Lab GuideAI with IBM RPA

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Hands-on Lab

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A little learning is a dangerous thing; Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring Alexander Pope





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1 Introduction

In this lab we will demonstrate how AI solves a wide variety of automation problems and show how easy it is to infuse AI into your bots

1.1 Use Case

Validating customer addresses

1.2 Prerequisites

None. You have everything you need in your lab environment. Let's get started!





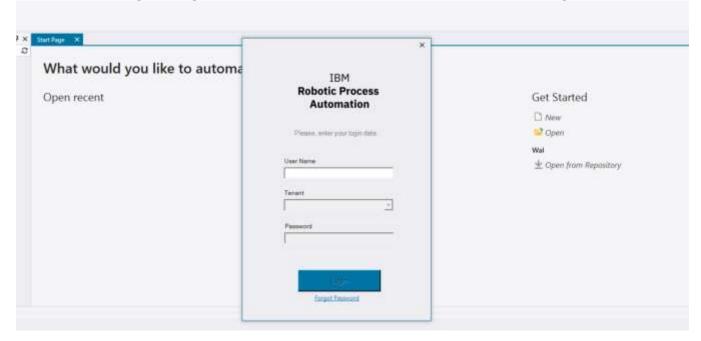
2 Getting Started

On your desktop find the IBM RPA Studio icon and launch it.



2.1 Log In

You will see the login dialog. Enter the credentials provided to you, then click the login button.



Once the tenant is retrieved, enter your password. Click login again to finish logging into the client.



3 First Scenario – Fuzzy Comparison

Fuzzy comparison uses smart algorithms to determine the similarity between strings. Similarity is graded and the higher the grade the greater the confidence. IBM RPA offers a choice of algorithms to suit different use cases.

3.1 Scenario Description

Focus Corp is a company with a tele-sales team who ask customers for an address to receive follow-up literature. The problem is that addresses are dictated and are often transcribed incorrectly, causing delivery failures.

You are an automation developer responsible for building a script to cross check addresses captured by tele-sales against known addresses. Your script should find the closest match.

3.2 Open a work in progress script

Open the folder *Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario1*. Open IBM RPA Studio and select *Open* in the top left. Open *Scenario 1 Started.wal*. Your script will open in Studio.





3.3 Company Addresses Spreadsheet

Using Libre Office, Open *CompanyAddresses.xls* situated in the same *Scenario1* folder. You should see a list of company addresses:



Close the spreadsheet. In RPA Studio, navigate to subroutine matchInputAddressAgainstCandidates. On line 20 edit the ExcelOpen command and make sure the command opens CompanyAddress.xlxs in the above folder.

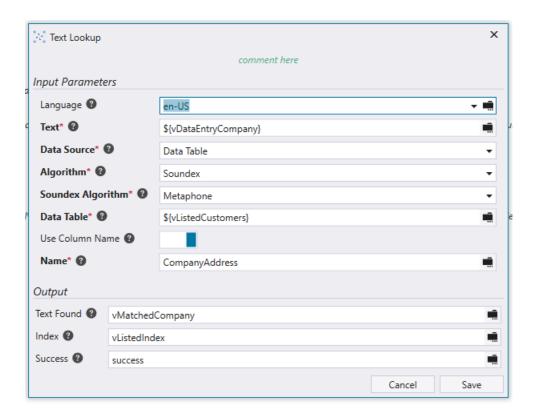
3.4 Adding Commands

Search for Text Lookup in the toolbar search.



Navigate to subroutine *FindNearestMatch*. Drag the *Text Lookup* command to line 39 and fill with the information below.

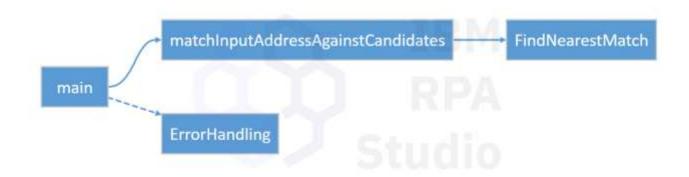




Note: You should set *Data Source* to *Data Table*. You should slide *Use Column Name* to the ON position. The column name value should be *CompanyAddress* which Is not a variable.

When done, press Save

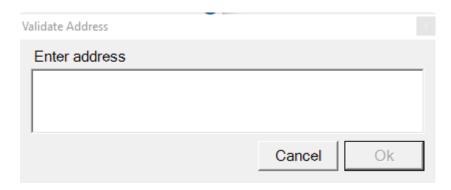
Click on the Call Graph tab. It should look like this





3.5 Run the Script

Run the script by pressing Ctrl+F5 (run without debugging). You should see a dialog box appear.



If you get an error its likely you still have the Company Addresses spreadsheet open. Close the spreadsheet and try again

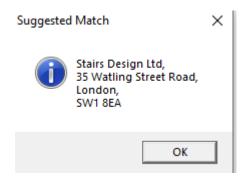
Now paste in the following address:

Stairs Design Ltd, 35 **Waddling** Street London,

FW1 8EF

Press OK (or ENTER).

The script performs a fuzzy match between the entered address and the database addresses. It finds a match and displays:

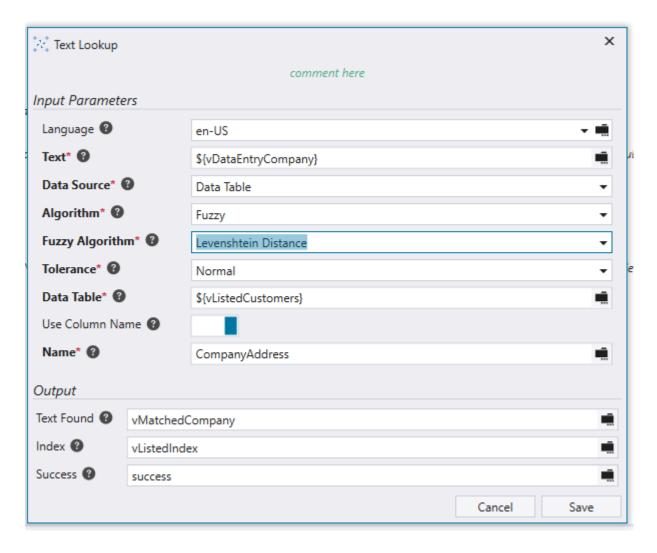


If the fuzzy match falls below the tolerance level it does not display a match. Try matching different addresses by mistyping the addresses in the *CompanyAddress.xlsx* spreadsheet.

After testing, click on Cancel to stop the script.

IBM RPA provides several choices of algorithms based on your needs. Edit the *Text Lookup* command on line 40 and change the algorithm:





Run the script again. Is the matching better or worse? Which fuzzy matching algorithm do you think is best for this task?¹

IRM

¹ Soundex is better for matching dictated text whereas the Levenshtein algorithm is better for matching typos. This scenario is for matching dictated addresses so the Soundex algorithm would be a better choice. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Levenshtein_distance



4 Second Scenario Part 1 - Knowledge Base Creation

In this scenario we will create a knowledgebase to demonstrate AI within IBM RPA.

4.1 Scenario Description

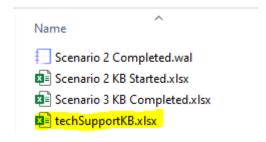
You will implement a knowledgebase to classify technical support queries.

4.2 AI - Real World Decisions

RPA bots are great at making Boolean (true/false) decisions. If a value is true bot will do X, otherwise Y. However, that scenario doesn't always reflect real life. There are many real-world decisions that are not black and white but shades of grey. A human decides to take an action based on cumulated past knowledge and not on simple true/false logic. Traditionally, 'grey' decisions required humans. But with IBM RPA's knowledgebase, a bot can classify incoming content and automatically make these decisions. In other words, bots can be cognitive.

4.3 Build Knowledge Base

Open Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario2\techSupportKB.xlsx



Within this file there are Question, Answer, Context, and Tags:

Question will be the subject Line
Answer will be what we'd like it to take an action
Context is a topic header we'd give the cluster
Tags is just a family tag for us to track. Note the + in front of the entry.

More details on the format specified here:

https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/rpa/21.0?topic=base-creating-knowledge-file#the-kb-spreadsheet



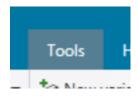


4	Α	В	С	D
1	Question	Answer	Context	Tags
2	I can't login	Reset Password	PasswordReset	+PASSRESET
3	I forgot my password	Reset Password	PasswordReset	+PASSRESET
4	My login is locked	Reset Password	PasswordReset	+PASSRESET
5	I'm locked out	Reset Password	PasswordReset	+PASSRESET
6	My password does not work	Reset Password	PasswordReset	+PASSRESET
7	My PC won't reboot	Reinstall PC	ResinstallPC	+REINSTALLPC
8	My laptop crashed	Reinstall PC	ResinstallPC	+REINSTALLPC
9	Fatal disk error	Reinstall PC	ResinstallPC	+REINSTALLPC
10	Blue screen	Reinstall PC	ResinstallPC	+REINSTALLPC

Feel free to add or edit entries, ensuring you keep the same format. When you are done, save the file and close the spreadsheet.

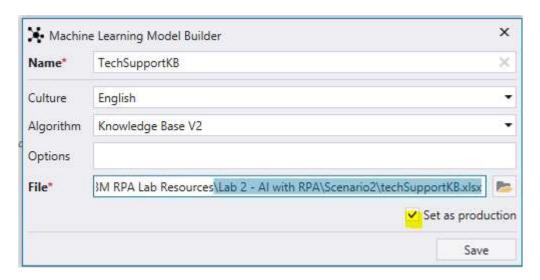
4.4 Upload Knowledge Base

In IBM RPA Studio, click Tools at the top of the screen and select the *Machine Learning Model Builder* option





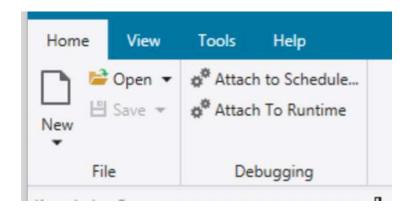
Type *TechSupportKB* as the name for the knowledge base. Leave the culture as *Default*. Select *Knowledge Base V2* as the Algorithm. Using the folder icon select the file *techSupportKB.xlsx*. Click *Set as production* and save. See below.





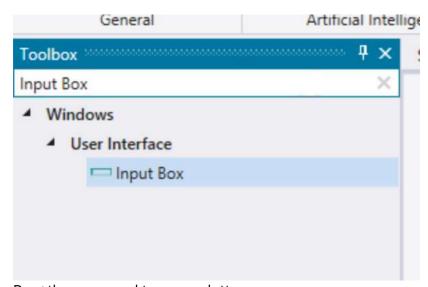
4.5 Build Script

Select Home, then New in the top left. Select WAL File



4.5.1 Input Box Command

Search the toolbar for an "Input Box" command



Drag the command to your palette

Provide the following fields:

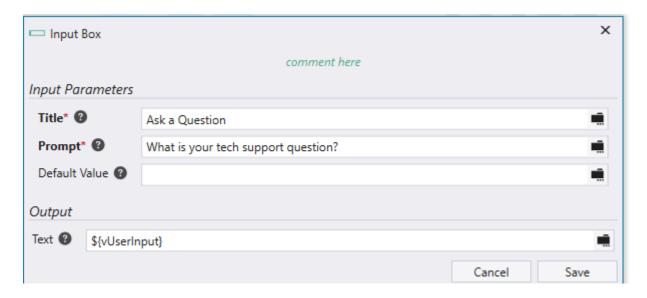
Title: Ask a Question

Prompt: What is your tech support question?

Text: vUserInput

Note: you need to create *vUserInput* as a new text variable

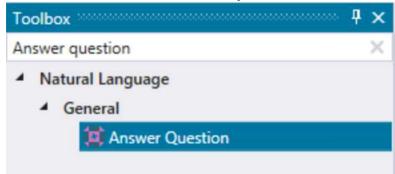




Click Save

4.5.2 Answer Question Command

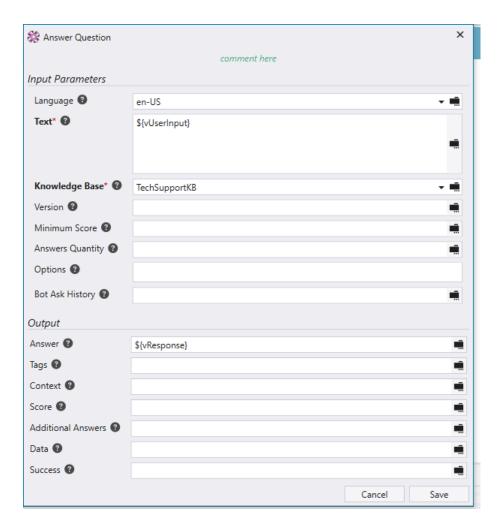
Search the toolbar for an "Answer Question" command



Drag the command to your palette under the first command

Provide the following parameters to the input fields. Note when entering *Knowledge Base* you should select your uploaded KB from the previous step.





Note: you need to create *vResponse* as a new text variable.

When done, click Save.

4.5.3 Show Message Box Command

Search the toolbar for a "Show Message Box" command



Drag the command to your palette under the second command

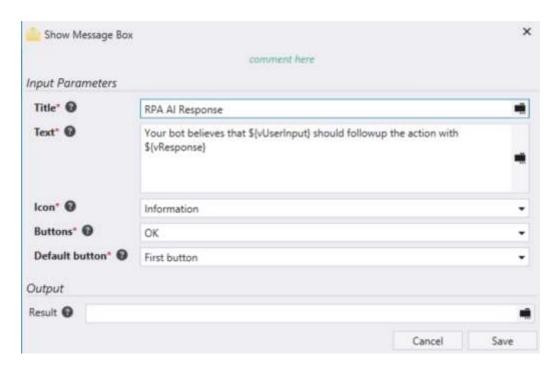
Provide the following inputs:





Title: RPA AI Response

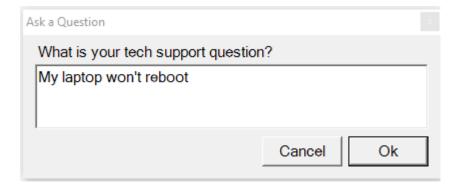
Text: Your bot believes that \${vUserInput} should followup the action with \${vResponse}



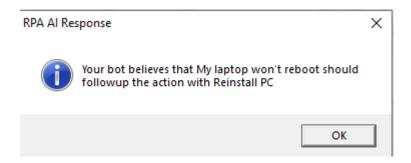
Click Save

4.6 Run Script

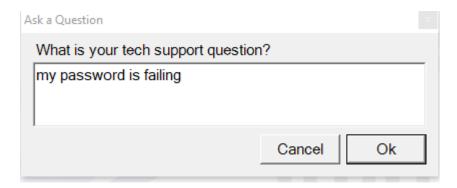
Run the script with Ctl+F5. Enter the following question:



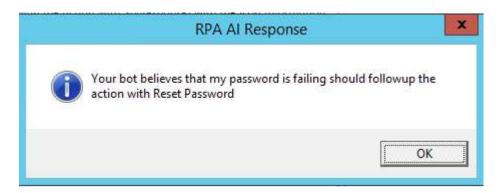




Now run the script again. This time enter the following:



This time the response is:



Note that both questions entered were not an exact match of any of the questions entered in the knowledge base. RPA uses machine learning to classify the question to give the most appropriate answer. This is AI in action!



5 Second Scenario Part 2 – Knowledge Base Training

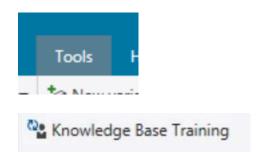
In this scenario, we will train the knowledge base.

5.1 Real World Alignment

Updating a knowledge base spreadsheet can be time consuming and error prone. To make things easier, you can train the knowledge base within RPA studio.

5.2 Navigate to Knowledge Base Training

Click Tools at the top of the screen and select the Knowledge Base Training option



5.3 Open the Knowledge Base

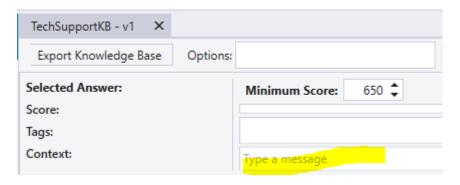
You will see *Knowledge Bases* pop up on the left side. Within this tab, find *TechSupportKB* and select Version 1. See below:



5.4 Training the Knowledge Base

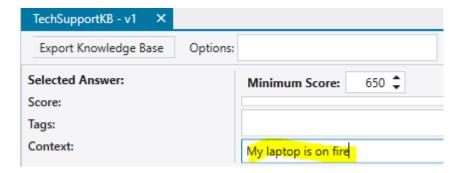
5.4.1 Add new classification

In this exercise you will add a new classification. Within RPA Studio, find the text box containing the faint grey text"type a message":

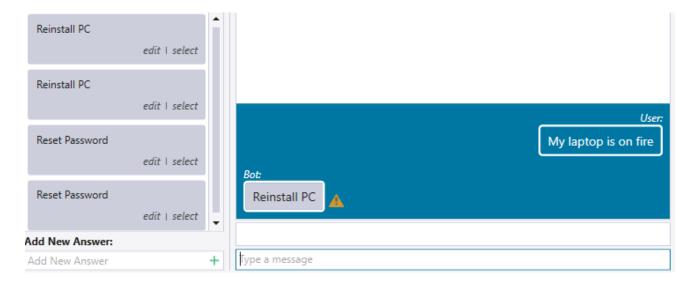




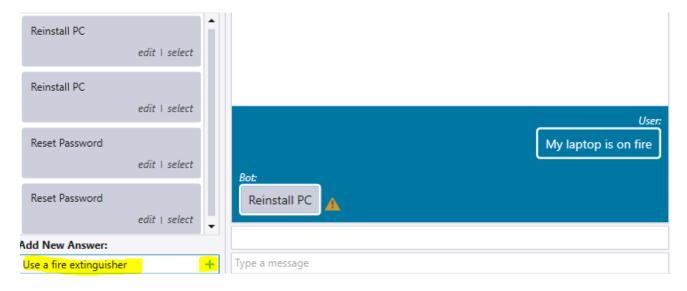
Replace "Type a message" with "My laptop is on fire" and hit enter.:



You should see the following (incorrect) response from the knowledge base:



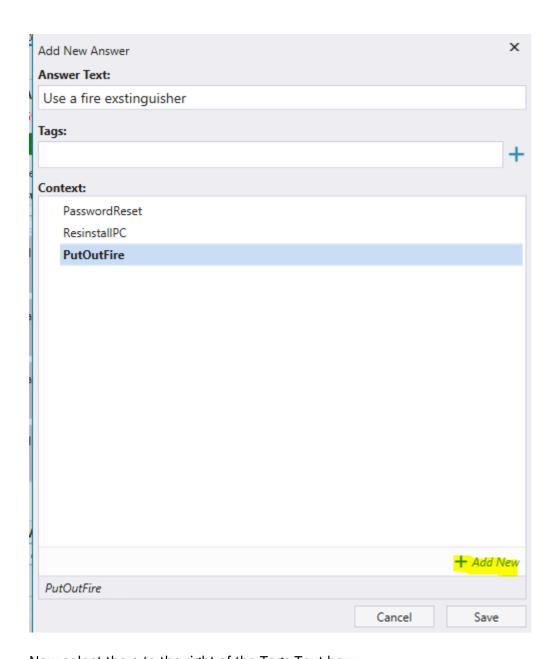
We need to retrain the knowledge base with a new answer. On the left side of the Knowledge Base, add a new answer "Use α fire extinguisher":



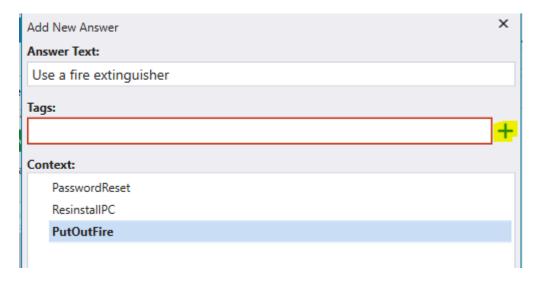
Select the + button to add the answer to the knowledge base. The Add New Answer panel should appear. Select + Add new and enter a new context of PutOutFire. You should see the following:





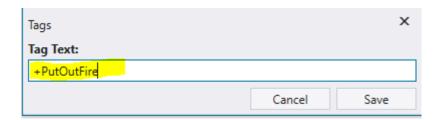


Now select the + to the right of the Tags Text box:

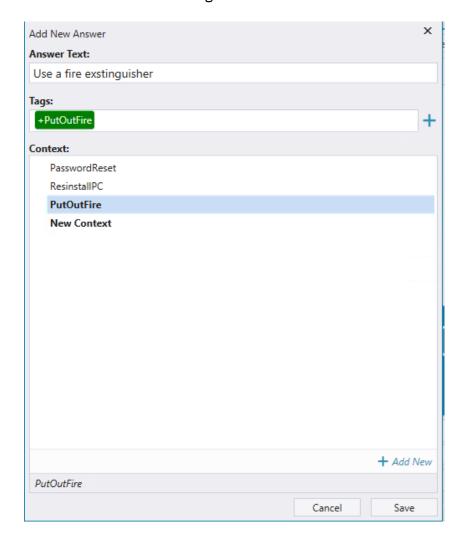




The Tags panel should appear. Enter a tag of +PutOutFire. Note the + symbol must be the first character.



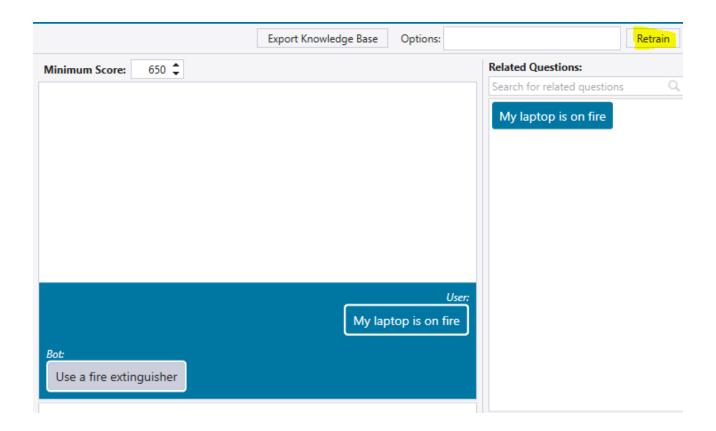
You should see the following:



Press Save. And then Save again.

Click "Retrain" in the top right corner (see below). This will update the knowledgebase.





5.4.2 Test new classification

Inside the "Type a message" field, enter "My laptop is on fire". This time the answer is successfully classified as "Use a fire extinguisher".





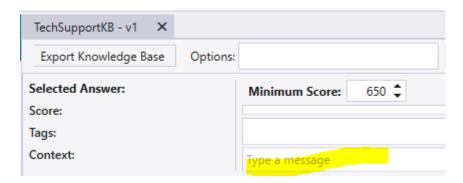
5.4.3 Optional extras

Add a couple of additional fire related tech support questions such as "There's smoke coming out of my laptop" and "I can see some flames under my keyboard"

5.4.4 Reclassification

In this exercise you will continue working with the same knowledgebase, but this time reclassify an existing sentence.

Find the text box containing "type a message":



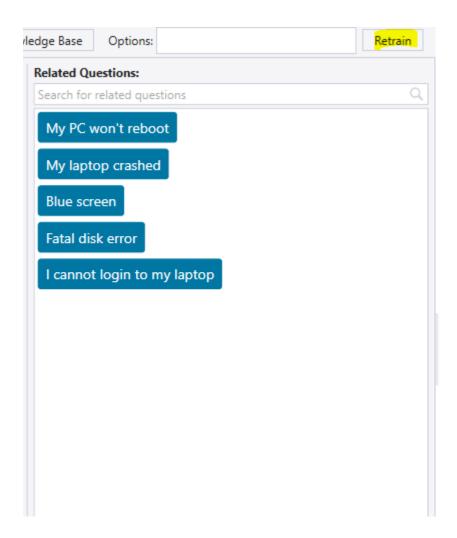
Replace "Type a message" with "I cannot login to my laptop" and hit enter.:



The AI engine thinks the question "I cannot login to my laptop" most closely maps to the Answer "Use a fire extinguisher". This is the wrong answer - It should be "Password Reset". We must retrain it.

On the left side, click *Select* on one of the "*Reset Password*" entries, then click "*Retrain*" in the top right corner (see below). This will update the knowledgebase.





5.4.5 Test reclassification

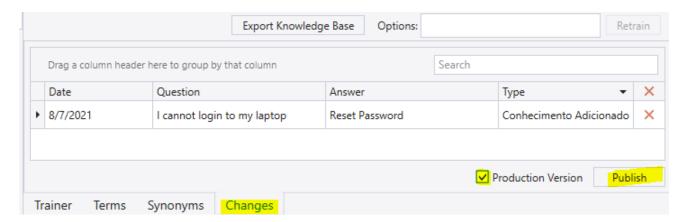
Inside the "Type a message" field, enter "I cannot login to my laptop". This time the answer is successfully classified as "Reset Password".



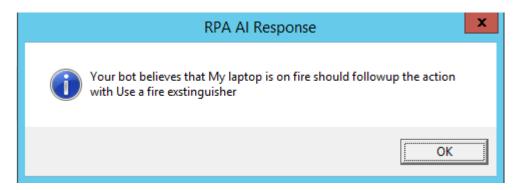


5.4.6 Save changes

To persist your changes, click on the *Changes* tab at the bottom of the knowledge base panel, click *Production Version* check box and press the *Publish*:



The knowledge base is now saved on your tenant where any bot can use it. To prove, close the Knowledgebase Editor and re-rerun the bot as described in section 4.6. This time if you type "My laptop is on fire" you will get the response:





6 Third Scenario - Text Classifier

In this scenario, we will train a text classifier. A text classifier differs from a knowledge base. It classifies text into categories which RPA can use to make decisions.

6.1 Scenario Description

You will build a bot for a restaurant to automatically respond to good and bad reviews based on the classification of the review.

6.2 Inspect File

Open the folder Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario 3. Unpack the CustomerReviews.zip. Within the unzipped folder you will see a folder called TextClassifier and under this, two folders containing good and bad reviews. Examine some of the reviews.

6.3 Open a work in progress script

Open the folder *Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario3*. Open IBM RPA Studio and select *Open* in the top left. Open *RestaurantReviewStarted.wal*. Your script will open in Studio.

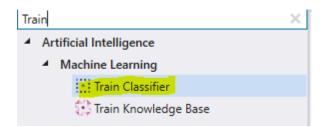
Examine the script. You will see a loop to extract reviews from customers and then respond. The code does not yet contain AI. Your task is to train and then add the text classifier.

6.4 Train the Text Classifier

On line 7 you will see a TODO:

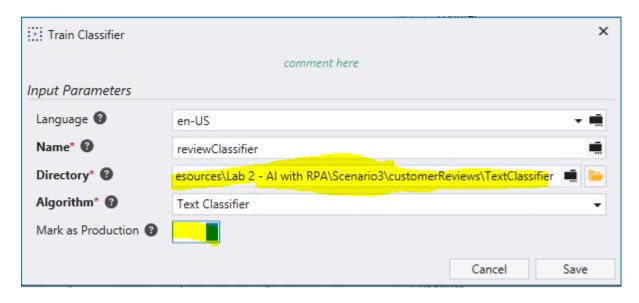


Search the toolbar for the "Train Classifier" command:



Drag the command to line 7 of your script. Edit this command to provide the following fields:





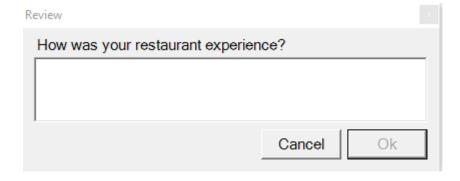
NOTE: When setting *Directory*, specify folder:

Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario3\customerReviews\TextClassifier

Ensure Mark as Production is enabled. Press Save.

Now run the bot. You will see the bot pause for several seconds whilst it reads and classifies the reviews and then stores it in the tenant.

After a while you should see the following dialog appear four times:



Enter two good reviews and two bad. You will see the same response each time:



It's the same response because we have not yet added the text classifier command. We will do this in the next step!



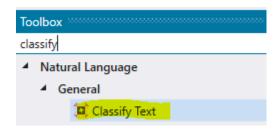
Click Cancel in the Text Input, and then press STOP to exit.

6.5 Add the Text Classifier

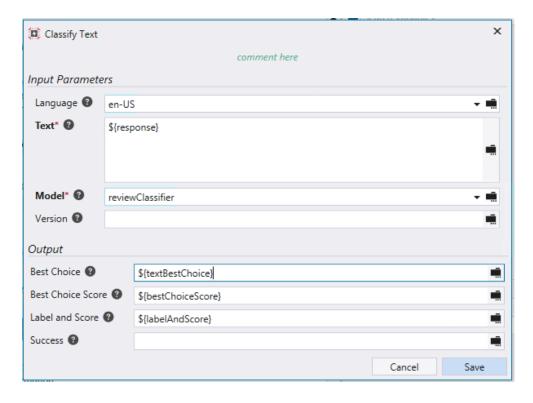
In this step, you will add the text classifier command. Above the *Log Message* command, you will see a TODO:



Search the toolbar for the "Classify Text" command:



Drag the command under the TODO of your script. Provide the following fields:



NOTE: Use the variables already defined, and when setting the Model, make sure it is the same as the one entered in 6.4.



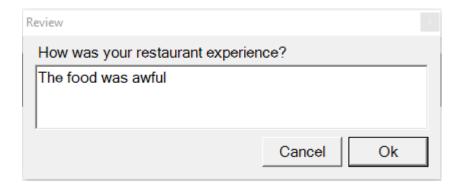


6.6 Run the Script

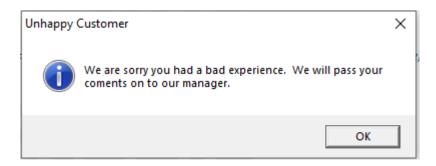
Comment out *trainClassifier*. We do not need to run this command again unless the training files are regularly updated. You can also train the model using the Machine Learning Model Builder as demonstrated in section 4.3.

* trainClassifier -- folder "D\\RPA\\A_ENABLEMENT\\LABS\\RPA\u00e4nmoedSept2021\\Lab 1 - At with RPA\\Scenario3\\custamerReviews\\TextClassifier -- algorithm "TextClassifier" -- culture "en-US" -- name reviewClassifier -- production

Run the script by pressing Ctrl+F5 (run without debugging). You should see the same dialog box appear as before. Enter a bad review:



The review is correctly identified as bad:



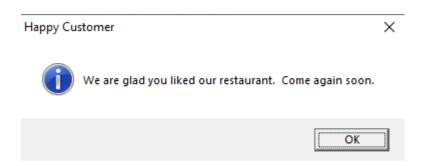
Now enter a good review:



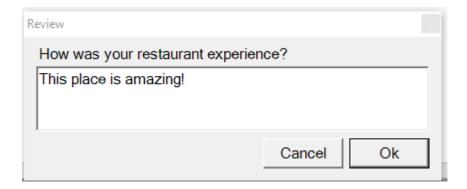
The bot classifies the review and responds accordingly.







Enter a review that is incorrectly classified.



It incorrectly classifies it as a bad review. Edit the test responses to add this comment and re-run the classifier.



7 Fourth Scenario - Basic R Script

R is an open-source language for <u>statistical computing</u>. In this scenario, we will integrate R with WAL script for statistical analysis.

A prerequisite for running R is to install it. If it not already installed, the latest compatible version is here:

Install R V3.4.4 found here:

https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/old/3.4.4/

Use all default settings when installing.

Note: newer versions of R are not supported natively within IBM RPA. Once you have installed R, you need to restart RPA Studio for it to pick up the R install location.

7.1 Scenario Description

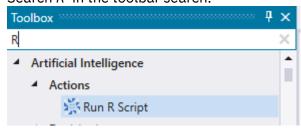
The Focus Corp sales director needs to track the performance of her tele-sales team. She requires a button on her laptop to chart her top sellers. You are an automation developer responsible for implementing this.

7.2 Open a work in progress script

Open folder *Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario4*. Open IBM RPA Studio and select *Open* in the top left. Go into *Scenario 4* folder and open *Scenario 4 Started.wal*. Your script will open in Studio.

7.3 Run the R Script

Search R in the toolbar search.

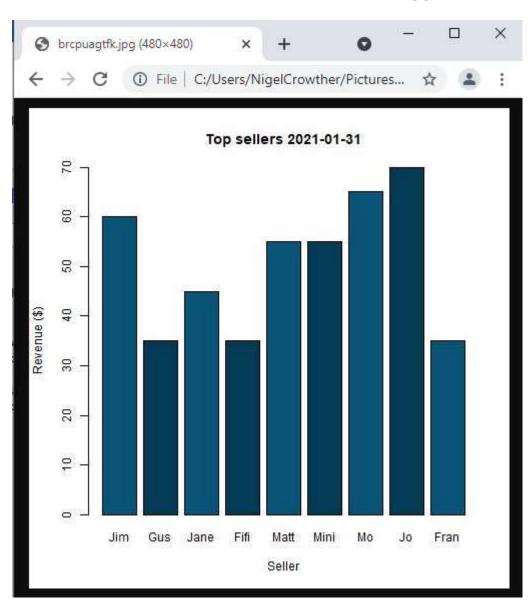


Drag the command to line 20 and paste in the following R code:

```
sellers <- c(${sellers})
quantities <- c(${quantities})
myPicturesPathR <- ${myPicturesPathR}
pictureName <- ${pictureName}
barplot(quantities, main=paste("Top sellers ",${currentDate},sep=""), xlab="Seller",
ylab="Revenue ($)", names.arg=sellers, col=c("#0a5477","#053b54"), ylim=c(0,70))
dev.copy(jpeg,filename=paste(myPicturesPathR,"\\",pictureName,".jpg",sep=""))
dev.off()</pre>
```



Press Save. Now Run the script. You should see the following graph appear in your browser:



7.4 If you have time

Set up the bot so that it can be launched as an attended bot



8 Fifth Scenario - Machine learning with R

In this advanced lab you will apply machine learning to multivariate travel data.

8.1 Scenario Description

A travel company needs to improve the hit rate offered to customers. In other words, offer customers holidays based on the choices made by customers in the past. In this lab you will implement a predictive model using R and then call this model from a chat bot.

8.2 Install latest version of R

Install the latest version of R found here:

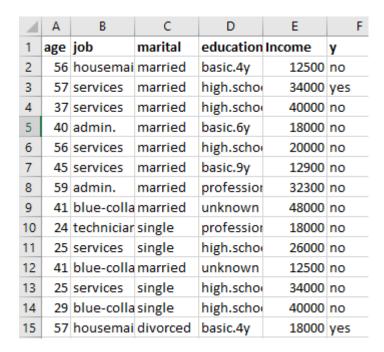
https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/

Use all default settings when installing. When installed, restart IBM RPA Studio so that it picks up the new R install.

8.3 Create the predictive model

Open Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario5\BrewsingCruises.csv

You should see the following data (truncated)

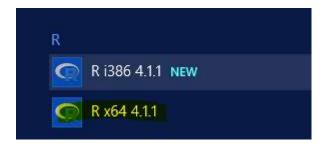


This data represents customers that either booked a cruise (y = yes), or declined a cruise (y = no)

Now let's use this data to create a predictive model. Start an R Console 4.1.1 x64 (or later)







Paste the following script within the R console:

This script performs the following:

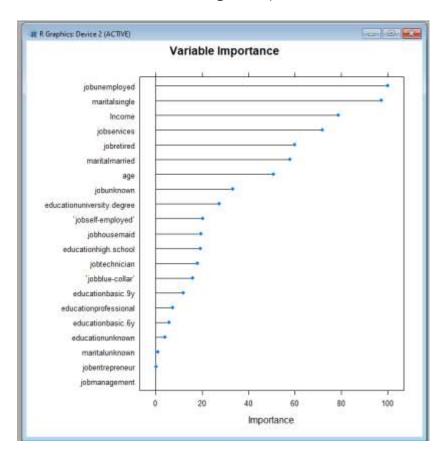
- 1. Prompts for a mirror location. Enter the location nearest to you. This installs the machine learning package called *caret* from that location
- 2. Requests you to supply the folder in which the ML spreadsheet resides. Select the c:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\IBM RPA Lab Resources\Lab resources for AI and OCR\Lab 2 AI with RPA\Scenario5 folder
- 3. Creates a predictive model from the data in scenario5/BrewsingCruises.csv
- 4. Prints a chart showing relative importance of each variable.
- 5. Saves the model as *model.rds* in the same folder. The model contains customer predictions from *BrewsingCruises.csv*

When the script has run successfully you show see the following in your console. Note there should be no errors, and several warnings.:





You should see a chart showing the importance of each variable:





8.4 Open a work in progress script

Open IBM RPA Studio and select *Open* in the top left. Go into *Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario5* and open *Scenario 5 Started.wal*. Your script will open in Studio. Open line 8 containing the *Run Windows Script* command. In the Code section, paste the following, replacing the PATH and SCRIPT_HOME variables with the correct paths for your system:

```
@echo off

REM run r with params %1

IF %1.==. GOTO No1

set PATH=%PATH%;c:\Program Files\R\R-4.1.1\bin
set SCRIPT_HOME="C:\WDG\RPA Advanced\Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario5"

rscript %SCRIPT_HOME%\PotentialCustomer.r %SCRIPT_HOME% %1

GOTO End1

:No1
    ECHO No param 1
    GOTO End1

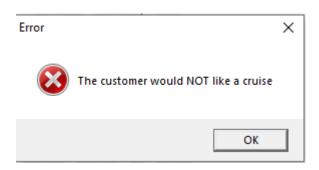
:End1
echo %result%
```





8.5 Run the R Script

Press Save and Run the script. After a several seconds you should see the following appear in your browser:



What happened? The script read Senario5/CruiseCustomerNo.csv containing the following data:

1	age	job	marital	education	Income
2	56	housemaid	married	basic.4y	12000

It passed this data to an R script invoked from a DOS command. The R script references the model we created earlier to base a prediction. The script returns either *Yes* or *No* and pops up a message with the appropriate response. The script is called *PotentialCustomer.r* and it is shown below:

```
# test if the args were passed; if not, return an error
args = commandArgs(trailingOnly=TRUE)
if (length(args) < 2) {
  stop("Two arguments must be supplied (path and customerdata).n", call.=FALSE)
}

## arg 1 contains path of the csv file and the model
setwd(args[1])

## Read the predictive model
model <- readRDS("model.rds")

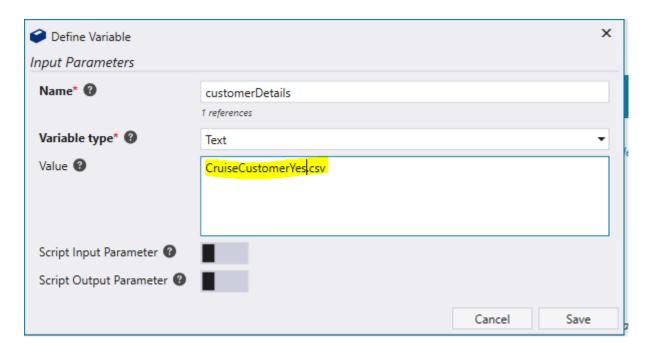
## Read the csv file supplied as the second argument
customer = read.csv(args[2])

## Invoke prediction using Caret library
p = predict(model, customer)

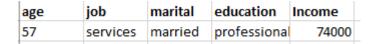
## return result (Y/N) as string which RPA will parse
print(p)</pre>
```

Now edit *line 6 of Senario5Started.was* and change the input file to CruiseCustomerYes.csv. See below:

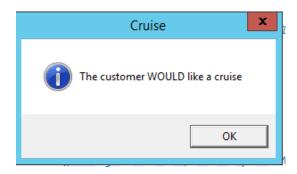




Press Save. Examine the contents of the csv file. You should see it contains a potential customer who is likely to book a cruise given the machine learning model:



Run this script again. This time you should see the message:



What are the advantages and disadvantages of using R Machine Learning over using the built in Knowledge bases within RPA? The aadvantages are that you can built complex multivariate models and train the model with popular data science packages such as Caret. Disadvantages are that the model is stored on a local drive, not in the tenant

NOTES

- 1: The reason we invoke R from DOS rather than with the native R command is that the latest version is required and that is not supported in IBM RPA.
- 2. We are just scratching the surface of R capabilities. Take a look at the Caret library for more details.



9 Sixth scenario - Business Rules

In this scenario you will build a decision table using RPA commands.

9.1 Scenario Description

The Focus Corp wants to offer discounts to customers who purchase in bulk. The following decision table is used:



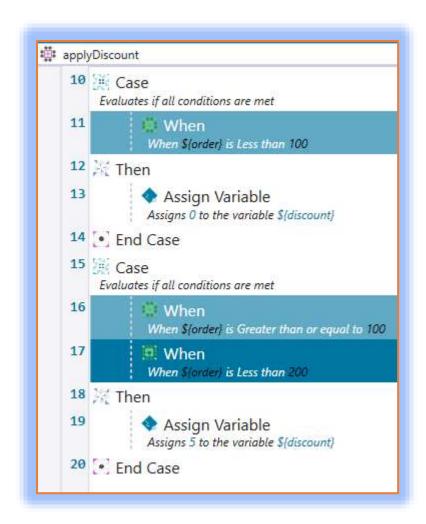
You are tasked with implementing this table in WAL.

9.2 Open a work in progress script

Open the folder *Lab 2 - AI with RPA\Scenario6*. Open IBM RPA Studio and select *Open* in the top left. Open *BusinessRulesInProgress.wal*. Your script will open in Studio.

Examine the script. Drill into to the *applyDiscount* rules. You should see the following rules which implement the first two rows of the decision table above.





Add the additional three rules:



```
When
            When ${order} is Less than 500
22 Then
23
          Assign Variable
           Assigns 10 to the variable ${discount}
24 [•] End Case
25 K Case
    Evaluates if all conditions are met
26
           When
            When ${order} is Greater than or equal to 500
27
           ₩ When
           When ${order} is Less than 1000
28 Then
29
           Assign Variable
           Assigns 15 to the variable ${discount}
30 End Case
31 Case
    Evaluates if all conditions are met
32
           When
            When ${order} is Greater than or equal to 1000
33 💥 Then
34
            Assign Variable
           Assigns 20 to the variable ${discount}
35 [ • End Case
```

9.3 Test bot

Now go to line 1 and set the order amount variable to a value that will hit one of the rules:

```
Define Variable

Define a variable with name order, type Numeric and default value 1000
```

Run the bot. in the above example, the order number was 1000 so it hits the rule on line 32 resulting in a discount of 20%



Congratulations! You have completed the lab.

