

Hey Food

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1 Our goal

Our initial idea is to build a voice service that enables the user to order takeaway food from any restaurant around him. So, the system should act as a waiter and give information about available restaurants and menus, making suggestions about special dishes. The service will save orders and let the user check their status.

2 Similar services analysis

We analyzed several similar services. So, we looked into some food-ordering voice chatbots available online. These are a few of those.

2.1 RunnerPizza's Skill

It's a service that lets customers order pizza via a chatbot (Alexa). It's possible to make a new order, select a specific pizza from the list of pizzas available and finally choose delivery time and the address. Alexa provides feedback to the customer after each completed step in the process. The interaction is very intuitive and simple due to the developed schematic process, and in this way, every type of user is able to make a new order. The whole process takes very few minutes. On the other hand, it's only possible to check/modify or delete the order on RunnerPizza's website and this is the big limitation of this service. The power of this type of service is given by the use of the voice, which in the meantime allows the customer to do other things. So, each task related to this kind of service should also be completed with the voice. Even if our service takes into account different types of food and implements other operations related to the order (e.g. checking the status of the order via Alexa), this service is a very good starting point for what we want to achieve.

2.2 Domino's Skill

This skill is provided by Domino's Pizza; it allows the user to place pizza orders in their restaurants. Differently from RunnerPizza, this skill also lets you check the status of an order. Also in this case, the limitation is given by the fact that the system only works for one franchise of restaurants.

2.3 Starbucks Reorder's Skill

Pretty simple, it basically only allows you to place (usual) orders that were originally done through the app. Free to use, limited to a few functions, and also allows you to check the balance of the associated card. The app provides you with a history of your orders so that you can place an old order again. After that, it gives you a list of physical coffee shops where you can collect your order.

3 Need finding

We have made an analysis of the possible scenarios in which this kind of system could be useful. Thus, we have thought about a few needs that users could have:

- Obtaining information and suggestions about restaurants in the area.
- Placing an order to a given restaurant.
- Rate an order.

4 Interviews

We conducted some interviews to have a deeper and less biased understanding of what people need when it comes to ordering takeaway food. The following points came out:

- Many people order takeaway food, at least sometimes. Most of them think that it is convenient since they do not have to cook. It also is a way to eat some particular food, that can be different from the usual.
- Some people are used to call restaurants to make orders, while others leverage food ordering apps. Somebody goes to restaurants in person to place an order.
- People that use apps think that it is a great way to order food without risking that the information comes across as incorrect, as it could happen with a phone call. Apps make it easier to check the menu, check the status of an order, and discover new restaurants. However, apps sometimes contain bugs. Somebody complains about having to call a restaurant multiple times because the line is busy.
- Some people would feel comfortable ordering food with a voice chatbot. They think that it is fast and easy to interact via voice and it would feel similar to talking to a human, but in a more accurate way. Others, instead, think that they would not feel comfortable talking to a bot.

5 Questionnaires

Questionnaires here..

6 Storyboards

Storyboards here..

7 Prototypes

Prototypes here...

8 Voice skill

Voice skill here..

9 Interviews list

A man (40 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**
Yes, sometimes.
2. **What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?**
To be faster and avoid queues.
3. **How do you usually place food orders?**
Via telephone, or in person.
4. **What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?**
Pros: I can do it from home, without having to reach the place. Cons: There can be misunderstandings.
5. **Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?**
Yes, because once you learn how to use a voice assistant it becomes very quick and easy to order.

A woman (50 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**
Rarely.
2. **What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?**
Because it's convenient, I stay home and they deliver my order right there.
3. **How do you usually place food orders?**
I'm happier if someone else does it for me.
4. **What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?**
Pros: I don't have to waste time and interact with people. Cons: None
5. **Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?**
Yes, because it does it for me. It is more accurate.

A girl (18 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**
Rarely.
2. **What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?**
Because my mother cooks for me.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

Either I call the restaurant or I go there and order in person.

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

Pros: My meal arrives already ready to eat. Cons: It's more expensive.

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Yes, because it could be convenient and quick in my opinion.

A boy (25 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Sometimes.

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

It's convenient to have food delivered to you when you don't want to cook or go to eat out.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

Using food ordering apps.

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

Pros: It's fast and you have the whole menu at your disposal. Cons: None

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Yes, because it's convenient and almost feels like talking to a person.

A man (50 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes, sometimes I do.

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

I find it really convenient because I can place my orders directly from home.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I use the mobile apps or directly call the restaurant, in this order. In particular, I find it easier to place an order using their app because it's faster but if there's no Internet connection I rather make a call.

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

Placing an order with the app is safer because people can make errors when taking orders (e.g. wrong topping). Using the app reduces the number of misunderstandings.

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Yes, I think I would do it for the same reasons of using an app.

A female (20 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes, sometimes I do.

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

It's easier, really fast and I do not have to cook anything by myself.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I first search the product I want to order, look for discounts and select restaurants. After that, I call the restaurant or place an order using their app.

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

Quick, no queue, I always find warm food reserving in advance. Of course there may be misunderstandings with waiters, for instance if they do not understand what I want. Moreover I may need to call multiple times because the line is busy.

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Yes, I do not see any difference but the interaction should be simple.

A female (50 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes, I do.

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

I love it because I can try some new food without the need of preparing it by myself.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I usually call them.

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

When I call them and talk to a waiter sometimes we don't understand each other (e.g. wrong cheese on pizza). However it's really comfortable and easy.

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

I would not, I think I would not feel comfortable talking with a robot.

A male (61 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**

Yes.

2. **What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?**

I usually go to the restaurant but due to Covid it's the best choice for dinner

3. **How do you usually place food orders?**

I use the mobile apps and less frequently directly call the restaurant.

4. **What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?**

I prefer mobile apps with respect to call the restaurant because in this way I can constantly check the order

5. **Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?**

Yes but I have to be sure that the voice chatbot understands perfectly what I'm saying. I think that in this way it's easier to make mistakes about the order with respect to classic mobile apps.

A female (53 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**

Yes

2. **What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?**

It's very convenient when I don't want to cook or when I want to eat something different from what I usually prepare at home

3. **How do you usually place food orders?**

I use app like JustEat or I call the restaurant

4. **What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?**

Both are very convenient

5. **Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?**

Yes because I think it's even more convenient and faster than previous methods

A female (24 years old)

1. **Do you order takeaway food?**

Yes. I do it at least once a week

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

I like to order takeaway food because it's convenient when I don't want or I can't cook. It's useful also when I want to eat a particular type of food while being at home

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I usually order on mobile delivery apps and less frequently on sites of takeaway service

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

I'm not forced to go the restaurant to take my food. Moreover I can discover new suggested restaurants with the mobile app. On the other hand with this method I have to pay costs of service and delivery and the food when arrives at home it may already be cooled

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Yes, I think it could help to place an order faster

A female (20 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

It's more convenient due to my university hours; I'm an off-campus student so in this way I don't need to cook or wash dishes. Moreover it's useful when I want to eat something different from what I usually prepare at home

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I usually order on mobile delivery apps. I rarely take personally my food at the restaurant

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

It's the most convenient method and I have all the time I need to select the food. On the other hand I can't talk directly with the restaurant in the case in which I need to modify a specific plate. Moreover prices are often higher and If there are many of us ordering, it is difficult to divide the total cost

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

Of course. It would be like ordering at the restaurant if a voice chatbot interacts with the customer. I think that this could resolve the lack of communication that I find in the mobile apps.

A female (28 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

I like to eat food that I'm not able to prepare myself. I can also order from restaurants far away from where I live

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I use mobile apps

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

I think the process it's very fast and accurate. I think there are no cons

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

No because I don't think it would be different from what I use right now. I'm fine with what I already have.

A male (20 years old)

1. Do you order takeaway food?

Yes

2. What are the reasons why you do / don't do so?

I think that it's a faster process rather than going physically to the restaurant. Sometimes I don't want to go out, so it's very convenient.

3. How do you usually place food orders?

I use mobile apps like Glovo, JustEat and so on

4. What are the pros and cons about this approach in your opinion?

I feel more confident about the correctness of my order with a mobile app, I think there's a less chance of making mistakes. On the other hand I experienced some bugs with some mobile apps in the payment section in multiple occasions. Even though I had chosen the option to pay with cash, the app used the option "Pay by credit card"

5. Would you use a voice chatbot to order takeaway? Why?

No because I used voice chatbots a lot of times and very often they didn't completely understand what I said

10 Reviews

Reviews here..