Denis Doci

Katarzyna Krawczyk

CS 421

Project Proposal

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**Class Choice Companion**

For our project, we chose option 2 to build a custom chatbot. Our chatbot will use IBM Watson services and BlueMix Platform as a service. The chatbot we are creating will be specifically be used for helping students decide between classes in UIC. The service will also use Facebook Messenger as our messaging platform.

The general functionality will allow users to ask questions based on what major they are in and what level of classes they want to take. This will use the Watson Retrieve and Rank service to retrieve the desired information from a document containing all UIC classes and descriptions of those classes. For example, a usage for the chatbot could possibly be:

**Watson** **User**

Hi! I’m your Watson Class Choice Companion how can I help you?

Show me all 400 Level Computer Science classes.

Ok! Here is a list of all computer science classes:

CS 401. Computer Algorithms I

…

CS: 499- Professional Development Seminar

Give me a course description of CS 412

Cool! Here is your CS 412 course description:

Description …….

Sign me up for CS 412

Here is a link to sign up for that class. Make sure

you’re logged into your UIC account though!

Link

As you can see we want to develop the application with a very specific functionality in mind. The application will be able to show every class available at UIC, and will show how many hours that class is along with a short course description. These classes will be contained in a separate data file that the application will access. Also, the application will provide ability to sign up for classes through a link to those classes.

The application only be used for this purpose, and will only have specific dialogue based on courses and course descriptions built in. If for example the users ask something out of scope like, “Show me the nearest restaurants in my area.” The application will restate its purpose and remind the user what it is built for. For example, “I’m afraid I can’t do that. My only purpose is to help you with your schedule. Please talk to me only about this topic. Here’s an example of some things you can say: (List of things you can say)”