**Comparative Analysis: Streamlit vs Plotly Dash vs NiceGUI for SDLC Automation with HITL**

**📌 Overview**

This document provides a detailed comparison of **Streamlit**, **Plotly Dash**, and **NiceGUI** — three popular Python-based web application frameworks — in the context of **SDLC (Software Development Lifecycle)** automation projects. Special attention is given to their **Human-in-the-Loop (HITL)** support, ease of use, integration capabilities, and suitability for building agent-driven dashboards and interactive workflow systems.

**🛠️ What Are These Tools?**

| **Tool** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **Streamlit** | A lightweight Python framework for quickly turning scripts into interactive web apps. Ideal for data science, ML, and rapid prototyping. |
| **Plotly Dash** | A more enterprise-grade Python framework for building data dashboards. It offers more control over layout and customization but involves steeper learning. |
| **NiceGUI** | A modern, full-stack Python GUI framework that wraps Vue.js and Tailwind CSS. Offers real-time interactivity, FastAPI integration, and stateful sessions out of the box. |

**📋 Comparison Summary**

| **Feature** | **Streamlit** | **Plotly Dash** | **NiceGUI** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ease of Use** | ✅ Very easy | ⚠️ Moderate | ✅ Easy |
| **Customization** | ⚠️ Limited layout control | ✅ High | ✅ High |
| **HITL Workflow Support** | ✅ With workarounds (e.g., session state, polling) | ⚠️ Requires callback-heavy logic | ✅ Native with session storage |
| **Real-Time UI Updates** | ⚠️ Limited via st.experimental\_rerun | ✅ Callback-based | ✅ Timer + reactive binding |
| **State Management** | ⚠️ Basic session state | ⚠️ Global callbacks | ✅ Scoped app & user state |
| **FastAPI Integration** | ❌ Not directly supported | ⚠️ Requires wrapping | ✅ Built-in FastAPI |
| **Look & Feel (UI)** | ⚠️ Minimalistic, no CSS | ✅ Good via Dash Bootstrap | ✅ Modern (Tailwind + Vue3) |
| **File Upload & Parsing** | ✅ Very easy | ✅ Supported | ✅ Easy with event callbacks |
| **Learning Curve** | ✅ Beginner-friendly | ⚠️ Steep for newcomers | ✅ Medium |
| **Community Support** | ✅ Very active | ✅ Strong enterprise use | ⚠️ Growing |
| **Best Use Case** | Quick ML demos, POCs | Enterprise dashboards, analytics | Full SDLC tools, HITL applications |

**📈 Use Case: SDLC Automation with HITL**

Let’s break down how each tool performs in a typical SDLC automation project with HITL workflows:

**✅ Streamlit for SDLC + HITL**

**✔️ Pros:**

* Extremely easy to build dashboards for displaying requirement documents, user stories, and code snippets.
* Useful for HITL tasks like **story validation** or **code approval**, via buttons and st.session\_state.

**❌ Cons:**

* **Session state is limited** and does not support multi-user state isolation out-of-the-box.
* HITL feedback must be polled or rely on st.button rerun logic, which can cause disjointed UX.
* No background thread management for long-running agents (e.g., BA, Coder agents).
* Not natively async or REST API-capable.

**🔍 Verdict:**

Good for **lightweight agent dashboards** and **proof-of-concepts**, but not ideal for **production-grade HITL workflows**.

**✅ Plotly Dash for SDLC + HITL**

**✔️ Pros:**

* More **fine-grained control** over the dashboard layout and component callbacks.
* Suited for **data-heavy SDLC steps** like testing results, metrics dashboards, etc.
* Easy to add custom JS/CSS for styling.

**❌ Cons:**

* HITL logic requires verbose @app.callback structures.
* **Multi-agent workflows** (BA → JIRA → Coder agent) are hard to visualize and chain.
* Not built with async/reactive workflows in mind.
* Less intuitive for quick prototyping than Streamlit.

**🔍 Verdict:**

Dash is powerful for **visualization and analytics** but **less ideal for interactive agent-based SDLC pipelines**.

**✅ NiceGUI for SDLC + HITL**

**✔️ Pros:**

* Real-time **user state** management via app.storage.user.
* Easy to implement **approval buttons**, live agent feedback, and reactive components.
* Integrates **FastAPI** seamlessly for REST endpoints like /run\_jira\_agent.
* Background thread compatibility (e.g., running BA agent while waiting for approval).
* Supports **long-running conversational workflows** with human checkpoints.

**❌ Cons:**

* Smaller community (but growing).
* Needs more boilerplate than Streamlit for very simple apps.

**🔍 Verdict:**

**Most aligned for full SDLC automation tools**, especially when combining **Autogen agents + HITL checkpoints + UI**.

**✅ Recommendation**

| **Scenario** | **Best Tool** |
| --- | --- |
| Rapid ML or POC dashboards | **Streamlit** |
| Enterprise-grade data dashboards | **Dash** |
| Agent-based SDLC workflows with HITL checkpoints | **NiceGUI** ✅ |

**💡 Sample HITL Flow with NiceGUI**

text

CopyEdit

1. Upload Requirements →

2. BA Agent Generates Stories →

3. UI Displays JSON →

4. User Clicks "Approve Stories" →

5. JIRA Agent Triggered →

6. Code Generation →

7. User Approves Final Code

This full-cycle is **natively supported in NiceGUI**, using state, ui.timer, and background threading.

**📎 Attachments / References**

* Official Streamlit Docs
* Plotly Dash Docs
* [NiceGUI Docs](https://nicegui.io)

**✅ Streamlit vs Plotly Dash**

**✅ Streamlit vs NiceGUI**

**Context**: Evaluated for **SDLC automation with HITL (Human-In-The-Loop)** where iterative user approval is needed for artifacts like stories, JIRA tickets, and generated code.

**📊 Streamlit vs Plotly Dash (For SDLC Automation with HITL)**

| **Feature / Criteria** | **Streamlit** | **Plotly Dash** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ease of Use** | ✅ Simple Python scripts with minimal boilerplate | ⚠️ Requires more setup and familiarity with callbacks |
| **Layout Flexibility** | Basic layout with columns() and expander() | ✅ Advanced layout capabilities using Dash components |
| **HITL (Human-in-the-Loop) Capability** | ✅ Built-in support with st.button, st.session\_state, st.experimental\_rerun() | ✅ Can build HITL with callbacks, but more verbose |
| **Live Updates** | ✅ Easy state handling with polling or st.experimental\_rerun() | ✅ Dash callbacks allow for live updates, but more complex |
| **Charts/Graphs** | ✅ Built-in with support for Plotly, Altair, Matplotlib | ✅ Native integration with Plotly (more advanced) |
| **File Uploading** | ✅ st.file\_uploader is straightforward | ✅ dcc.Upload available |
| **Custom Styling/Theming** | ⚠️ Limited customization without hacks | ✅ More flexible via CSS/JS and external themes |
| **Deployment** | ✅ streamlit share, Docker, local | ✅ Dash Enterprise, Heroku, Docker |
| **Community Support** | 🔥 Huge community | Moderate (but strong around Plotly ecosystem) |

**Verdict**:  
Streamlit wins for rapid SDLC prototyping and HITL-friendly workflows. Dash may be preferable if advanced charting or a complex UI is required.

**🧑‍💻 Streamlit vs NiceGUI (For SDLC Automation with HITL)**

| **Feature / Criteria** | **Streamlit** | **NiceGUI** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Python-Only UI** | ✅ Pure Python UI code | ✅ Pure Python UI code with Vue.js under the hood |
| **HITL Support** | ✅ st.button + session\_state + reruns | ✅ ui.button + app.storage.user + real-time UI |
| **Async/Real-Time Features** | ⚠️ Limited (workarounds needed for polling/state refresh) | ✅ Built-in ui.timer, asyncio.create\_task, and real-time binding |
| **UI Components** | Basic components (st.button, st.selectbox) | ✅ Rich set of components from Quasar/Vue (cards, tabs, dialogs) |
| **State Persistence** | Session state using st.session\_state | ✅ Persistent per-user/session with app.storage.user |
| **Frontend Refresh** | Requires rerun or polling | ✅ Live binding using ui.label().bind\_text\_from(...) |
| **Custom Layouts/Themes** | ⚠️ Minimal | ✅ Flexible with Tailwind + Quasar classes |
| **Human Approval Flow (HITL)** | ✅ Manual trigger + rerun logic | ✅ Real-time UI update after backend agent update |
| **Learning Curve** | Low | Slightly higher if customizing UI deeply |
| **Deployment** | Streamlit Cloud, Docker | Docker, FastAPI server (self-hosted) |
| **Integration with Agents (LLMs)** | ✅ Easy (run LLM on click, capture response) | ✅ Fully async LLM agent integration with real-time UI sync |

**Verdict**:

* **Streamlit** is best for quick HITL PoCs and solo usage.
* **NiceGUI** is more robust for multi-step SDLC pipelines with agents that update UI in real time.
* For advanced **SDLC HITL loops**, **NiceGUI** offers better control over timing, UI flow, and live feedback without page reloads.

**📌 Final Recommendation**

| **Use Case** | **Recommended Tool** |
| --- | --- |
| Prototype SDLC agent workflows with minimal UI | ✅ **Streamlit** |
| Complex HITL workflows with real-time feedback | ✅ **NiceGUI** |
| Advanced charting with tight Plotly integration | ✅ **Dash** |