The **Gordian Knot** is a legend of Phrygian Gordium and often associated with **Alexander the Great**. It is a metaphor for an intractable problem (untangling an impossibly tangled knot) solved easily by finding an approach to the problem that renders the constraints of the problem moot - “cutting the Gordian Knot!”

As the legend goes, an oracle – *pun unintended* had declared that any man who could unravel its elaborate knots was destined to become ruler of all of Asia.

**Alexander** wanted to untie the knot but struggled to do so without success. He then reasoned that it would make no difference how the knot was loosed, so he drew his sword and, with a single stroke, sliced it in half.

**Is your code like a Gordian Knot?**

This story reminds me of a client that had a rather complex OTC process. They are a multi-billion, multinational beverage company with direct store delivery. Their quoting, sales order, and delivery steps were so entangled with layers of code, fixes, enhancements, and notes. It was almost impossible to modify the process out of fear of breaking it.

Every wave of new requirements for customers, materials, pricing, discounts, and promotions caused a panic attack.

Inevitably, the scope of changes became less and less as more time was spent on regression testing to ensure nothing would break. This fear from the field sales and customer support teams, were causing them to fall behind their customer’s expectations and their competitor’s advances.

Digital transformation projects were falling behind due to the extended time-to-results in key initiatives; mobile sales, customer and product analytics, promotion trends, and other digital capabilities that are part of a digital-first strategy. Due to the complexity layered into these processes, the digital advantages were getting pushed back 12-18 months. The primary reason was not due to intent, budget, or desire, but due to the business risk of breaking the current processes.

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“I apologize for such a long letter - I didn’t have time to write a short one.”

—Mark Twain
Mendix, where less is more!

“I apologize for such a long letter - I didn't have time to write a short one.” This relevant quote by Mark Twain also applies to code development. We often hear about how many lines of code are included in a program or report – “there are thousands of lines of code for that program!” brags, a proud developer. But as Mark Twain, Benjamin Franklin, Blaise Pascal, and others reflect - both the value and challenges of brevity. Often the dynamics of a fast-paced project with tight deadlines don’t allow for this brevity.

Paradoxically, Mendix, the leader in low-code/no-code development platform solutions, specializes in this brevity. With Mendix, it is ironic; it takes less time to write less code. Isn’t that how it is supposed to be? If you want to deliver more apps in less time, you can either scale up and hire more programmers or employ Mendix and Titan Consulting.

Where are your Gordian Knots?

Another consideration for Mendix is to make the complex, simple. A long-time SAP ECC customer has a Variant Configurator (VC) based ordering and production model. If you extrapolate the variations, the possible combinations are countless. To add more complexity to this solution, Salesforce.com integrates with ECC for global forecasting. There are too many touchpoints to risk changing quoting, pricing, and customer services in their ECC model.

Seemingly with limited choices, they even considered going back to static Materials and BoMs to try to simplify their models. This idea hit a brick wall when the cost and effort of maintaining master data, utilizing IT, supply chain, engineering, and sales factored into the decision.

What is the obvious choice? Mendix! Another consideration was their plan to upgrade from ECC to S4. With Mendix, upgrades for their code are easier than upgrading the ABAP code.

With Titan and Mendix, you can roll out new, higher quality apps faster, while reducing the complexity of your code line for your digital transformation projects.

Every company and industry have a process or operational requirement that ties their hands. We have addressed these areas in other articles such as Commissions, Warranty, Container Management, Contracts, Disputes and Collections, and many more. Cut through entangled knots of code that create complex, costly, high-maintenance layers of code and simplify your App development platform.

We can’t promise that if you use Titan Consulting and Mendix you will cut through your Gordian software knot. However, we can promise you that it will simplify and accelerate your new software development cycles. Ask your Titan Consulting Director for the article comparing Fiori to Mendix.

Learn how Titan and Mendix can satisfy your business’s appetite for custom-developed applications. Contact Keith Johnson, keith@titanconsulting.net, 214.289.0924, or your Titan Consulting Director. You can see additional information on our Mendix capabilities at www.titanconsulting.net/mendix/.