

Microsoft Spot Market Team 1

Maya Afshar, Raymond Tan, Alex Hale

17th November 2016

Past Weeks

During the past weeks, we have looked into the spot market recommendation engine code, and also have started off the experiments on the structure of the bot that we will be building. We also have set up the website for our client and TAs and will upload the result of our research and experiments, reports and the rest on the website.

For the structure of our research, we have decided to first take a general look into the current bots and AI systems that are already built and users are using them, and then get deeper into each feature of the bot. Therefore, our first survey will gather data on the user experience on using bots on different platforms.

Meetings

Team Meetings

As we had the reading week, we did most of the communications through email communications and Skype for business.

- 15th November – *All Team members present*
Discussed the final set of requirements and prepared the basic structure of experiments and surveys. Discussed the plans and issues with our TA and made sure we are on track.
- 17th November – *All Team members present*
Worked on the first experiment and building up the survey. Discussed the future plans regarding the experiments and prototyping.

Tasks Completed

- Website set up and uploaded the
- Structures of experiments made
- First experiment made (Survey on usage of bot)
- Bot framework preparation for making prototype done

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Estimations

In terms of research and experiments on the bot material, our team is totally on track and moving forward. Although, we will need to get a working virtual machine running the spot market engine on it soon as possible so that we will learn the API and know what functionalities we will exactly get from the engine.

Problems

We had an issue with compiling the code for the spot market engine, therefore we are not fully aware of the major functionalities of the engine. Therefore, we have requested for a virtual machine which runs the spot market engine and therefore we will be able to use the API built for recommendation. We also cannot find a proper documentation for the REST API made for the recommendation engine which means we might need to spend time on looking into the code and finding the available functionalities of the engine.

Plan for Next Weeks

In the following weeks we are planning to continue our experiments and upload the results on the website. Also in the meantime, we will be looking into ways of prototyping the bot and at least building up the pseudo-functions of the bot. We are hoping for getting the spot market engine to work as well.

Individual Paragraphs

Maya Afshar

During the past weeks I focused on the structure of our path towards learning about the ways of getting the bot better through experiments. Also, other than the team leading roles such as client relations and controlling the team, I started working directly with the Microsoft bot framework to be able to build up a basic prototype after gathering the major functionalities and points through research and experiments.

Raymond Tan

This week, I worked with the rest of the team to outline the experiments that we could conduct for the project. I suggested variations on interface and methods, sharing ideas on ways we could authenticate and start a session with a user via a natural-language-based interface, where interaction was sequential in nature. We are currently experiencing issues with code developed by an earlier team. As one of our requirements was to integrate our bot with a

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pre-existing codebase, it was necessary to deploy the earlier code in a working environment to accept API calls. However, the deployment documentation left by the earlier team has not been completed and the archive the previous team has created is missing various deployment scripts referred to by their documentation. In addition, the API documentation provided was not fully consistent with the API endpoints implemented in the actual code.

Alex Hale

Over the last two weeks I managed to finish creating the basic project website, which uses Jekyll so it is generated from markdown files meaning that over the course of the project we can easily keep the site up to date without having to manually modify the html for the site or repeat our layouts. I have also looked into the code of the Spot Market Engine a bit to try to understand the API it implements. Over the next two weeks I intend to improve the design of the site and also help work on developing the experiments to understand how best to create the bot.