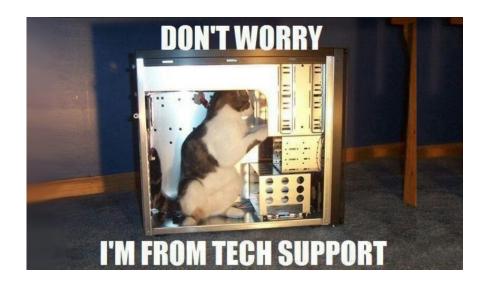Images haven't loaded yet. Please exit printing, wait for images to load, and try to print again.

May 16, 2016 · 3 min read

# FB Messenger Bot 🤘 —How to Identify a User via Page- & App-Scoped User-ID's

Update 2017–04–17: Facebook finally has an API for that 🎉

https://developers.facebook.com/docs/messenger-platform/connecting-accounts



In my last blog post I wrote about our first chatbot and the challenge to identify users.

We get a **page-scoped** user-id from Messenger, so we can't match existing users with their **app-scoped** user-id, even though we are using the same FB App for Facebook Login and Messenger Bot Integration.

> (..) Ids are page-scoped. These ids differ from those returned from Facebook Login apps which are app-scoped. You must use ids retrieved from a Messenger integration for this page in order to function properly.— Source: Facebook Docs

In my test I had the following user-ids:
**page-scoped** user-id: 1026377564065xxx (through Messenger Bot)

**app-scoped** user-id: 10205652825102xxx (through FB App, Facebook Login)

These user-ids are totally different—so we can't check if the user already exists in our database. We need a user identification to save all votes and swells. At least one unique identifier.

There is a little trick to **match** the page-/app-scoped user-id based on the **profile picture url**. Let me explain it in a few steps:

Facebook offers an API to get the userprofile with the Messenger user-id (page-scoped) and the page access-token:

```
GET https://graph.facebook.com/v2.6/<USER_ID>?
fields=first_name,last_name,profile_pic,locale,timezone,gend
er&access_token=<PAGE_ACCESS_TOKEN>

Result:
{
  first_name: 'Philipp',
  last_name: 'Holly',
  profile_pic: 'https://scontent.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-
1/p200x200/13177091_10209330090191529_6260308789231765xx_n.j
pg?oh=83704b11843eef0e2b590943532e3cxx&oe=57AA83xx',
  ...
}
```

Let's check the Graph API Explorer to get the userprofile with the app access-token from the user.

```
GET https://graph.facebook.com/v2.6/me?
fields=picture&access_token=<APP_USER_ACCESS_TOKEN>

Result:
{
  picture: {
    data: {
      is_silhouette: false,
      url: 'https://scontent.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-
1/p50x50/13177091_10209330090191529_6260308789231765xx_n.jpg
?oh=6f15b6c4272b535bc4b5bf4e2193ccxx&oe=57E473xx'
    }
  },
  id: '10205652825102xxx'
}
```

As you can see, the filename of the profile picture is identical:
**13177091_10209330090191529_6260308789231765xx_n**

Now we can match the Messenger user with the existing user (who signed up with facebook) in our database. If we dont find a matching user, we create a temporary user with the Messenger user-id and the profile picture filename. If this user signs up with Facebook, we can match the new user with the temporary user.

**Attention**: If a user changes his profile picture, the url will change too. So it's impossible to match an old temporary user. 🐺

Hopefully Facebook will add a "matching api" for this case.

.   .   .

#swell yeah

*Your's Phil*

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