The author of the article “Choose Your Tools with Care” tells us about the advantages and the pitfalls of using existing tools – libraries and frameworks.

These tools can help us to concentrate on writing more business-domain code, to develop our applications faster and cheaper. Also there are many free solutions in the Web and we need only to slightly modify them for using. Moreover, as a rule the most popular tools are well tested and have less bugs than the ones developed in-house.

Despite the advantages, using of such tools is full of the pitfalls. First of all, they might be incompatible and we have to find some workarounds to force them to work as we need. This may cause to become our application extremely difficult for maintaining and upgrading. And the more tools we use, than more this problem grow. And don’t forget about configuration of these tools. Some of them may need to edit a few XML-files, but others require writing a few lines of code. I think, you might guess what it can fetch to.

And I almost forget about licensing terms. Some tools might be not so free as you think. Others can ask to distribute your application with its source code.

But I still think that using of existing tools is very useful.