Custom Software Development USA — Complete Checklist

Everything your business needs · Before, During & After Development

■ Use this checklist to plan, build, and launch your custom software project in the United States. Print it out or keep it digital — tick each item as you complete it!

1 Business Requirement Analysis

☐ **Define core business goals clearly**
What problem does this software solve for your US business?

☐ **List all features & functionalities needed**
Separate must-haves from nice-to-haves

☐ **Identify target users and their needs**
User personas, demographics, US market specifics

☐ **Set a realistic budget range**
Include 15–20% buffer for changes and maintenance

☐ **Define project timeline and milestones**
Launch date, MVP date, review phases

☐ **Document compliance requirements**
HIPAA, CCPA, GDPR, SOC 2 — varies by US industry

2   Choosing the Right Development Partner

Verify US market experience and portfolio
Check case studies and client industries

Review client testimonials and references
Verified reviews on Clutch, G2, or Upwork

Confirm technical stack expertise
React, Node.js, Python, .NET, AWS, Azure

Check communication process and availability
Time zone alignment with US business hours

Understand pricing model
Fixed-price / hourly / dedicated team — no hidden charges

Confirm NDA and IP ownership agreement
You must own 100% of the code after delivery

Review post-launch support offerings
SLA terms, maintenance plans, upgrade support

3   UI/UX Design Phase

Create user journey maps and wireframes
Map every user interaction from start to finish

Design for US audience and accessibility standards
ADA compliance required — WCAG 2.1 Level AA

Review and approve UI prototype before coding starts
Interactive mockup sign-off is critical

Confirm branding is applied consistently
Colors, fonts, logo usage per brand guidelines

Mobile-first responsive design confirmed
Over 60% of US users access via mobile devices

4   Development & Technology Stack

Select appropriate frontend technology
React, Angular, or Vue.js based on project needs

Choose backend language and framework
Node.js, Python/Django, Java Spring, or .NET

Decide on database type (SQL / NoSQL)
PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MySQL — match to data structure

Plan API architecture (REST / GraphQL)
Define third-party integration strategy

Set up version control
Git / GitHub / GitLab with branching strategy

Configure cloud hosting environment
AWS, Microsoft Azure, or Google Cloud Platform

Establish CI/CD pipeline for deployments
Automated testing and zero-downtime deployments

5   Security & Compliance

Implement SSL/TLS encryption on all data
HTTPS enforced site-wide — no exceptions

Set up role-based access control (RBAC)
Limit data access based on user roles

Encrypt data at rest and in transit
AES-256 standard recommended for US compliance

Perform vulnerability & penetration testing
Pre-launch security audit is mandatory

Ensure HIPAA compliance (if healthcare)
PHI data handling protocols must be documented

Verify CCPA compliance for California users
Privacy policy, data rights, opt-out mechanisms

Set up regular automated security scans
Tools: OWASP ZAP, SonarQube, Snyk

6 Testing & Quality Assurance

- [ ] **Unit testing for all individual components**
  Developer responsibility — code coverage > 80%

- [ ] **Integration testing for all module connections**
  APIs, databases, payment gateways, third-party services

- [ ] **User Acceptance Testing (UAT) with stakeholders**
  Real business users must test before go-live

- [ ] **Performance and load testing conducted**
  Simulate US peak traffic — tools: JMeter, Locust

- [ ] **Cross-browser and cross-device testing done**
  Chrome, Safari, Firefox, Edge · iOS and Android

- [ ] **Bug tracking system in place**
  Jira, Linear, or GitHub Issues — all bugs documented

- [ ] **Final QA sign-off received before deployment**
  Written approval from QA lead is required

7 Deployment & Launch

- [ ] **Staging environment tested and approved**
  Must mirror the production environment exactly

- [ ] **Database backup and recovery plan ready**
  Automated daily backups with tested restore process

- [ ] **Domain, DNS, and SSL fully configured**
  Custom domain live, HTTPS green, no mixed content

- [ ] **Analytics and monitoring tools installed**
  Google Analytics 4, Datadog, or New Relic

- [ ] **Error logging and real-time alerts set up**
  Slack / email notifications for critical errors

- [ ] **Soft launch / beta release completed**
  Limited user group testing before full rollout

- [ ] **Full production deployment completed**
  Final go-live checklist signed off by all stakeholders

8 Post-Launch & Ongoing Maintenance

☑ **User onboarding documentation prepared**
Video tutorials, FAQs, and help center articles

☑ **Helpdesk and support channel established**
Email, live chat, or ticketing system active

☑ **Performance benchmarks set and monitored**
Uptime target > 99.9% — SLA agreed with dev team

☑ **Regular software update schedule planned**
Monthly patch cycle minimum — security patches ASAP

☑ **User feedback collection system active**
In-app surveys, NPS tracking, support ticket analysis

☑ **Scalability plan reviewed quarterly**
Infrastructure scaling roadmap aligned with growth

☑ **Annual security audit scheduled**
Recurring penetration testing and compliance review

■ **Pro Tip**   Always get a detailed **Statement of Work (SOW)** signed before development starts. It protects both you and your development partner from scope creep, cost overruns, and misunderstandings — especially in the US legal context.

Custom Software Development USA
Your trusted technology partner for US businesses