Microsoft Spot Market Team 1 – Team 5

Maya Afshar, Raymond Tan, Alex Hale 9th March 2017

Past Weeks

During the past two weeks, we have managed to make a big step towards completion of the project's development phase in iteration one. We managed to achieve our weekly goals and stay on timeline. We met with the Master student working on spot market engine and received the data schema from him, therefore we could move ahead with the implementation of the API. We got a positive feedback from our client for our initial demo, and since then made improvements to the chat bot, LUIS and the API side. We have added the user location handler, implemented most of the required API routes and trained the LUIS instance using the new entity sets and sub-entities. We have also implemented a demo for the bot responses using the new data schema to discover new possibilities and features to add to the chat-bot.

Meetings

Team Meetings

- 28th February – *All Team members present*
  Discussion on final goals of iteration one. Progress check on every member and planning for improvements of next week. Planning the next client meeting and preparing questions to ask regarding the development of current chat-bot and focusing on getting feedback/suggestions for further improvements.

- 2nd March– *All Team members present*
  Meeting with the master students. Discussing our project and progress and what we will require from them to continue with API implementation. Receiving positive response, by getting the data schema and categories used in the spot market engine for the entities(IAB), that we can implement in the LUIS instance. We got informed that the spot market engine will not finish while we are working on our project, therefore we only focus on our side of development.

- 7th March– *All Team members present*
  Project demo to Heidy and Yun, showcase of the chat-bot and project progress slides in terms of development and project management. Discussing the current features of the chat-bot, future improvements and timeline. Getting few suggestions on further improvement of the features and how to take the results beyond initial requirements.

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Planning for the next week goals and sprints in iteration 2. Checking the progress of each team member.

Client Meetings

- 2nd March– *All Team members present*
  Showcase of the latest demo of the project at the time and receiving a positive feedback regarding project's improvements. Requested for suggestions regarding further development, the client suggested setting up a quick meeting after a while, or showcasing the project after chat-bot and API connection. Explaining the timeline and future perspectives to the client, and setting up the next meeting in two weeks' time, to show the latest demo of the chat-bot.

Tasks Completed

- Completion of Iteration 1 and moving to iteration 2
- Having meeting with Master students(Harsh) and receiving data schema
- Finalising the API development based on data schema
- Planning for upcoming weeks in iteration 2 (For final improvements of the chat-bot based on feedbacks received from Heidy)
- Improvement of LUIS by adding IAB Categories as Entities and sub-entities and training it. (https://support.aerserv.com/hc/en-us/articles/207148516-List-of-IAB-Categories)
- Improvement of bot implementation by adding user location handler, cleaning the constant strings and separating their file, adding the UI features to the bot and connecting it to the data set (schema) etc.
- Further implementation of the API.
- Moving ahead with application to Microsoft Imagine Cup
- Continuance of project development documentation

Problems

We have managed to fix most of the issues that we have been having so far. However, the workload still is a bit more than the initial expected workload and we still need to try not to face a big issue in development process. We also have a tight deadline on applying for Microsoft imagine cup and need to make sure we will create the video and report required for the competition before 24th March, which is also a deadline for project's timeline. We will solve this problems by dividing the tasks as even as possible so each team member will use all their resources to achieve the goal.

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Estimations

We are in a good position in terms of the timeline and seem to be ahead of the plans. If we don't face many ground-breaking problems in terms of chat-bot and API connection, we will very soon achieve the required proof of concept with the set of requirements mentioned in the MoSCoW document, and will be able to take it to a further level with extra features. We are also moving ahead with project documentation and website development planning, and are going to work on the project video for entering MS Imagine Cup competition. This will also put us ahead of the initial plans for creating needed documentation.

Plan for Next Weeks

We will be aiming for achieving the final proof of concept with additional features to the requirements by the end of the month, which will put us further ahead of the timeline. This allows us to focus more on the final documentation of the project as well, which will be helpful for the master students that are going to connect our chat-bot to the real spot market engine.

Individual Paragraphs

Maya Afshar

In the past weeks, I managed to move the team in the right direction and tried to assign the right tasks to each member for each sprint in iterations 1 and 2. This further planning lead us into getting ahead of timeline and moving forward as fast as possible. I arranged the team meeting with the master students which gave us the vital data schema. I also planned for further development of iteration 2 as usual. In terms of development, I worked on the chat-bot and the LUIS instance. I cleaned the source file and managed the string constants and contributed in user location handling. I also created new entities and sub entities for LUIS and trained it.

Raymond Tan

Since the previous report, I have worked on giving the chatbot the ability to store and remember the user's location so that it could retrieve recommendations that were relevant to the user's present location. I also made slight improvements to the user-experience while chatting with the bot, adding a 'typing' notification to show that the bot had received a user's query and was processing a reply, to make conversing with the bot feel more natural. This week, we were able to obtain the data schema for the data returned from

the recommendation engine. In part due to the groundwork that we have laid out in previous weeks, I was able to get up-and-running with the new data quickly. I wrote code to parse the returned data and extract relevant information, presenting recommended products to the user in a scrolling image carousel of products.

Alex Hale

Continuing on from my previous work I have been implementing the routes for our dummy API, following our meeting with Harsha the API I documented from Spot Market will be extended to support the functionality we need based on the detail we received. I am also going to modify the behaviour of some routes to match the new behaviour of the Spot Market engine that has been implemented by Harsha's team. I have most of the core functionality now implemented in the dummy api, and over the next few weeks I plan to extend this to support all of the functionality we will currently need so that we can hook the Spot Market Bot into it, this will also require adding some dummy data from the UCL such that we can demonstrate the location handling of the bot.