Hubot - Chatbot for Serious Things

Using Chatbots to automate deployment and monitoring

What is Hubot?

Hubot - Automation for the masses

Github wrote Hubot to automate the company's chatroom, it now has abilities to deploy their site, monitor their apps and pug bomb chatrooms (more on that later).

We are going to learn how to setup an instance of Hubot integrate it with Slack and write a small plugin for it today.

Internals and Plugins

Hubot is written in CoffeeScript and runs on Node.js. It uses yeoman to bootstrap the bot initially.

You can find a lot of external plugins for it on Github.

https://github.com/hubot-scripts

Docs:

https://hubot.github.com/docs/

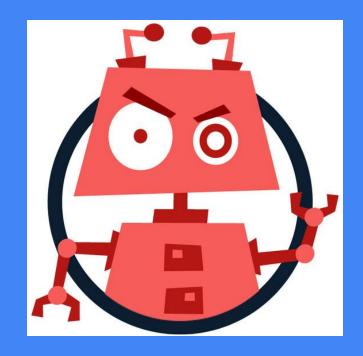
Some notable plugins:

- 1. Hubot Auth https://github.com/hubot-scripts/hubot-auth
- 2. Hubot Redis Brain https://github.com/hubot-scripts/hubot-redis-brain
- 3. Hubot Help https://github.com/hubot-scripts/hubot-help

Demo Time!

Security

When bots go awry!



"The user is going to pick dancing pigs over security every time"

- Bruce Schneier

Hubot Security

- Always use APIs and HTTP Requests to get and write data.
- Make sure API secrets needed for plugins to work are stored in the redis brain and have the most minimum permissions.
- 3. Always validate and escape any input taken from the user.
- 4. Build a second-factor or an auth system around any write/sensitive info command.

- Provide "beer goggles" (show a user a warning and ask yes/no about a major change) before any command that changes things (for example: deployment).
- 6. Log all your chat and all the commands your hubot receives.

The only good automation is fool-proof automation.

Thanks!

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