

Microsoft Spot Market Team 1

Maya Afshar, Raymond Tan, Alex Hale

1st December 2016

Past Weeks

During the past weeks, we have mainly focused on the structure of website and how to improve it. The website now has the major sections for presenting the bot and its usage, and we are working on improving it. We have also made the base structure of our experiments and how are we planning to conduct them. We have a set of improvements for each section and each member is responsible for improving one of the issues in terms of research, experiments and website contents.

Meetings

Team Meetings

- 22nd November – *All Team members present*
Discussed the Major points that needed to be added to the website and how to structure them. Also worked on the research and experiments.
- 29th November – *All Team members present*
Changes made were discussed among us and with our TA. Improvement points on website were also made and tasks were assigned to each member for improving the website.
- 1st December – *All Team members present*
Further work on the experiments and research. Discussion over bot functionalities and how to find more edge cases for testing and experiments.

Client Meetings

- 23rd November – *All Team members present*
Discussed the issues with the recommendation engine. The client asked us to keep trying and getting the engine to work on our systems. We also showed our progress on the website and bot experiments to the client over the meeting.

Tasks Completed

- Main structure of website and design done
- Made further research on functionalities
- Made set of experiments to conduct based on bot's functionalities.
- Improvement tasks for website assigned to members.

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Estimations

At the moment we are on track for delivering the website on time with all of the experiments, research, requirements and descriptions. We believe there would not be any issues with completing the given tasks on time.

Problems

We still are having issues regarding the recommendation engine as there are several difficulties with the deployment and we are meant to spend more time on it, possibly getting it to work on an Azure virtual machine. We hope we would be able to get this issue fixed so for the next term we would have no issues with getting recommendations from the API for the bot.

Plan for Next Weeks

We will finish up the website by finalising the experiments, requirements, research, and make a hypothetical prototype for the bot to have a better set of experiments and get as close as possible to the implementation of the project.

Individual Paragraphs

Maya Afshar

During the past weeks, I have managed to setup team meeting for discussing the major features of the website. I have also worked on the experiments and tried to make a general structure for 3 main points regarding the bot functionalities and making experiments for each of the edge cases. More than that, I have tried to manage the tasks related to the website based on the notes we got from our TA and gave tasks to each member to keep the work fair and get the tasks done.

Raymond Tan

Since the previous report, I have worked with the team to outline and formalise an API for the interaction between our bot and the recommendation engine. With a standardised API schema, we would be able to move forward with planning and feature development. We also continued work on planning experiments for the bot, and I contributed ideas for experiments on interface and user interaction. Being in charge of research, I worked on the Research section of our project website and included the research on bot technologies and language understanding models that we have conducted so far.

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Alex Hale

I have over the last two weeks worked on further improving the style of the project website, as well as contributing to the development of experiments. I have also worked on deployment of the Spot Market recommendation engine and have managed to deploy the MongoDB database and uploaded the data to the blob storage on Azure. Over the next two weeks I hope to help finish the list of experiments as well as work on deploying the matchbox recommender using Azure ML.