



# Low-code development

Dennis Vroegop



A still life composition of antique objects. In the center is a brass hourglass with purple sand. To the right is a globe on a stand. In the background, a telescope with a wooden handle and a brass barrel is visible. In the foreground, a leather-bound scroll and a pocket watch are on a dark surface. The background wall is covered in a patterned wallpaper.

In the old days...

# Language generations

---

- **1<sup>st</sup> generation:** Machine language.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> generation:** Assembly language
- **3<sup>rd</sup> generation:** High-level language (C, C++, C#, Java, JavaScript)
- **4<sup>th</sup> generation:** Very high-level language (SQL, Uniface, PowerBuilder)







## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

- True binary: zero / one, on / off
- Not for the faint of heart...

```

section      .text
global      _start

_start:

    mov     edx, len
    mov     ecx, msg
    mov     ebx, 1
    mov     eax, 4
    int     0x80

    mov     eax, 1
    int     0x80

;must be declared for linker (ld)
;tell linker entry point
;message length
;message to write
;file descriptor (stdout)
;system call number (sys_write)
;call kernel

;system call number (sys_exit)
;call kernel

```

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

- Slightly more readable than 1<sup>st</sup> generation
- Direct to the metal

```

section      .text
global      _start

msg         db    'Hello, world!',0xa
len         equ  $ - msg

_start:
    mov     ebx, 1
    mov     ecx, msg
    mov     edx, len
    mov     eax, 4
    int     0x80

    mov     eax, 1
    int     0x80

```

```

;our dear string
;length of our dear string

```

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

- Most used today
- Very flexible
- Requires coding knowledge

```
        // its children, grandchildren, etc.
```

```
        </param>  
        ProcessAndChildren(int pid)
```

```
        'system idle process'.
```

```
        ManagementObjectSearcher searcher = new ManagementObjectSearcher  
        ("select * From Win32_Process Where ParentProcessID=" + pid);  
        ManagementObjectCollection moc = searcher.Get();  
        foreach (ManagementObject mo in moc)
```

```
            KillProcessAndChildren(Convert.ToInt32(mo["ProcessID"]));
```

```
            Process proc = Process.GetProcessById(pid);  
            proc.Kill();
```

```
        }
```

```
    catch (ArgumentException)
```

```
    {
```

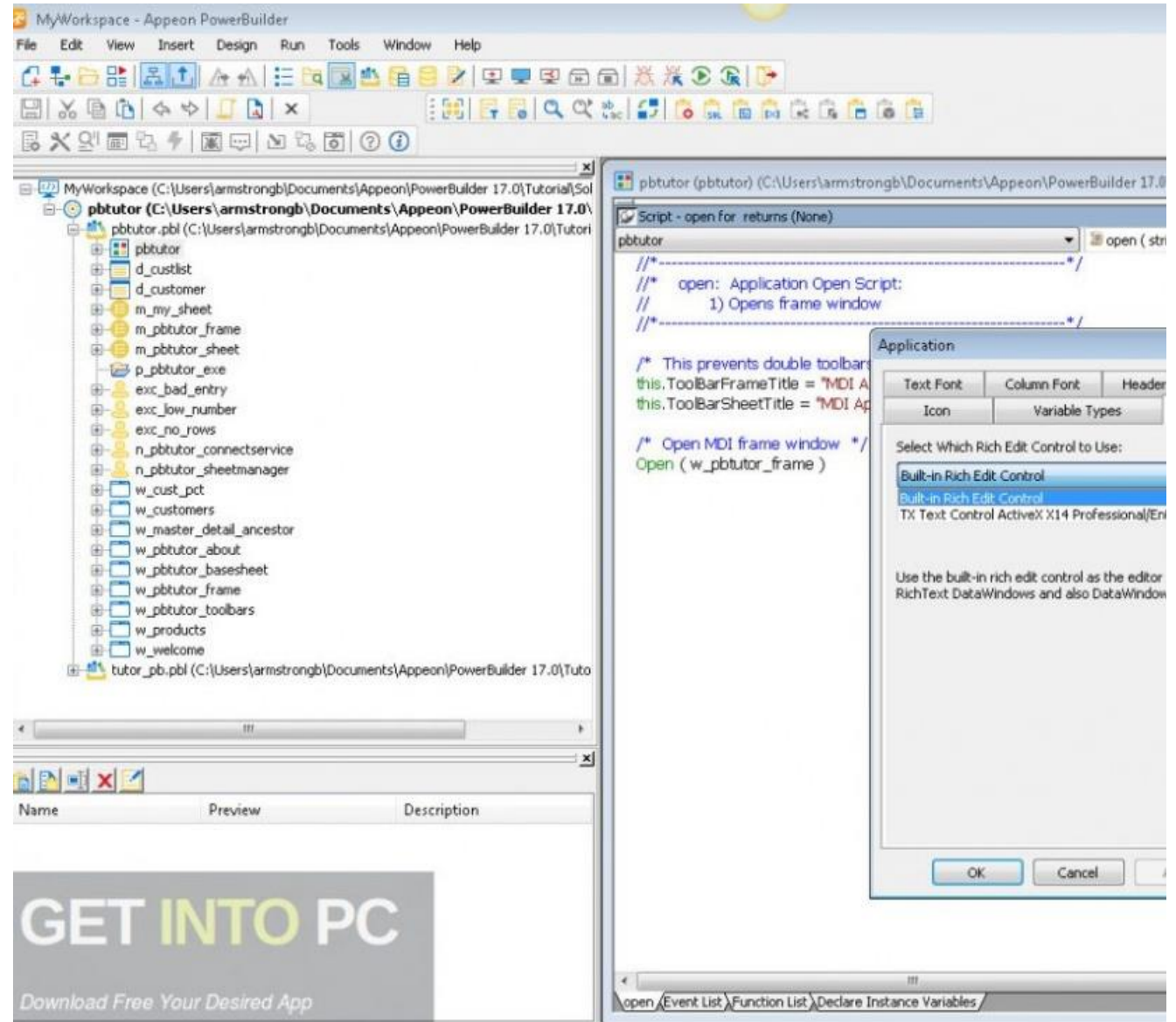
```
        // Process already exited.
```

```
    }
```

```
7  
28 }
```

# 4<sup>th</sup> Generation

- Business oriented
- Tight vendor lock-in
- Limited support
- Limited knowledge
- Coding in proprietary tools







## Trouble on the horizon

---

- Tools get better,
- ... but demands are growing
- ... and good people are scarce
- ... and we need to be everywhere
- ... time-to-market needs to be shorter







## Low-code: a solution?

---

- Is there light at the end of the tunnel?



# What is low code?

- Visual modeling
- Model-driven development
- High reuse of components
- Collaborative
- Scalable
- Cloud native (usually...)



But why?

- Excel on steroids!
- SharePoint finally usable!
- Most applications are relatively straightforward
- Most applications are data entry, validation, and reporting
- Most applications do not require IT Wizards



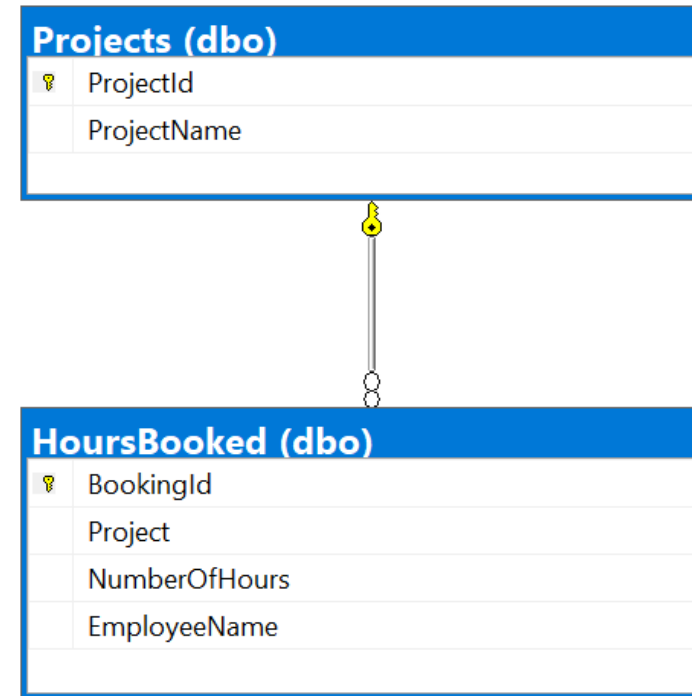
A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a silver pen, pointing at a calendar grid on a wooden desk. The calendar shows dates from 1 to 30. The hand is wearing a light blue shirt cuff. The background is a dark wooden surface.

## The demo case

- Hour management
- Data is stored in enterprise db
- Needs custom-code validations
- Needs to be finished today!

# The database *(if you can call it that...)*

- Projects: all projects we have
- HoursBooked: all employees and the total number of hours worked per project



A large audience of people is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. A large screen on the left displays a presentation with a blue background and white text. A speaker in a suit is standing on the stage to the right, gesturing towards the audience. The scene is dimly lit, with the stage and screen providing the primary light source.

Show me the goodies!



# Advantages

**PROS**

- Learning curve
- Leverage Micro Services
- Component reuse
- Use knowledge where needed
- Quick deployments
- Automatic updates from vendors

**CONS**

## Disadvantages

**PROS**

- Huge vendor lock-in
- Relatively limited
- Uniformity
- Risk of security issues

**CONS**

# Case study: B&S by Codeless

- Full ERP system
- Controlling robots in the warehouse
- EDI coupling with suppliers
- Interface 3<sup>rd</sup> party financial software
- Fully cloud enabled
- Used on almost all continents
- Secure and audited







# Summary

- Low code can speed up your development
- Low code is a viable alternative to mainstream development
- Low code still needs professionals!
- Low code deserves a go...

A hand is shown holding a wooden letter 'Q' in the air. On the wooden table below, there are wooden letters '&' and 'A'. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

# Q&A

---

For questions:  
[dennis@destrato.com](mailto:dennis@destrato.com)  
<https://www.dennisvroegop.com>