Conversational API– The future of APIs?

**Introduction**

*Definition of Conversational User Interface:*

A Conversational User Interface (CUI) is an interface that imitates a conversation with a real human, in the way it understands and responds to the user’s questions. The idea behind CUI is to eliminate interacting with a computer by clicking on buttons and entering predefined terms, instead you interact with it by telling it what you want it to do.

Humans have been communicating with one another through very complex systems of communications, language being the leading example. Language has adapted from sounds and gestures, to words with meanings, and recently, to miniature vector graphics also known as emojis.

Humans and machines communicate through a system of inputs and outputs by using the computer mouse, computer keyboard, touch activated monitors, voice commands or gestures to interact with a User Interface(UI). The adaptation that humans went through to develop the language that we speak and read today, is also present in the research of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI). An adaptation is taking place to develop the next step in HCI, a more intuitive and efficient method of communication between humans and computers.

As Brad A. Myers states in his paper “*A Brief History of Human Computer Interaction Technology”*, *“*As computers get faster, more of the processing power is being devoted to the user interface. The interfaces of the future will use gesture recognition, speech recognition and generation, "intelligent agents," adaptive interfaces, video, and many other technologies now being investigated by research groups at universities and corporate labs. It is imperative that this research continue and be well-supported.” [1]

In this review I will be covering the basis on which CUI operate, the advancements that have been made in developing a CUI and the adjustments current and future developers must make to enable CUI technology to become the standard for all applicable interfaces.

**Natural Language Processing**

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is the foundation that CUI sits on.

**Artificial Intelligence**

**Commercial Conversational User Interfaces**

**Conversational APIs**

**Future Expectations**

**Discussion**

**References**

[1] **Brad A. Myers. "*A Brief History of Human Computer Interaction Technology.*" *ACM interactions*. Vol. 5, no. 2, March, 1998. pp. 44-54.**