+Creating a bot using the Microsoft Bot Framework In Node.js

Hands-on Lab Manual

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Lab Introduction

Objectives After completing these self-paced labs, you will be able to:

Have and understanding of the basics of the Bot Framework

Prerequisites • Node.js

A command line utility

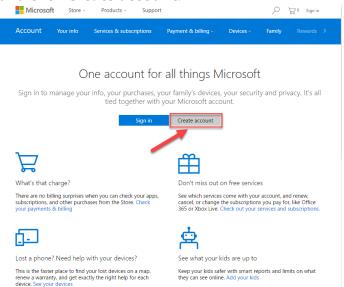
Basic understanding of Node.js & JavaScript

Lab Scenarios This series of exercises is designed to show you how to get

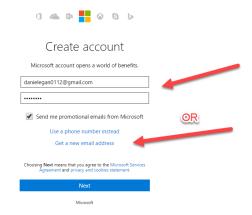
started using the Microsoft Bot Framework.

Configuration and Setup

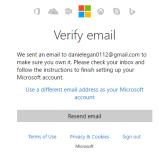
- 1. Install prerequisite software
 - Node.js : https://nodejs.org/en/ (this will include NPM)
 - o NGrok : https://ngrok.com/
 - **Skype**: http://skype.com (if you want to test a Skype Bot)
 - Visual Studio Code. VS Code is cross platform, you can use others if you like (like sublime, Atom, Notepad++, Vim, etc..) but you will be on your own with debugging and usage.
 - 1. https://code.visualstudio.com/
- 2. **Create a Microsoft ID** (if you don't already have one)
 - Go to the Microsoft account sign-up page https://account.microsoft.com/
 and click Create account.

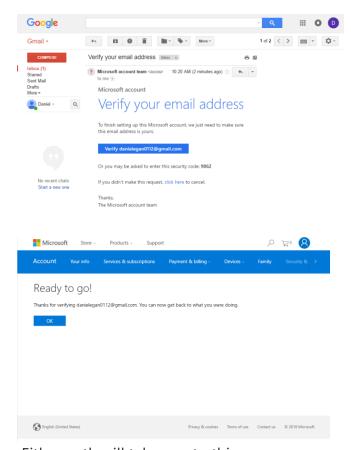


o In the User name box enter your existing email address, or click Get a new email address to create an Outlook or Hotmail address.

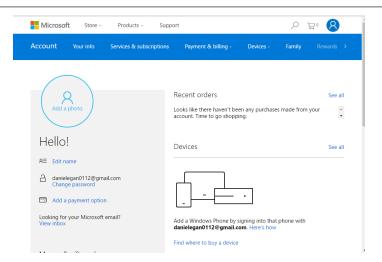


before moving on.





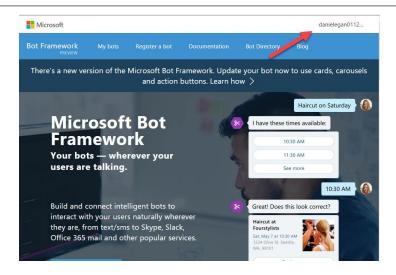
o Either path will take you to this screen



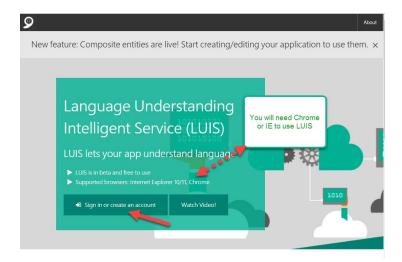
- 3. Create a BotFramework account
 - Navigate to http://BotFramework.com
 - Click on sign in



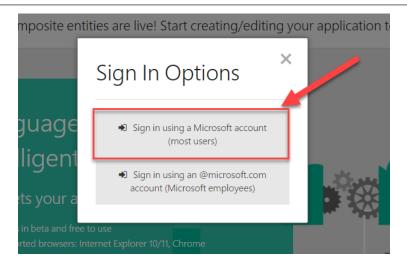
 If you are using the same browser that you used to create your Microsoft ID then you will be signed in automaticly, otherwise you will need to use the ID you just created to sign in.



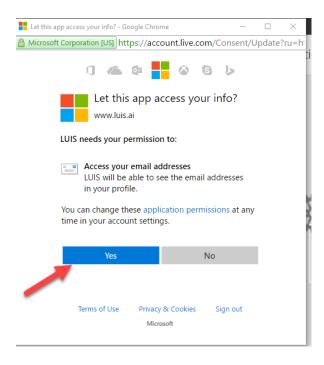
- o You can leave this window open, we will be using it later.
- 4. Sign-up for LUIS. Language Understanding Intelligent Services
 - https://www.luis.ai/
 - o Click on :Sign In or Create Account button



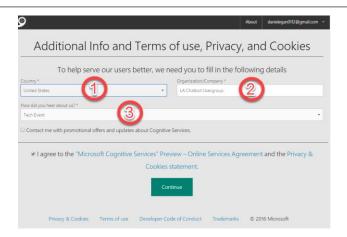
Select Sign in using a Microsoft Account (most users)



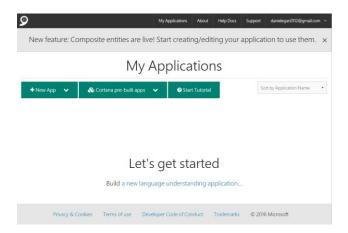
If you are still signed in it will ask you to say Yes to accept permissions.
 Otherwise you will need to sign in with the Microsoft ID you created earlier.



- In the next form enter
 - 1. United States
 - 2. LA Chatbot Usergroup
 - 3. Tech Event
 - 4. Uncheck the Contact Me checkbox if you want
 - 5. CHECK the I agree checkbox
 - 6. Click Continue



 You can walk through the quick walkthrough if you would like or click the x to close it. When finished, your screen should look like below.



o We will explain and use this later for our bot.

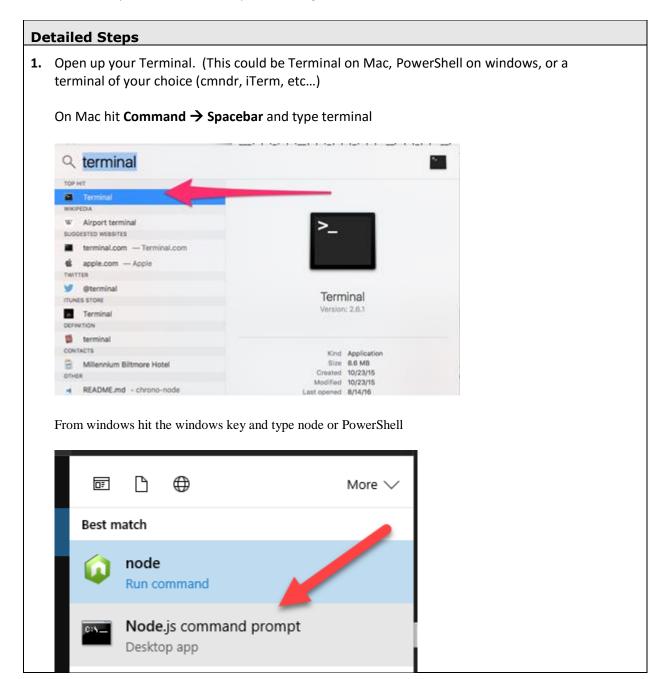
Copy/Paste of Code

You will have the option to copy/paste code snippets from this document to complete this lab. You will learn much more by typing it in yourself but sometimes in a lab format speed is needed to get through all the exercises in time.

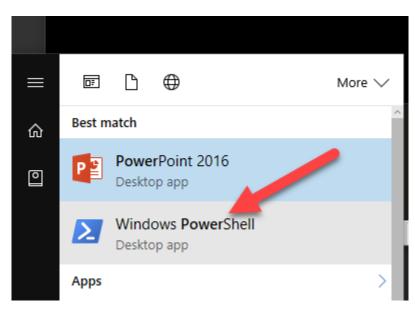
NOTE: If you are on a mac, you will be using the PDF file. Do not copy and paste from the PDF file. There is a separate file called SNIPS.txt that contain the snips you need.

Exercise 1: Basic Bot using BotBuilder

In this exercise, you will create a simple bot using the BotBuilder and



Detailed Steps



2. Next we want to create a folder to hold our project and add some initial files. (personally I hold all project folders in a folder called projects (C:\Projects on PC or my 'userfolder'/projects on mac).

To create the folder, type the following from the command line to make a directory (mkdir)

~\$ mkdir botworkshop

next we want to change to that directory (cd)

~\$ cd botworkshop

next we will initialize it with a **package.json** file. We will use the **-y** so that it gives us the default values.

~\$ npm init -y

the next step is to install the botbuilder npm module

~\$ npm install botbuilder --save

finally, we want to open all of this up in **VSCode** type the following (the word code with a space then a period)

~\$ code .

NOTE: You can also open up VSCode and select **File** → **Open (MAC) File** → **Open folder (PC)** and select the botworkshop folder we created)

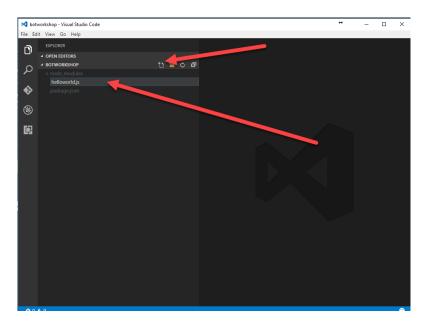
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Detailed Steps

This will open up our project in VSCode (again, you are free to choose your own editor if you like)

3. Now we want to create our first simple hello world bot. Click on the **Add File** icon, and name the file helloworld.js



4. In the file you just created, either type in or paste the following code.

NOTE: if you are using the PDF file, you can find the snippets in a separate file called SNIPS.txt

-----SNIP1-----

```
//Talking with the user.. as simple as possible
var builder = require('botbuilder');

var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector().listen();
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);

bot.dialog('/', function (session) {
    session.send('Hello World');
});
```

5. Now go back to your command prompt (terminal, powershell, etc) and type the following (make sure you are still in the projects/botworkshop folder)

~\$ node helloworld.js

Nothing should happen, Well, you should not get any errors anyway. If all went well, it should be "listening" for you.

Type the word Hello (or anything really) and you should get back a "Hello World" from your bot.

Detailed Steps

```
C:\projects\botworkshop

\lambda node helloworld.js

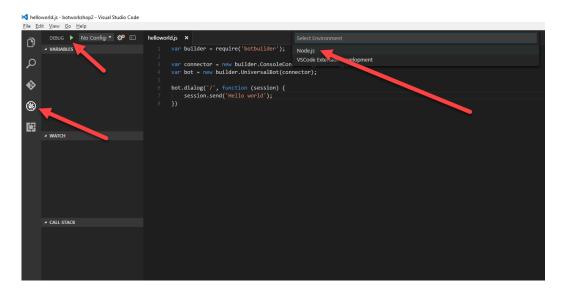
Hello

Hello World = builder.UniversalBot(connector)

C:\projects\botworkshop

\lambda bot.dialog( , unction (session) {
```

- 6. Hit Ctl +C to exit out of the bot and back to command line.
- 7. Now we want to setup a debug session. It is best to do this on the simple bot so you can get used to using the debugger.
 - > In VSCode, click on the bug icon (Left side, second from bottom)
 - > On the top you can see that there is no config file. Click on the green arrow top left
 - > This will produce a drop down, select Node.js



8. This will create a **launch.json** file. Open this file and change the **"program"** attribute from **index.js** to **helloworld.js**

```
Detailed Steps
```

NOTE: The last step is not used in this HOL because we will be using Attach as opposed to LAUNCH but it is good to be aware of that field for the future.

9. Next open the **helloworld.js** file and put a breakpoint next to the **session.send('Hello World')**; line by clicking next to the line number.

10. Now we want to run our program in debug mode. Open up your console (Terminal, Powershell, etc) and type the following:

```
~$ node --debug-brk helloworld.js
```

- 11. That should run the node process in debug mode listening on port 5858
- **12.** In VS Code, make sure you are still in the debug panel, in the debug dropdown make sure you select **attach** (to attach to the process we just started that is running on port 5858) and click on the green debug arrow to run it.

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Detailed Steps

13. This will attach to the process and the debug will be stopped on the first line of the program (that's what using --debug-brk does as opposed to just --debug) you will be able to view all the local variables on the left, step through the code (Function keys or buttons on top) and inspect variables by hovering over them. You can hit F5 to run the program (or the green arrow on the top bar.



Spend time debugging and looking around in this simple example so you can debug more complex ones later.

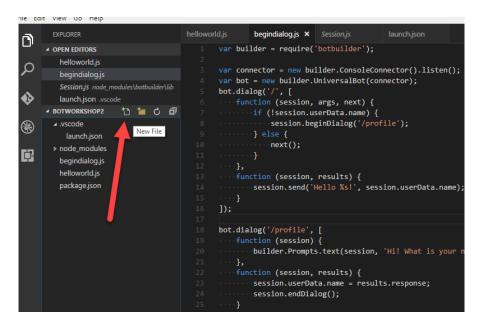
That is the end of exercise one. Now that we have everything set up and a simple bot running we will talk about how to handle greater complexity when working with your bot.

Exercise 2: Using prompts in a bot

In this exercise we will create a very simple bot so that you can get used to using different prompts in a waterfall, and collecting data.

Detailed Steps

1. Open up Visual Studio Code in the same folder (project) we started earlier. Add a new file by clicking on the new file icon and name it **promptbot.js**



2. First we need to add the require for botbuilder, and to new up our connector and bot just like we have done before.

Add the following code to the top of the **promptbot.js** file.

---- SNIP2-----

```
var builder = require('botbuilder');
var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector().listen();
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);
```

Next we need to add our dialog. It is one dialog, so let's look at the whole thing at once. (It makes it easier to copy/paste as well) Paste the following code directly below our bot variable (var bot = new ...) in promptbot.js

```
-----SNIP3-----
```

```
bot.dialog('/', [
    function (session) {
        builder.Prompts.text(session, "Hello... What's your name?");
    },
    function (session, results) {
        session.userData.name = results.response;
}
```

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Detailed Steps

In this code we are creating a function array (between the []) so it will cascade from one question to the next. Within the waterfall we are using 3 different prompts (text, number, choice) and storing data for the user in **userData**. We then pull the data out for the final **session.send** message.

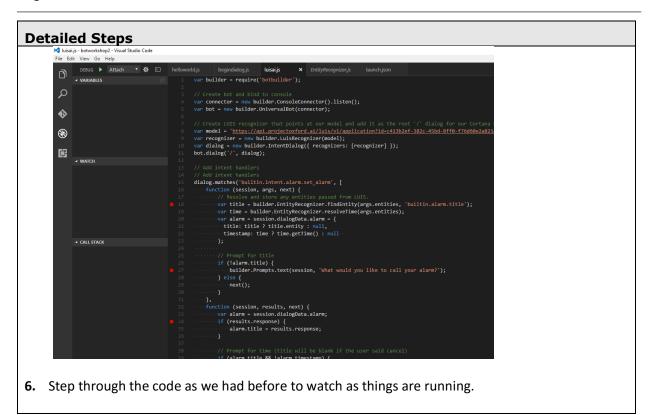
4. Now we can run the code. Go to your command prompt and type in the following.

~\$ node --debug promptbot.js

5. Next go to Visual Studio Code and place some breakpoints in your code so you can step through and inspect the objects and flow.

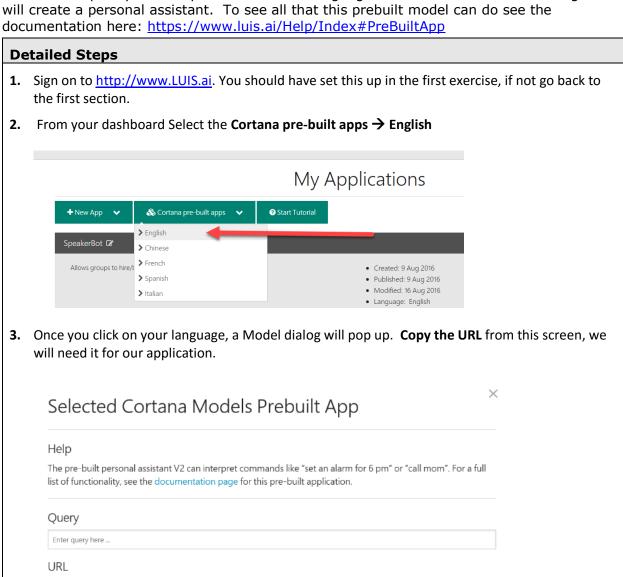
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Exercise 3: Using Intent Dialogs (LUIS)

In this exercise we will create a LUIS Model. As discussed in the talk, we can create our own domain specific models, but for this HOL we will use Cortana Prebuilt App. The advantage is that we can quickly see the power of Natural Language in our bot without the training. This will create a personal assistant. To see all that this prebuilt model can do see the documentation here: https://www.luis.ai/Help/Index#PreBuiltApp



-f76d60e2a821&subscription-key=fe054e042fd14

4. Open up Visual Studio Code and in your project, create a file called luisai.js

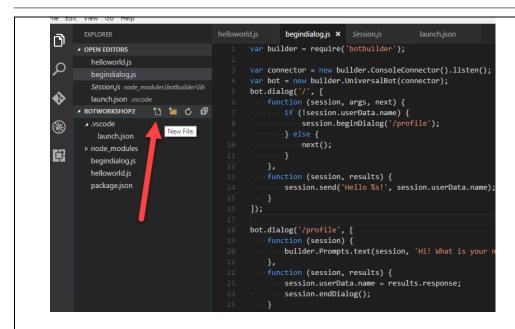
https://api.projectoxford.ai/luis/v1/application?id=c413b2ef-

a5&q=

Advanced

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5. Add the following code to the **luisai.js** file.

-----SNIP4-----

```
var builder = require('botbuilder');
// Create bot and bind to console
var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector().listen();
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);
// Create LUIS recognizer that points at our model and add it as the
root '/' dialog for our Cortana Bot.
var model = '<your models url>';
var recognizer = new builder.LuisRecognizer(model);
var dialog = new builder.IntentDialog({ recognizers: [recognizer] });
bot.dialog('/', dialog);
// Add intent handlers
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.set alarm',
builder.DialogAction.send('Creating Alarm'));
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.delete_alarm',
builder.DialogAction.send('Deleting Alarm'));
dialog.onDefault(builder.DialogAction.send("I'm sorry I didn't
understand. I can only create & delete alarms."));
```

- **6.** Replace '<your models url>' with the url that we copied in step 3
- 7. Move over to your console and run the following

```
~$ node luisai.js
```

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8. You can ask it to create or delete alarms for you. Try different ways of saying it and notice that you can ask it the same thing in many different ways and it understands (NLP).

```
A node luisai.js
hellp
I'm sorry I didn't understand. I can only create & delete alarms.
create an alarm for 5 minutes from now
Creating Alarm
what alarms do I have set
I'm sorry I didn't understand. I can only create & delete alarms.
do an alarm for 10 oclock
Creating Alarm
11pm alarm please
```

Right now we are just gathering intent, we are not actually performing any actions except for printing to the screen things like 'Creating and Alarm' or 'Deleting an Alarm'. Let's add some functionality. This will allow us to inspect the intents coming back from LUIS and respond to them. We will start with the .set_alarm intent

So replace the following code:

Replace this whole section

```
// Add intent handlers
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.set_alarm', builder.DialogAction.send('Creating Alarm'));
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.delete_alarm', builder.DialogAction.send('Deleting Alarm'));
dialog.onDefault(builder.DialogAction.send("I'm sorry I didn't understand. I can only create & delete alarms."));

7
```

With this code:

-----SNIP5-----

```
// Add intent handlers
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.set_alarm', [
    function (session, args, next) {
        // Resolve and store any entities passed from LUIS.
        var title = builder.EntityRecognizer.findEntity(args.entities, 'builtin.alarm.title');
        var time = builder.EntityRecognizer.resolveTime(args.entities);
        var alarm = session.dialogData.alarm = {
            title: title ? title.entity : null,
            timestamp: time ? time.getTime() : null
        };

        // Prompt for title
        if (!alarm.title) {
            builder.Prompts.text(session, 'What would you like to call your alarm?');
        } else {
            next();
        }
}
```

```
},
  function (session, results, next) {
    var alarm = session.dialogData.alarm;
     if (results.response) {
       alarm.title = results.response;
     // Prompt for time (title will be blank if the user said cancel)
     if (alarm.title && !alarm.timestamp) {
       builder.Prompts.time(session, 'What time would you like to set the alarm
for?');
    } else {
       next();
  function (session, results) {
     var alarm = session.dialogData.alarm;
     if (results.response) {
       var time = builder.EntityRecognizer.resolveTime([results.response]);
       alarm.timestamp = time ? time.getTime() : null;
    }
     // Set the alarm (if title or timestamp is blank the user said cancel)
     if (alarm.title && alarm.timestamp) {
       // Save address of who to notify and write to scheduler.
       alarm.address = session.message.address;
       alarms[alarm.title] = alarm;
       // Send confirmation to user
       var date = new Date(alarm.timestamp);
       var isAM = date.getHours() < 12;</pre>
       session.send('Creating alarm named "%s" for %d/%d/%d %d:%02d%s',
          alarm.title,
          date.getMonth() + 1, date.getDate(), date.getFullYear(),
          isAM ? date.getHours() : date.getHours() - 12, date.getMinutes(), isAM ?
'am' : 'pm');
    } else {
       session.send('Ok... no problem.');
  }]);
```

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In the previous section of code, we are using a number of the techniques we have discussed. We are using **intent matching, text prompts, time prompts, and a waterfall**. Next we need to add an intent dialog for deleting an alarm.

Paste the following code **below** the last section in **luisai.js**.

----SNIP6-----

```
dialog.matches('builtin.intent.alarm.delete_alarm', [
    function (session, args, next) {
        // Resolve entities passed from LUIS.
        var title;
        var entity = builder.EntityRecognizer.findEntity(args.entities,
'builtin.alarm.title');
        if (entity) {
            // Verify its in our set of alarms.
            title = builder.EntityRecognizer.findBestMatch(alarms,
entity.entity);
        // Prompt for alarm name
        if (!title) {
            builder.Prompts.choice(session, 'Which alarm would you like
to delete?', alarms);
        } else {
            next({ response: title });
    function (session, results) {
        // If response is null the user canceled the task
        if (results.response) {
            delete alarms[results.response.entity];
            session.send("Deleted the '%s' alarm.",
results.response.entity);
        } else {
            session.send('Ok... no problem.');
```

As you can see, it is very similar to the add alarm section with the addition of using the **choice prompt**. Now we need to add two more pieces to make it complete. We need to add back our default match section (one line of code) and a very simple implementation of an alarm. Paste the following code at the **bottom** of the **luisai.js** file.

9. Now we can run the code. Go to your command prompt and type in the following.

```
~$ node --debug luisai.js
```

}, 15000);

10. Next go to Visual Studio Code and place some breakpoints in your code so you can step through and inspect the entities, as they are being set.

```
| Marian | M
```

11. Step through the code as we had before to watch as things are running.

Exercise 4: Connecting to Skype and Webchat

In this exercise we are going to connect your bot to a Skype and a Webchat channel. In doing so, we ARE NOT going to be hosting our bot in the cloud but running them from our laptops. We are doing this for 3 reasons:

- 1) It takes out some of the complexity of the workshop by not having to troubleshoot uploading and running a node app in your cloud of choice.
- 2) We don't have to walk 30 + people through setting up a cloud account.
- 3) It is valuable to use this technique to troubleshoot your bot prior to production so it is a valuable skill.

The first thing we need to do is to run NGrok. You should have downloaded NGrok from https://ngrok.com/ as it states on the website, NGrok allows you to **create** "Secure tunnels to localhost". This means we can make the bot framework think that our bot is hosted in the cloud by having an internet accessible URL for the bot hosted on our laptop.

Detailed Steps

- 1. Download and unzip Ngrok on your computer
- 2. Once unzipped double-click on the **ngrok.exe** file. This will open its own command window.

```
PC-VUsers\danie\Downloads\ngrok-stable-windows-amd6\ngrok.eze

ngrok start foo bar baz  # start tunnels from the configuration file \

VERSION:
2.1.3

AUTHOR:
inconshreveable - <alan@ngrok.com>

COMMANDS:
authtoken save authtoken to configuration file credits prints author and licensing information http start an HTTP tunnel start start tunnels by name from the configuration file tcp start a TCP tunnel tls start a TLS tunnel update update ngrok to the latest version version print the version string help Shows a list of commands or help for one command ngrok is a command line application, try typing 'ngrok.exe http 80' at this terminal prompt to expose port 80.

C:\Users\danie\Downloads\ngrok-stable-windows-amd64>
```

3. At the prompt in this window type the following.

~\$ ngrok http 3978

You should see the following in your command window.

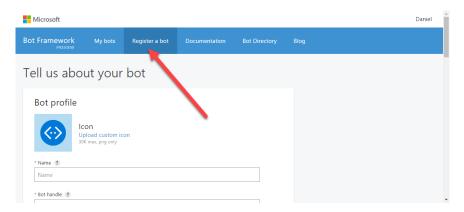
Detailed Steps | C(\User\)\danie\(\Do\)\omega\)\omega\(\text{log}

We care about two things in this window.

- 1. The forwarding URLs (both http and https) that will be our external address for our bot to reach our local machine.
- 2. The Web interface address. We will use this to track traffic coming into this port for our bot.

Leave this running. We will need this for the rest of this walkthrough.

- 4. Next we need to set up our bot on the BotFramework page. Open a browser and go to http://BotFramework.com. You should have already set up an account at the beginning of this HOL.
- **5.** If you are not already signed in, sign in with the MS account you created earlier. When you are signed in click on the Register a bot in the menu.



6. Fill out the bot registration form. We will go through it section by section and touch on the important fields.

Name: <Name of your bot> Self-explanatory

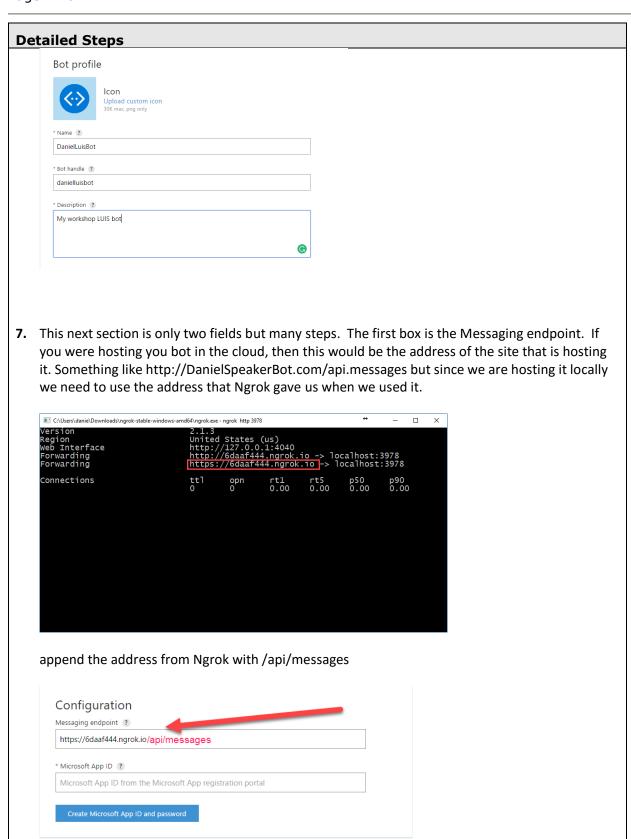
Bot Handle: <your handle here> this will be used in the C# SDK when referencing your bot (not in

Node.js SDK)

Description: Self-explanatory

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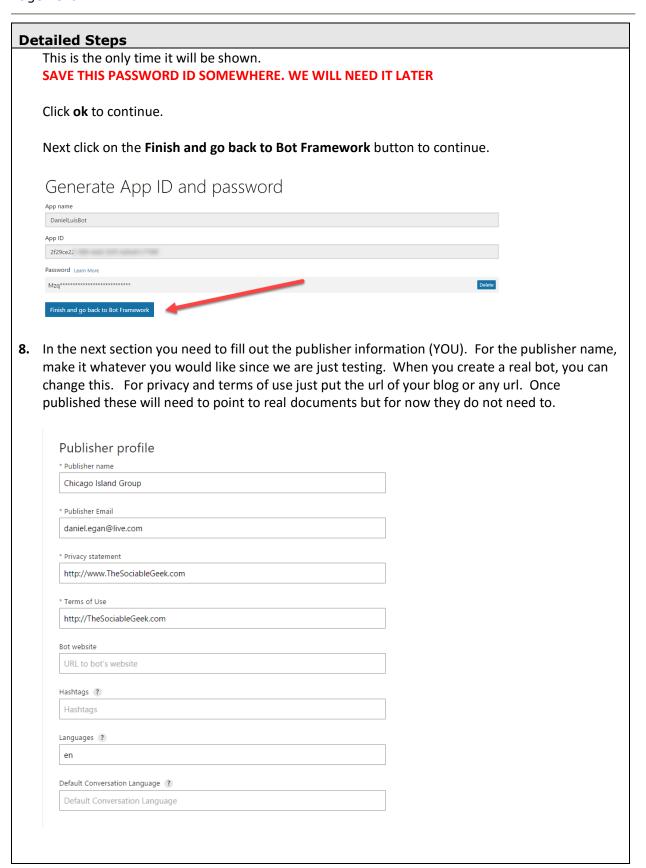
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Generate App ID and password pp name DanielLuisBot pp ID 2/29ce22- Generate a password to continue AVE THIS APP ID SOMEWHERE. WE WILL NEED IT LATER. ext click on the Generate a password to continue button. Generate App ID and password ap name DanielLuisBot pp ID 2/29ce22- Centrale a password to continue	https://daaf444.ngrok.io/api/messages * Microsoft App ID *? Microsoft App ID from the Microsoft App registration portal Create Microsoft App ID and password //hen you do this a new page will pop up and give you an App ID. Generate App ID and password pp nane Danieltuis8ot pp ID 2059-0222- Contrate a password to continue AVE THIS APP ID SOMEWHERE. WE WILL NEED IT LATER. ext click on the Generate a password to continue button. Generate App ID and password pp name pop name Danieltuis8ot Contrate a password to continue button.					
https://ddaaf444.ngrok.io/api/messages * Microsoft App ID ? Microsoft App ID from the Microsoft App registration portal Create Microsoft App ID and password //hen you do this a new page will pop up and give you an App ID. Generate App ID and password pp name publiculation AVE THIS APP ID SOMEWHERE. WE WILL NEED IT LATER. ext click on the Generate a password to continue button. Generate App ID and password pp name Exercise App ID and password AVE THIS APP ID SOMEWHERE. WE WILL NEED IT LATER. Ext click on the Generate a password to continue button. Generate App ID and password pp name Development App ID and password pp name Development App ID and password	Interpretation (april programme) * Microsoft App ID from the Microsoft App registration portal * Microsoft App ID from the Microsoft App registration portal * Create Microsoft App ID and password * When you do this a new page will pop up and give you an App ID. * Generate App ID and password * Pop name * Disectuated * Disectua	C	Configuration			
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Creating a bot using the Microsoft Bot Framework Node.js Hands-on Labs

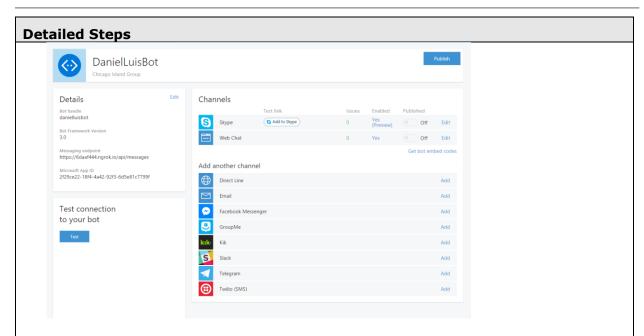
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11. Leave this page up and running. We will need to come back here after we modify our bot to link it to the bot framework.

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12. Bring up Visual Studio Code and open up the **luisai.js** file. We will be modifying the following section of that file.

```
var builder = require('botbuilder');

// Create bot and bind to console
var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector().listen();
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);
```

Up until now, we have been using the ConsoleConnector. Now we are going to be using the ChatConnecter. But first we need to add a node module that will help us with serving this app. It is called Restify.

13. Open up your console (Terminal, Powershell, etc..). Make sure you are in the botworkshop folder (or whatever you called it) and type the following.

```
~$ npm install restify -save
```

Restify is a node module that helps make rest calls easier.

14. Once that is done, open up the luisai.js file and add the following code underneath the **var builder = require('botbuilder')**; code.

```
var restify = require('restify');
```

The code should look similar to this

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Detailed Steps

```
var builder = require('botbuilder');
var restify = require('restify');

// Create bot and bind to console
var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector().listen();
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);
```

15. Since we will be working with the new connector. Delete the connector and the bot lines so we can recreate them.

```
var builder = require('botbuilder');
var restify = require('restify');

// Create bot and bind to console
var connector = new builder.ConsoleConnector();
var bot = new builder.University.connector();
```

With that gone, we need to set up the restify server. To do so, add the following lines under the restify require statement.

-----SNIP8-----

```
// Setup Restify Server
var server = restify.createServer();
server.listen(process.env.port || process.env.PORT || 3978, function ()
{
   console.log('%s listening to %s', server.name, server.url);
});
```

We are setting up a server that will look for an environment variable called PORT, if it does not find one, it will start on port **3978** (which is why we used that port for NGrok).

Next we want to create the new ChatConnector (instead of the ConsoleConector). Add the following code directly under the last code you pasted.

```
-----SNIP9-----
```

```
// Create chat bot
var connector = new builder.ChatConnector({
    appId: process.env.MICROSOFT_APP_ID,
```

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Detailed Steps

```
appPassword: process.env.MICROSOFT_APP_PASSWORD
});
```

Notice that the connector requires and **appld** and **appPassword**. These are what we saved when we create our bots on BotFramework.com.

Now we need to new up our bot and pass in our connector like we did before and set up where the post route is (/api/messages).

Add this code below the last code you pasted.

```
-----SNIP10-----
```

```
var bot = new builder.UniversalBot(connector);
server.post('/api/messages', connector.listen());
```

There is one last step. Adding our **appld** and **appPassword**. To protect them, you should **ALWAYS** put them in **Environment Variables** (or other safe place) . If you plan to put this in production **OR** plan to save this code in github or another repository, **DO NOT** do what we are going to do right now.

Modify your connector to add your appld and appPassword.

16. Now lets run out bot. Go to your console and run the following command.

~\$ node lui<u>sai.js</u>

You should see the restify server running on the port we specified.

```
C:\projects\botworkshop2

λ node luisai.js
restify listening to http://[::]:3978
```

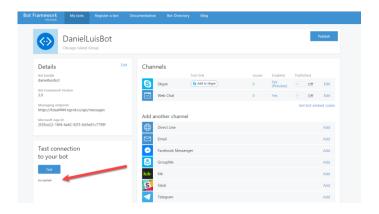
17. We can test the connection by going to your bot on BotFramework.com

If everything works out fine when clicking the test button, you will get back an accepted message.

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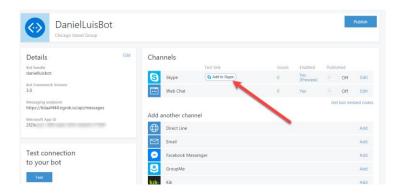
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18. Now we can test Skype (you must have Skype installed).

In your portal, click on the Add to Skype Button



When the windows pops up, click on add you Contacts.

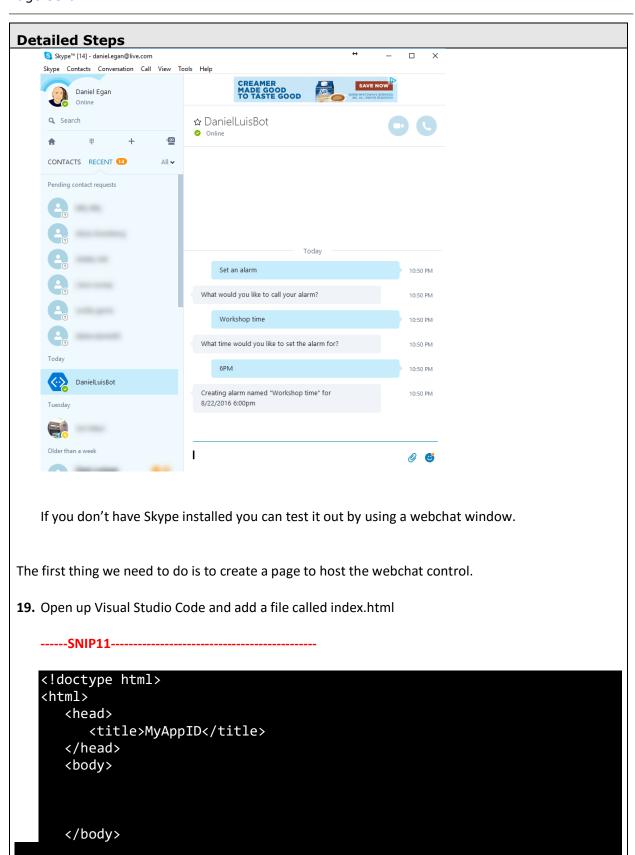




Once it is added to your contacts, you can chat away.

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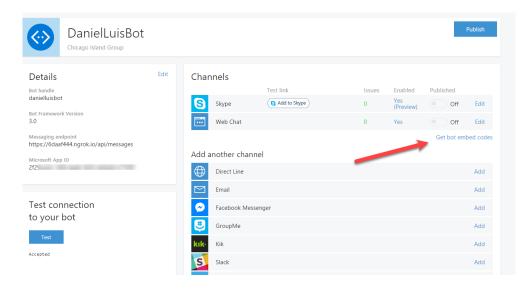
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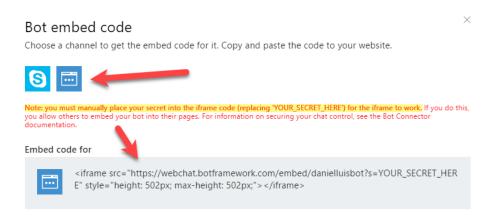
Detailed Steps

</html>

20. Next, go to your bot on BotFramework.com and click on the Get bot embedded codes



Click on the Web Chat Icon and copy the Embed code



Copy that embed code into the body section on index.html



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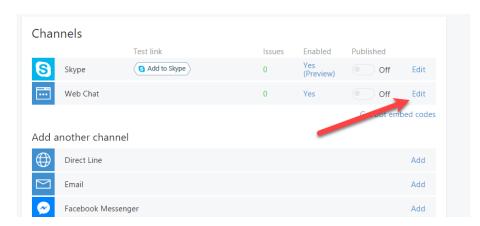
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As you can see in red (highlighted in yellow) You will need to replace the section that says YOUR_SECRET_HERE with the secret for your bot this is NOT your ID or Password.



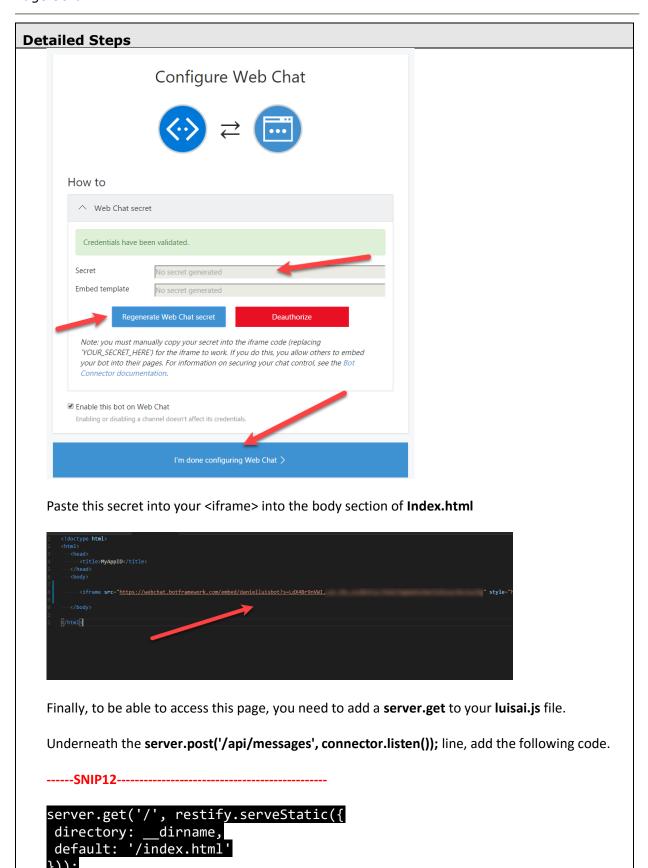
To get the secret for your bot. Go to your bots page and click on edit next to your Web Chat Channel.



Click on Regenerate Web Chat Secret Copy the Secret Click on I'm done...

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Detailed Steps

This will route incoming get requests (in the browser) to our **index.html** page.

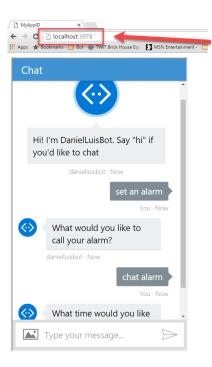
To test it out, go to your console and run the following command.

~\$ node luisai.js

You should see the restify server running on the port we specified.

```
C:\projects\botworkshop2
λ node luisai.js
restify listening to http://[::]:3978
```

Next browse to http://localhost:3978 in a browser



Now you can chat away.

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Additional Resources

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