Initially, the end game of the Essilor Virtual Agent work was to demonstrate the accessibility and power of Cognitive system through the cloud-based platform. To this end, we were given open scope to work with. In four days, three grads with limited technical/coding experience were able to teach a robot to be able to introduce a visual therapy game for children - a demonstration of how accessible/impressive Cloud system really is.

As part of our further work with Essi we now leverage numerous Cloud services. These services include the Visual Recognition, Natural Language Classifier (NLC), Speech to Text, and Personality Insights services. The robot program that we've written now enables a person to control the robot verbally.

1. The user speaks into a microphone and Speech to Text takes the audio data and converts it to text.

2. This text is analysed by an instance of NLC, which we have trained to recognise a number of intents.

3. These intents are mapped to responses, which the robot then speaks or acts out.

4. You can ask the robot to identify an image that you place in front of it - a printed picture or picture on a tablet/smart phone work fine.