

Our team proposes the use of an interactive Telegram bot to assist prospective home buyers during their research and evaluation of properties. The bot is programmed in Python using a library called PyTelegramBotAPI¹. With appropriate questionnaires, it assesses the eligibility² and affordability of the user. The bot is user-friendly because it is capable of searching and comparing different properties that are well-suited to the users' needs. ~~The eligibility assessment enables users to find out the types of properties they are eligible to purchase while the affordability calculator allows them to estimate their maximum affordability.~~ What we think is maximum affordability can be calculated based on the assumption of a 25 years loan tenure and a 75% Loan-to-Value ratio. Throughout the process, users simply have to ~~click on the buttons to respond~~ follow a systematic and simple instructions; merely pressing buttons and giving simple commands. This flow, demonstrates making how quick and easy the assessment ~~quick and easy can be.~~ Additionally, the property search results are catered to their preferences ~~requirements of the users~~ (property type, district and budget) and ~~can be~~ sorted in ascending order based on whichever criteria they deem important – like price, address, size and PSF (Price Per Square Foot) are some examples of such criterions. Lastly, users can ~~choose to~~ favourite their listings and compare them later; ~~empowering~~ enabling them to make ~~a~~ better decisions.

¹ PyTelegramBotAPI can be found at <https://github.com/eternnoir/pyTelegramBotAPI>

² The model for eligibility of schemes is found in <https://services2.hdb.gov.sg/webapp/BP13EligCheck/BP13SHome?strSystem=CHECK>, HDB Services. The Orphans Scheme is unfortunately not considered in our current prototype.