

Low code tool selection process

In the process of recommending and selecting a low code solution for campus the project team performed due diligence in identifying and filling an IT tooling gap. Campus stakeholders, IT functional areas, and the project team all contributed to identify required capabilities and possible use cases for a low code tool. Meetings and discussions were also held relating to Interoperability, CUE (accessibility), Cybersecurity (risk assessment), IAM, and service ownership. Campus stakeholders were involved in trial evaluations and meetings with low code tool vendors as part of the selection. The project team additionally reached out to other adopters of low code solutions within higher education and consulted with Gartner and other industry materials in their research.

When evaluating different low code vendor options the project team utilized two sets of criteria to identify and filter the best fit. The initial selection criteria included:

- An established application development platform
- The ability to leverage UW IT infrastructure
 - IAM/SSO
 - Integration infrastructure (Restful APIs)
- Ability to comply with UW-Madison digital accessibility requirements
- Security considerations
 - Including HIPAA BAA
- Price considerations
- The ability to comply with rules and regulations

The final selection criteria that was evaluated included:

- Use cases supported
- Platform capabilities
- Developer skills & training required
- Data & System Integration
- Platform administration
 - Data & App management/governance
 - Support of the Software Development Life Cycle
 - Security capabilities
- Quality of service and support

After researching the potential vendors and evaluating them against the selection criteria Betty Blocks was determined to be the best overall fit. The Betty Blocks platform is well suited for both simple and complex use cases. It allows for a range of different developer personas and experiences, and will allow us to leverage our existing campus IT infrastructure. The platform provides reusable drag and drop components (called Blocks) and templates that are both vendor provided and UW created which will help speed development time. Betty Blocks also has a solid architecture (applications, data, security, integrations, accessible), and is overall flexible, extensible, customizable, and affordable.