



Smarter software, faster learning: AI and the future of education platforms

A guide for education leaders
and EdTech innovators



Why did we create this guide?

AI tools for software development aren't just for the enterprise anymore. They're now essential tools for forward-thinking education providers looking to scale access, improve student experience and reduce tech overhead.

This resource unpacks how Kiandra transformed VLLC's legacy .NET application into a modern, web-based platform – in just four weeks – using AI-powered development and agile delivery.

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About Kiandra

Trusted by government, enterprise, health and education organisations for 30+ years

For over 30 years, Kiandra has delivered critical, compliant, custom software projects for Australian government, enterprise, health and education organisations.

To demonstrate our capability and give you an opportunity to see what it's like to work with us, we show up with a free working prototype before we ask for a commitment.

- ✓ 92% repeat business rate
- ✓ 24-month warranty
- ✓ Over half a million hours of delivery
- ✓ Low-code experts
- ✓ AI-first approach to design and development
- ✓ No failed project policy
- ✓ ISO27001 certified
- ✓ B Corp certified
- ✓ Proudly 90% local.





Breathing new life into legacy applications: how AI revitalised VLLC's learning platform

Challenge

VLLC's legacy .NET desktop application was limiting student access and user experience. It required an emulator for Mac users, had an outdated UI, and lacked mobile responsiveness.

With limited access to the original developers and growing student expectations, modernisation was essential – but needed to be fast and low-risk.

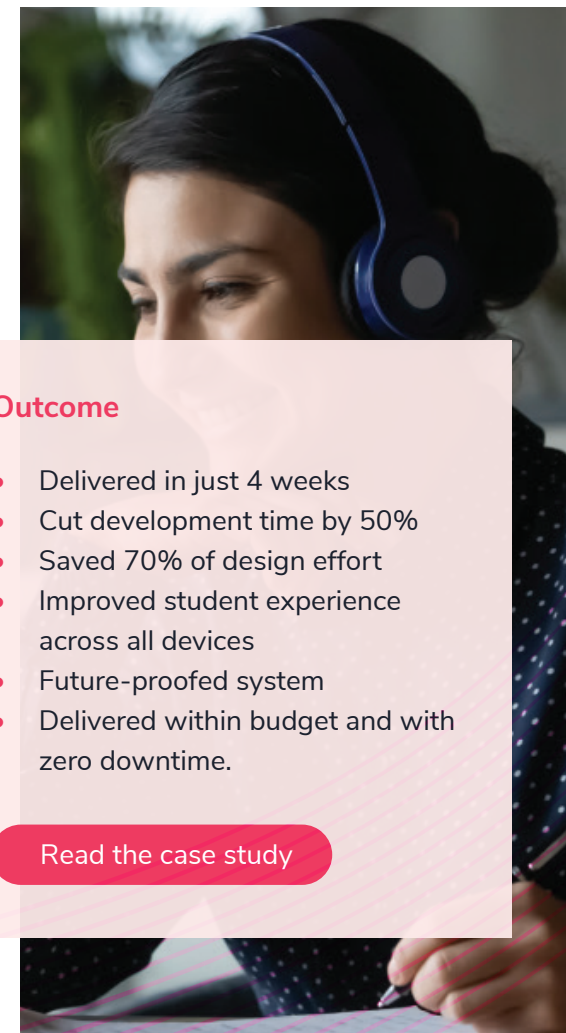
Solution

- Used GenAI to understand undocumented legacy code and generate integration docs – saving days of manual effort
- Accelerated front-end design using prompt-based UI generation tools
- Rebuilt core functionality using ASP.NET Core and TypeScript with support from AI code assistants
- Maintained compatibility with existing backend services, avoiding costly rework or infrastructure changes
- Delivered a fully responsive web application.

Outcome

- Delivered in just 4 weeks
- Cut development time by 50%
- Saved 70% of design effort
- Improved student experience across all devices
- Future-proofed system
- Delivered within budget and with zero downtime.

[Read the case study](#)





How AI assists developers

AI isn't here to take your developers' jobs, it's here to amplify them

At Kiandra, we use AI tools every day to speed up delivery, improve quality, and help our team focus on the work that really matters.

AI is a teammate, not a threat

Think of AI like a calculator for coding. It doesn't replace expertise – it removes the repetitive work so developers can focus on logic, architecture and real-world problem-solving.



AI won't replace developers. But developers who use AI will replace those who don't.

Matt Walsh

What AI tools actually do

- Tools like GitHub, Copilot and Cursor generate boilerplate, templates and docs to speed up development
- Faster understanding: AI helps devs make sense of legacy code and identify risks
- UI prototyping: Teams can spin up working components quickly to gather feedback faster.

The hard stuff still needs humans

AI can't interpret your domain, weigh trade-offs or design scalable systems – that still takes smart people. What AI can do is help them get there faster, with more confidence.

At Kiandra, it's human & machine

By combining AI tools with low-code platforms and our experienced team, we deliver faster, smarter and more resilient software – without compromising quality. In fact, it's ideal.

AI helps teams:

- Prototype faster: **up to 70%** reduction in design time
- Deliver faster: **55% increase** in development speed
- Reduce bugs: **40% fewer** production issues*
- Document & analyse legacy systems: **60% less** time on discovery[^]
- Surface hidden risk: **91% of** IT leaders report value in risk detection.

*McKinsey Digital, 2023

[^]Accenture Applied Intelligence, 2024

Readiness checklist



Is your system ready for AI-assisted development?

At Kiandra, we help organisations modernise using a blend of AI-powered tools and experienced human developers, reducing risk while delivering results faster. But before diving in, it's crucial to understand if your system and organisation are ready.

Scoring your readiness

0–5 checks: You may not need a full modernisation yet – but it's time to plan.

6–15 checks: Your system is showing signs of strain. Start exploring your options.

16+ checks: Your system is holding you back. AI-assisted modernisation can help de-risk your path forward.

- Our core system is more than 5 years old
- We rely on a system built in .NET, Java, or another legacy framework
- Documentation is incomplete or outdated
- Original developers are no longer available
- We aren't confident we understand how all parts of the system work
- Small changes often have unintended consequences
- We have to reverse-engineer parts of the code to make updates
- The system is hard to integrate with modern platforms
- We still rely on SOAP or other legacy APIs
- Our system isn't cloud-native or scalable
- Our system requires workarounds to access from mobile or remote devices
- We have single points of failure (i.e. one person who knows how it works)
- Security or compliance issues have been flagged
- Performance is degrading under current load
- There's a risk of vendor or platform end-of-life
- The UI is outdated or not responsive
- Users have requested features we can't easily deliver
- Training new staff on the system is difficult
- The system doesn't support new business models or products
- We have buy-in to modernise in the next 12 months
- We're open to low-code platforms or AI-assisted development
- We want to move fast, but without cutting corners
- We're open to exploring AI use cases (e.g. document analysis, smart workflows)



Why modernisation projects fail

And how AI can help overcome the most common pitfalls

Replacing legacy systems is urgent but risky. For CIOs in government, finance, and education, modernisation often leads to cost blowouts, delays, and poor adoption. So why does it fail?

4 Reasons modernisation stalls

- 1. Legacy knowledge is lost**
The original developers and documentation are long gone. Business logic is hidden in brittle, outdated code.
- 2. Complexity is underestimated**
Legacy systems are highly customised and deeply integrated. Replacing them is rarely simple.
- 3. There's no iteration**
“Big bang” launches rarely work. Without step-by-step delivery and user feedback, risks multiply.
- 4. Users resist change**
If users aren't involved early, the system becomes a disruption, not an upgrade.

How AI reduces risk



Smarter discovery

AI tools scan legacy code to reveal structure, logic and risks – fast.



Faster UI prototyping

AI accelerates UI design, enabling user feedback earlier. Kiandra clients report 70% faster design time.



Streamlined integration

AI helps wrap and replace legacy systems gradually, with fewer surprises.



Better developer focus

AI provides code suggestions and automation, letting teams focus on real problems.

Bottom line

Modernisation fails when complexity is ignored. AI helps teams modernise faster, with fewer surprises and more confidence. At Kiandra, we pair AI tools with human expertise to deliver systems that work and last.

88% of developers using Copilot report higher productivity.

(GitHub, 2023)



How to select the right AI software partner

With AI reshaping how software is built, choosing the right partner matters more than ever. You're not just hiring developers, you're selecting a team that can safely integrate AI, manage risk, and deliver long-term value.

Here's a streamlined checklist to help you spot an AI-mature partner – not just one with buzzwords on their website.

Don't settle for "AI-capable" – demand AI-mature

A true AI partner brings structure, ethics, and results. At Kiandra, we combine AI tools, low-code, and human expertise to cut delivery times by up to 50% – without cutting corners.

AI strategy & ethics

Do they have a clear, ethical AI framework?

Can they explain when AI shouldn't be used?

Do they combine human expertise with AI – not replace it?

Tools & frameworks

Are they using tools like GitHub Copilot, Cursor, or GenAI?

Can they deliver using OutSystems or similar?

Do they integrate Azure OpenAI or similar services?

Governance & security

Do they follow secure AI practices?

Is there traceability, validation and ISO27001 compliance?

Can they provide audit trails and testing evidence?

Experience & delivery

Do senior developers lead delivery?

Can they show case studies in regulated industries?

Do they combine low-code, custom code, and AI confidently?

Process & results

Do they offer AI-powered assessments upfront?

Can they back up performance claims with data?

Is their delivery Agile and user-focused?

Values & alignment

Are they transparent and values-led (e.g. B Corp)?

Will they collaborate closely or keep you at arm's length?

Are their teams local, stable and accountable?



Smarter strategies for tech leaders

Embarking on a digital transformation journey can feel daunting – especially with performance concerns, compliance pressures, and budget risks looming. But these challenges don't need to stop progress.

With the right strategies, you can reduce risk, stay on budget, and lead a transformation that delivers real, lasting impact.

Performance concerns

- Design for performance from day one: optimise code, use scalable architectures, and monitor early
- Conduct regular load testing and use monitoring tools to detect and resolve issues.
- Optimise infrastructure with cloud auto-scaling and database performance techniques
- Gather user feedback and conduct regular code reviews to drive improvements.

Budget overruns & consultant costs

- Demand transparency: get itemised estimates and value-backed proposals
- Prioritise partners who align to your business goals, not just sales metrics
- Invest in governance and quality frameworks to de-risk scope and budget blowouts
- Avoid “set and forget” delivery models – choose partners who communicate and adapt.

Regulatory compliance challenges

- Embed compliance from the start of the development lifecycle
- Conduct internal audits and consult legal experts regularly
- Use best practices for data privacy and maintain documentation across every phase.

Intellectual property risks

- Enforce strong cybersecurity, access control, and encryption
- Use NDAs and protect IP through legal frameworks and internal training
- Vet third parties rigorously and ensure they meet your security standards.

Tech obsolescence

- Choose modular, open-standard technology with room to evolve
- Regularly review your stack and adopt cloud platforms with scalable services
- Maintain a technology roadmap and invest in team upskilling.



The age of AI is the end of SaaS as we know it.

Satya Nadella

User adoption resistance

- Involve users early through co-design, pilots and testing
- Use change champions and strong communication to build support
- Provide onboarding, training and ongoing support to ease the transition.

Scaling costs

- Architect for scalability with cloud services, microservices and containers
- Optimise databases and code for high performance under pressure
- Use caching and message queues to manage demand effectively.

Cyber security risk

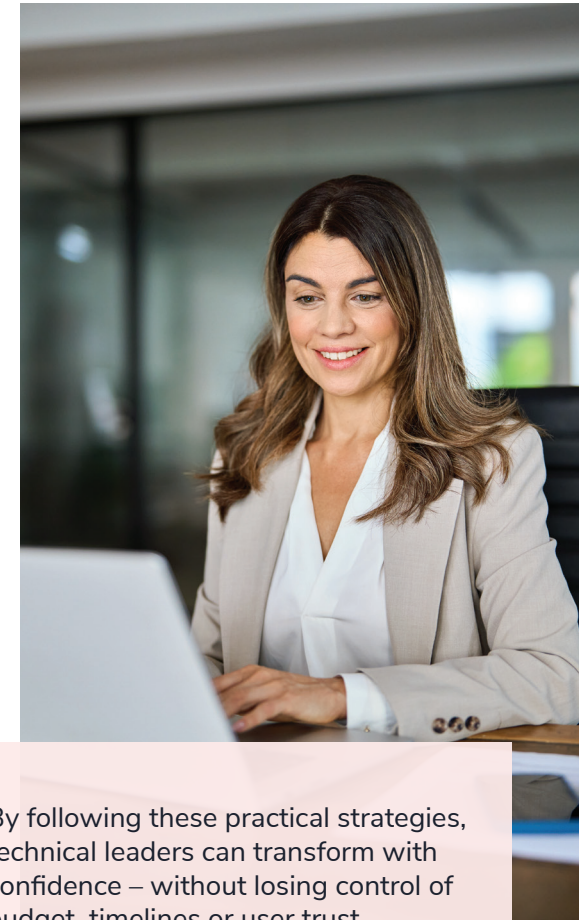
- Follow secure coding practices and conduct regular audits and pen testing
- Apply encryption and access controls. Keep all systems up to date
- Have an incident response plan ready – and rehearse it.

Internal skills gaps

- Invest in professional development and mentorship
- Recruit experienced engineers or partner with trusted external experts
- Build cross-functional teams with shared knowledge and diverse experience.

Project delays & cost overruns

- Plan realistically with detailed scopes and clear milestones
- Use Agile to manage changes and keep delivery adaptive and iterative
- Monitor progress closely and prioritise communication with all stakeholders.



By following these practical strategies, technical leaders can transform with confidence – without losing control of budget, timelines or user trust.



What is OutSystems?

Build faster. Scale smarter. Modernise with confidence.

OutSystems is the world's most powerful low-code platform. It radically accelerates how enterprise software is designed, developed and deployed without compromising on quality, security or scalability.

With OutSystems and Kiandra, you get enterprise-grade applications delivered at speed. Whether you're modernising legacy systems, replacing critical internal tools, or launching new user-facing services, OutSystems lets you do it faster and do it right.

Why low-code? Why now?

Low-code platforms like OutSystems use a visual, drag-and-drop development environment. Instead of manually writing thousands of lines of code, developers work faster and smarter, building modern, secure, scalable applications in a fraction of the time.

This approach is ideal for regulated industries with tight timelines and high stakes. With OutSystems, you can:

- ✓ Launch faster
- ✓ Reduce technical debt
- ✓ Automate compliance
- ✓ Integrate seamlessly
- ✓ Future-proof your software.

OutSystems helps IT teams deliver software up to 10x faster than traditional development.

(OutSystems, 2025)

What you can build with OutSystems



Modern enterprise applications

Replace outdated platforms and systems with custom-built, scalable, cloud-ready software.



Workflow & process automation

Digitise and streamline complex, manual processes with visual workflows and configurable business rules.



Core business systems

Build secure, high-performance internal tools and operational systems that match your exact needs.



AI-enhanced experiences

Use OutSystems' built-in AI and GenAI toolsets to power smarter automation, decision support and customer interactions.



Key benefits of OutSystems

Speed to market	✓ Cut development timelines by up to 60% with rapid prototyping and pre-built components
Secure by design	✓ Enterprise-grade security, compliance controls, and continuous monitoring built in
Cloud native	✓ Easily deploy to cloud, on-prem, or hybrid environments, and scale as needed
Great UX/UI	✓ Built-in design frameworks for pixel-perfect interfaces and intuitive user experiences
Data flexibility	✓ Consolidate multiple data sources into a single easily manageable layer
Integrates with anything	✓ Connect seamlessly to existing systems, APIs, databases or SaaS tools
AI & GenAI tools	✓ Accelerate development with AI-powered code, automation and GenAI integrations
Modular architecture	✓ Microservices-ready for flexible, future-proof design and agile change management

Why Kiandra & OutSystems?

Kiandra is a certified OutSystems partner with 30+ years of delivery experience in complex and regulated environments. We've used OutSystems to rebuild mission-critical platforms in record time, with full compliance and integration.

When speed, scale, and certainty matter, Kiandra and OutSystems deliver. Together, we help clients across government, finance, health and education modernise with confidence.

Ready to see OutSystems in action?

[Book your OutSystems demo](#)



Free prototype

We don't just talk about capability, we show it.

At Kiandra, we believe trust should be earned, not assumed. That's why we offer a free, no obligations prototype.

A custom software project is a significant commitment, and it's natural for organisations to want assurance that a solution will deliver before moving forward. A prototype provides exactly that. It offers a no-cost, low-risk way to see how we work, how quickly we can move, and how AI and low-code can accelerate delivery while meeting the highest standards for security, compliance, and performance.

This is not just a sales demo. It is a tailored, working prototype built around your specific industry challenges. It gives you a clear picture of our approach and a realistic preview of the outcomes we can achieve together. For us, it is not just about showcasing technology. It is about

building confidence and setting the foundation for a successful long-term partnership.

Our no-cost working prototype offer lets you experience:

- ✓ How we approach your problem
- ✓ How fast we move
- ✓ How AI and low-code accelerate delivery
- ✓ How we de-risk your next critical project.

Ready to see how it works? Get in touch to book your free proof of concept.

[Book your free prototype](#)





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