Essay – My Hobby

# Coding a discord bot

Two years ago, I started to develop a small bot for the chatting application discord. I am using Node.js and a framework called discord.js to access Discord’s API.

The main purpose of Koala – the name of the bot – is to create some small utility features for my friends and myself such as a simple notification system which ‘mentions’ those interested in a certain YouTube or Twitch channel if something new was posted. A mention is a red indicator that shows that you have received a message in a similar way to how Teams works. Koala is also capable of creating funny images, getting texts and images from Reddit and auto-generate funny, often quite nonsensical, quotes to laugh at using yet another API.

The most recent addition to Koala was the ‘play’ command, which would search YouTube for a certain text and play the audio of the results. This way my friends and I are able to listen to different songs and audio-only videos in a voice call for all of us to hear.

Previously there were quite a lot of bots offering a ‘music system’, which would search YouTube for songs to play in a voice call. Although, Google recently took legal action against the two most popular of those ‘music bots’ and forced them to shut down which led to many smaller bot developers like myself creating their own ‘music system’.

Currently I have to admit that I am quite lazy when it comes to developing the bot further. Discord recently announced major changes to their API and I wait for those changes to happen before I expand on current features or I add new ones to minimize the codebase that I’ll unavoidably have to rewrite to work again.

Once those changes happened and Koala is fully functioning again, I will probably fix a few already existing features before adding new ones. Some of Koala’s code is two years old now and I would like to revisit a few things with the experience I gathered since then.

I have a few plans for the future of Koala. A simple ‘currency system’, which would let my friends and me play games such as blackjack, would be one of them. And who knows what other features I might find a need for in the future.