GuruCool IBM Project on

Chatbot to shop for Essentials during Pandemic using Watson Assistant

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Today, due to the current pandemic of Covid-19, it can be dangerous for individuals to shop for essential items in person. The rules of social distancing for safety of people has led to long queues for shopping essentials and hence has caused a lot of inconvenience. By offering individuals an online alternative to shop for essentials, this project helps to alleviate this issue.

1.2 Purpose

The objective of this project is to make shopping of essential products convenient during the current pandemic situation. For this purpose, Artificial Intelligence based Chatbot is implemented.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1 Existing problem

Since it is dangerous for individuals to shop for essential items in person because of the coronavirus epidemic, many consumers are turning to E-commerce. Shopping in E-Commerce environment is convenient and is safe as compared to the shopping in a retail shop.

2.2 Proposed solution

One of the solutions to the problem mentioned above is to provide the consumer with an efficient means of interacting and deciding what to buy. Chatbot helps to provide this functionality.

3. THEORITICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Block diagram

The block diagram/architecture of the Chatbot is as shown in the Figure 1.

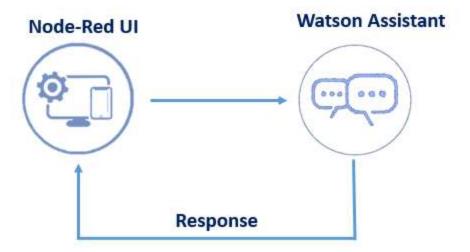


Figure 1: Architecture of Chatbot

As illustrated in figure above, the dialog of messages is implemented using Watson Assistant and Node-Red is used to design the user interface.

3.2 Hardware / Software designing

- a) IBM Watson Assistant
- b) Node-Red
- c) IBM cloud

4. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Chatbot implemented in this project has the following capabilities:

- i. Accepts and uses details like name, contact number, Email-Id and the items to place the order.
- ii. Provides a list of vegetables and grocery items with their prices.
- iii. Provides the information about any offers or discounts
- iv. Provides FAQs about Covid-19

5. FLOWCHART

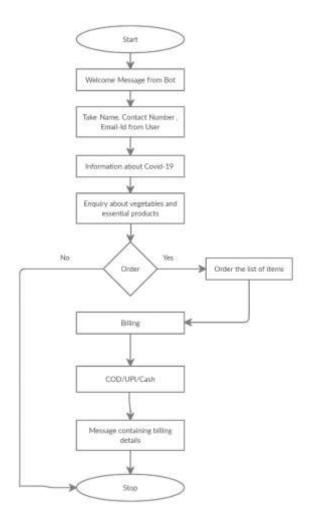
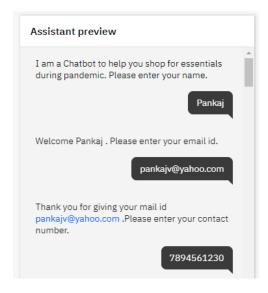
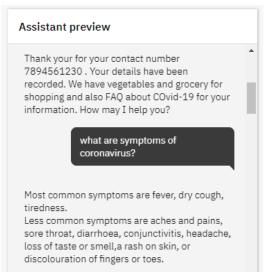
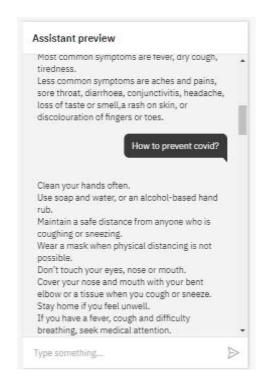


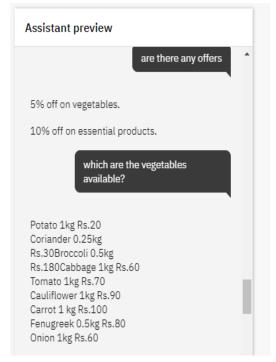
Figure 2: Flowchart of the Chatbot

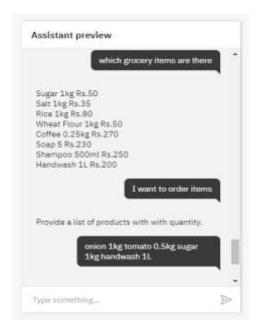
6. RESULT

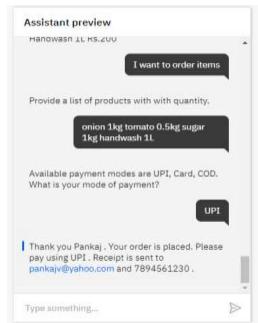












7. ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

Advantages:

- i. Chat is customized according to individual customer.
- ii. Q&A about Covid-19 is provided.
- iii. Orders are placed

Disadvantages:

- i. Complete view of Shopping cart not available
- ii. Billing module to be implemented

8. APPLICATIONS

The Chatbot can be used in E-commerce industry to improve shopping experience. Customers can order the goods conveniently from stores.

9. CONCLUSION

Chatbots can be very useful in pandemic situation to order essential products. Chatbot successfully replaces human agent necessary to communicate. The Chatbot implemented in this project is a AI-based simple virtual assistant for shopping for essentials such as vegetables and few grocery items.

10. FUTURE SCOPE

Complete view of Shopping cart can be made available with the total billing amount displayed on screen. Billing module can be implemented with option to link credit/debit card or UPI payment method.