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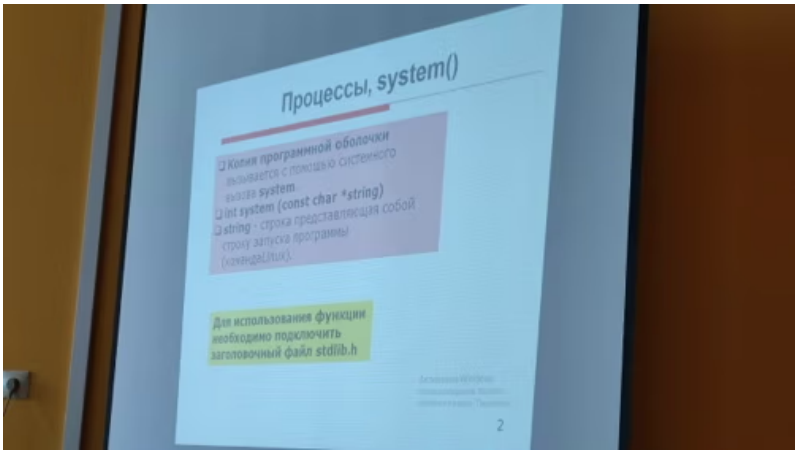
State of Rich Text Editors Report

Essential insights for developers, engineering managers, and product owners.

Rich text editors have long been reliable building blocks of application development. But AI, rising security concerns, and the pressure to ship faster are reshaping what an RTE is and does. This report unpacks the critical trends driving that change — to help you make informed decisions for the projects that matter most.

Chapter 1: The How and Why of RTEs



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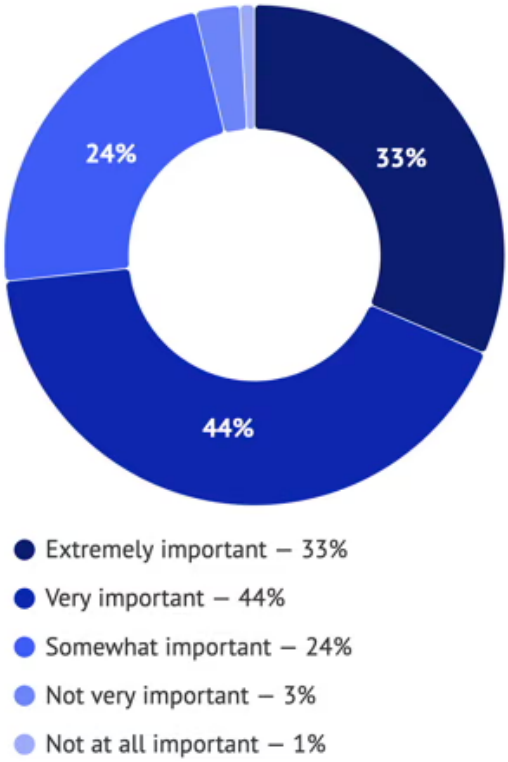
The critical nature of rich text editors

The majority of respondents continue to identify rich text editors as key components of their applications, with 73% rating them as extremely or very important. That figure, however, shifts significantly with company size.

For organisations with 100 people or fewer, 71% rated RTEs at the top two levels of importance. Among mid-sized companies of up to 1,000 employees, that number dips to 68%. But at the enterprise level — organisations with more than 1,000 people — it jumps to 80%.



How important is rich text editing to your platform / product / application?

The pattern is clear: while RTEs matter to everyone, they become nearly indispensable as companies scale. Larger organisations need consistent, reliable content tools across more teams and products, making the choice of editor a strategic decision, not just a technical one.

Languages and frameworks

An editor's value is directly tied to its compatibility with a company's technology stack. Nearly half of survey respondents — 46% — identified integration with existing technologies as a chief factor in their RTE selection.

Technology stacks evolve with organisational size. In companies of up to 100 employees, PHP (24%) and JavaScript (14%) dominate, reflecting common choices for startups and small businesses. As companies grow to 1,000 employees, PHP drops to 7% and Java rises to 13%, signalling a shift in architectural patterns.

At the enterprise level, the stack diversifies further. Python, C++, and TypeScript become prominent, supporting everything from data science to large-scale frontend applications. PHP also re-emerges above 10%, likely powering established web properties and legacy systems.

This data underscores that an RTE must cater to the distinct technology profiles that emerge as a company grows and matures.

LANGUAGE	EMPLOYEES		
	1–100	101–1,000	1,001+
PHP	24%	7%	11%
JAVASCRIPT	14%	16%	8%
TYPESCRIPT	9%	12%	12%
JAVA	6%	13%	11%
PYTHON	7%	7%	12%
HTML/CSS	9%	4%	9%
C#	6%	9%	8%

LANGUAGE	EMPLOYEES		
	1–100	101–1,000	1,001+
RUBY	8%	5%	4%
OTHER	16%	25%	24%

Chapter 2: Choosing an RTE

Rich text editors range from simple to sophisticated. Choosing the right one is a strategic decision that must balance the functionality users require against the long-term costs of integration, maintenance, and scalability. While priorities can shift, a core set of considerations consistently drives the decision-making process.

Ease of implementation

The purpose of buying a component is to reduce development effort. A successful integration must be straightforward, even in complex ecosystems like multi-tenant environments. The chosen RTE needs to work with the developer, not against them.

Technology support

If the RTE has all the right features but doesn't work with your tech stack, it's not a viable solution. Whether technology is chosen for a specific purpose or dictated by corporate standards, product developers must find an editor that supports their stack.

Features

Every component in an application has a job to do. While not every product needs every editor feature, missing key functionality creates a significant burden, forcing

teams to either find a different RTE or commit to the high cost of custom plugin development and long-term upkeep.

Feature importance is defined by context

There is broad consensus on a core set of expectations — security and privacy (79%), performance (77%), customizability (71%), and framework integration (65%) are the non-negotiables for any modern RTE. But the true insight comes from looking beyond these overall numbers: feature priorities shift depending on both the size of the organisation and the work being done.

- **SMALL COMPANIES** prioritise immediate productivity, ranking performance and a short learning curve as their top needs.
- **MID-SIZED ORGANISATIONS** pivot to integration and control, focusing on security, customisation, and tech stack compatibility.
- **LARGE ENTERPRISES** narrow their focus to robustness and risk mitigation, with security and performance as their primary concerns.

Chapter 3: Looking Ahead

AI redefines collaboration

The very concept of "collaboration" within a rich text editor is being fundamentally reimagined. What was once a feature centred on human-to-human interaction now includes a new, active participant: AI.

This is not a fringe idea; it's a mainstream demand. A decisive 42% of survey respondents identified collaboration with AI as the single most critical advancement for RTEs in the next five years.

This shift is being driven by the practical demands of modern business, as one respondent explained:

> We're integrating with AI-driven workflows, and the ability for users to collaborate live on AI-generated drafts is becoming more and more of a requirement.

This shift transcends simple team-based editing. It establishes a new creative process where AI is no longer just a tool for correction, but a core partner in ideation and drafting. The expectation is clear: the future of collaborative work involves a seamless partnership between human creativity and artificial intelligence, and the rich text editor is centre stage for this interaction.