WaveMaker

10 point Checklist to evaluate a RAD Platform

Low-code RAD platforms are the new school of thought for enterprises when it comes to create modern web and mobile applications for their business requirements. As most enterprises are still in the early adoption phase of a RAD platform, they need to understand how it will benefit their business and how easy it is for enterprises to adjust to a RAD platform. We have collated the best features as a checklist that will help evaluate a RAD platform for your enterprise and help you make an informed decision.

☐ Speed of development and time to market:

One of the primary reasons an enterprise chooses a RAD platform is to increase the speed of application delivery. Enterprises have a requirement where they need to develop complex apps at a frantic pace to keep up with business demands. RAD platforms with their visual development interface helps enterprises achieve this. An application that takes months to develop using a traditional method, takes only weeks or days using a low-code RAD platform. A good low-code RAD platform would have an easy to use drag- and drop interface which would reduce the workload of the user and help the user develop applications with great precision,speed and customizations.

☐ Reusability

Good low-code RAD platforms that provide ready to use themes and templates make it easy for the user to have a base to start their application rather than have to create one from scratch. App and project sharing is another feature that allows users to share their work with other developers and have creative inputs for a better output of the application. The code used can be easily shared and reworked. This reduces the time involved in creating fresh pieces of work and also increases productivity of developers.

☐ Quick changes in development cycle

When an application is being developed in the real world, it would undergo a sea of changes which may be small / big. In a development method based on the traditional waterfall approach, there would be a lot of back and forth of approvals leading to a loss of time and effort. Using a modern low-code RAD platform, a user can create a quick outline of the application rapidly in a matter of hours and can let the business stakeholders have a preview of the application in real time at any stage of development on any device. This enables easy iterations to be made to the application without the hassles of large changes to code. Low-code RAD platforms make it possible to develop, test and deploy changes in hours, making very tight feedback-iteration loops possible.

☐ Platforms running on open standards.

While most low-code platforms claim “No Vendor Lock-in”, the reality is that most of them use proprietary technologies and application stack. Thus choosing a low-code RAD Platform that is based on proven open source technologies in order to ensure an open and extensible approach to application delivery becomes important. Also, the platform should use best-of-breed application stack for developing full stack applications. This also increases the adaptability of the platform as most developers are trained on open standard technologies.

Simplify external integrations with inbuilt integrations

While most vendors offer decent visual development capabilities, it is extremely important to look for features that ease external integration of data and services as most business data is stored in disparate, proprietary systems. Look for out-of-the-box integrations and verify whether custom integrations can be built and reused across apps. Few modern low-code RAD platforms also provide direct integrations to maps, social media platforms etc with an easy drag and drop making it easier for the developer as it is provided out of the box.

Ease of cross platform development

Enterprises today require their applications to run on multiple devices. This has become the need of the hour. A low code RAD platform with ability to create applications using a single code base that can adapt to any native platform or operating system (which could be iOS , Android, Windows Mobile, Blackberry /RIM, etc) using a hybrid adaptive design enables applications to be run seamlessly on any device giving it cross platform capabilities. From a development standpoint, it saves a great deal of time and effort as cross platform capabilities of an application means that a developer does not have to recreate the application for each operating system that supports multiple devices.

Scalability and cloud computing

Ensure that low-code RAD platform vendors don't get away with merely providing a hosting and release management solution. Check for the ability to scale applications and handle private cloud needs. Look for solutions that allow for rapid and continuous provisioning, deployment, instant scalability and maximum utilization of resources. Verify whether the platform supports building custom software stacks and deploying microservices-based apps, and orchestrates IT infrastructure effectively.

Low-code RAD platforms and APIs

Today, APIs are at the front and center of business applications and architecture. Most low-code RAD platforms support APIs at best. However, enterprises must choose a platform that takes an API-first approach to application delivery. It should be easy to import data fromany service and bind it to UI components. Moreover, the platform should allow developers tocreate, publish and discover APIs with ease.

Ease of maintenance

With most low-code RAD platforms, even the most experienced developer would not understand the code generated by the platform. Maintainability is a critical aspect of application delivery and is overlooked by many these platforms. Verify that the code generated follows design patterns, is well-organized, uses standard naming conventions and generates documentation that developers can understand and maintain.

How secure is secure?

Enterprise applications need both coarse grained and fine grained security control mechanisms. The low-code RAD platform must support flexible authentication and authorization mechanisms to secure users and various tasks within the application. Check for integration support for popular identity management systems like AD, LDAP, SSO and OAuth.

We at WaveMaker have taken great care to understand the requirements of businesses and the pain points of enterprises when it comes to application development and delivery. That is why we have created a low-code RAD platform keeping the developers, the enterprise and the customers in mind.

Get Started to find out more about WaveMaker's modern low-code RAD platform.