Meetbot : Scheduler Bot integrated with Slack

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Agenda - Answering the what and hows!

- What are we building?
- How to build this bot?
- How to integrate the bot with Slack?
- How to deploy on Apprunner?
- How can we improve the bot?

What are we building?

An NLP based bot that helps with scheduling meetings based on its conversation with a user. The bot is essentially a Flask app that is hosted with Ngrok.

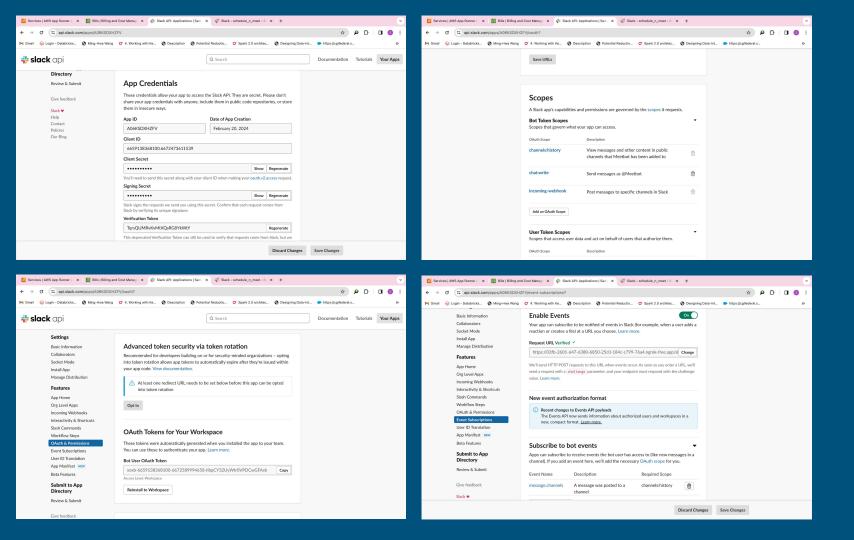
An App named 'Meetbot' communicates with our Flask app and responds based on the inference of our model.

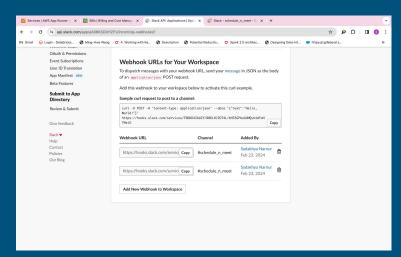
How to build this bot?

- Collect and Prepare the data: Here the intents.json consists of question and answer data that will be used to train the model.
- Transform the data: The intents are read, word level tokenized and stemmed. We use the Bag-of-words by creating a word dictionary for each document, create one-hot encoded output value and data is pickled.
- 3. Build DNN model: Once we load the model we fitted the training data and saved the checkpoints and model artifacts.
- 4. Run inference on user messages and send the response with highest probability.

How to integrate the bot with Slack?

- 1. Create an app in Slack that is integrated with a workspace and a channel.
- Add required Bot Scopes to this app like "Send messages as @Meetbot", "View messages" and "Post messages".
- Integrate the Bot oAuth Token, Signing Secret and Webhook url into our Python Flask code.
- 4. To expose the Flask api to Slack we use ngrok to host our app. This ngrok endpoint is given for Request URL to enable events and subscribe to bot events.
- 5. Using the slack apis the bot can access the message payloads to reply. The model predicts on the message it received and posts the chat message.





- Run the flask app on localhost port 5000.
- Run ngrok with:
 - > ngrok http 5000

How to deploy on Apprunner?

- Using Github repository: We can create an App runner service with the source code repository pointing to our github repo, set the required environment variables and configurations.
- 2. Using docker image: The docker image can be pushed to Elastic Container Registry service which can be provided as Container Registry to the App runner service. Further setting the configurations we can build.
 - Provide the public endpoint to the Slack event subscription request URL. Thereby using the public endpoint the app can communicate with slack.

How to improve the bot?

- Data: The larger the data the better the model would learn, hence the model needs more training data in intents file. The bot needs variety of data thereby improving quality of training.
- Model: The current implementation is a DNN. In order to improve the bot performance other QA NLP models like BERT can be considered.

Demo Time!