

# Microsoft Spot Market Team 1 – Team 5

Maya Afshar, Raymond Tan, Alex Hale

9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## Past Weeks

During the past weeks, we continued our work on the Proof of Concept coding development and completing stories made in the backlog. We have managed to handle the initial versions of bot framework and LUIS, and connecting them to each other. We have also managed to come to a final agreement with our client regarding the spot market engine, as the given project is not complete and currently other students are working on improving the machine.

Therefore, instead of the spot market engine, we will create an emulation of the recommender on a virtual machine that can emulate the abilities of the spot market engine and later, the working spot market engine can easily get connected to the bot instead.

We are trying to follow a weekly goal-based timeline to be able to achieve the proof of concept as soon as possible.

## Meetings

### *Team Meetings*

- 31th January – *All Team members present*  
Checked each member's progress. Discussed the new bugs of Spot market engine. Created the set of questions and notes to mention in the client meeting, especially regarding the spot market engine issues. Discussed each member's role for the upcoming week and how to manage achieving each of the required tasks.
- 7<sup>th</sup> February – *All Team members present*  
Checked each member's work during the past week, discussing new set of sprints on the VSTS to start working on the Recommendation API and continuing the work on LUIS and bot framework. More specifically, the requirements of the new API were checked and sprints for setting up the virtual machine, choosing the right platform, development of the restful API and creation of documentation were majorly planned. Also, the LUIS and bot framework connection and further implementation for the bot framework was discussed.
- 9<sup>th</sup> February – *All Team members present*  
Discussion on documentation of the development, deployment and testing process and how to act appropriately regarding that.

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## Client Meetings

- 1<sup>th</sup> February– *All Team members present*

During the meeting, we updated the client on the progress of our bot - namely, that the Bot was now registered with the Microsoft Bot Framework and is now online on the Telegram and Skype messaging services. In addition, we mentioned that we were in the progress of setting up the language model for natural language understanding with the Microsoft LUIS platform.

We raised issues with regards to the continued problems with getting the Spot Market recommendation engine online and operational. We asked whether there was sample data or a description of the data types that the recommendation engine could return, but unfortunately the client did not retain any of the engine's output. The client also did not have any further interaction with the recommendation engine beyond having seen it operating on the previous developers' screens. The client referred us to a group of Masters students at UCL that have taken over the mantle of the development of the engine and suggested that we approach them for assistance. The client additionally remarked that the new team was also experiencing issues with deployment of the engine and suggested that we communicate with the Masters team for technical issues regarding the recommendation engine, and we can continue the development with an emulation of the system.

## Tasks Completed

- Completing last week's backlog
- Creating a new set of backlogs for the week
- Getting to an agreement with our client regarding using an emulation API of the spot market engine, as the engine does is not functioning
- Setting up the strategy of weekly goals
- Continuing to fill in documentation requirements

## Estimations

As we have managed to solve the problems with the spot market engine, we can focus on continuing the development, deployment and testing our project and keep up with development of the recommendation component of the proof of concept. If we continue the current pace, we should still should be able to deliver the PoC on time.

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## Problems

As the spot market engine problems, have been brought up and we have agreed with the client to create our own API emulation, there might be new challenges ahead of us. We should change few plans and technology tools that we already had in mind. At the moment, we do not have any issue with the new changes, but we are ready for any bug or issues that we might face regarding these changes.

## Plan for Next Weeks

In the next few weeks, we will focus on achieving our weekly goals and solving the problems we might face based upon the changes of the plans regarding the spot market engine. We will try to apply the new changes to the timeline and requirements and discuss it with our client in the next client meeting. Our main goal, is to deliver the PoC with the needed requirements on time, and that will stay as our focus point.

## Individual Paragraphs

*Maya Afshar*

My focus in the past two weeks were creating a balanced set of stories in the backlogs and task assignment for each team member, and planning a horizon for the following few weeks for deploying a fully tested and working proof of concept by the end of the term. I have also managed the client relations and our negotiations on the issues of spot market engine and coming to an agreement. Other than the project management, I have also lead the development of the workload and contributed to it by developing the LUIS instance with initial entities and intents, connecting it to the bot framework skeleton and getting the bot to recognise the initial set of intents and entities. I have also considered the requirements needed for keeping track of steps taken for creating the product documentation and how to manage them.

*Raymond Tan*

After setting up and registering the bot on the Bot Framework, I have been working on setting up code to handle the execution flow from when the user starts a conversation with the bot (to establish a user profile, etc.) to when the user asks the bot for product recommendations. Once we have the API for the recommendation engine ready, I will be working on making the calls to these API endpoints to submit queries for products or services and to parse information retrieved from the engine.

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*Alex Hale*

Since the last report I have largely focused on getting the Spot Market engine running, and I have had some success now in running the API for clients, although the code for the machine learning section of the engine seems to be unimplemented and so it cannot be used. In order to allow the project to progress I have started documenting the routes implemented by the API, which are unfortunately different from the documentation, using this I hope to create a web service that can emulate the engine, and as such Microsoft can later use it with the actual engine and it should remain functional.