

**Code+ Students:** Ayoub Mahdar, Brady Kim, Edna Zhang, Emily Hughes, Jacqueline Cruz, Mitchell Negus

Project Leads: Mark McCahill, Isabel Valls

#### **Our Team**

**Duke HR** 



Jacqueline Cruz



Edna Zhang



Mark McCahill



**Emily Hughes** 

**Brady Kim** 



Mitchell Negus



Ayoub Mahdar



Isabel Valls

#### **Team Goals**



Address the consumer's questions before an employee has to



Leveraging Microsoft and IBM AI technology to build Chat-bot

# **How Does the Chat-bot Work?**

- Software that can automatically communicate with users
- Uses patterns to develop responses



#### **Technology Implemented**

- Applies NLP (Natural Language Processing)
- Analyzes intents and entities used to answer a question
- Implements data to identify how to answer
- Multi-turn conversation

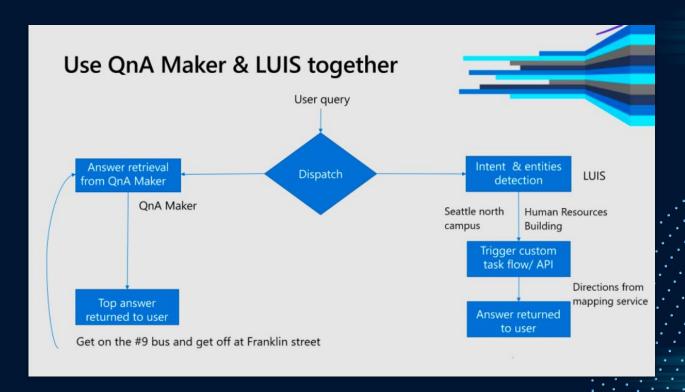
#### **IBM Watson Assistant Chatbot**

- Detects intent from an utterance
  - o Intent: user's goal or purpose
  - Utterance: what the user says
- Also looks for entities
  - o Entity: specific word of significance
- Checks nodes and delivers response





#### **Microsoft Azure bot**



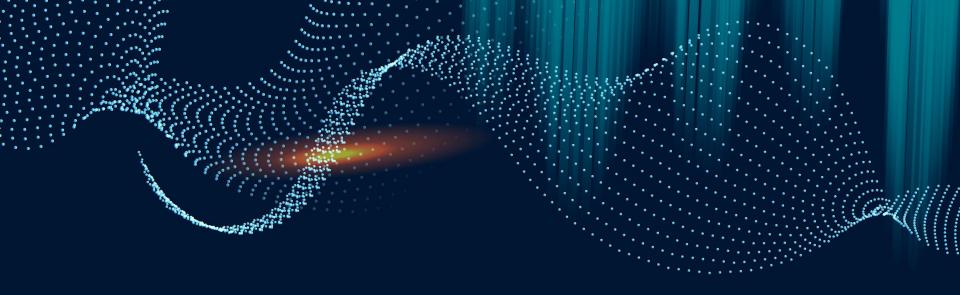
# IBM Watson vs. Microsoft Azure

#### **IBM Watson**

- Pros: Easy integration for calling external services (webhook), intents, entities, and dialog at one place, advanced NLP
- Cons: Slow maintenance, difficulty with importing knowledge base

#### **Microsoft Azure**

- Pros: QnA Maker is easy to navigate & update, more customizable
- **Cons**: Difficult deployment, difficult integration with additional Azure services



01

# **Duke Registrar**

Jacqueline Cruz & Mitchell Negus

#### **Duke Registrar Chatbot**

#### **About the Registrar**

- Manages a variety of academic services
- Drop/add, final exam schedules, transfer credit, grade changes, DukeHub

#### Goals

- Handles a high volume of requests
- Provides a personalized experience
- Offers friendly, round-the-clock support



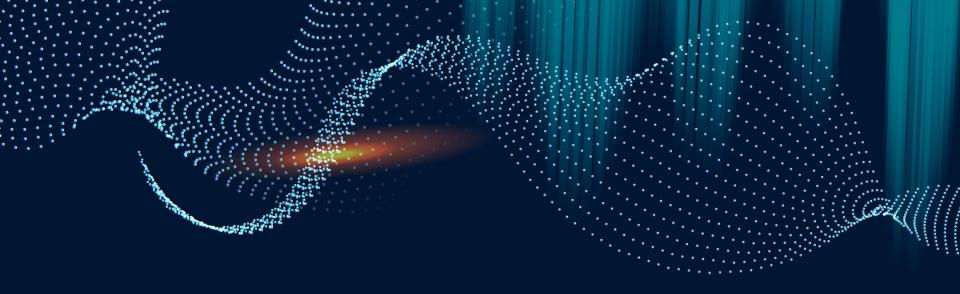
#### **Duke Registrar Chatbot**

#### **Current Status**

- Finished user and stakeholder testing
- Users can leave feedback
- Chatbot can write to a database

#### **Next Steps**

- Pricing and cost analysis
- Moving into production
- Documentation to transfer bot ownership



02

## **Duke OIT**

Edna Zhang & Ayoub Mahdar

#### **Duke OIT Chatbot**

#### **About Office of Information Technology**

- Manage Duke's technology
- Provide services and applications to students and faculty

#### Goals

- Cope with staff shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Bridge between website and Live Chat/phone/email

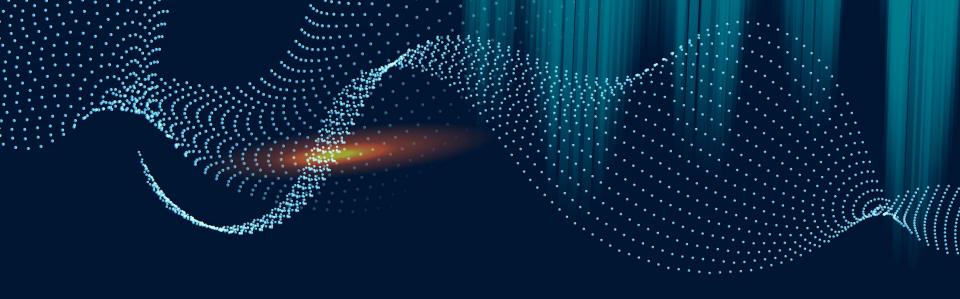
#### **Duke OIT Chatbot**

#### **Current Status**

- Completed multiple rounds of user testing with stakeholders & IT analysts
- Addressed accessibility
- Handled redirection to DHTS service desk

#### **Next Steps**

- Moving into production
- Documentation for chatbot maintenance



# 03

### **Human Resources**

Emily Hughes & Brady Kim

#### **Duke Human Resources Chatbot**

#### **About Human Resources**

- A department of Duke that aids employees of Duke
- Information on disability benefits to retirement plans

#### Goals

- Answers a variety of user questions
- Presents a swift and simple interface
- Provides support anytime of the day
- Alleviates pressure on the HR staff

# **Duke Human Resources Chatbot**

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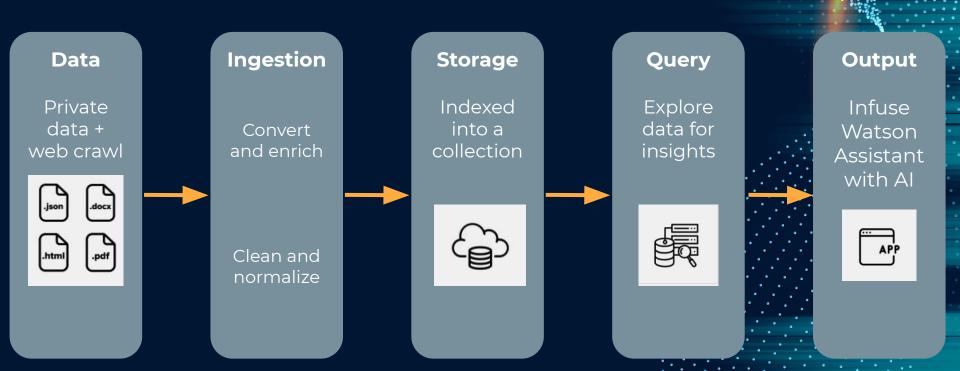
#### **Current Status**

- Implemented Watson
   Discovery search to
   update bot automatically
   Completed user testing
- Added new intents and rephrased questions

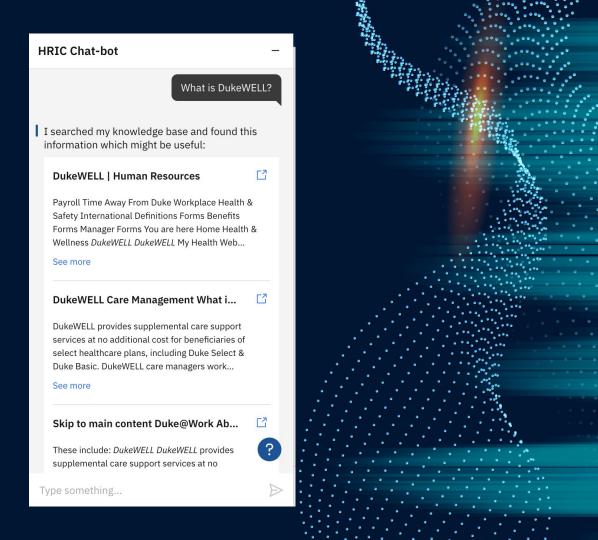
#### **Next Steps**

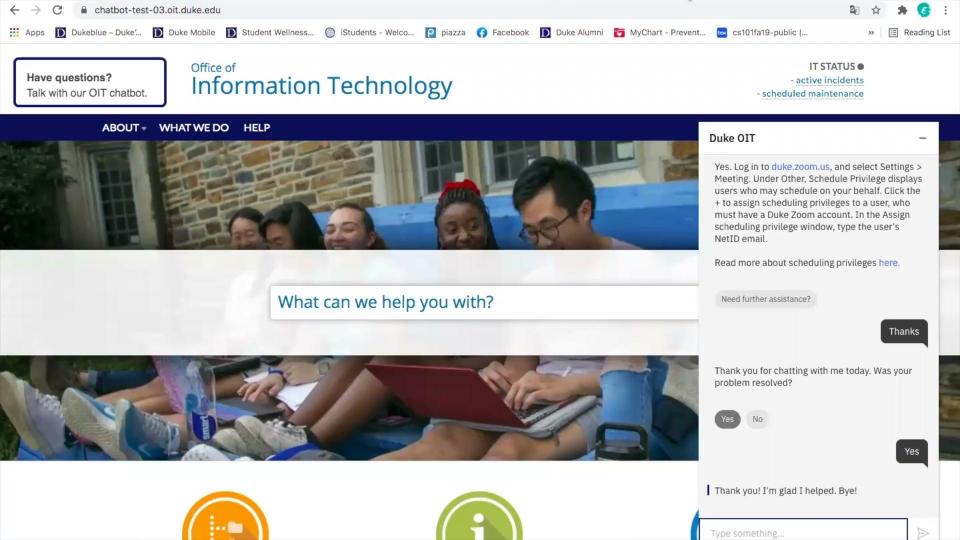
- Documentation for transfer of bot
- Link SQL database and chatbot by questions asked and answers provided
- Discuss future implementation with stakeholders

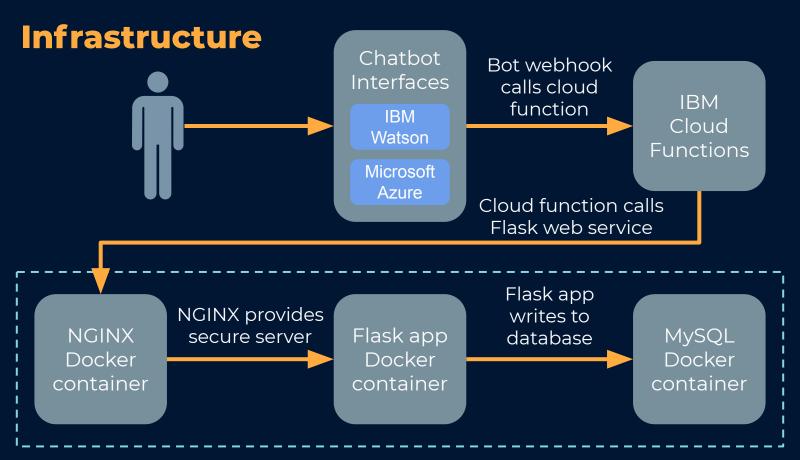
#### **Watson Discovery**



#### **Watson Discovery**







Orchestrated with Docker Compose

#### **Business Case Analysis**

Our project has reached a point where we are analyzing the cost-benefit of implementing them.

#### **Metrics**

- Swift response to user
- Improved user experience
- Increase personnel efficiency



#### **Process**

- Estimate volume capabilities of bot
- Total time saved for staff
- Costs of bot support

#### **Example: OIT Service Desk LiveChat**

Method 1

LiveChat transcript analysis to estimate bot coverage

**Method 3** 

Prioritize adding intents not in bot knowledgebase

Data mining: ~8000 LiveChats collected over 2 months

**Method 2** 

Bot could immediately send ~7% to DHTS

**Method 4** 

#### **Chat-bot Care & Feeding**

	Site Visits/Month	% Bot Users	Bot Users/Month
Registrar	43,300	15%	6,495
OIT	100,000	1%	1,000
HR		15%	22,070

#### **Chat-bot Care & Feeding**

RegistrarOITHRTotal Cost Estimate:<br/>\$954/monthTotal Cost Estimate:<br/>\$184/monthTotal Cost Estimate:<br/>\$3,124/month

- Watson Assistant Plus @ \$140/month for 1000 monthly active users + \$14/100 additional active users
- Flask Web Server Cost:
  - Lower- \$527.91/year and \$44/month.
  - Upper- \$831.23/year and \$69.27/month
- Staff time for bot base maintenance is **not** included in the cost estimates

#### Registrar, OIT, HR Projects







Automate routine questions and answers

Relay difficult questions to a human Improve the chatbot on an ongoing basis

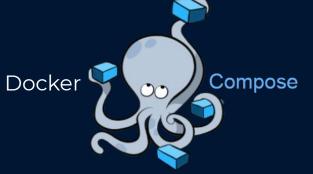
#### What we learned

















# THANK YOU!

#### **REGISTRAR'S OFFICE**

Frank Blalark Chris Derickson

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Jacky Labonte Jennifer Frazier Bill Marchese

#### **OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

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#### **IBM SPONSORS**

James Jushchuk Anand Singh