

PROJECT REPORT

TOPIC: Intelligent Customer Help Desk with Smart Documentation Understanding

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

We will be able to write an application that leverages multiple Watson AI services like Discovery, Assistant, Cloud Function and Node Red. By the end of the project we will learn best practices of combining Watson Services, and how they can build interactive retrieval system with discovery + assistant.

- Project Requirements: Python, IBM Cloud, IBM Watson
- Functional Requirements: IBM Cloud
- Technical Requirements: Python, Watson AI, ML
- Software Requirements: Watson Assistant, Watson Discovery, Node Red
- Project Deliverables: Report
- Project Duration: 1 Month

1.2 Purpose

The chatbot usually can answer just simple questions, such as store locations and hours, directions and maybe even making appointments. When any user input (question) falls out of the scope of the predetermined question set of chatbot, it typically tells us to rephrase our sentence or mention that this question is not valid.

In this project we will be emphasizing to reduce the workload from the representative by supervising our chatbot in such a way that it is able to answer much of the questions (in particular the product information). We can return the relevant sections from the user guide which can help us to reduce the number of clients of every representative at a call centre. We will be transferring the call to representatives in particular cases only. To take this a step further, the project shall use the Smart Document Understanding provided by the Watson Discovery to train on the text, which is a modified version of Natural Language Processing.

Scope of Work:

- Create a customer care dialog skill in Watson Assistant.
- Use smart document understanding to build an enhanced Watson Discovery Collection.

- Create an IBM Cloud Function web action that allows Watson Assistant to post queries to Watson Discovery.
- Build a web application with integration of all the services and deploy the same on IBM Cloud Platform.

2. Literature Survey

2.1 Existing Problem

Generally chatbot are loaded with a certain set of questions that is more like if and else flow, the question or the user input which lies out of the scope of the chatbot is not answered and rather a message like “Try again after rephrasing” & “I am unable to understand, Please Rephrase” are displayed and it directs the user to the customer agent or the representative but an efficient chatbot should reduce the traffic reaching to the representatives, So to achieve this we include a Smart chatbot so that it can answer the queries of the customer.

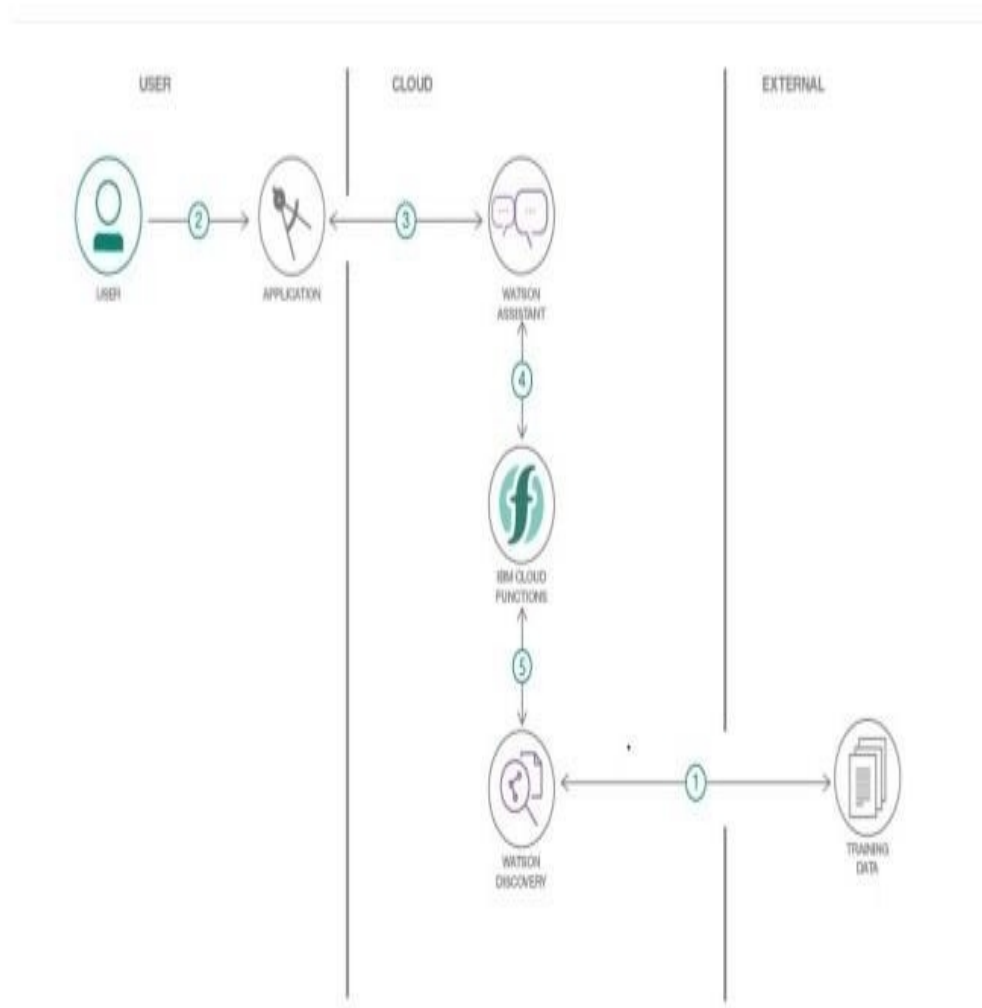
2.2 Proposed Solution

For the above-mentioned problem, we have to put a virtual agent in chatbot so it can understand the queries that are posted by customers. The virtual agent should be trained from some insight based on company backgrounds, working hours, store locations and product related information. In this project I used Watson Discovery to achieve the above solution.

3.THEORITICAL ANALYSIS

3. Theoretical Analysis

3.1 Block/Flow Diagram



1. The document is annotated using Watson Discovery SDU.
2. The user interacts with the backend server via the app UI. The frontend app UI is a chatbot that engages the user in a conversation.
3. Dialog between the user and backend server is coordinated using a Watson Assistant dialog skill.
4. If the user asks the product operation question, a search query is passed to a predefined IBM Cloud Function action.
5. Cloud function action will query the Watson Discovery service and return the results.

3.2 Hardware/Software Designing

- Create IBM Cloud services.
- Configure Watson Discovery
- Create IBM Cloud Function action
- Configure Watson Assistant
- Create flow and configure node
- Deploy and run node red app

4. Experimental Investigation

1) Create IBM Cloud Services

- a. Watson Discovery
- b. Watson Assistant
- c. Node Red

2) Configure Watson Discovery

After creating and launching the discovery from the Catalog, Import the document on which on which we need to train the discovery service. We have selected the ecobee3 user guide located in the data directory of our local repository.

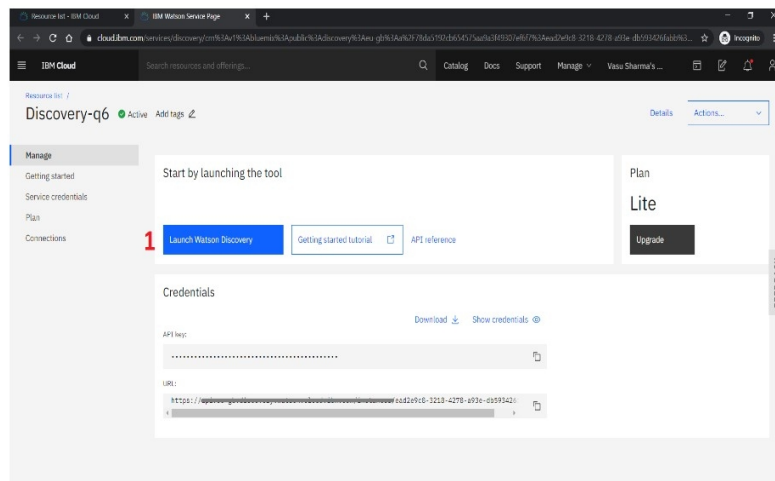
The Ecobee3 is a popular residential thermostat that has a WIFI interface and multiple configuration options. The result of the queries performed without configuring the data present in the document won't be that accurate. But the results improve significantly after applying SDU (Smart Document Understanding).

This can be done easily by clicking on the configure setting and then labelling each word or element present in the document as their respective label such as title, subtitle, text, image and Footer. Some of the labels are not present in the lite plan.

In the lite plan we are provided with limited content of IBM Watson, the labels help us in segmentation of the document which helps the discovery to understand the document better and provide better results. The results provided by the discovery can be improved, all the results are shown in assistant in which the discovery finds the sentiment to be positive i.e. matching between the question or query entered by the user and the data of the document. Better the sentiment analysis accurate the results are.

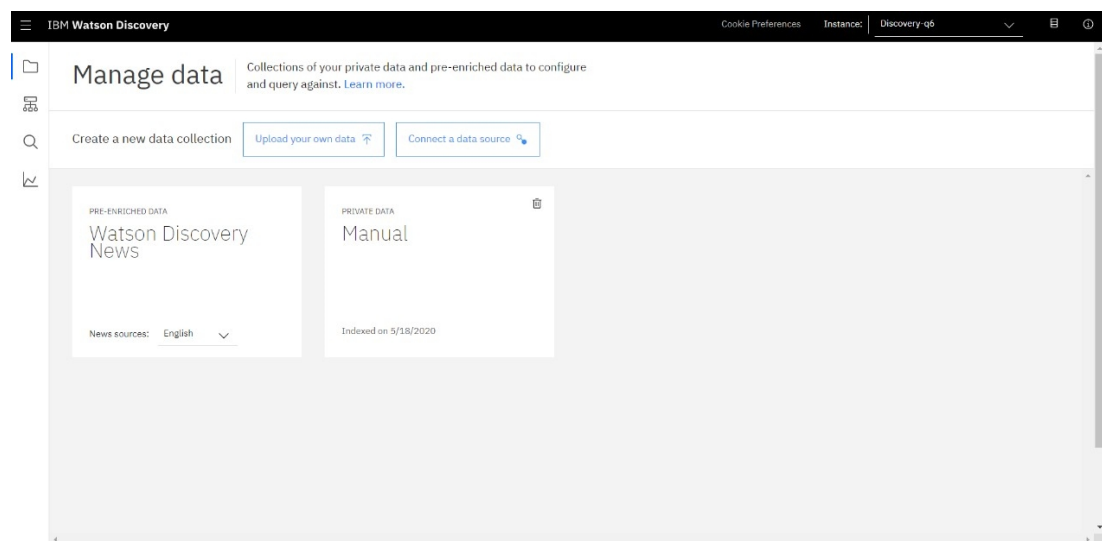
Follow the below mentioned steps:

- After creating the discovery from the catalog, we will be redirected to this base page of discovery where the name of the discovery along with its API Key and URL are mentioned. These credentials will be used in further steps.



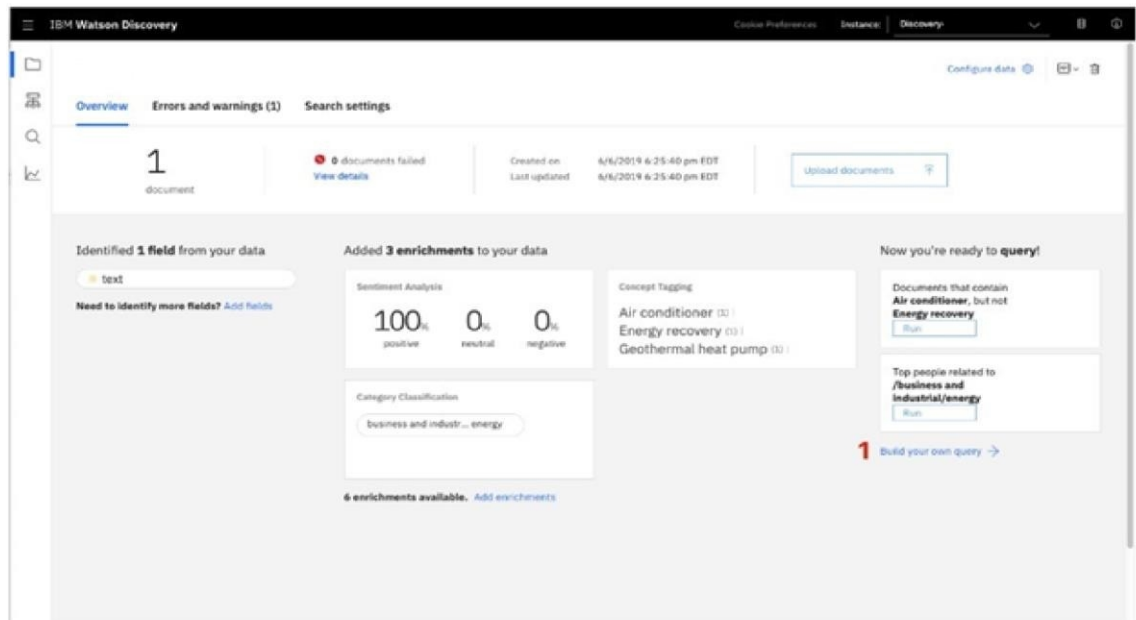
Click on the Launch Watson Discovery [1] to launch the discovery.

- Now in the next step we have to upload the data by clicking, upload your data. Here we have already uploaded the data as manual.

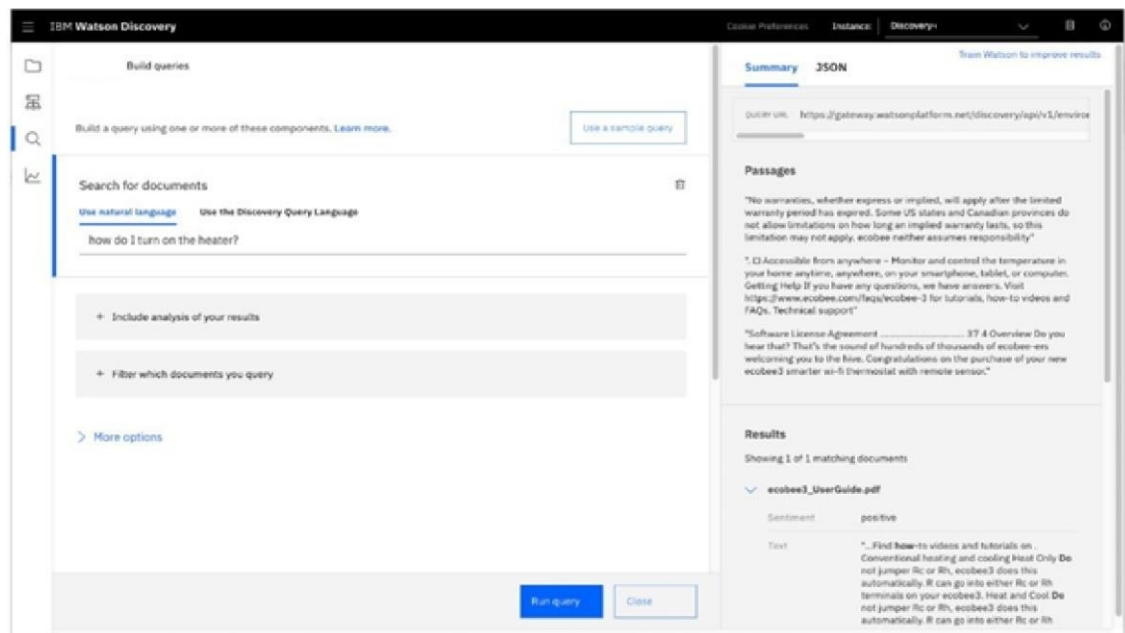


- After uploading the document we will see the page like this, we can ignore the warnings section as it is due to the normalization process and is of no worry. Now

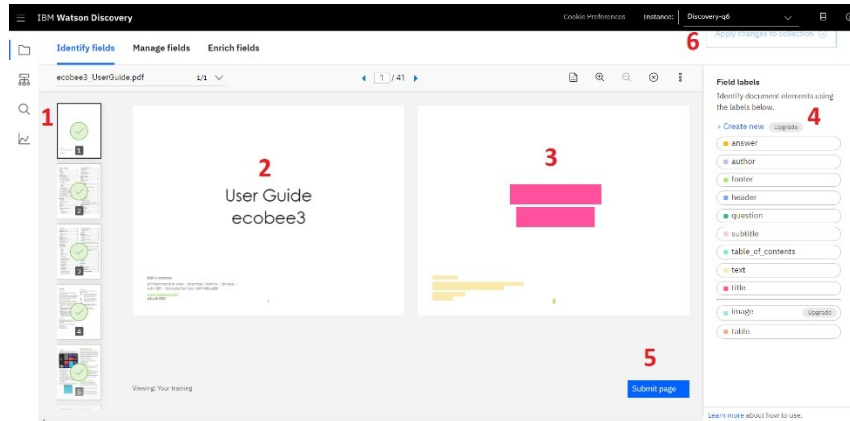
click on the build your own query [1] , so that we can have an idea how the results have significantly improved after configuring the data.



- Enter the queries related to thermostat and view the results. As you will see, the results are not very useful and not even that relevant. The next step is to annotate the document with SDU.



- Below is the layout of Identify fields tab of the SDU annotation panel:



The aim is to annotate all the pages of the document, so that discovery can learn what text is important and what text can be ignored.

[1] is the list of pages we have in the document. In the lite plan we are unable to upload a document more than 50,000 words and any document with more than that will be trimmed to this range.

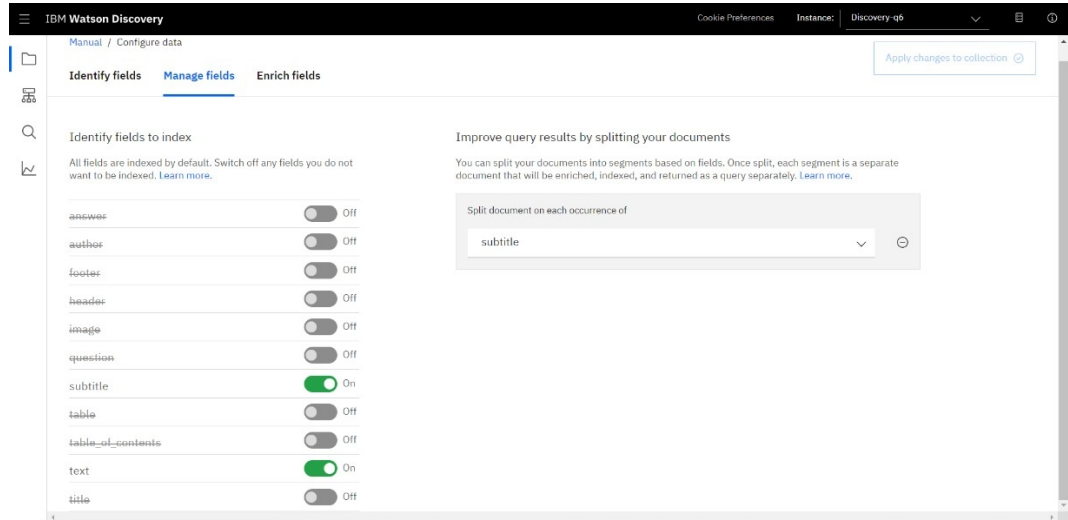
[2] is the current page being annotated.

[3] is the page in which we have to provide a label to each text, for example as shown above we have the Title and text, at the bottom we have the footer.

[4] is the list of labels we can provide in which the image label is not available in the lite plan.

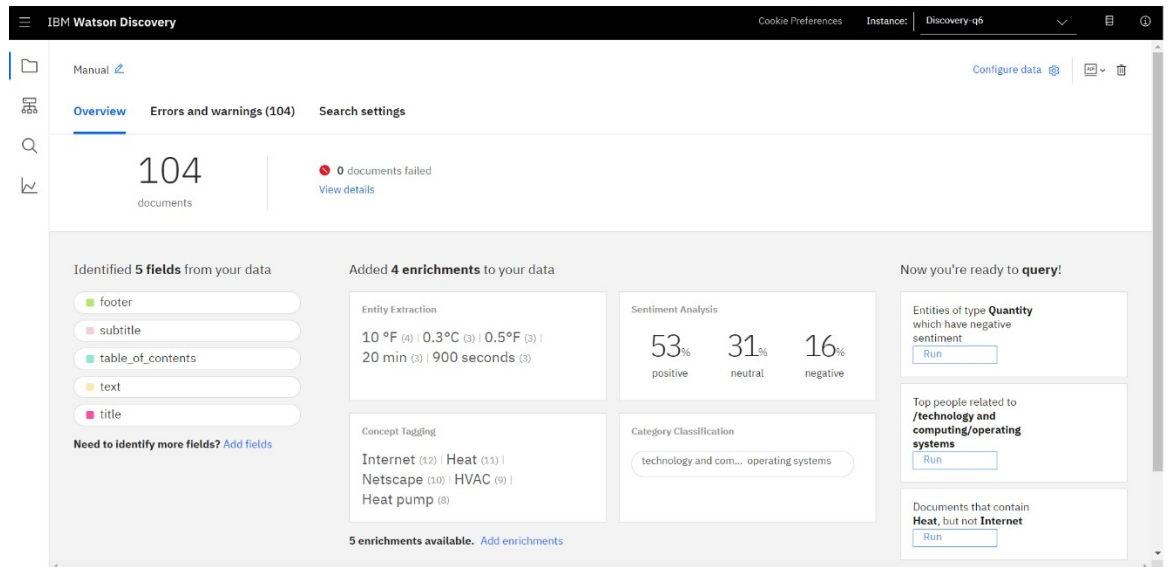
We have to click the submit page button [5] after annotating each page individually, after few pages the discovery will automatically give the label to the remaining pages. Click [6] after completing the annotation of the document.

- For further segmentation and making the sub documents, we have to manage the fields. Here we are provided with the option of identifying field to index i.e. what all texts are important for us, as we can see in the below snip, we have turned on only subtitle and text because they are the only 2 labels in which we are interested. On the right side we have the option splitting the document as per choice of our label. We have selected subtitle here. This can vary as per different needs of user.

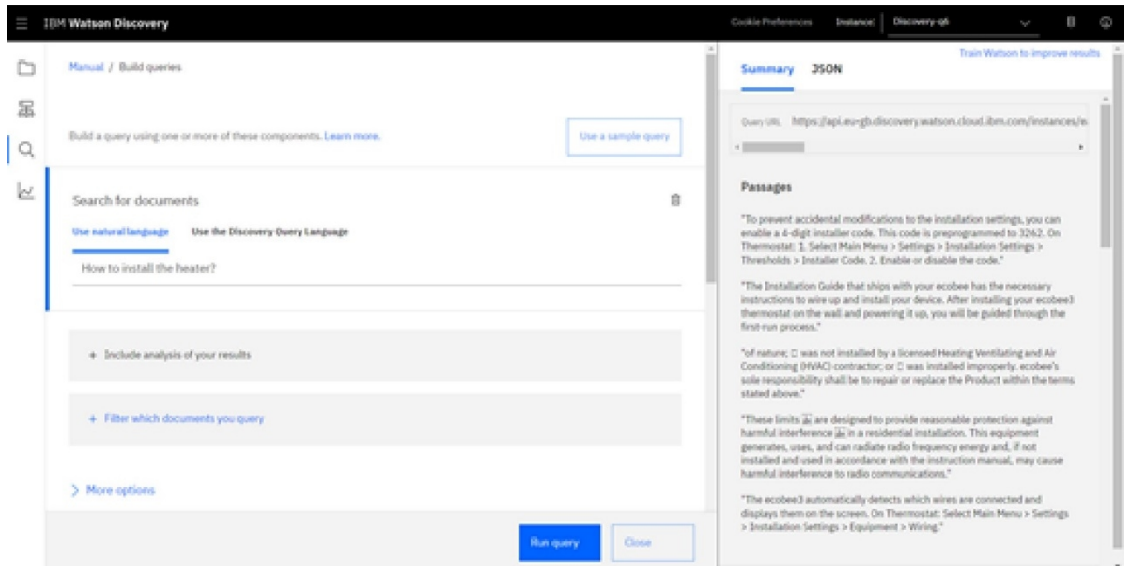


After doing everything as mentioned above, we have to click on Apply changes to Collection.

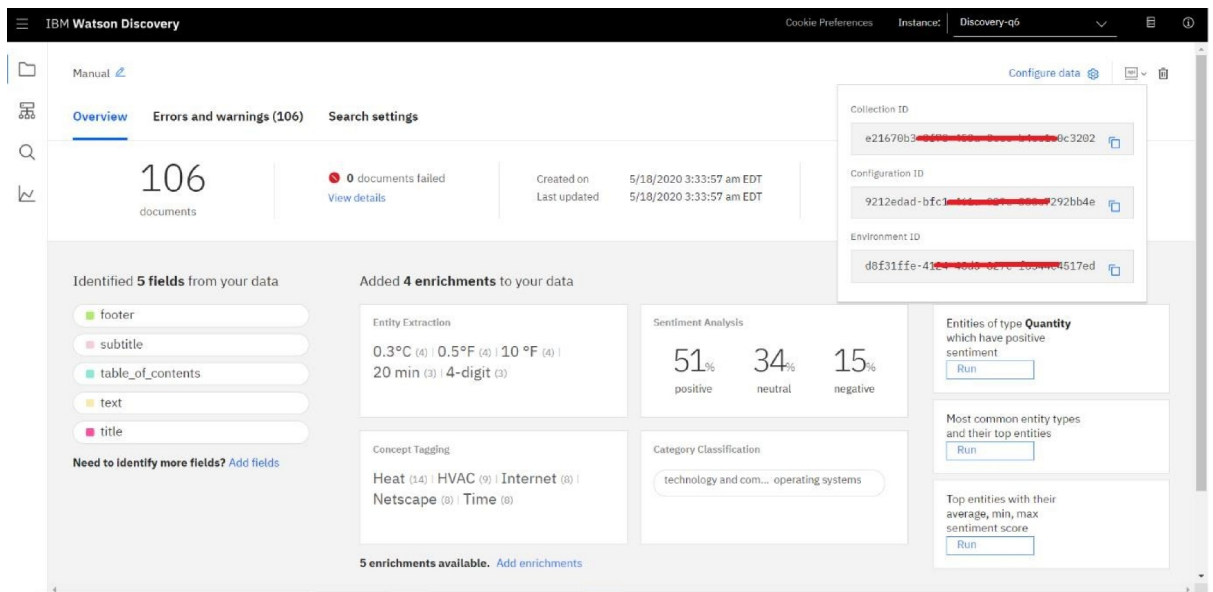
- It will take some time to process and after that we will have multiple documents as shown below, the document we uploaded earlier is segmented in 104 documents as shown below.



- Return to the query panel and try to build the same query as earlier and check the result. We will observe an improved result.



- Next, we have to store the credentials of Discovery which can be viewed as shown below:



- We already have the API key and the URL.
- Next, we have to create the IBM Cloud Function Action:

It is used to link the discovery with assistant, so that our queries can be answered by the discovery. After selecting the action from the IBM catalog, we have to click on the action tab as shown on the left menu. Here we made the Information function. Then we can post the code which will help us to link the discovery.

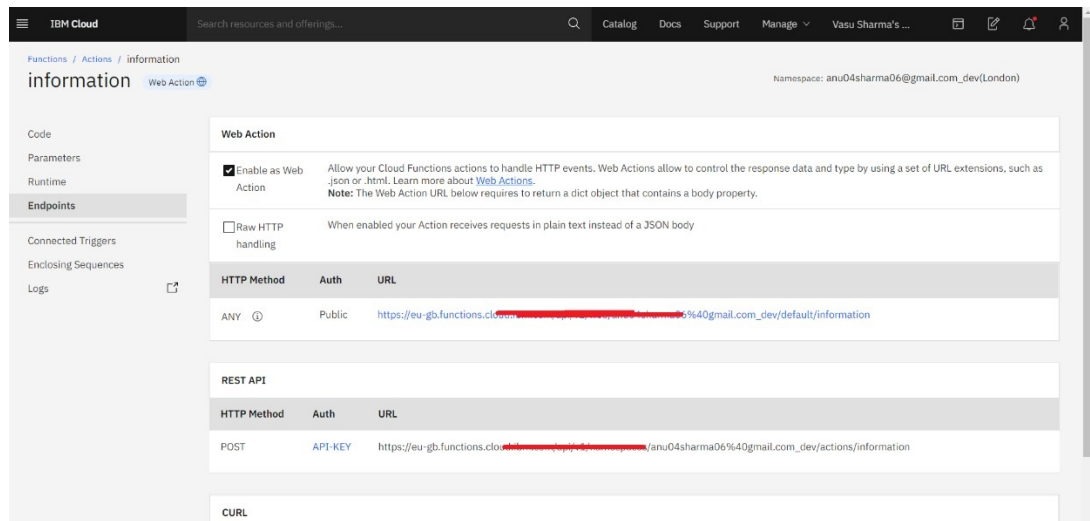
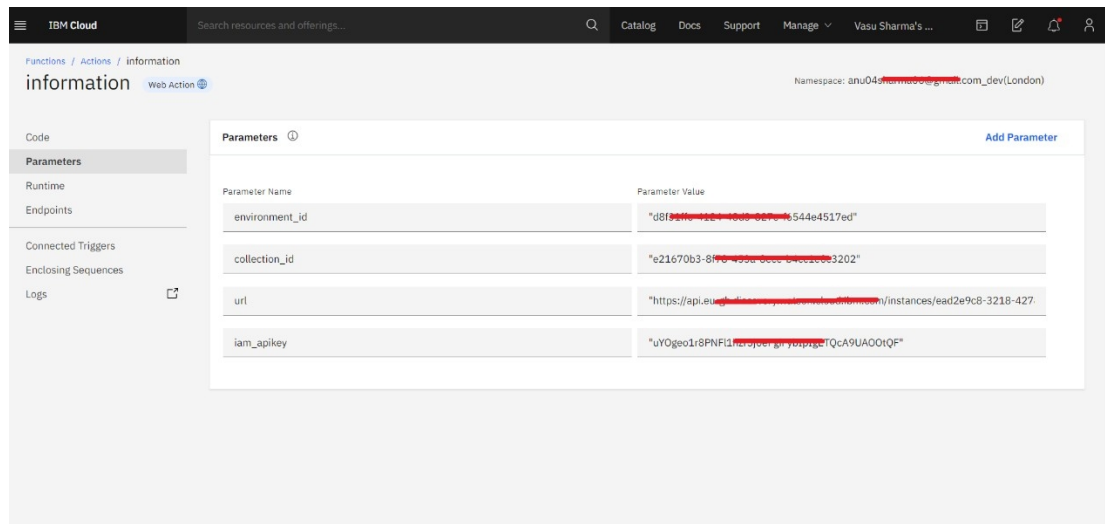
The screenshot shows the IBM Cloud Functions console. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Functions / Actions / information' and 'Web Action'. The main area displays the code for the 'information' action, which is a Node.js function. The code is as follows:

```
1 const assert = require('assert');
2 const DiscoveryV1 = require('watson-developer-cloud/discovery/v1');
3 /**
4  *
5  * main() will be run when you invoke this action
6  *
7  * Cloud Functions actions accept a single parameter, which must be a JSON object.
8  *
9  * @return The output of this action, which must be a JSON object.
10  */
11
12 * function main(params) {
13 *   return new Promise(function (resolve, reject) {
14 *     let discovery;
15 *     if (params.iam_apikey){
16 *       discovery = new DiscoveryV1({
17 *         'iam_apikey': params.iam_apikey,
18 *         'url': params.url,
19 *         'version': '2020-05-09'
20 *       });
21 *     }
22 *     else {
23 *       discovery = new DiscoveryV1({
24 *         'username': params.username,
25 *         'password': params.password,
26 *         'url': params.url,
27 *         'version': '2020-05-11'
28 *       });
29 *     }
30 *     discovery.query({
31 *       'environment_id': params.environment_id,
32 *       'collection_id': params.collection_id,
33 *       'natural_language_query': params.input,
34 *       'passages': true,
```

The screenshot shows the IBM Cloud Functions console 'Actions' page. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Functions', 'Getting Started', 'Actions', 'Triggers', 'APIs', 'Monitor', 'Logs', and 'Namespace Settings'. The main area displays the 'Actions' page for the namespace 'anu04shar...com_dev London (CF-Based)'. The page shows a table of actions, with one action named 'information' listed. The table has columns for Name, Runtime, Web Action, Memory, and Timeout. The 'information' action is listed with a runtime of 'Node.js 10', a web action of 'Enabled', a memory of '256 MB', and a timeout of '60 s'. The page also includes a search bar and a 'Create' button.

Name	Runtime	Web Action	Memory	Timeout
information	Node.js 10	Enabled	256 MB	60 s

We can make the parameters as per the code and paste the parameter value from the discovery credentials. After that we have to click on the endpoint and enable the web action which will generate a public URL and it will be further used.



- Next, we have to make the Watson assistant and use the sample customer care skill for convenience. We can add intent related to product information and the related entities and dialog flow.

Intents- These are the categories which we mention or we expect the user input to be, for example: Greetings can be an intent and in it we can have examples as Good Morning, Good Evening and all.

Entities- These are used to mention the usual typos of the user and the synonyms like some people write the good morning as gm, good morning, gud morning, so we can cover all these also instead of returning a message to rephrase.

Dialog- Here we mention the outputs to be given, these can be static as well as dynamic.

Customer Care Sample Skill

Intents

<input type="checkbox"/>	Intents (10) ↑	Description	Modified Tl	Examples Tl
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Cancel	Cancel the current request	a day ago	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Customer_Care_Appointments	Schedule or manage an in-store appointment.	a day ago	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Customer_Care_Store_Hours	Find business hours.	a day ago	48
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Customer_Care_Store_Location	Locate a physical store location or an address.	a day ago	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	#General_Connect_to_Agent	Request a human agent.	a day ago	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	#General_Greetings	Greetings	a day ago	30
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Goodbye	Good byes	a day ago	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Help	Ask for help	a day ago	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	#Product_Information	Asking for the product information.	a day ago	4

Showing 1–10 of 10 intents

1 of 1 pages

URL: https://eu-gb.watsonassistant.cloud.ibm.com/eu-gb/cn/3A9153A8b6m%3Apu64%3Aconversation%3Aanug963Aa-2f7b6d102a165407ba6b3149307d07%3Aacfb5077-d9e4-454e-952e-5be122a11165%3A83A9killy4647ca11-5e07-4071-802c-edf5894c22a/build/intents

- Next, we have to mention the URL that we got earlier.

Customer Care Sample Skill

Webhooks

A webhook is a mechanism that allows you to call out to an external program based on events in your dialog.

Webhook setup

Specify the request URL for an external API you want to be able to invoke from dialog nodes. Watson will call this URL when configured to do so from a dialog node. [Learn more](#)

URL

https://eu-gb.functionless.com/web/anu04sharma06%40gmail.com

Headers

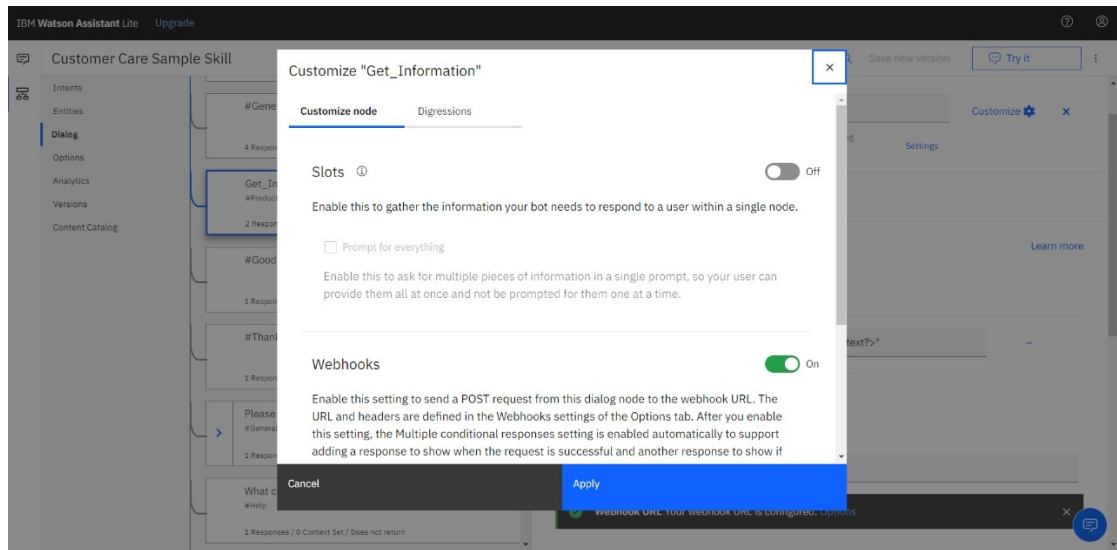
Add HTTP headers for authorization or any other parameters required for invoking the webhook.

Header name	Header value
Add header	Add authorization

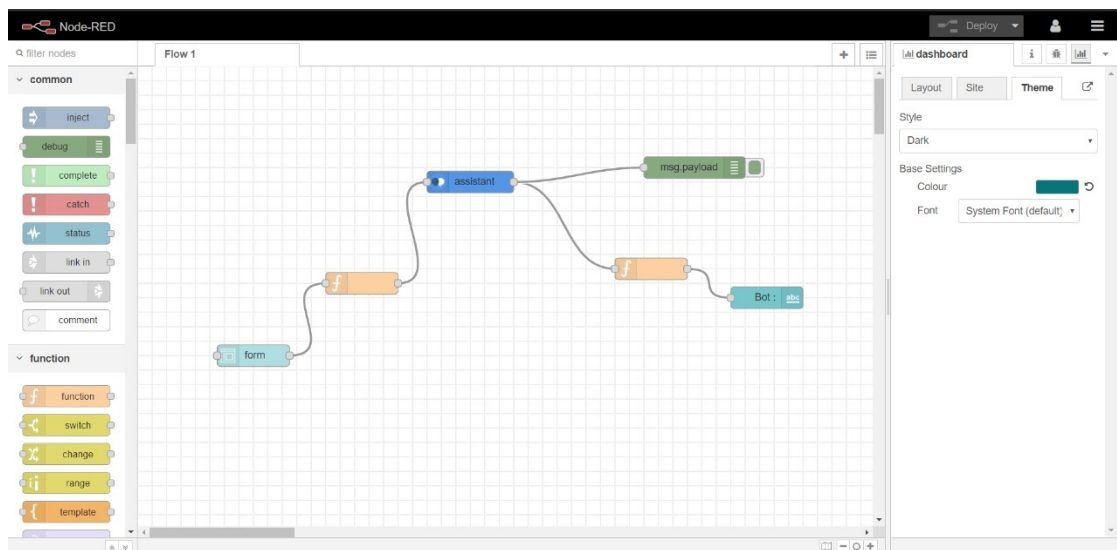
Next step

To trigger this webhook from an individual dialog node, enable webhooks from the Customize page of the node. [Go to dialog](#)

We have to enable the webhooks which enables our dialog to send a POST request to the webhook URL.



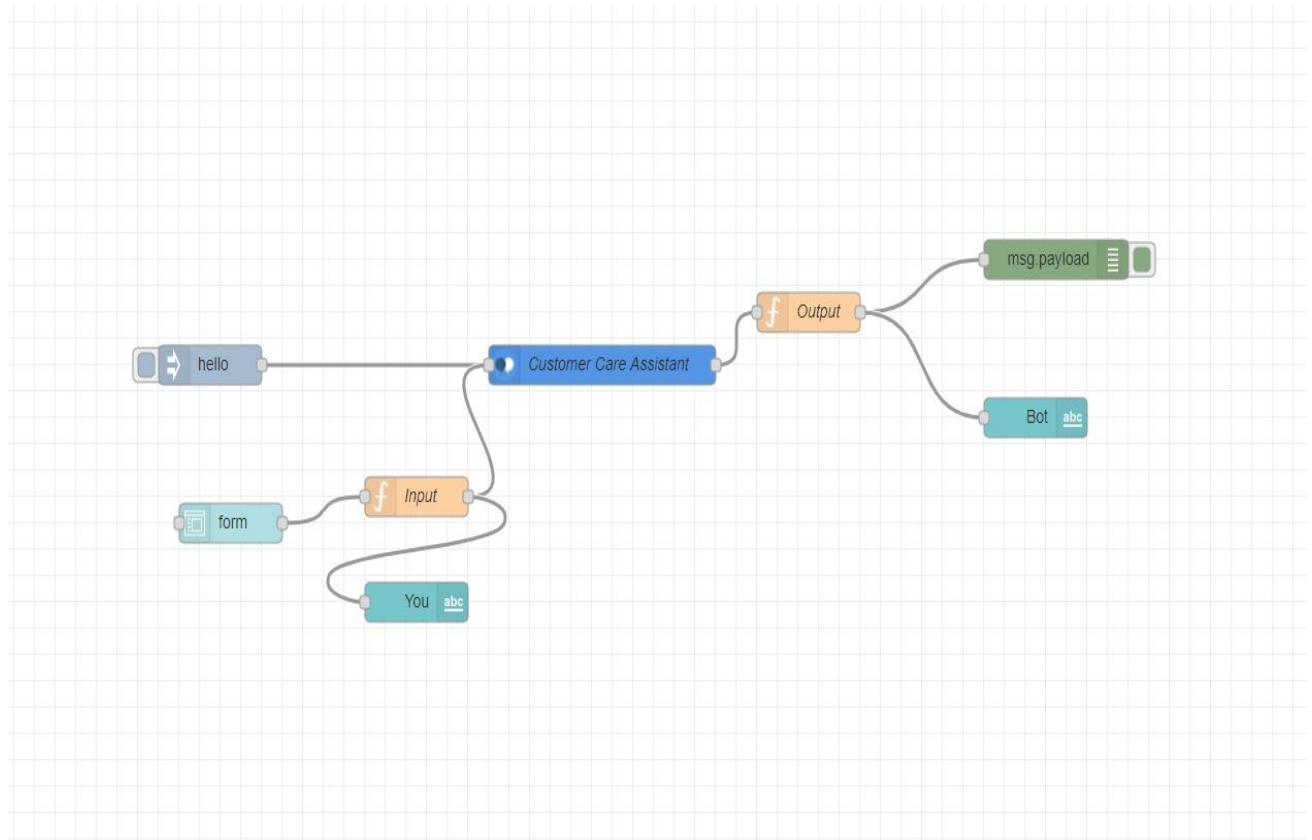
- After this we have to make the node-red flow, and link everything. We will get a UI from the node. The roles of different nodes can be understood by the references mentioned in in the end. The final flow will look like as shown below.



The UI we have is the basic one but can be improved by writing the HTML code in the template node. We can vary the background colour also from the node-red.

This is how the initial flow looked like but we imported another flow just to improve the UI

5. Flowchart



6. Result

Finally our Node-RED dash board integrates all the components and displayed in the Dashboard UI by typing URL - <https://node-red-uahqr.eu-gb.mybluemix.net/ui/> in browser.

Customer Support UI

Customer Support

You
how to turn on the heater

Enter your input
how to turn on the heater

SUBMITCANCEL

Bot Generated Response

Bot

If you have a furnace or boiler installed: 1. Select the heating menu. 2. Configure the heater type: ☐ Furnace: Optimizes ecobee3 for systems using forced air ☐ Boiler: Optimizes your ecobee3 for systems using radiators or in-floor heat. 3. Touch Next. You will be returned to the Equipment configuration menu.

This menu lets you test the wiring and connections of the devices connected to the thermostat by turning them on or off. The equipment will turn off when you exit the menu. Warning: Compressor protection and minimum run-time features are not enforced while in this mode.

The HVAC System settings depend on the type of system you have. Depending on your system, one or more the following options are shown: ☐ Cool: Turn on the air conditioner when the current temperature rises above the set temperature. ☐ Heat: Turn on the heat when the current temperature drops below the set temperature. ☐ Auto: Activate the heating or cooling system as required to keep your home within the configured range of set temperatures. ☐ Aux: Only use the auxiliary or backup heat source to maintain the heat set point temperature. This option only appears if auxiliary heat is configured in the Equipment menu. ☐ Off: Turn the system off. When the system is off, only the current temperature will be displayed on the Home screen. On Thermostat and Mobile: Select Main Menu > System > HVAC System On Web: Select System tile > HVAC

Customer Support

You

hello

Enter your Input
hello

SUBMIT

CANCEL

Bot Generated Response

Bot

Hello. Good morning

7. Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages:

- Companies can use these to decrease the work flow to the representatives.
- Reduce the number of reps.
- Cost Efficient.
- Decrease in the number of calls diverted to representatives.
- Less work load on employees.

Disadvantages:

- Sometimes the chatbot misleads the customers.
- The discovery returns wrong results when not properly configured.
- Giving same answer for different sentiments.
- Sometimes is unable to connect the customer sentiments and intents.

8. Application

- It can be deployed in popular social media applications like Facebook, Slack and Telegram.
- Chatbot can be deployed at any website to clear the basic doubts of the customer.

9. Conclusion

By following the above-mentioned steps, we can create a basic chatbot which can help us to answer the basic questions of the customer or user related to location of the office, working hours and the information about the product. We successfully create the intelligent helpdesk smart chatbot using Watson Assistant, Watson Cloud Function, Watson Discovery and Node-Red.

10. Future Scope

We can import the pre-built node-red flow and can improve our UI, moreover we can make a data base and use it to show the recent chats to the customer. We can also improve the results of discovery by enriching it with more fields and doing the Smart Data Annotation more accurately. We can get the premium version to increase the scope of our chatbot in terms of the calla and requests.

We can also include Watson text to audio and Speech to text services to access the chatbot handsfree. These are few of the future scopes which are possible.

11. Bibliography

11.2 Source code (Cloud Function):

```
/**
 *
 * @param {object} params
 * @param {string} params.iam_apikey
 * @param {string} params.url
 * @param {string} params.username
 * @param {string} params.password
 * @param {string} params.environment_id
 * @param {string} params.collection_id
 * @param {string} params.configuration_id
 * @param {string} params.input
 *
 * @return {object}
 *
 */

const assert = require('assert');
const DiscoveryV1 = require('watson-developer-cloud/discovery/v1');

/**
 *
 * main() will be run when you invoke this action
 *
 * @param Cloud Functions actions accept a single parameter, which must be a JSON object.
 *
 */
```

* @return The output of this action, which must be a JSON object.

*

*/

```
function main(params) {  
  return new Promise(function (resolve, reject) {
```

```
    let discovery;
```

```
    if (params.iam_apikey){  
      discovery = new DiscoveryV1({  
        'iam_apikey': params.iam_apikey,  
        'url': params.url,  
        'version': '2019-03-25'  
      });  
    }  
  }
```

```
  else {  
    discovery = new DiscoveryV1({  
      'username': params.username,  
      'password': params.password,  
      'url': params.url,  
      'version': '2019-03-25'  
    });  
  }
```

```
  discovery.query({  
    'environment_id': params.environment_id,  
    'collection_id': params.collection_id,  
    'natural_language_query': params.input,  
    'passages': true,  
    'count': 3,
```



```

    'passages_count': 3
  }, function(err, data) {
    if (err) {
      return reject(err);
    }
    return resolve(data);
  });
});
}

```

(Flow.json)

```

[{"id":"34c192ce.ef06ae","type":"tab","label":"Flow
2","disabled":false,"info":"","},{ "id":"a2b5b4dd.bf4cd8","type":"watson-conversation-
v1","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"Customer Care Assistant","workspaceid":"ed440813-2a66-
4c11-81b4-d7da20c0e45e","multiuser":false,"context":false,"empty-payload":false,"service-
endpoint":"https://api.eu-gb.assistant.watson.cloud.ibm.com/","timeout":"","optout-
learning":false,"x":670,"y":340,"wires":[["3182cb96.2f9a44"]]}, {"id":"aae9436.b937ac","type":
"inject","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"","","topic":"","payload":"hello","payloadType":"str","rep
eat":"","crontab":"","once":false,"onceDelay":0.1,"x":290,"y":340,"wires":[["a2b5b4dd.bf4cd8"
]]}, {"id":"84e1262d.6bf2f8","type":"debug","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"","active":true,"tos
idebar":true,"console":false,"tostatus":false,"complete":"false","x":1110,"y":260,"wires":[], {"i
d":"3182cb96.2f9a44","type":"function","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"Output","func":"msg.p
ayload.text=\"\";\nif(msg.payload.context.webhook_result_1){\n  for(var i in
msg.payload.context.webhook_result_1.results){\n
msg.payload.text=msg.payload.text+\"<br><br>\"+msg.payload.context.webhook_result_1.resu
lts[i].text;\n  }\n
msg.payload=msg.payload.text;\n}\nelse\nmsg.payload=msg.payload.output.text[0];\nreturn
msg;","outputs":1,"noerr":0,"x":870,"y":300,"wires":[["84e1262d.6bf2f8","800fe7cd.2cf3f8"]]},
{"id":"13a6a384.74862c","type":"function","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"Input","func":"msg.
payload=msg.payload.text;\nreturn
msg;","outputs":1,"noerr":0,"x":490,"y":440,"wires":[["a2b5b4dd.bf4cd8","2c5d97c2.d98f88"]]

```

```
{,"id":"c5e772bd.371e2","type":"ui_form","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","name":"","label":"","group":"f5384594.c97c88","order":2,"width":8,"height":2,"options":[{"label":"Enter your Input","value":"text","type":"text","required":true,"rows":null}],formValue":{"text":""},"payload":"","submit":"submit","cancel":"cancel","topic":"","x":310,"y":460,"wires":[["13a6a384.74862c"]]},{"id":"2c5d97c2.d98f88","type":"ui_text","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","group":"f5384594.c97c88","order":1,"width":8,"height":2,"name":"","label":"You","format":"{{msg.payload}}","layout":"col-center","x":490,"y":520,"wires":[]},{"id":"800fe7cd.2cf3f8","type":"ui_text","z":"34c192ce.ef06ae","group":"c4f97f12.43c27","order":1,"width":18,"height":15,"name":"","label":"Bot","format":"{{msg.payload}}","layout":"col-center","x":1090,"y":380,"wires":[]},{"id":"f5384594.c97c88","type":"ui_group","z":0,"name":"Customer Support","tab":"7db7b2d.576f94c","order":1,"disp":true,"width":8,"collapse":false},{"id":"c4f97f12.43c27","type":"ui_group","z":"","name":"Bot Generated Response","tab":"7db7b2d.576f94c","order":2,"disp":true,"width":18,"collapse":false},{"id":"7db7b2d.576f94c","type":"ui_tab","z":"","name":"Customer Support UI","icon":"dashboard","disabled":false,"hidden":false}]
```

11.2 References

- https://www.ibm.com/cloud/architecture/tutorials/cognitive_discovery
- <https://cloud.ibm.com/docs/assistant?topic=assistant-getting-started>
- <https://developer.ibm.com/recipes/tutorials/how-to-create-a-watson-chatbot-on-nodered/>
- <http://www.iotgyan.com/learning-resource/integration-of-watson-assistant-to-node-red>
- <https://github.com/IBM/watson-discovery-sdu-with-assistant>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jpr3wVH3FVA>