Low-Code Development

Sandeep Satyanarayan Yadav
Student id: 1001945732

Introduction:

The analyst firm Forrester was the first to use the term low-code in 2014 and described it as a development platform for customer-facing applications. Low code development refers to the principal of developing and executing fully functional software products fast and without the need of writing complex coding. Low code specifies a collection of tools that can be used to build a complete software product visually, using a drag and drop interface rather than writing thousands of lines of complex code. OutSystems, recognized by Gartner as a leading low code platform, has determined three different industry types of low code applications namely, Niche tools, ecosystems tools, and purpose-built application platforms. A typical low code development platform comes with a visual IDE, connectors to various backends or services and application life cycle manager. Low code can address wide range of application use cases from fintech solutions to agile workplace innovation and massive legacy migration projects. Companies that adopt low code approach for software development tend to increase developer productivity and speed to market. I will discuss about the future of low code development in next sections and cite the stand made by other authors on the same.

Imagining a low code future:

The author[1] discusses the future of low code approach for software development optimistically, predicting an increase in the usage of low code platforms in future. With low code developers can build novel, innovative products within days rather than weeks. Users can build cloud native, enterprise-grade applications with one click deployment using modern low code platforms. As low code becomes more prevalent among businesses, we may see individuals able to create their own personal workforce services using capabilities of low code – not only assisting to encourage employees engage with tools they prefer, but also supporting to enhance productivity with distinctive techniques organization - wide. However we will still need good developer to build the building blocks that are available to low code end users and more sophisticated applications. The bridge of understanding between management and software teams will become with more wider in future with low code tools, as it provides upper management with a better understanding and involvement in overall developer process.

Why Low-Code Software Development is the Future:

The authors [2][3] of other two sources have similar point of view when it comes to the future of development using low code methodologies. Author[2] discusses around why Gartner predicts low code will dominate in the future and the reasons advocating the prediction made by Gartner. Research made by Gartner shows the current growth in low-code development market is fueled by digital disruptions, hyper-automation, and composable business. The author[2] discusses each of these in detail. Resource [3] while supporting that low code development will increase in future, it advocates it claim backed by detailing what is low code, what it brings on the table for business users and developers, products that can be built using low code, how low

code approach shortens the development steps, and the life cycle of application development. Low code offers a great customer experience with prebuilt design templates, support for advance architecture, enforced security technologies, easy to go deployment and much more. How all these things together ultimately contribute to getting more work done for the developers.

Conclusion:

I agree with the mentioned authors [1][2][3] and surely the low code development will increase its market share in future. Low code tools are of significant use when it comes to proofs of concept(PoC), the prototype for the idea can be built quickly with reduced efforts and development time. The business stakeholders can validate the hypotheses before recruiting skilled workforce to work on the idea. Even with increasing acceptance of low code we will need skilled developers to build complex real-world solutions and the building blocks of the low code tool. Mendix is one such low code platform and I had the opportunity to work on it to build an employee onboarding application. The platform came with integrated tool to manage sprint cycles, record user feedback, design templates, drag and drop design and much more. Low code boosts developer speed and time to market for product. Since it does not require an individual to know the jargons or syntax of any programming language even the business users can develop personalized application to help them in their daily work.

References

[1] Michael Kappelmann, Feb 2021, Imagining a Low Code Future, blog posted on https://www.tcs.com/blogs/

[2] Reggie Rusan, June 2021, Why Gartner Predicts Low-Code Will Dominate in the Future? https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/

[3] Lakshmikanth Rajamani, May 2020, Why Low-Code Software Development is the Future? https://lkwrites.medium.com/