

Top 5 Strengths of Progress OpenEdge ABL

DATA SHEET

Progress® OpenEdge® Advanced Business Language (ABL) is a fourth-generation language (4GL) designed specifically for business application development. For decades, ABL has enabled organizations to build, deploy and manage robust business applications with exceptional speed, flexibility and reliability. With steady demand for skilled developers and relatively low competition, ABL offers professionals a way to differentiate their careers and enjoy lasting job security in a crowded tech landscape.

This datasheet explores the top five unique strengths of ABL, explaining why it remains a strategic choice for developers and businesses seeking to maximize productivity, scalability and long-term value. Among these strengths is ABL's structured, data-centric design, which aligns seamlessly with modern AI tools and evolving digital workflows. Its stability and proven foundation for business-critical systems provide long-term career resilience, even as organizations innovate while relying on trusted, robust technologies.

Here are just five of the top strengths of OpenEdge ABL:

1. Purpose-Built for Business Applications

OpenEdge ABL stands out as a language designed specifically for building robust, scalable business applications. Its architecture prioritizes clarity, efficiency and integration—making it easier for development teams to rapidly implement, adapt and maintain complex

business logic. Below are some of the key reasons why ABL is purpose-built to meet the evolving needs of enterprise software:

- **Business Logic Focus:** ABL is designed specifically to express business processes efficiently. Its syntax allows developers to translate complex requirements into working code with minimal friction—often in far fewer lines than general-purpose languages like Java or C++.
- **Integrated Data Management:** ABL's tight integration with the OpenEdge relational database enables seamless Create, Read, Update, Delete (CRUD) operations and complex data manipulations, reducing boilerplate and manual data handling.

2. Developer Productivity and Experience

OpenEdge ABL significantly enhances developer productivity by combining a high-level, English-like syntax with powerful development tools. This approachable syntax helps new and experienced developers become productive quickly. Additionally, features like a centralized data dictionary and incremental builds simplify maintenance and speed up development cycles, enabling teams to deliver business applications more efficiently and with greater confidence.

- **High-Level, English-Like Syntax:** ABL's readable syntax lowers the learning curve, making it accessible to both new and experienced developers. Many can become productive in days, not months.
- **Integrated Development Environment (IDE):** The Progress Developer Studio (PAS) for OpenEdge provides a comprehensive IDE, including a procedure editor, compiler, debugger and data dictionary, which streamlines the entire development lifecycle. ABL development now supports modern workflows with integration into Visual Studio (VS) Code and support for code assistants and AI-powered pair programming.
- **Performance & Observability Integration:** The OpenEdge Memory Profiler (OEMP) tool empowers developers to optimize and monitor applications directly within their workflows. It features integrated memory profiling to analyze resource use and built-in support for OpenTelemetry-based tracing for deep, real-time insights across distributed business systems with top Application Performance Monitoring (APM) tools.

3. Business Reliability and Scalability

Maintaining the uninterrupted performance and growth of business-critical applications requires a platform that is reliable, scalable and resilient. OpenEdge ABL delivers on these demands by offering proven stability and robust performance—even under the most

demanding conditions. Organizations around the world trust ABL for its ability to support core operations across diverse IT environments, while comprehensive features for security, availability and deployment flexibility provide the foundation needed for long-term business success.

- **Mission-Critical Reliability:** Over 47,000 businesses in more than 175 countries rely on OpenEdge ABL for mission-critical applications, attesting to its stability and performance under demanding workloads.
- **Cross-Platform Deployment:** Write once, deploy anywhere—ABL applications run on Windows, UNIX and Linux, supporting diverse IT environments.

4. Modern Development Features

OpenEdge ABL is equipped with modern development features that provide developers with the flexibility and power needed to address today's complex enterprise requirements. Combining object-oriented and service-oriented capabilities, ABL makes it easy to build maintainable, interoperable and scalable applications for any environment. In addition, ABL supports integration into AI-enhanced development environments—including GitHub Copilot, AI code review tools such as SonarLint and SonarQube and Software Improvement Group (SIG)—to further boost code quality and productivity.

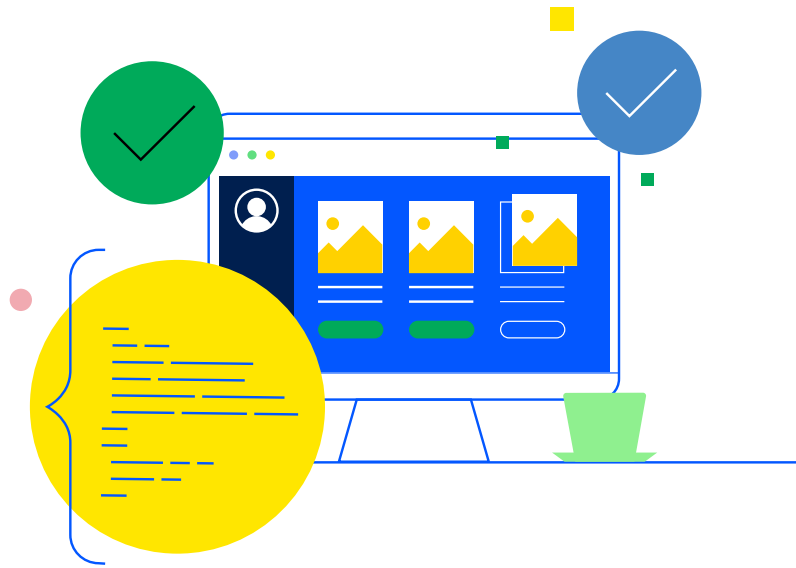
- **Object-Oriented Programming:** ABL supports both procedural and object-oriented paradigms, enabling encapsulation, code reuse and maintainable, scalable codebases.
- **API- and Integration-Ready:** Developers can easily create APIs for .NET, JavaScript, Java and RESTful services, driving interoperability with modern tech stacks.

5. Security and Compliance

OpenEdge ABL is engineered to help you meet security standards and regulatory compliance, providing organizations with powerful features to safeguard business data and promote operational continuity.

- **Enhanced Security:** OpenEdge ABL and its platform offer advanced capabilities, including authentication, authorization, encryption and compliance tools to help mitigate risks and uphold data integrity.
- **Disaster Recovery:** Advanced backup, replication and disaster recovery features help protect critical operations and data.

In a world of fast-moving AI trends, ABL offers stability, control and high business impact. OpenEdge ABL stands out as a strategic platform for both developers and businesses. Its blend of expressive power, productivity, reliability and adaptability makes it a compelling choice for organizations seeking to maximize efficiency and speed up time to market. And for those building the next generation of business applications—or modernizing existing ones—ABL’s strengths are clear and proven.



Learn more about ABL

About Progress Software

[Progress Software](https://www.progress.com) (Nasdaq: PRGS) empowers organizations to achieve transformational success in the face of disruptive change. Our software enables our customers to develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and digital experiences with agility and ease. Customers get a trusted provider in Progress, with the products, expertise and vision they need to succeed. Over 4 million developers and technologists at hundreds of thousands of enterprises depend on Progress. Learn more at www.progress.com

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