

# Boosting Progress OpenEdge Code Quality and Speed: Achieving More with VS Code

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DATASHEET



Developers demand modern, flexible and powerful tools to maximize productivity and maintain a competitive edge. Recognizing these evolving needs, the Progress® OpenEdge® team is sponsoring the development of a free, popular OpenEdge Advanced Business Language (ABL) extension for Visual Studio Code (VS Code). This datasheet explores the strategic value of this sponsorship, the benefits for developers and businesses and the broader impact it will have on the OpenEdge community.

## The Need for Modern Development Tools

Software development is increasingly characterized by rapid innovation, distributed teams and the necessity for seamless workflows. Developers expect their integrated development environments (IDEs) to not only support their immediate coding needs, but also to foster collaboration, automate repetitive tasks and enable code quality.

VS Code has emerged as a leading IDE, valued for its lightweight, open-source nature, extensibility and robust ecosystem. For OpenEdge ABL developers—whether new to the platform or seasoned professionals—the ability to leverage VS Code represents a significant step forward in productivity and satisfaction.

## The OpenEdge ABL VS Code Extension

In response to customer demand, the OpenEdge platform features ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the ABL extension for VS Code developed by [Riverside Software](#), a long-standing OpenEdge Technology Partner with deep expertise and a proven track record.

Here are just some of the key benefits this extension has for OpenEdge developers:



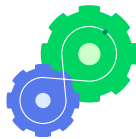
## 1. Increased Productivity

- **Code Completion & Syntax Highlighting:** The extension offers intelligent code completion and real-time syntax highlighting, reducing errors and accelerating coding tasks.
- **Integrated Debugging Tools:** Developers can debug ABL applications directly within VS Code, streamlining the development lifecycle.



## 2. Enhanced Collaboration

- **Real-Time Collaboration & Version Control:** The extension supports modern collaboration features, enabling teams to work together efficiently regardless of location.
- **Consistent Coding Standards:** Built-in linting and code formatting tools help maintain code quality across teams.



## 3. Streamlined Workflows

- **Integration with Build Systems & Testing Tools:** Developers can manage builds, run unit tests and execute other development tasks from within VS Code.
- **Customizable Workspace:** Users can tailor their environment with additional extensions, creating a personalized and efficient workspace.

Here are some of the business value and strategic impacts this extension can deliver for your organization:

**Faster Time to Market:** By equipping developers with efficient, modern tools, organizations can accelerate project delivery, respond quickly to market demands and reduce development cycles.

**Cost Savings:** Enhanced productivity and improved code quality lead to fewer errors, less rework and lower project costs, enabling resources to be saved and reinvested in innovation and strategic initiatives.

**Improved Team Performance:** Better collaboration and communication among development teams result in more efficient project completion and higher-quality outcomes.

**Supporting Innovation:** The sponsorship reflects Progress' commitment to staying at the forefront of technology. By investing in state-of-the-art tools, the OpenEdge community is empowered to build more reliable, scalable and innovative applications.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is VS Code?

Visual Studio Code is a free, open-source IDE by Microsoft, widely adopted for its extensibility and support for numerous programming languages.

### Why is this extension important for ABL developers?

A recent [OpenEdge customer survey](#) revealed that 45% of respondents actively use VS Code in their organizations, highlighting strong demand for a robust ABL development experience within this IDE. This aligns with broader industry trends: according to the [2024 Stack Overflow Developer Survey](#), Visual Studio Code remains the most popular integrated development environment (IDE) among professional developers worldwide, consistently ranking at the top for several years. This widespread preference for VS Code by the global developer community further underscores the importance of delivering an excellent ABL experience in VS Code, ensuring ABL developers have modern, industry-standard tools that match their expectations and workflows.

### How can developers access the extension or request enhancements?

The extension is freely available from Riverside Software. Developers can download it directly from their website and start using it within their VS Code environment. For feedback, bug reports, or enhancement requests, Riverside encourages users to use the public issue tracker on their [ABL Extension GitHub repository](#). This open channel allows the community to participate in shaping the extension's roadmap and ensures that requests are visible and trackable by both the development team and other users.

### Does this replace Progress Developer Studio for OpenEdge (PDSOE)?

No. PDSOE, based on Eclipse, remains fully supported. The VS Code extension is an alternative for those who prefer the VS Code environment.

### Accelerating OpenEdge Success: The Power of the VS Code ABL Extension

The OpenEdge team's sponsorship of the VS Code ABL extension marks a significant milestone for the OpenEdge community. By delivering a free, modern and powerful development tool, Progress is empowering developers to innovate, collaborate and deliver high-quality applications faster and more efficiently than ever before.

### Learn More

We encourage all OpenEdge developers and organizations to explore the benefits of the VS Code ABL extension and join us in shaping the future of ABL development. [Read the official announcement blog.](#)



Access the free ABL VS Code extension

