

November 16, 2015

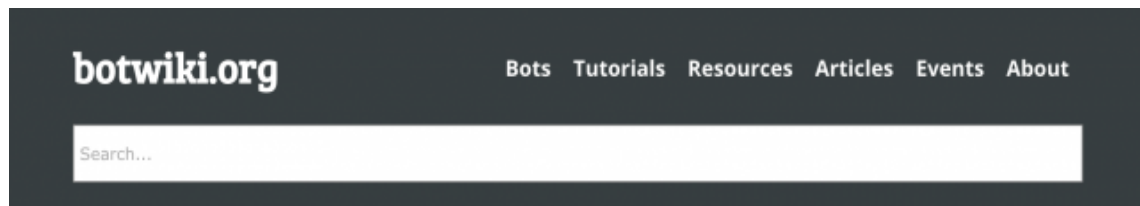
The Bot! Zine Issue #4

by [Stefan](#)

Hey there

Welcome to Bot! zine's fourth issue!

Botwiki.org updates



Welcome To Botwiki.org

Botwiki.org is an [open-source](#) collection of [tutorials](#), [articles](#), [datasets](#) and [other resources](#) for creating **useful, interesting, artistic and friendly online bots** -- *smart software agents that do fun or useful stuff* -- for [Twitter](#), [Slack](#), [IRC](#) and other online networks.

Some examples of such bots include:

- [a reminder bot](#)
- [a poker game bot](#)
- [a bot that lets you catch Pokemon](#)
- [a bot that opens the door for you](#)
- [a bot that tweets every time your dog barks](#)



The number of curated bots on Botwiki just crossed 200! And that's not counting the translated bot pages. I added quite a few bots (see the **Bots** section below) and

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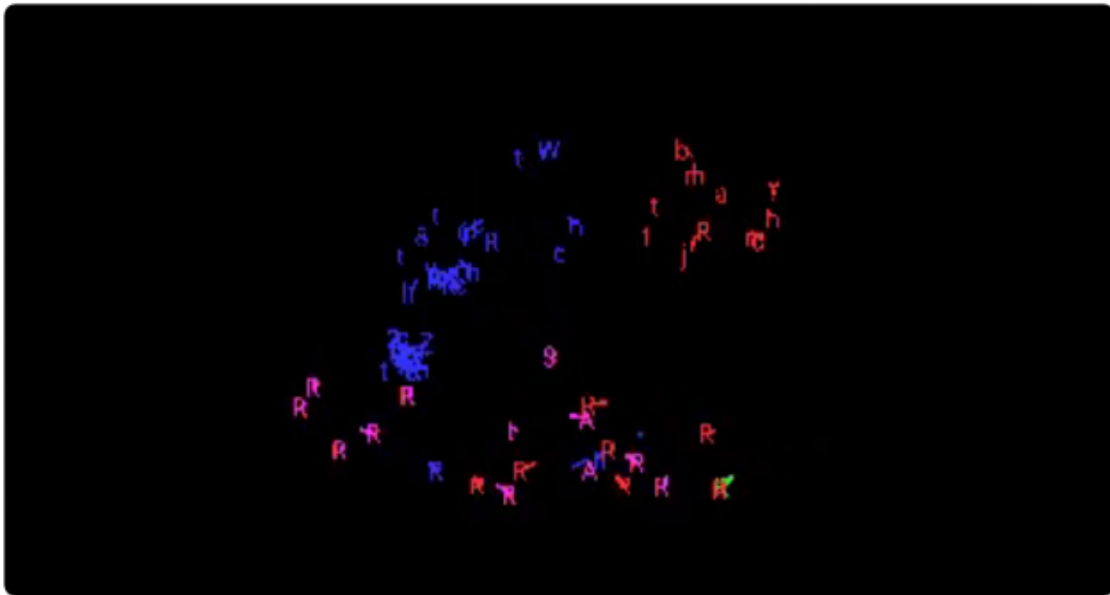
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I am starting to work a bit more on the website's design. I started by replacing most of the illustrations from oldbookillustrations.com with screenshots of selected bots.

If anyone has an opinion what would make the site look better and make it easier to use, I'm [always listening](#)!

Bots



There were quite a few additions last week, including:

- [@FireworksBot](#), which creates fireworks from your tweets
- [@ObliqueBot](#), for fans of Brian Eno and aphorisms
- and [@MagicRealismBot](#) for fans of Gabriel García Márquez
- [@friendAssessor](#), to assess your Twitter friendships
- [@whatshouldiknit](#), to give you ideas for your next knitting project
- [@dream_sandwich](#), which can make any sandwich
- [@on_this_day_bot](#), tweeting a random event from the current day in the past
- and for the want of a bot, [@HypernymBot](#) was made
- if you'd like to help beta-test a game Twitter bot, [see this tweet](#).

Also check out the most recently added [Twitter](#) and [Slack](#) bots.

Events

[NaNoGenMo](#) is still going on! And [Kasey](#) is started [a new meetup group](#) in the San Francisco Bay Area. Their next meetup is [coming up](#), and be sure to follow [@BayAreaBotArts](#) for updates!

I sat down to speak with Nick Harasym, a Platform Support Specialist at [DigitalOcean](#). You'll probably believe [what happened next](#).

I will also take this opportunity to mention that Botwiki and all our related sites are hosted on DigitalOcean and one way to support us is to sign up [using our referral link](#), which will also earn you a \$10 starter credit.

Reading list

Google open sourced their machine learning system, [TensorFlow](#). Check out [this article](#) and [this video](#) to see why this is pretty cool news. (And [this Wired article](#) to see why it's not really cool enough.)

Also --

- [Five takeaways on the state of natural language processing](#) (wise.io)
- Here's a [great tutorial](#) for [cheapbotsdonequick.com](#)
- [How newsrooms use Slack to stay on the pulse of breaking news](#) (ijnet-english.tumblr.com)
- And not to be outdone by Google: [Microsoft open-sources DMTK, a distributed machine learning library](#) (venturebeat.com)

Botmaker Badges



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going to be issuing botmaker badges using Mozilla's Open

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[Badges \(openbadges.org\)](https://openbadges.org). We are going to be starting with two:

Botmaker Badge

To apply, simply add your bot to Botwiki using our [submit form](#), and in the description, mention that you're applying for a badge and include your email so we can send you your badge. The email will not, of course, be published.

Alternatively, you can submit your bot and send an email to stefan@fourtonfish.com (or a [DM on Twitter](#)) with your email address and a link to your bot.

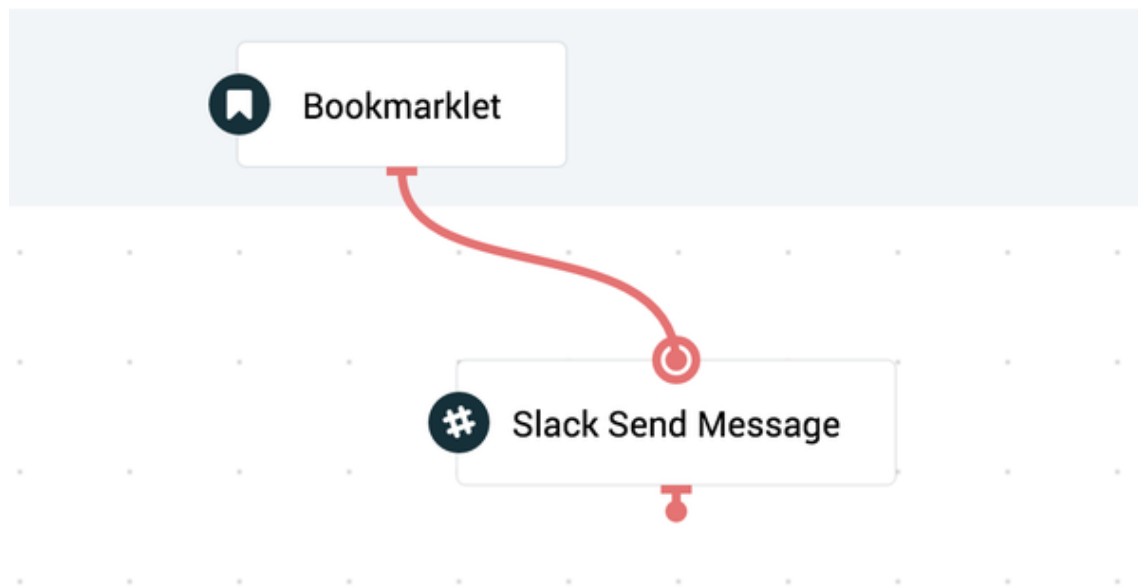
Monthly Bot Challenge Badge

This badge will be awarded to the winner of our [Monthly Bot Challenge](#).

Once you get your badge, you can add it to your [Mozilla Backpack](#) and show it off, [like this!](#)

Wrap up

I'm still looking to hear from teachers and other educators who use Slack. And while my work on the OpenShift tutorials are temporarily on hold, I am now looking into [Dexter](#), which is still in Beta, but already looks pretty awesome; for example, this is how you create a Slack bot with it:



Pretty neat – and there are also modules for Twitter!

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And, that's a real wrap up now! Thank you for reading and see you next week :-)



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