

November 02, 2015

# The Bot! Zine Issue #2

by [Stefan](#)

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## Hello again

I'm very happy to see that the number of subscribers grew from previous week. If you missed the first issue, you can find it [on the archive page](#).

Here are the bot-related news and updates from previous week!

## Botwiki.org updates

Probably the biggest update is that we are now starting to translate content to other languages. A huge Thank you goes to [Héctor](#), who already translated a few bot pages to Spanish. At the time, there are no plans to specifically call out the translated pages (for example tag them for easy browsing), but when you land on a page that exists in additional languages, you will see a note saying something like this:

*Last updated: October 24, 2015 , also available in: [Spanish](#)*

@11\_11\_bot



See the the [@11\\_11\\_bot](#) for a live example. If you'd like to contribute to Botwiki.org as a volunteer translator, please see [the instructions in our GitHub repo](#).

One nice update is also that when sharing a bot page on Twitter or Facebook, the screenshot of the bot's page will now show up (it would only show the site's logo

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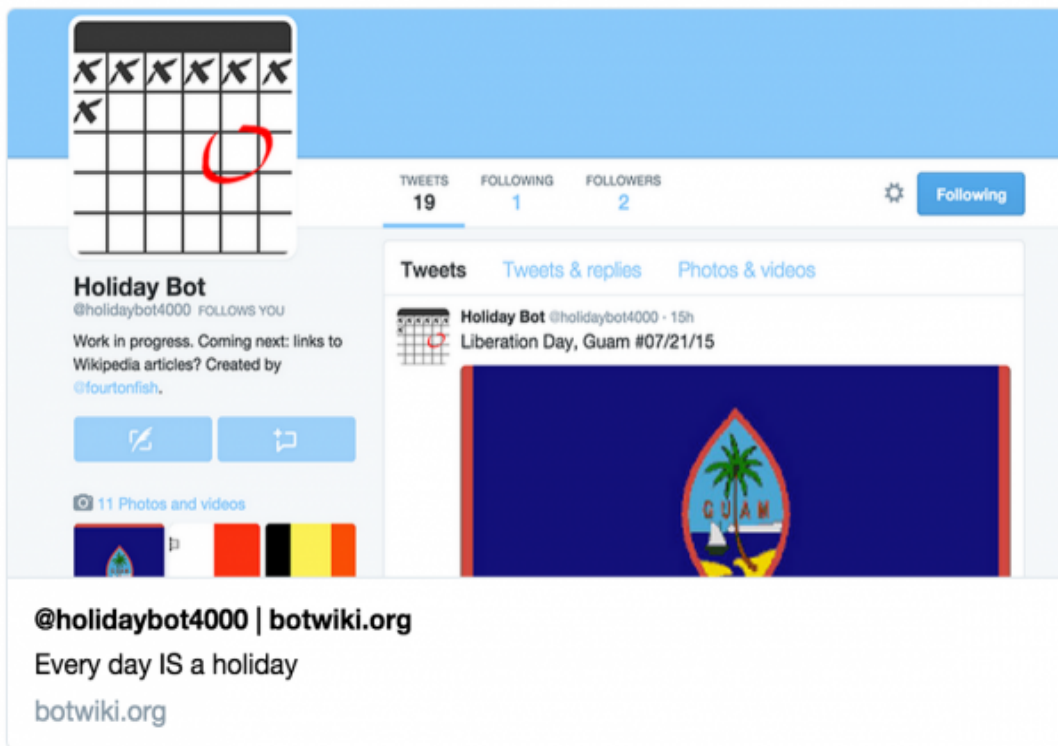




**Stefan Bohacek**

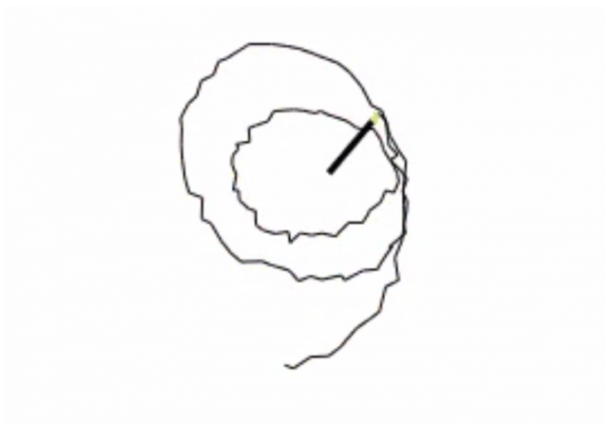
@fourtonfish

botwiki.org/bots/twitterbo...



And lastly, we have a new [Projects](#) page that is being currently built up, but already lists the core members of our Botwiki team and the projects we are focusing on right now. I would also like to officially welcome [Kasey](#) who is very excited about bots and helping us grow our site and related projects. (And we're excited to have her on our team!)

## Bots



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were a few new bots made last week that I particularly enjoyed

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- [@rikersbot](#) is a collaborative coding and storytelling project linking Columbia University students and young people incarcerated at Rikers to learn coding and tell stories
- [@spinnymachine](#) draws curves for you
- the [@needsref](#) bot catalogues failed assertions from Wikipedia
- and [@himawari8bot](#) will show you our planet, animated

Be sure to also check out the [most recently added Twitter bots](#). (I'm still working on a way to browse the latest bots regardless of the network, but lately we've been getting mostly only Twitter bots.)

And as a reminder, you can use [the bot submission form](#) to add a bot that you made yourself or that you like.

## Events

Last week had some very interesting events, but here's what we can look forward to now:

- The annual [NaNoGenMo](#) officially started yesterday. It makes November a month dedicated to writing programs/bots/algorithms that generate a novel of 50k+ words
- And with [PROCJAM](#), the focus shifts to generating a "game/nongame/artgame/thing/tool/toy/experiment/art piece"
- And if you're in London on November 14, definitely check out [Poetry, Artificial Intelligence and Computational Creativity](#)

## Botmaker Profiles

I really enjoyed my last week's interview, unfortunately the person I spoke with was in the middle of traveling, so the second issue of *Botmaker Profiles* is going to be a bit delayed. I will be sending out a follow up email this week with a link. Definitely stay tuned!

But hey, I have some exciting news to hold you over while waiting!

## Monthly Bot Challenge

Starting today, every first Monday of the month we are going to announce the topic of our **Monthly Bot Challenge**. I am going to use this first challenge to fully flesh out the rules and find the best technical setup, but for now, the rules are going to be very simple:

1. On the **first Monday of the month**, we will announce the topic in this newsletter
2. You will then have **three weeks** to create a bot inspired by the topic. (You can make the bot open source, but it's not a condition for entering)

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3. **Add your bot to Botwiki** via the form at <https://botwiki.org/submit-your-bot> and tag it with ***monthlybotchallenge***.
4. After the three weeks, we will send out a form where people will be able to **vote for their favorite bot**.
5. The **voting will be closed after a week** and the winner and a new topic will be announced on the first Monday of the next month.

The topic for the very first Monthly Bot Challenge is:

**SPACE!**

If you need some inspiration, have a look at [bots tagged #space on Botwiki.org](#). And definitely be sure to join [Botmakers.org](#) to share ideas, resources, and find collaboration partners. We are also going to be listening to ideas and feedback on how to make the Monthly Bot Challenge better.

## Reading list

- [Marvin Minsky Reflects on a Life in AI](#) -- A founding father of artificial intelligence talks about the great breakthroughs of his early years. *MIT Technology Review*
- [Inside the surprisingly sexist world of artificial intelligence](#), *Quartz*
- [Hi, Robot -- Work and Life in the Age of Automation](#), *Foreign Affairs* (requires free registration)
- [If We Want Humane AI, It Has to Understand All Humans](#), *WIRED*
- [Fuck Selfies](#) -- a response to the [controversial selfie-rating bot](#), by [@swayandsea](#)
- [Generating Captions: Describing Videos with Neural Networks](#), article by [@samim](#)
- [Skynet for Beginners - Using a Neural Network to Train a Ruby Twitter Bot](#), video of a [Full Stack Fest](#) talk by [Rin Raeuber](#)

## Wrap up

As I mentioned above, we now have a new section on [Botwiki.org](#) for [core and community projects](#). We invite everyone to bring their hobby and side projects to [Botmakers.org](#) and see if anyone else is interested in collaborating or at least to provide useful feedback.

Thanks a lot for reading, see you again next week!



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