Microsoft Spot Market Team 1

Maya Afshar, Raymond Tan, Alex Hale   26th January 2017

Past Weeks

During the past weeks, we started of the development of the system based on the planned timeline in order to move towards achieving the proof of concept. We use VSTS Scrum planning to create backlogs for our sprints and assess the workload. We move towards achieving the initial version of the chat-bot by focusing on the main structure of the system which are the recommendation engine (API), Bot framework and the natural language processing. At this stage each of the members are assigned to work on one area, and during initial integration which will happen in the following week, each member will present the findings to the other members so that everyone will be able to work on the integrated project.

We also delivered our pitch to clients during the presentations sessions which received a positive feedback from our client.

Meetings

Team Meetings

- 17th January – *All Team members present*
  Discussing the issues of spot market engine's final given script. Creating a set of bugs given by script, however the list could not be big due to the fact that the error given was on the early stages of compilation.

- 19th January – *All Team members present*
  Discussion on the structure of the pitch. Making a list of notes to mention on the slides and during the pitch.

- 24th January – *All Team members present*
  Working on the structure of workload. Assigning tasks to each person on VSTS to work on specific parts of PoC structure, meaning the bot framework, NLP and the recommendation API.

Client Meetings

- Due to the fact that our client was not responsive during the start time of the term (9th January onwards) We were not able arrange a meeting with them. We could manage to see them on our pitch session on Friday, 20th January, and although we emailed them on setting up a meeting few times, we did not hear back from them.

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Tasks Completed

- Finishing and submitting group videos
- Creating client relations for after Christmas holidays
- Making the
- Creating set of backlogs and tasks on VSTS to control workload
- Started working on the main components of the app (Bot framework, LUIS Natural language processing and Microsoft recommendation API)

Estimations

At the moment, we have started working on the initial prototype of the PoC and we believe we will be able to achieve our milestones based on the timeline. In a more detailed way, we are working on all three parts of the chat-bot diagram, and this approach will lead us into a faster path for creating the initial prototype.

Problems

After working on the newest python script given to us for deploying and running the Spot market engine, we still have not been able to get the engine to work. Therefore, we were advised to stop debugging the MS Spot market engine and totally focus on the development of the PoC, and instead of the spot market engine, use the MS recommendation API. We are still in process of discussing this decision with our client. However, we believe the outcome of the discussion will be positive and we will be able to work on the PoC using the recommendation API.

Plan for Next Weeks

During the next few weeks we will combine our findings and developments and create a basic integrated chat-bot, and from there we will start applying the functionalities of the final proof of concept to the code.

Individual Paragraphs

Maya Afshar

During the past weeks I went through few documentations on Scrum planning of VSTS in order to plan better for the team's workflow and assign tasks for a fair contribution of each member. I also started working with Microsoft LUIS natural language processing service and trained a basic model of LUIS to be used in the integration of the three core sections of the chat-bot. I also arranged the pitch slides and did the presentation for the pitch.

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Raymond Tan

I have started to work on the Spot Market chatbot, with the goal of establishing a baseline and setting up the necessary configuration for further development and integration with the two other components of the chatbot natural language processing and the recommendation engine. I set up an app service on Azure's cloud platform, configuring it to automatically deploy from our code repository, and registered the bot with the Microsoft Bot Framework. I have also registered handles on the Telegram and Skype messaging platforms for the chatbot. At present, the bot is up and running - the next step would be to write the logic to handle different kinds of input from the user and pass them through natural language processing.

Alex Hale

Over the last two weeks I have focussed on continuing my efforts to deploy the spot market engine, whilst I do now have access to the script that is for uploading data to the database, I have been unable to deploy the database using it as the data is missing for certain components of the system, hopefully this problem can be resolved and over the next two weeks I can succeed in deploying the engine. As a backup solution I have also looked into using the Microsoft Recommendation API in place of the Spot Market Engine, it would be capable of serving most of the core functionality of the engine, however certain elements of the Spot Market Engine that our requirements were based upon are not able to be handled by it. If I do not succeed in getting the engine to deploy, by having worked on a backup we will still however have another option capable of serving the core functionality for the proof of concept.