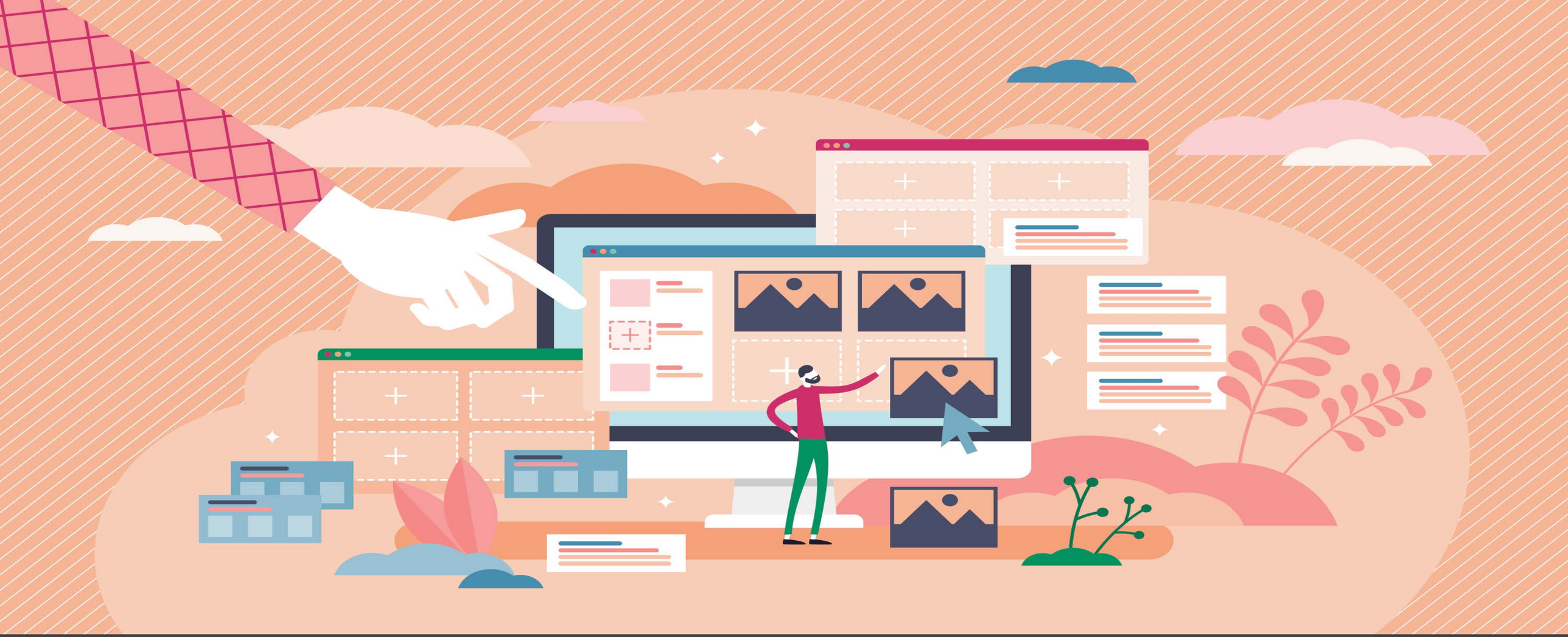

Code Generation Tools

Pros, Cons, and Where To Find Them

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Code Generators Defined
- Strengths and Pros
- Weaknesses and Cons
- Frameworks and a Middle Ground
- A Brief Tour of Options

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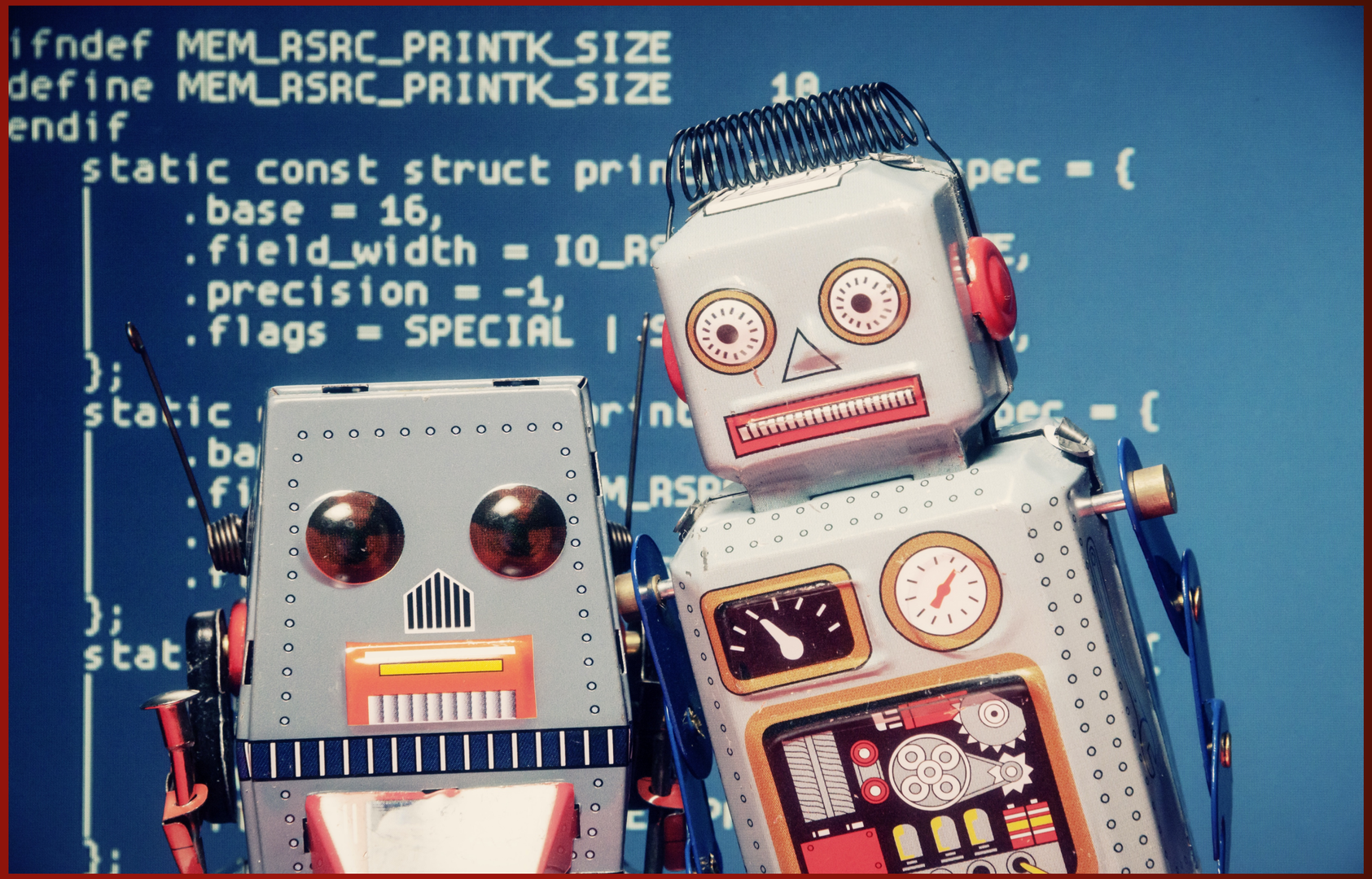
Introduction



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What Is a Code Generator?

- Provides Fully functioning code blocks
- Can be in general languages or a specialty one
- May use drag-and-drop or xml to define apps
- Different from low-code and no-code tools

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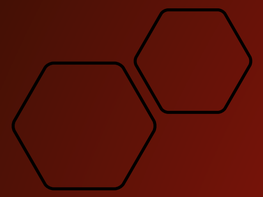

THEY HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR DECADES

SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS CASE TOOLS

COMPUTER-AIDED SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

EBB AND FLOW LIKE AI AND FAT VS. THIN CLIENTS

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Positives and Strengths

Fast To Market

Reduce Team Size and Resources

Limits Human Error

Less Decisions To Consider

High Quality and Limited Testing Cycle

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Negatives and Weaknesses

ON-GOING COST IN MANY CASES

SOME LEVEL OF VENDOR LOCK-IN

LESS GRANULAR SOLUTIONS ARE LIMITED

HARDER TO CUSTOMIZE AND EXTEND

GENERALLY SLOWER, HIGHER RESOURCE NEEDS

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Summary Pros and Cons

- Code Generators can be great for standard projects like CRUD, CRM, and General Billing
- Customization can be difficult, expensive, or impossible
- The overall application is likely to be quick to build but overall performance may be lacking
- Never a silver bullet

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Frameworks for a middle ground

Slower to deploy than generators, close to code speed

Powerful once you understand how to use

Can lead to shorter deployment cycles

Quality is often good where the framework lives

Easier to customize and extend (they are built for it)

Resources are often easier to find (more common and popular).

Lower cost than generators and good open source options.

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Some Popular Options

- Django Material http://demo.viewflow.io/
- Laravel https://laravel.com/docs/5.1/quickstart
- ROR https://www.javatpoint.com/ruby-on-rails-crud
- Java - Spring Boot https://www.javahelps.com/2017/11/restful-crud-with-java-and-mysql-in.html
- PHP Runner https://xlinesoft.com/phprunner/

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More Popular Options

- VFront http://www.vfront.org/
- JHipster https://www.jhipster.tech/
- Spring Roo https://projects.spring.io/spring-roo/
- Openxava https://www.openxava.org/
- Cuba Platform https://www.cuba-platform.com/

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What We Learned

- There are numerous options to quickly generate an application
- Generators have a cost (pay now or pay later)
- Frameworks can provide a middle ground
- More automation equals less customization

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Questions and Comments?

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Thank You!

I appreciate your time and would love to discuss any of this further. You can send questions, comments and suggestions through any of these methods.

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