distribution teams, can benefit from mobile native form apps created by a **low-code application platform**.

## Replace paperwork, legacy processes →

It would mean easy deployment, lower costs, and purpose-orientated capabilities.

So, if you're looking for a data collection solution that makes app development easier and into the hands of those closest to the business functions, this guide will be a good place to get you started.





By 2024, low-code application development will be responsible for more than

**65%**

of application development activity.

– Gartner



# But what is a low-code platform?

## And how it helps you get started

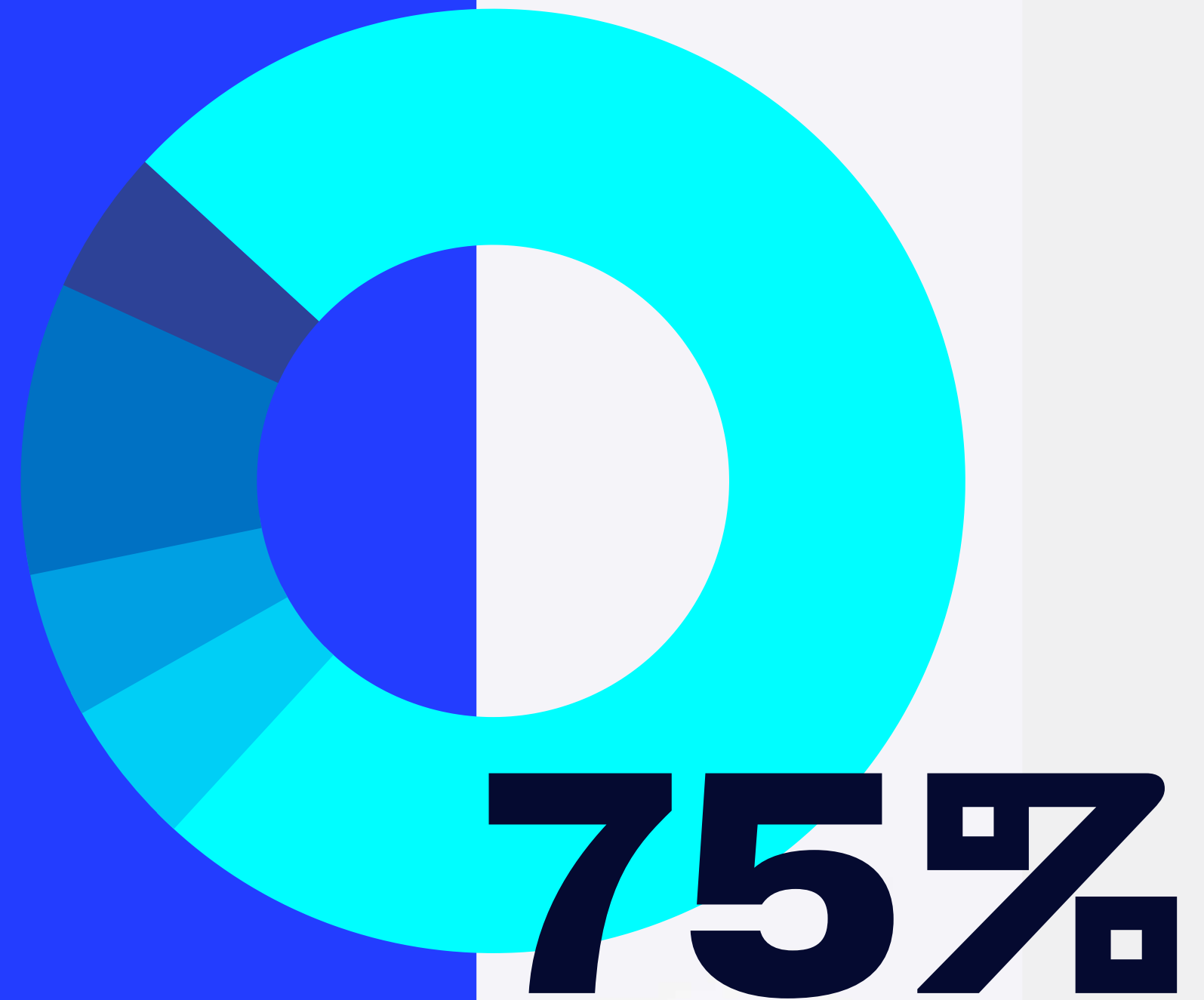
Low Code App Development is a method to build applications easily using visual tools. There are many variations of low code tools ranging from simple drag and drop tools for user interfaces to exhaustive workflow automation tools.

LCAP lets you [host a multitude of business processes](#). For example, inspection, preventative maintenance, and safety apps can all be developed and deployed from a single platform.



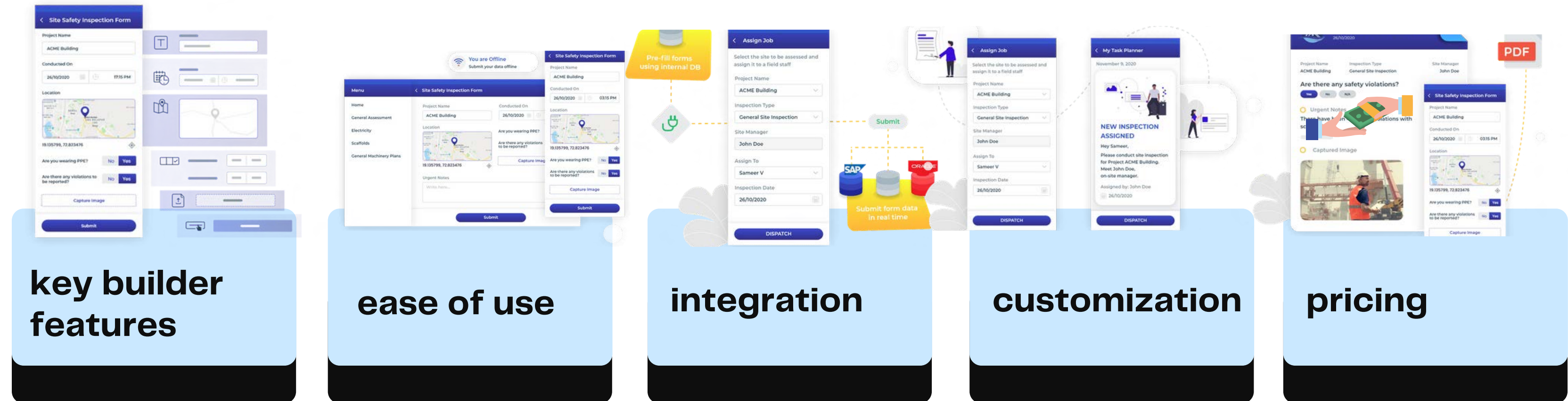
# Large enterprises use low-code

According to the Gartner LCAP Magic Quadrant report, **75% of large enterprises will use at least four low-code app tools** by 2024



# Choosing Right Data Collection Form Builder

When evaluating mobile form builders, it would be wise to consider platforms based on four critical criteria





# Evaluating top low-code platforms for building data collection apps

Consult this list when evaluating any form builder out there.

[DronaHQ](#), [iAuditor](#), [GoCanvas](#), and [ProntoForms](#).



manage  
construction site  
audits



generate  
quotes & send  
invoices



conduct home  
inspections



capture  
purchase orders



manage fleets &  
drivers



complete work  
orders



# The evaluation checklist



Create dynamic forms & actions



Autocapture geolocation



Upload rich media



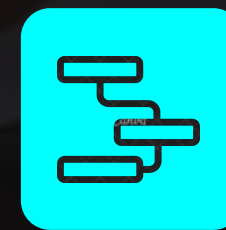
Assign scores to form fields



Add custom business logic



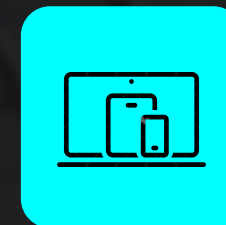
Generate PDF reports



Add workflows for automation



Create consolidated dashboards



Cross-platform ready forms



Easily edit forms and documents



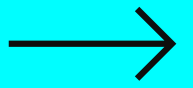
# Key Platform Features

ALIGN BUSINESS NEEDS WITH FUNCTIONALITIES

It's crucial to evaluate your business' needs to be able to align them with the app's functionality to meet them.

Asking questions like the ones below can help narrow down your options:

1. Can you use the form built across different devices, even if you **go offline**?
2. Can you **modify the apps** once built and launched easily?
3. Can you **upload rich media**? What all categories are supported?
4. Can you power your **analytics** functions?



The vendor platform's overall user experience and ability to meet app's fundamental requirements are of top priority.

Each of the four platforms have the following key features in common that **qualify them as suitable platform for data collection**:

- Drag and drop form builder
- Mobile, tablet, desktop ready
- Workflow automation
- Conditional Logic – if else, and or
- Rich media capturing
- Offline capability

# The comparison



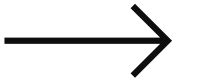
All four allow users to upload rich media such as **pictures, videos, signatures, geostamps**. **GoCanvas** does not support ability to attach PDF documents to the forms.

**iAuditor** and **ProntoForms** customer praise the platform's **user-friendly** setup and ability to build multi-page forms that run across devices. However, **iAuditor's cross-platform readiness falls short** to those by its competitors. Users have shared **difficult experiences while** trying to **manipulate the form** for mobile.

**DronaHQ** and **GoCanvas** offer robust report generation and form analytic capabilities. DronaHQ's ability to **create sophisticated UI** forms is appreciated by customers.

ProntoForms' allows users to build customizable forms.

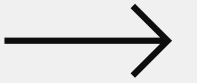




# User Onboarding & Ease of Use

Considering the product's usability alone does not encompass its intuitiveness.





**It also takes into account the **breadth of users** that can readily utilize it, the **knowledge required** and the **support offered**.**

**With these factors in mind, evaluate the following:**

- 1. How quickly can you get started on building the apps with your existing workforce?**
- 2. Is there a free trial for you to take the platform for a test drive?**
- 3. Is sufficient onboarding and platform documentation available?**



# Seamless experience

All 4 of the platforms listed above have **SSO feature** for easier onboarding of employees. In addition to that, they have:



**Free platform trials**



**Tutorials & help documentation**



**Platform demos**

# The comparison



**iAuditor** features a plethora of support documentation and tutorials along a free trial (also offered by the other three competitors here). Customer reviews highlight **a short learning curve**. Some say that the **mobile app is harder to use**.

Some **ProntoForms'** users also said they wish they had more training, explaining that it's **difficult to make changes** to forms without computer knowledge. "Learning curve to build forms can be difficult"

**DronaHQ** on the other hand is applauded as per **G2 customer reviews** on the platform's **intuitive capabilities, simply UI**, and straightforward onboarding, even the business users can build forms.

In addition, several **Capterra reviews** diminish **GoCanvas'** intuitiveness and timeliness, citing form creation and design as areas needing improvement.

# Integrations



Flexibility to eliminate gaps

You are likely to have some form of a data collection solution already in place, could be a **FSM tool, online forms, integrated set of tools** or simple data entry from offline forms to a spreadsheet. The platforms offer inherent flexibility to customize and eliminate gaps in the existing systems in place by set of API integration or connectors and process automations to automate what may have been manual.

## Your objective is to:

- Increase productivity
- Drive out human errors
- Create real-time and seamless flow of data



# Create free flow of information



Whether the forms deployed power [CRM, Inspection and Auditing, Employee welfare](#).

From automatically uploading a PDF to your CRM to capturing data from the website to an internal comms platform, the mobile form platform you chose should guarantee integration:

**1**

Houses ready to use connectors that do not require coding, just plug and play

**2**

Can integrate via integration platforms like Zapier to connect apps easily

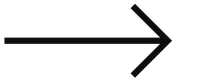
**3**

Allows you to configure your own APIs if ready connectors are not available

**4**

Export Data captured in platform to other apps for analytics and decision-making

# The comparison



All the featured platforms provide out of the box **API connectors**, in addition to offering **custom API integrations**. Then again, not all are equal.

**iProntoForms** advertises 19 integrations and the ability to generate custom connections. However, they do not pair with Zapier. Review says, “Custom integrations require technical know-how and may require the involvement of the destination product's vendor”

**GoCanvas**, on the other hand, does provide Zaps. Yet, they only offer eight base, built-in integrations. At the moment, **iAuditor** offers a streamlined integration with Zapier and no OOB connectors..

**DronaHQ** brings to the table 31 OOB connectors that can be used without any additional coding. A customer on G2 stated that it is easy to track who is compliant and who is not after switching from iAuditor to DronaHQ and they were able to integrate with What3words for risk assessment forms.

# Customizability

You should know before hand if the platform you chose is **capable of serious app development** in order to drive user adoption rates up and bring the efforts to fruition.

1. Can you create **visually appealing UI**?
2. Is it possible to **customize without professional assistance**?
3. Can you **add your own code to the app**?



# The comparison



iAuditor and GoCanvas users claim they are able to achieve desired level of customizations in forms though at time **assistance is required**.

**iProntoForms** review speak loudly about platforms ability to create extensive and customizable forms, however, desktop forms still lack the user-friendliness some customers hoped for.

Until recently **DronaHQ** had standard looking UI and OOB controls to be at par with the competition but after the launch of their Designer tool, customers can design custom UX for the app without any technical assistance.

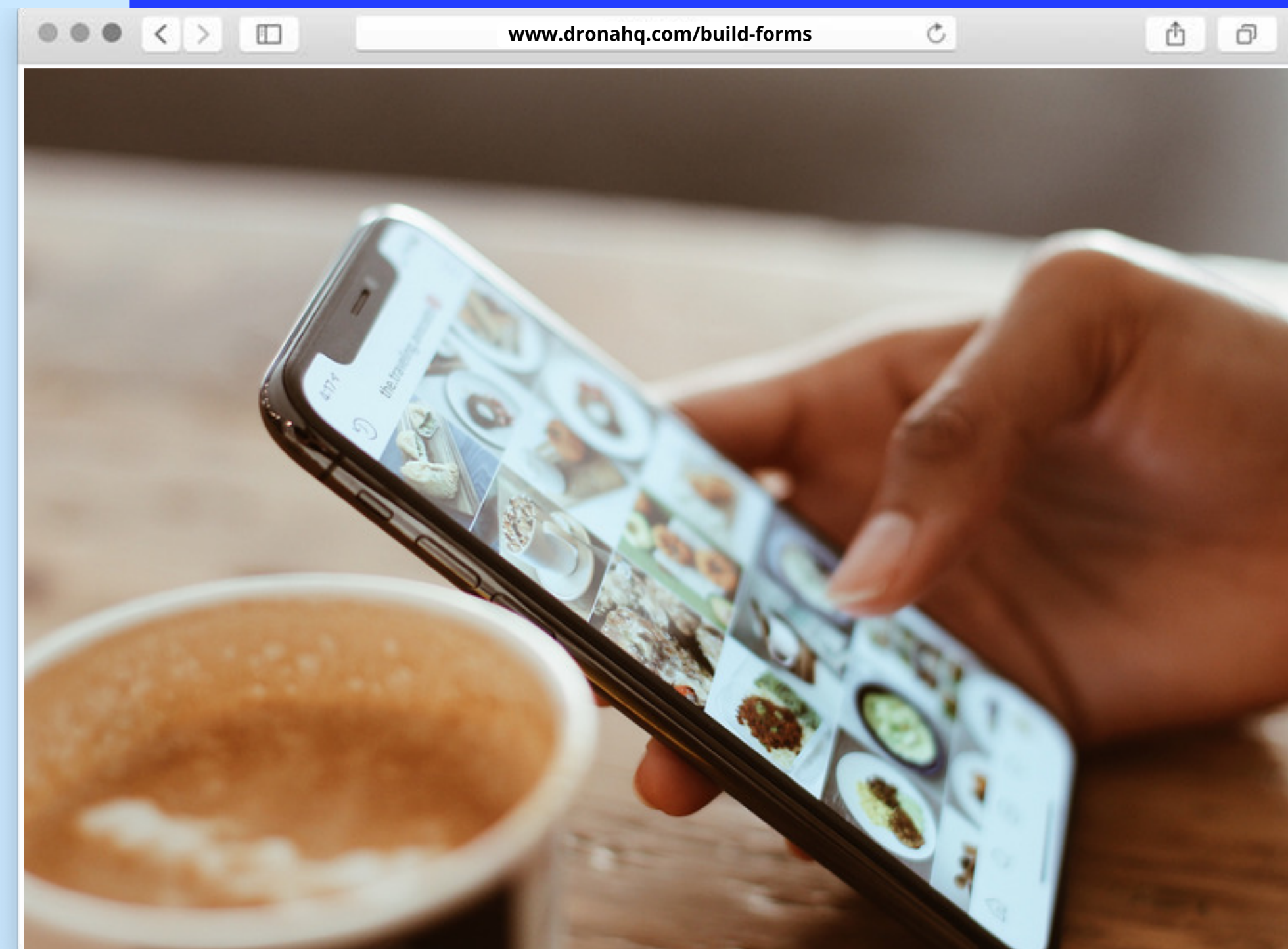
The platform's control editor also enabled customers to code and add reusable form elements.



# Pricing Plans

It's likely the features you need may only be available to certain pricing plans. So, it becomes vital to take plan and pricing details into account before you finalize a vendor

1. Does the vendor offer a **user based pricing model or a usage based**?
2. Can you **easily upgrade or downgrade** according to your requirements?
3. Does the vendor have a **pricing model that scales**?
4. Is there a **free trial** of the product?



# The comparison

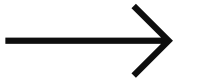


Although, when it comes to the pricing plans, **ProntoForms**, **iAuditor**, and **GoCanvas** offer **user-based** monthly plans that start at \$15–19 per user per month on the annual plan.

In contrast, **DronaHQ** does pricing a little differently with **usage-based** pricing plans **irrespective of the number of users** or devices starting at \$50 per month on the annual plan.

There are several Capterra reviews that diminish **GoCanvas**'s complicated licensing policies citing that they experience **difficulty in adding users without totally resetting licensing**. Some **ProntoForms** users said they would have liked the option allow user to login from more than one device, say, from their iPhone as well as their iPad with the same credentials.

All the featured platforms provide 30-day free trial.



# The Final Verdict

What you should do to get started



Most vendors that you will come across have already featured their platform capabilities along with customer stories on their platform but it would be wise to check out platform review sites and their social media mentions to see assess the pulse of the customers, understand their best capabilities or pitfalls and see how your choices match up.

# DronaHQ's Low-Code Platform

Supports you in every step of the way

1 →

**Increase productivity**

2 →

**Reduce time to market**

3 →

**Improve business  
process automation**





# Contact Us

We'd love to talk about  
all things low-code.

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