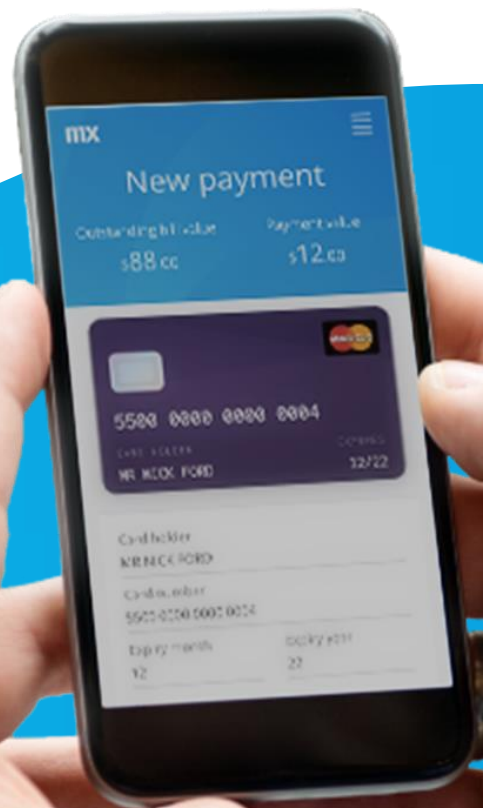


# Become a Rapid Developer

# Module 1

## Introduction



# Module 1 - Introduction

## 1.1 Welcome

Welcome to the Rapid Developer learning path! It's great to have you here!

This learning path is for everyone who wants to learn how to build apps with Mendix Platform. Whether you have a technical background or not, by the end of this learning path, you will be able to use Mendix and create awesome apps.

The Rapid Developer learning path consists of eleven modules:

- In Module 1, you will get introduced to this learning path. You will learn more about Mendix and where you can find all the information you need.
- In Module 2, you will explore how Mendix supports Agile methodology and enables collaboration between IT and business. That will allow you to quickly bring value to the market and to innovate.
- In Module 3, you will build the basic features of your app from scratch.
- In Module 4, you will see how you can add data in your app and structure it, using the Domain Model.
- In Modules 5 and 6, you will learn about microflows and the Team Server.
- In Module 7, you will build more advanced microflows using Mendix Studio Pro.
- In Module 8, you will learn how to expand your app with more advanced capabilities, such as data validation.
- In Module 9, you will ensure the security of your data within your app. Users accessing data that they are not supposed to can cause problems, and you will learn all you need in order to prevent that!
- In Module 10, you will learn how to add mobile-specific functionality to your app and allow your users to access certain features while they are on the go.
- In Module 11, you will get some practical information about the Rapid Developer Certification, as well as some tips on what you can do next.

The pencil is used to indicate an assignment. Go ahead and try it in your own Mendix environment!

The lightbulb is used to indicate a tip, or a practical information that you might find useful!

### Exam

When you complete this learning path, you can take the exam to receive the Rapid Developer Certificate. The exam consists of multiple choice questions and you need to achieve a score of 75% to succeed your exam.

**Get ready to have some fun, Mendix style!**

## 1.2 The Academy Interface

The Academy interface uses an intuitive, visual way of reaching your learning goals. It contains the following elements:

### Modules and Lectures

This learning path consists of multiple modules. Each module consists of different lectures. The lectures include various pieces of content, such as:

- **Theory:** Different notions and concepts are explained in the theory lectures. A business case (Jimmy's Learning App) is used as an example for the various new concepts. Some every-day examples are also used to explain more abstract concepts, such as for entities, or functions. In some cases, illustrations are helping visualize various processes.



The lightbulb icon is used to indicate a tip, or practical information that you might find useful.

- **Practice:** The best way to learn is to put this new knowledge into practice! That's why this learning path consists of many assignments and how-to's. There are detailed step-by-step explanations on how you can do all the assignments. Keep up with the user story, and help Jimmy build the app he is dreaming off! If you want some extra challenge, follow the assignments without looking at the how-to explanation, and then return to check if you did everything correctly!



The pencil icon is used to emphasize that you need to do an assignment.

- **Summary:** At the end of each module you will find a short summary of what you learned in this module!
- **Knowledge check:** Don't forget to take the knowledge check in each module. If you answer most of the questions successfully, then go ahead and move to the next module. If not, then you might want to go through the theory and assignments one more time before you go on. Don't worry, you can take a knowledge check as many times as you want, and your result won't affect your exam!

### Resources

In each lecture, there are two tabs. The Overview and the Resources. Under Resources, you might find various types of useful material that you can download. The most common resources are:

- A .pdf version of each module. That can be useful in case you prefer offline.
- The latest version of the project used in the business case (Jimmy's learning app).
- Excel files that you can import to your project.

You don't need to check the resources tab each time you go to a new lecture, as in most cases it will be empty. We will let you know whenever there is something interesting for you there, by means of the following notification:

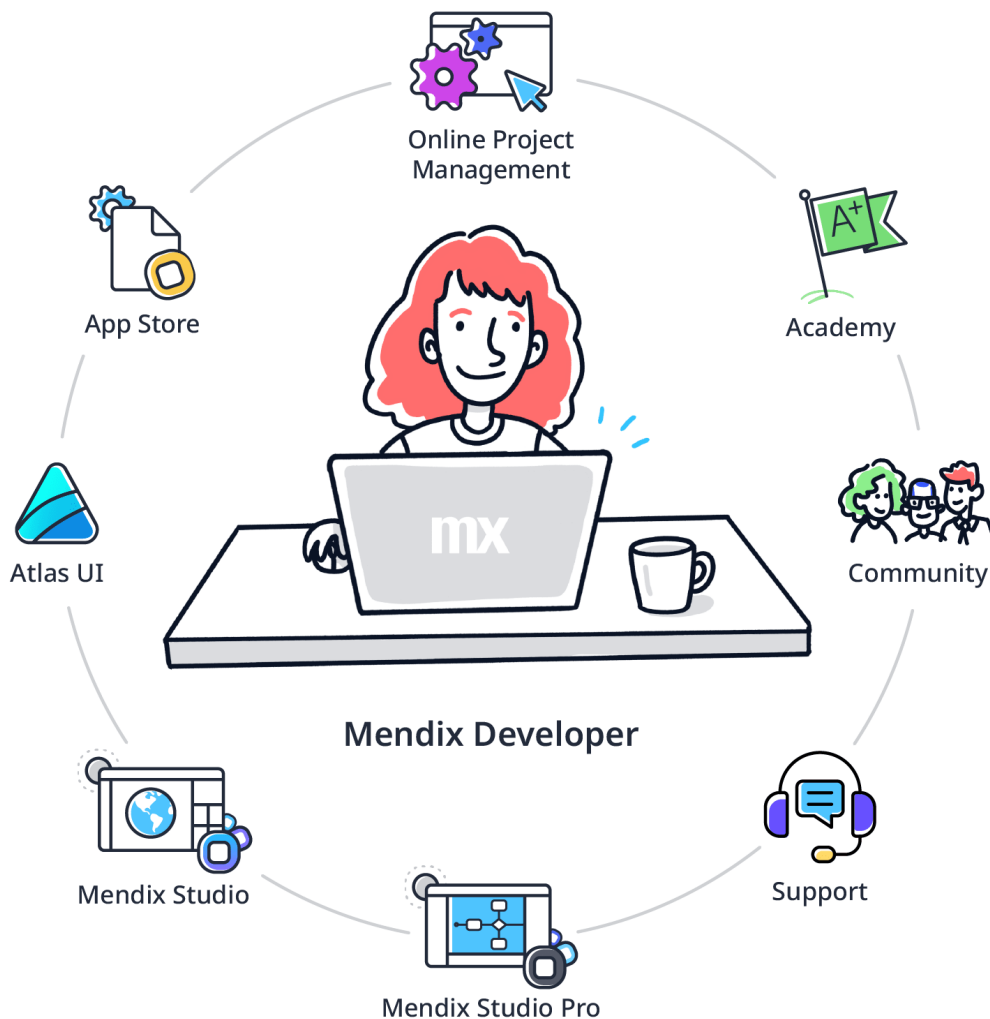
Check the Resources tab of lecture 1 for a .pdf version of this module!

## Feedback

If you have any questions or feedback regarding this learning path, please contact us via the Feedback button on the right side of your screen. As we strive to offer the best learning experience to all Mendix users, your input is highly valued!

## 1.3 Mendix Platform

When we talk about Mendix platform, we refer to all the tools and environments that you can use to build and manage your apps. This includes everything you need in order to communicate with your team and other Mendix developers, improve and showcase your skills to the world, and find help when you get stuck.

**Tip**

We will be introducing a lot of new places where you can find information you will need. To keep an overview of all the pages that are more useful to you, don't forget to bookmark them!

Let's explore the platform depicted above a little more - starting with Online Project Management at 12 o'clock and moving anti-clockwise!

## Online Project Management

One of the environments in Mendix platform you will use a lot is Mendix. From there, you can create new apps, manage your existing apps (or projects), and communicate with your project team. In Module 2, you will get to know Mendix Developer Portal in more detail, as you will use it to create and manage your own app.

## The App Store

Mendix is where you download the environment (Mendix Studio Pro) to start building your app. It is also your go-to place for finding custom widgets (small components) and modules (complete features) that you can use to build even more amazing apps!

In the future, you may want to use Google Maps to show users their location or be able to push notifications, for example. You can download this functionality and more from Mendix App Store straight into your app. You can even create your own custom content and share this with the world, or just your company, via the App Store.

## Styling Your App

Need help styling your app and making it easy to use? Visit our [Atlas UI site](#) to see all of the out-of-the-box widgets and building blocks that you can use to make your Mendix app more attractive and user friendly.

Do you want to know even more about building a user-friendly app? Once you've completed this learning path, check our advanced learning path about UX, [Creating Engaging User Experiences](#).

## Mendix Studio

The latest tool in Mendix platform is Mendix Studio. Without having to install software on your computer, you can build your app directly in your favorite browser. What's more, Mendix Studio is a WYSIWYG editor, which means you can immediately see what your app will look like while building it!

Mendix Studio is meant for quick editing or building simple apps. You can use Mendix Studio to quickly build the basic features of your app, but when it's time to create more complicated features, you need to switch to the Studio Pro.

## Mendix Studio Pro

As a Mendix developer, you will spend most of your time in Mendix Studio Pro, because this is where you can do all the heavy lifting when it comes to building your app. With Mendix Studio Pro, you can access all the powerful features that Mendix Platform has to offer for app development. Mendix Studio Pro isn't a WYSIWYG editor, but it does have a lot more options than Mendix Studio. You will discover more about Mendix Studio Pro and learn how to use it if you stick with us for this learning path!

If you're wondering why we haven't moved clockwise and covered Academy, Community and Support yet, there's no need to worry - we'll discuss these more shortly!

### 1.3.1 Download Mendix Studio Pro

Mendix Studio Pro is a piece of software that you install on your computer and, as mentioned before, you can get it from the App Store. Actually, let's do that right now! Go to the [App Store](#), download the latest version of Mendix Studio Pro, and install it on your computer. This process can take a while, so feel free to continue on with the next topic while Mendix Studio Pro is downloading/installing. If you need some guidance through that, see [How to Install Mendix Studio Pro](#).

## 1.4 Getting Help with Your App

We've already discussed the Mendix Platform and introduced Online Project Management, the App Store, styling your app, as well as Mendix Studio and Mendix Studio Pro - now let's move clockwise on the diagram! In your life as a Mendix developer, there may come a time when you need some help with your app. Perhaps you want to know more about how you can give your app a unique look and feel, or you can't figure out how to build a certain functionality, or all of a sudden, your app won't open in Mendix Studio anymore. Don't worry, we've got you covered!

### Mendix Academy

Whether you're a beginner or more advanced, a business person building apps or an experienced technical developer, an enterprise architect or a designer, Mendix covers content for all types of users and all skill levels to help you accomplish your desired task in Mendix. Here you will find not only this learning path, but also more advanced topics and interesting webinars. The content will be regularly updated and extended, so come back every now and then to stay informed and keep on improving!

### Mendix Community

Mendix is important to know and take advantage of, because this is where you can communicate with other Mendix developers, collect points and badges to showcase your Mendix skills, and find help when you get stuck.

Mendix Community publishes the [Developer Blog](#) and the [Community Blog](#). Mendix Developer Blog features posts written by Mendix employees about the latest features of the platform and interesting demos. The Community Blog showcases posts written by our community, so when you write some content about Mendix, don't forget to share it on the Community Blog!

On Mendix you can check whether someone has already asked the same question you have (and hopefully received an answer that solves your problem). If you have a new question, feel free to post it on the Forum, and our community will help you out! Want to return the favor? If you see a question that you know the answer to, feel free to share your knowledge. The person who asked the question will greatly appreciate this! Plus, you could even earn a [badge](#)!

When you aren't sure how to use a certain feature of Mendix Platform, see if you can find information on this topic in our [documentation](#). Here, you will find the complete [Mendix Reference Guide](#) and interesting [how-to's](#) to help you out. The information in the documentation can be a bit technical, so if you need more help (or if you can't find what you're looking for), the next step is to try Mendix Forum.



#### Tip

From within Mendix Studio Pro, press the F1 key on your keyboard to immediately go to Mendix documentation.

### If All Else Fails...

If the problem doesn't lie with how to style or build your app, and something really appears to be broken (for example, you can't even visit or edit your app anymore), contact our [Support Team](#), and they will do their absolute best to help you out!

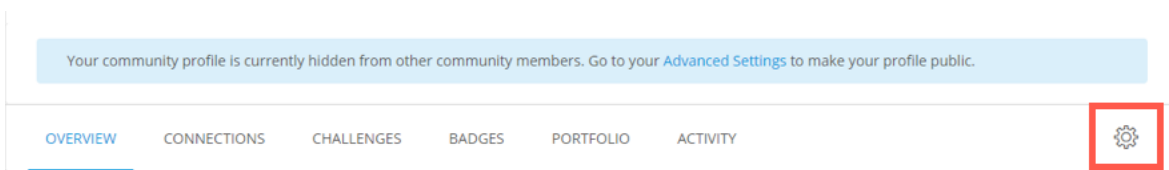
## 1.4.1 Set Up Your Community Profile

Now you know quite a bit about Mendix. So, it's time for us—and Mendix community—to get to know you a little bit better! To introduce yourself, set up your [Community Profile](#).

Do you see the grey Mendix badge? It represents your Mendix level. Once you've completed this learning path and passed the certification exam, you will be a Rapid Developer. This badge will become green, and everyone will be able to see that you know how to build apps with Mendix!



Click the **settings icon** to add your skills and write a summary about yourself.



What's next? Do you want to change your profile picture? You can do that on the **Profile Settings** page. Click **General Information** in the menu on the left and then **Edit Avatar** to change your profile picture.

Don't forget to **Save** your changes!

After you fill in all the information needed, you can make your profile public under the **Advanced** tab of the settings menu. Just scroll to the **Profile Visibility** section at the bottom of the page and click **Make my profile public**.



## 1.5 Summary

Congratulations! In this module you learned:

- What Mendix is and how it can help you work more effectively
- What Mendix Platform consists of
- Where you can find the information that you need while building your app
- Where you can share your knowledge with fellow Mendix users
- Where you can further improve your knowledge.
- How to download and install Mendix Studio Pro
- How to set up your Community Profile
- How to change your avatar

Buckle up and start your app-creating journey!

## 1.6 Knowledge Check

1. A critical success factor for companies working with Mendix is:
  - a. Implementing the waterfall project management approach
  - b. Working in small cross-functional teams  
Working individually on projects depending on expertise
  - c. Knowing object- oriented programming
2. You want to share something on the App Store. You want it to be visible only by people in your company. Is this possible?
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. What is Mendix Studio?
  - a. A CRM tool that offers out of the box CRM capabilities.
  - b. A Business Process Management tool to model and manage your company's workflow.
  - c. A WYSISYG tool to create, develop, and deploy innovative apps at light speed.
  - d. A tool to analyze big data using advanced Business Intelligence algorithms.

Answers:  
1-b, 2-a, 3-c

Mendix is the fastest and easiest platform to build and continuously improve mobile and web applications at scale. Recognized as a market leader by leading analysts, we help our customers digitally transform their organizations and industries by building, managing, and improving apps at unprecedented speed and scale. More than 4,000 forward-thinking enterprises, including Kuehne + Nagel, KLM, Philips and North Carolina State University use our platform to build business applications to delight their customers and improve operational efficiency.

Learn more at [Mendix.com](https://mendix.com)