

Review On Different Types of Drag and Drop Mobile App Development Platforms

Johnsymol Joy

Department of Computer Application, Saintgits College of Applied Sciences, M G University, Kerala, India

Available online at: www.ijcseonline.org

Accepted: 24/Nov/2018, Published: 30/Nov/2018

Abstract— A mobile app is a software application designed for use on small wireless devices such as smart phones and tablets rather than desktop or laptop computers. Nowadays thousands of mobile apps are published to the Google Play store or Apple Store. Even a person who has no knowledge on programming languages can create mobile apps, with the help of various mobile app development platforms. Lots of such mobile app development platforms are available today. Some of those are used for creating native apps and some for creating Hybrid apps. Drag and Drop App Builders give non-developer users a solution to build do-it-yourself applications. Such products include features exactly same as design products like visual drag-and-drop tools to make apps. This paper focused on reviewing and familiarizing some efficient drag and drop mobile app builder platforms.

Keywords— Mob App, Native App, Hybrid App, Bootstrap etc

I. INTRODUCTION

Mobile app development is the practice of developing a mobile app for mobile devices like smart phones, PDA, etc. Such applications may be pre-installed at manufacturing time itself or available as web applications that can be installed later. They are typically small software with limited functions, designed for a very specific purpose. Mobile app can be developed using traditional programming method or using mobile app development online platforms. A mobile app should need a front-end and back-end. Front-end should be user-friendly and back-end should support data security, authentication etc.

In traditional programming method, for developing front-end, a mobile app developer should need thorough knowledge on programming languages like Java, Html etc and for back-end they should also need thorough knowledge on language like JavaScript, Vb.net etc. So early days developing mobile apps are just a dream for an ordinary man, but nowadays mobile app development tools made it as an easy task. Using a mobile app development tool, a developer can create a mobile app, just by drag and drop user interface component.

There are several app building platforms available today. Everyday thousands of mobile apps are published to the Apple Stores and Google Play. Apps may be Games, several e-commerce apps, calculators, etc. They are also called Web apps, online apps, iPhone apps or Smartphone apps [4]. Based on a survey conducted, almost 40% of Smartphone users reported social media app as their most commonly used type app [6]. Both gaming and messaging

app comes in second position. The survey also reported a hike in statistics of people deleting apps. It says that this is mainly because people find some apps do not fulfil their needs or some apps takes a lot of space.

II. CLASSIFICATION

Mobile app development tools can be classified as Native apps development tools, Hybrid apps development tools and Web apps development tools [1][2]. Native apps are developed exclusively for a single operating system that means this type of app cannot be used on different platforms. For example apps built for systems like iOS, android, windows phone, Blackberry cannot be used on a platform other than their own. Advantages include high-quality performance and good user experience, but they are costlier than other types. Hybrid apps are built using multi-platform web technologies. They are fast and easy to develop, but their performance is not exactly same in different environments. Web apps use a browser to run and are usually written in HTML, CSS, JavaScript.

III. DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT PLATFORMS

III.I. MIT Appinventor2

App Inventor is a cloud based tool. It helps developers to create mob apps for Android phones using a web browser, an e-mail account and using either a connected

phone or emulator. The App Inventor server store the developers work and help to keep track of that developed application. Developer can enter in to the App inventor platform using his/her gmail account.

App Inventor platform has mainly two parts, a designer window and a block window. In the designer window user can design his application interface using user interface components like text box, label, listpicker, button, listview, etc. In block part, developer can assemble program blocks that specify how components should behave. MIT App Inventor2 [8] has storage components like file, TinyDB, TinyWebDB, Fusion table, etc. Files store data local to our system. TinyDB is a persistent data storage component. TinyWebDB and fusion table helps to store data online.

III.II. Thinkable X

Thinkable X [3] is a cross-platform app builder that means all apps built on this platform work for both Android and iOS devices. Using these non-programmers can easily design powerful and wonderful apps and can upload those apps to Google PlayStore and Apple's AppStore. One of the coolest features is the ability to preview the developed app; even professional developers do not have this super power. Thinkable project may be private or public.

Developer can set his/her project as public or private. Public projects are included in the Thinkable public gallery for anyone to preview, download or remix. Any changes that you formulate to public projects are visible to those in the community in real-time. All users can create and edit public projects and can be shared with anyone. Private projects are not included in the Thinkable Gallery. Only Thinkable PRO users have the facility to create and edit private projects. It can be shared but only with other Thinkers who have PRO membership.

For creating a Thinkable app first open a web browser, then search for Thinkable app builder and then login using Gmail account. Main interface contains two buttons, Design and Block. In Design window developer can create app interface and in block part developer can code the functionality corresponding to that app.

III.III. AppyBuilder

AppyBuilder [7] is a cloud-based platform. A developer can use any web browser for designing android mobile apps. Support multiple languages. Use oneSignal dashboard to forward push-notification to all users of a particular app. For creating an app no coding required, just drag and drop components to the specific window. It can also use storage components like Google spreadsheet, fusion table etc.

III.IV. Makeroid

Makeroid [10] is an online tool that allows any person in the world to create their own app without having to learn any coding language. Just drag and drop components and blocks. For creating an app using this, user first need to login into Makeroid site, and then click "Make Apps". Then developer can design his/her new app by just drag and drop user components in to the viewer window. For giving functionality to the developed app click on block button on the top right end and add appropriate blocks to the block window.

III.V. Bizness Apps

Bizness Apps [9] is a mobile platform that allows small businesses to effortlessly create, edit and manage iPhone, Pad, Android applications online. It is based in California. A designer can choose an already designed template. Choose template carefully because once start building app designer can't change the template without starting all over again. It's costlier than others.

III.VI. BuildFire

BuildFire [5] is a high performance do-it-yourself mobile app builder for iOS and Android phones and tablets. It takes less launching time. App developer can build app free cost but need some amount for launching.

III.VII. Appy Pie

Appy Pie [11] is leading cloud-based mobile apps builder software that helps anyone with no technical knowledge to make advanced applications for Smartphone. Developer can install App Builder Appy Pie's Android App or church app Builder and start off creating apps.

IV.CONCLUSION

Today we are living in mobile technology Era. To promote this, lot of mobile apps were developed in various fields like education, business, entertainment, social networks, etc. Just using drag and drop approach developers can create powerful mobile apps. This paper reviewed on some of such incredible approach for developing mobile apps.

REFERENCES

- [1].MobileAppclassification, <https://www.nngroup.com/articles/mobile-native-apps/classification>
- [2].MobileAppclassification, <https://blog.trigent.com/different-types-of-mobile-applications-native-hybrid-and-web-apps/>
- [3]Thinkable, <https://blog.thinkable.com/on-thinkable-anyone-can-build-their-own-mobile-apps-for-android-and-ios-f61abb17be11>
- [4]. <https://thinkmobiles.com/blog/popular-types-of-apps/>
- [5]. <https://buildfire.com/mobile-app-development-tools>

- [6]. <https://themanifest.com/app-development/mobile-app-usage-statistics-2018>
- [7]. AppyBuilder, <https://appybuilder.com/>
- [8]. MIT Appinventor2, <http://ai2.appinventor.mit.edu/>
- [9]. Business app, <https://www.business.com/reviews/biznessapps/>
- [10]. Makeroid, <http://teachabout-tech.blogspot.com/2018/03/makeroid-tutorial-how-to-make-app.html>
- [11]. Appy Pie, <https://www.appypie.com/>

Authors Profile

Mrs. Johnsymol Joy pursued master of Technology from School of Computer Sciences, M.G University, Kerala. Currently working as Lecturer in BCA Department, Saintgits College of Applied Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India.
