Chat bots, and the artificial intelligence technology that enables them, are on the rise and constantly evolving. While most chat bot tasks are relatively elementary for now, that is unlikely to be the case for long. Some industry observers believe that by the end of 2017, only about one-third of all customer-service queries will require the attention of human representatives.

In this back-to-base workshop we will be discussing the rise of the chatbots: where they came from, why they have suddenly taken over, different approaches to building them and will try our hand at building a simple chat bot using the Microsoft Bot Framework and LUIS.

You will need to come along with a laptop1, an Azure subscription (MSDN allowance should be fine) and a healthy fear of a future where humanity is overrun by robots.

1 You will also need installed on this laptop:

* Visual Studio 2017
* Microsoft Bot Emulator (<https://github.com/Microsoft/BotFramework-Emulator/releases>)