

ExCel Mini Report – Building the WhatsApp UI with Flutter

Justification in joining the activity

Developer Student Club (DSC) UTM organized this event on 9 October 2020. The platform they used to carry out the event was by using YouTube to do live streaming. The event started at 3.00 p.m. and ended at 5.45 p.m. This event is held to introduce participants to the works of Flutter and the common widgets used in an application. The speaker, Yasser Ehab who is a third-year student from the School of Computing taught us the basic knowledge and coding on Flutter. The speaker used Visual Studio Code as the programming tool to explain how the Flutter works.

Graduate Attributes

- Thinking Skills

During the workshop, we had to think about the most suitable syntax and widgets we need to use when designing an application or software. There are various types of widgets such as navigation bar, list view, icon button, image, text, or more. When we want to use these widgets in an application, we have to think and consider the best place to locate and it is convenient for users. Besides, critical thinking skills are needed when we want to debug the error during the coding process so that the program can run properly.

- Adaptability

Before I joined this event, I was not familiar with Visual Studio Code because I used Dev-C++ as my commonly used integrated development environment (IDE). Thus, I had to know some basic functions and the operations of the Visual Studio Code before the event started. During the explanation by the speaker, I found that Visual Studio Code has the IntelliSense features, which provide intelligent code completions based on language semantics and an analysis of our code. This function really benefits me when I tried to adapt to a new IDE.

Content of Activity

After attending this event, I was able to understand the uses of Flutter and gain basic knowledge about how Flutter works. Moreover, I could also know how to make a simple project using Flutter and material design. According to the speaker, he introduced that Flutter is an open-source UI SDK created by Google. It is used to develop applications for Android, iOS, websites, and more. There are some popular applications built with Flutter such as Google Ads (Utility), Alibaba (e-commerce), SG Bus Tracker (Maps & Navigation), and more. The speaker also explained the coding to show how the Flutter works in order to design the WhatsApp UI. The speaker used the Dart programming language and he taught us the syntax would be used in the language.