edX

Azure Bot Service Types
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Believe it or not, a large number of bots originally started as desktop apps, mobile apps, and websites. Especially in corporate environments, where organization-specific business rules and authentication apply, a bot experience may be just another step in a long history of providing a service to users. With this understanding, Azure Bot Service has been designed to be flexible about where and how a bot is hosted and registered.

Imagine, for example, you already have a rich set of features and storage mechanisms available in your current organization, and simply want to expose these services to a bot experience. In this scenario, most of your backend logic can stay where it is, and a lightweight microservice can be put in place to power a bot. Or maybe you already have a full-blown bot implementation, hosted in your own environment, and simply want to make it available to other users in a secure, scalable way. Or finally, imagine you are starting from scratch, have no where to host it, and have no idea how to get started. All of these scenarios are common, and supported, by Azure Bot Service.

Azure Bot Service Types

To make it easy for developers who need or want this type of flexibility, Azure Bot Service provides three (3) service types:

- Functions Bot
- Web App Bot
- Bot Channels Registration

Functions Bot

An Azure Bot Service, created as a Functions Bot, provisions your bot to run using an Azure Function App. Azure Function Apps are an event-driven, compute-on-demand services with capabilities to implement code triggered by events, including on-premises systems. **Azure Functions are "serverless" microservices.**

Web App Bot

An Azure Bot Service, created as a Web App Bot, provisions your bot to run using an Azure Web App. Azure Web Apps are a service for hosting web applications, REST APIs, and mobile back ends, and can be run on Windows or Linux. Using Azure Bot Service based on a Web Bot App is the most common scenario, and is ideal when starting from scratch, as **a Web App Bot provides optional scenario-based templates to get you started**.

Bot Channels Registration

An Azure Bot Service, created as a Bot Channel Registration, only registers an existing, hosted bot with the Azure Bot Service. Using a Bot Channel Registration is ideal for scenarios where you have an existing bot in production, and simply want to leverage the the Azure Bot Service to make a bot available to supported channels, such as Skype, Microsoft Teams, or Facebook Messenger. This scenario is ideal for internal corporate or organizational apps where logic and data need to reside on-premises.

Since a Functions Bot is really just a variation of a Web App Bot (and we want to take advantage of the full power of Azure Bot Service, the Microsoft Bot Framework, and especially Azure Bot Service templates) the best place to start is with the **Azure Web App Bot**.

Quick Check (Multiple Selection)

1/1 point (graded)
Which of the following are valid Azure Bot Service types? (Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Enterprise Bot

- ☑ Bot Channels Registration

- ☑ Web App Bot

- ☑ Functions Bot

✔

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✔   Correct (1/1 point)

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