

Task 1 (Mobile Application Framework)

- 1. With your knowledge on application development frameworks provide the framework solution you would propose to develop “ToDoNotes”. Justify your answer.**

In computer programming, an application framework consists of a software framework used by software developers to implement the standard structure of application software.

Application frameworks became popular with the rise of graphical user interfaces, since these tended to promote a standard structure for applications. Programmers find it much simpler to create automatic GUI creation tools when using a standard framework, as this would define the underlying code structure of the application in advance. Developers usually use object-oriented programming techniques to implement frameworks such that the unique parts of an application can simply inherit from classes extant in the framework that allows you to create a mobile application that can be installed as a native app.

A mobile app framework is a software creation platform that allows a developer to create an application's source code, the framework and uses various elements to generate the application for the different mobile devices.

Since this app will be made for mobile phones, JavaScript, Java, C++, Python and Objective-C can be used as the preferred programming language to code.

Native applications are developed for the chosen operating system written in a native programming language for the platform. For Android OS – Java and for iOS – Objective-C.

Hybrid applications are developed to work across any operating system and share the same code base.

While both types have their differences on how they are accessed, there are many mobile application development frameworks that support coding for both such as React Native, Ionic etc.

2. Compare and contrast your frameworks with other available mobile frameworks stating the pros and cons (3 points each for pros and cons)

For this build, I considered React Native, Flutter & Xamarin as the preferred app development frameworks.

	React Native	Flutter	Xamarin
About	Facebook introduced React Native in 2018. It has been built and maintained by the tech giant since its release. It is an open-source, cross-platform app development framework that has instantly become the preferred choice for developers. The significant reason behind the popularity of React Native is the rapid development and deployment of its application. Furthermore, it streamlines the development of iOS and Android apps. Some popular apps based on React Native framework are Amazon Prime, Tesla, Skype, Airbnb, etc.	Developed by Google, Flutter is one of the best mobile development frameworks in 2022. It is an open-source framework for creating cross-platform applications utilizing a single codebase. It is an excellent SDK (software development kit) for building a cross-platform application, as it uses an innovative strategy for designing applications with a native-like appearance and feels. Flutter is an unparalleled and highly dependable mobile user interface for building engaging applications swiftly by accelerating the development procedure. Flutter framework contains widgets, a rendering engine, testing, and various tools to assist developers in creating and developing attractive mob applications. The flutter framework is used by renowned companies such as Alibaba, Google, and Abby Road Studios.	Microsoft developed Xamarin, an open-source framework for creating native and superior Android, iOS, tvOS, macOS, and watchOS applications implementing C# and .NET programming languages. Moreover, it lets users quickly transfer the scripts across multiple systems, like Windows and macOS. Xamarin framework authorizes enterprises to deliver fast performance and innovative end-user experience. The framework is supported by a vast community that helps the designers to create an environment with various components, APIs, backend, and much more by employing different tools, programming languages, and libraries.
Features	Compatibility with third-party plugins	Powerful widget support	Feel of a native app
	Reusable components	In-built material design	Storyboard files
	Superior performance	Rich motion APIs	Compatible with numerous devices
	It supports both iOS and Android	High-performance app similar to native	Adaptable backend infrastructure
			Android SDK manager

Source: Hardy, T. (2022) "Top 7 Mobile App Development Frameworks in 2022," <https://ied.eu/>. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, 26 August. Available at: <https://ied.eu/blog/technology-blog/top-7-mobile-app-development-frameworks-in-2022/> (Accessed: November 7, 2022).

Xamarin was taken out as it had the least popularity of the 3 since its release and sees less users as compared to React Native and Flutter.

Pros and Cons of Flutter v React Native

Flutter

Pros	Cons
Hot reload feature offers faster app development	Slowly growing developer community
One codebase for Android and iOS platforms	Library support is not as rich as native development
Faster Quality Assurance	Apps written in Flutter are more immense than native ones
Faster apps through Skia Graphics Library	Flutter depends on Googles support for the project
Older devices get the same app UI	Dart programming language is relatively new
Compiled code offers stable performance	All-new iOS and Android features are introduced in Flutter slightly later than in their native SDKs
Custom widgets and the apps have a user-friendly UI	

React Native

Pros	Cons
Hot Reload + Fast Refresh	Fewer out-of-the-box components
Uses JavaScript that is more commonly used	Abandoned packages
One codebase for Android and iOS platforms	Compatibility and debugging issues
Freedom of choice for developers	Fragile UI
Vast community	Apps bigger than native ones
Slightly more mature	Native developers still needed
More comfortable to learn	
The dev team can be smaller in size with React Native	
Reduces testing time	

3. Suggest a value-added feature for “ToDoNotes” showing your creativity

A value-added feature I plan to incorporate into the ToDoNotes application is to have the task area be coloured so that the tasks stand out visually to the students.

4. What are the considerations done when deciding a mobile application framework?

I considered the above factors and determined from the higher pros that React Native is the most advantageous for me to work with due to the support and recognition it has over the other frameworks.

5. State your favorite mobile application explaining why

Name: Tachiyomi (Manga+Manhua reader)

Reason: This application allows the user to add multiple sources as extensions, view the selected books into one library and download and read them offline at your leisure. This app prevents the need of downloading multiple “reader” apps and checking different source websites for manga and manhua. The app also includes a global update feature which scans the added extensions and updates the chapters of the books you have added to the library.

Available on GitHub through the developer’s website as a downloadable APK file.