

Visual Programming: Automation Without Code

Eugenio Jose Muttio Zavala

Computers revolutionized the way in which scientific and rigorous work was made, involving complex calculations and deep knowledge not only about the research topic but also in the science behind the machine that performs the calculations. In that sense, the use of computers was highly restricted to researchers until the development of personal computers.

Nowadays, the use of computers is clearly a necessary tool in almost every work, from Engineering to Architecture, Business, Social, Humanities, Art and even to connect people around the world. Computer Science became so important that programming experts are constantly developing applications.

However, some specific tasks are not implemented in a commercial software or if a professional has an unbelievable idea in how to improve a work solving a task automatically, at the end of the day maybe the person cannot develop it because does not have the sufficient expertise in programming. In that aspect, there is still a considerable gap between a regular user of a commercial software and becoming a developer. And this happens because learning to code could take a long time.

Since the decade of 1980's, an alternative of textual coding trying to reduce the programming complexity. It is based on flowcharts diagrams, and instead of using text, the program works using objects and connections between them, it is called "Visual Programming". For that reason, it is easier to understand the logic of the code and in comparison with established languages as C or Fortran, it is incredibly simple to implement an application. Visual programming helps the professional who is not an expert in programming but clearly needs the automation of processes.

At these days, some commercial software is involving this concept to increase the flexibility of their product. This is an amazing advantage because they are motivating people to make stronger connections with the computer and let their creativity materialize.