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INSIGHTS



MENDIX VS SAP FIORI: WHICH APP DEVELOPMENT TOOL IS THE BEST?

"If I have Fiori, why do I need Mendix?"

This is one of the most frequent questions we get asked. A simple question, but there is not a simple answer. By comparison, it's like saying, "If I have SAP, why do I need any other software?"

Defining the applications:

SAP Fiori: Based on SAP UI5, Fiori is the premier UI/UX for S/4HANA and ECC, along with other SAP applications such as SuccessFactors, Ariba, Hybris, and other SAP applications. It is a multi-channel platform that enables SAP on tablets, smart devices, and PCs.

Mendix: Mendix is a Low-Code Application Platform (LCAP) recognized by Gartner and Forrester research as a leader in this category. With this platform, you can operate a high-productivity application development platform to quickly build and improve applications across platforms – tablets, smart devices, and PCs.



SAP's traditional sterile GUI layout was, for years, the subject of significant criticism. Fiori was a fresh, clean award-winning

UI/UX that appeals to its millions of users. However, *a gap still existed*. Fiori is a robust and stable UI/UX, but not ideal as an app development platform. For performing SAP-centric activities/standard transactions and services such as goods receipt, creation of sales orders or creation and management of material master records, Fiori is a great choice.

For industrial-strength application development within your SAP ecosystem, clients need a robust, mature platform to keep pace with the growing demand for apps. Gartner has selected Mendix as a premier solution in this space.

Mendix checks many boxes!

In today's "App Hungry" world, we would not characterize Fiori as a RAD – Rapid Application Development platform to satiate your growing demand for apps and data. IT needs a platform that allows you to rapidly scale and deliver apps that extend SAP and non-SAP solutions. The business wants apps delivered in an agile, rapid development and deployment model that takes weeks, not months.

We have a quick story comparing Mendix vs. Fiori app development. One of our consultants certified in both Fiori and Mendix worked on a Fiori time-tracking project. The three app solutions took six months from design to deployment for the three separate apps. In our Mendix development lab, we ran a parallel of this scenario, and we were able to duplicate and deploy the same functionality in 13 days – *a 90% reduction in development time and effort*.

SAP and Mendix offer you the ability to extend the digital core of SAP with low-code rapid application development, enabling you to efficiently build new differentiating solutions on top of SAP products like SAP S/4HANA, ECC, SAP Cloud Platform, SuccessFactors, Hybris, and more applications.

When should you use Fiori?

SAP Fiori is designed as a UI/UX around the SAP platform. Fiori is intended to handle SAP transactions, workflow, and self-service requests. There are thousands of apps listed in the Fiori Library and the list continues to grow.

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Use a Fiori-first approach when your requirements are SAP-centric, and there are a small number of custom requirements. We also suggest evaluating your development teams for this skill set and the requisite ABAP skills that may also be required to support the backend – the ERP side of the processes. With a growing demand for apps and a shortage of developer skills, this model will challenge your DevOps capabilities.

When do you consider Mendix?

To guide you on this decision, consider these criteria:

- **Customization Effort**- If moderate to considerable customization effort to the app is required, use a Mendix-first approach.
- **Cross-App or the 'Ms'**- For CRM, PLM, EAM, HRM, and wherever SAP and non-SAP data is shared, use a Mendix-first approach.

If customization is required, Mendix can offer up to a 10:1 reduction, as demonstrated above. The time to design and deploy apps on Mendix is a fraction of the time, effort, and ultimately cost of what it takes to develop on Fiori, UI5, JAVA, .Net, or comparable platforms.

For cross SAP, SAP to non-SAP, or non-SAP applications, hands-down, *Mendix is our preferred platform*. For example, a frequent EAM scenario – a piece of equipment fails on the shop-floor, and the engineer needs to find the spare part. Logging into the Mendix app with single sign-on, the engineer can find the equipment master to see the name and model of the broken part. Then it is a simple process to drag the component into the Inventory or Purchase app to locate the part or order a replacement from the vendor – all within the same Mendix app.

What is the "Break-Even" point?

We had a meeting with a CIO asking for some help with his Fiori rollout. They were able to roll out their first few apps without much difficulty. However, as they began to deploy more custom apps, the challenges mounted.

The Proof of Concept included Posting Incoming Payments, Creation of Sales Orders, and Purchase Order Approvals. The project was completed to everyone's satisfaction. As the team tried to roll out the app to different departments and more conditions and customization was requested, deployment cycles slowed down to a crawl.

After listening to his problems, we asked why did he choose Fiori and not consider Mendix? He responded that Fiori was "free," and he did not want to pay another license fee.

Our experience suggests that the Break-Even point on custom apps leveraging Mendix is between three and five apps. If your short- or long-term app development requirements are more extensive than three apps, use Mendix!



If you are currently on ECC and not migrating to S/4HANA anytime soon, you can take advantage of the Mendix capabilities to build your apps library. You are assured that these apps will upgrade to S/4HANA with minor changes due to the difference in the code line.

How to apply this to your business:

We live in a increasingly software-driven world. To stay ahead of the curve, Titan can give you a detailed comparison of Fiori and Mendix for your specific needs and what the Break-Even point for your business/organization would be. We are a leader in Mendix and low-code delivery models that scale, deliver results in less time, and extend your Enterprise data!

Learn more about how Titan and Mendix can satisfy your business's appetite for custom-developed applications by visiting our website.