European Delphi Conference

6,7 october 2016 - ROMA

Create Your Bot with Delphi

Crea il tuo Bot con Delphi





Who am 1?

About me



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Via De Gasperi 14 42019 Scandiano (RE) ITALY



You might find interesting...

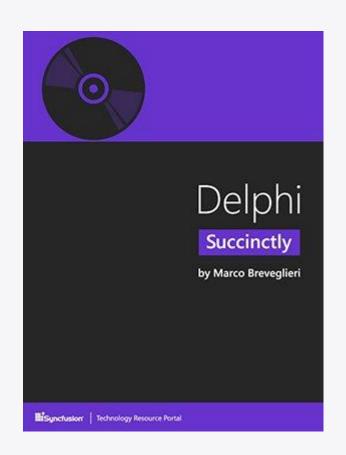


Delphi Succinctly

Learn the fundamentals of Delphi to build a variety of solutions for many devices and platforms in about 100 pages.

Find more here:

http://bit.ly/delphi-succinctly



You might find interesting...



Delphi Podcast

The first Italian podcast about Delphi.

Listen here:

http://www.delphipodcast.com

and also take part in it!



You might find interesting...

ITDEVCO

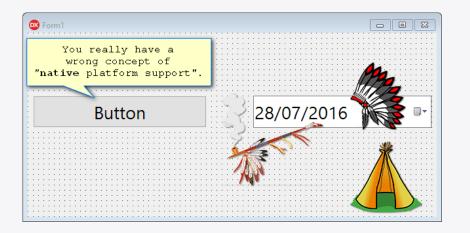
Component Tales

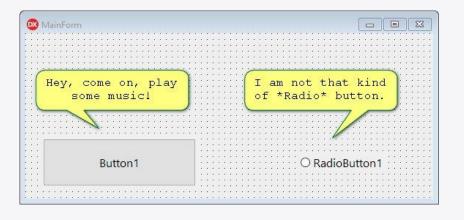


Find out what Delphi components do when you close the IDE...

Smile (if you can) here:

∠→ https://twitter.com/ComponentTales







Bots!



What is a Bot?



A **«(Ro)bot»** is a software application that runs automated tasks over the Internet.

Typically, bots perform tasks that are both simple and structurally repetitive, at a much higher rate than would be possible for a human alone.



Bot Purposes



- Communicate with other users (that's our case 👍)
 - Instant Messaging and IRC
 - Social Bots
 - Telegram Bots
- Commercial Purposes
 - Auctions and Bets (eBay, Betfair, ...)
 - Application and Content Stores (Apple Store, Google Play, YouTube ...)
- Malicious Purposes
 - Spam bots
 - DDos attacker
- Gaming
 - MMORPG

What you can do



- Get customized notification and news
- Integrate your messaging experience with external services
- Create your own custom service
- Create games (NEW! in Telegram Bots)

- Smart newspapers
- Weather forecast
- Local news or events
- Track shipping
- Translate content on-the-fly
- Import photos, videos and content
- Build a knowledge base
- Get cool!

What you can do





Why Chat Bots?



- Bots are a lot easier to install than mobile apps
- Bots are easily distributed
- Quality mobile apps are expensive to build, mantain and deploy
- You don't have to deal with security aspects
- Moving complexity to the cloud reduces a user's cognitive load

Natural Language Processing



NLP is the ability of a computer program to understand human speech as it is written or spoken.

- It makes computer to perform useful tasks with the natural languages humans use
- It is based on machine learning
- Supports both speech and text

But we will not deal with NLP in this speech.

Platforms and Frameworks



Just to name a few...

- Microsoft Bot Framework
- Telegram API/SDK
- Facebook Messenger Bots
- Google Allo (?)



Telegram

Get to know Telegram

What is Telegram?



Telegram is a cloud-based instant messaging (IM) service.

Users can send and exchange

- Simple messages
- Photos and videos
- Stickers
- Virtually any type of file

- Supports (custom) encrypted (E2E) messaging
- Cloud Based Architecture
- Native app for every platform, including Web
- Client-side code is open-source
- Server-side code is proprietary and closed-source

Available Clients



Telegram supports a wide range of devices and operating systems.

- Web
- Windows
- Android
- iOS
- Windows Phone
- OSX
- Linux
- Ubuntu Touch

Telegram Facts



- 100 million Monthly Active Users
- 350 K of signups per day
- 15 billion daily message sent
- Has proven to be quite robust
- Has a good Bot platform!

Telegram Bot Platform



- Release in June 2015: recent but powerful!
- Updated just some day ago (added Game support)
- Open to everyone without barriers
- No approval process required

- Allows 1-1 conversations
- Can be added to groups and channels
- Can be invoked "on the fly" (inline bots)

Difference with humans



- No online status and no last seen timestamps
- Can't initiate conversation with users
- Username always ends in "bot"
- When added to a group, bots do not receive all messages by default
- Bots never eat, sleep or complain (unless expressly programmed otherwise)

Let's see some sample



Comune di Reggio Emilia BOT (@ComuneREbot)

https://telegram.me/ComuneREbot

Nice Bots:

- TrackBot (https://botfactory.info/trackbot/)
- Giphy Bot (https://telegram.me/gif)
- TerremotiBot (https://botfactory.info/terremotibot/)
- CinemasBot (https://telegram.me/cinemasbot)

Want more?

http://botsfortelegram.com/



Create a Bot

Let's create a Bot with Telegram

How do bots work?



- Send messages and commands to bots by opening a chat with them or by adding them to groups.
- Send requests directly from the input field by typing the bot's @username and a query (inline bots)

- Messages, commands and requests sent by users are passed to the software running on Telegram servers.
- Telegram servers handles all encryption and communication with the Telegram API for you.
- You communicate with this server via a simple HTTPS-interface that offers a simplified version of the Telegram API: the Bot API.

Create a new Bot





BotFather is the one bot to rule them all.

It will help you create new bots and change settings for existing ones.

«One Bot to rule them all, One Bot to find them

One Bot to bring them all and in the darkness bind them»

-- The Lord of the Bots, J.R.R.Tolkien

Bot API



- The Bot API is an HTTP-based api
- It supports GET and POST requests

Making Requests

- All queries must be served over HTTPS and in this form: https://api.telegram.org/bot<token>/METHOD_NAME
- All queries must be made using UTF-8
- All methods are case-insensitive
- The response is a JSON object which:
 - always has an 'ok' boolean field.
 - has a 'result' field if the response is ok.
 - may have an optional 'description' field which contains some info about the occurred error
 - also has a 'error_code' in the case of errors.

Let's test it!

How to get updates?



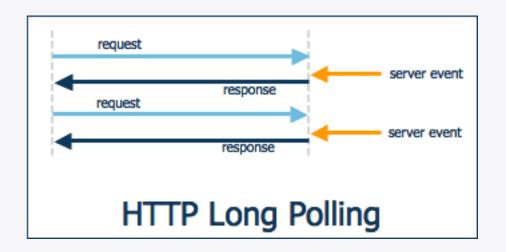
Call the method name:

getUpdates()

You can use

- Continuous Polling
- Long Polling technique

 (easy, but slightly inefficient and resource consumer)
- Webhooks (better, but more complex)



Let's see some code





Questions?



Don't be afraid

of asking...





Thanks!