DOGBOT!

A chat app that answers the question, "If dogs could text, what would they say?"

by Anne Jolis, Nov. 23, 2020

Description

Millions of people brought home dogs or cats in 2020, seeking companion animals to ease the isolation of Coronavirus lockdowns. Not everyone's lifestyle allows for a pet, however. For those of us still waiting to get a dog, I made Dogbot.

Installation

Dogbot should run in any integrated development environment that supports JavaScript, jQuery, HTML and CSS. The application was developed and tested in repl.it and codepen.io, where the zipped files may be uploaded and run.

Usage

To demo the latest version, go to chatbot-beta.abjolis.repl.co or codepen.io/ABJolis/full/ExyqyoB. The demo runs on Chrome, Firefox and Microsoft Edge, among other browsers. Despite efforts to make Dogbot mobile responsive, the site is best viewed on a horizontally-oriented desktop browser.

Once loaded:

1. Dogbot greets users
2. User scrolls to the bottom of the page
3. User enters any reply (up to 500 characters) in the textbox
4. User sends reply by hitting the "send" button or hitting the "enter" key
5. User receives a reply from Dogbot
6. Repeat steps 2-5 as long as desired!

Support

For any issues, questions or troubleshooting, please contact annejolis@gmail.com.

Roadmap

Future versions of Dogbot may include different dog personas, "puppy mode" and "cat mode," and niftier graphic design.

Before that, the app urgently needs basic improvements such as:

- timeout or timeinterval method to add a brief delay to Dogbot's responses, for a touch of "authenticity"!
- timestamp calculation written as a reusable function, so the return value can be passed to new elements throughout the code. Currently, the timestamp expressions must be rewritten every time the value is needed, which is inefficient and unnecessary.
- single, reusable function for the code blocks following the "click" event and "enter" event. Currently, the exact same code block is rewritten for each event, as I'm still figuring out how to combine them into a single call.

The above refactoring is mostly a matter of becoming more familiar with jQuery and JavaScript syntax, especially with regard to functions. I look forward to improving with practice, and making my code leaner and more efficient!

License

[MIT](#)

Acknowledgement

While developing Dogbot, I made frequent use of resources from Khan Academy, Codecademy and freeCodeCamp, and from individual posts at Stack Overflow, DEV Community and YouTube. My thanks and appreciation to all.

The photo in Dogbot's avatar is credited to Kat Jayne, who uploaded the image to [Pexels](#) in 2017 under a free license. My thanks to Ms. Jayne and to this very good dog-model.