

Conversational Custom Chat Integration

Custom adapter framework for third-party
messaging applications

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Overview

Conversational Custom Chat Integrations and Chatbot Interoperability is a framework of scriptable APIs you can use to connect the ServiceNow® Virtual Agent server to any chat client. Virtual Agent Chat Server (VACS) supports the following chat client integration out of the box.

- Slack
- Facebook Workplace
- Microsoft Teams
- SN Portal
- SN Mobile App

You need to create a custom adapter to integrate with third-party chat clients. Custom adapters enable third-party chat clients to connect to the Virtual Agent server by using a framework of scriptable APIs. The custom adapter also provides a way to manage and control end-user experience. It transforms messages from a chat client to Virtual Agent Chat Server (VACS), and from Virtual Agent Chat Server (VACS) back to the chat client in a format that your end users can understand. Please visit the [product documentation](#) to know more about the Conversational Custom Chat Integrations framework.

This whitepaper providers step-by-step guide to develop a simple Telegram Bot and integrate it with ServiceNow Virtual Agent using custom adapter framework. This is NOT a full-blown production ready solution. This document merely offers boilerplate application and guidance to integrate third-party messaging applications using Custom Chat Integrations framework.

Telegram Configuration

About Telegram

Telegram is a cloud-based mobile and desktop messaging app with a focus on security and speed. [Sign up](#) for Telegram using your phone number.

Create a bot

Navigate to [Telegram Developer Portal](#) to create your new bot.

3. How do I create a bot?

There's a... bot for that. Just talk to [BotFather](#) (described [below](#)) and follow a few simple steps. Once you've created a bot and received your authorization token, head down to the [Bot API manual](#) to see what you can teach your bot to do.

You may also like to check out some code examples [here »](#)

4. How are bots different from humans?

- Bots have no online status and no last seen timestamps, the interface shows the label '**bot**' instead.
- Bots have limited cloud storage — older messages may be removed by the server shortly after they have been processed.
- Bots can't initiate conversations with users. A user **must** either add them to a group or send them a message first. People can use t.me/<bot_username> links or username search to find your bot.
- Bot usernames always end in 'bot' (e.g. [@TriviaBot](#), [@GitHub_bot](#)).
- When added to a group, bots do not receive all messages by default (see [Privacy mode](#)).
- Bots never eat, sleep or complain (unless expressly programmed otherwise).



Upon successful completion, you should see confirmation message along with "Access Token".

✓  **BotFather** 4:53:01 PM

Done! Congratulations on your new bot. You will find it at t.me/NowSupportBot. You can now add a description, about section and profile picture for your bot, see [/help](#) for a list of commands. By the way, when you've finished creating your cool bot, ping our Bot Support if you want a better username for it. Just make sure the bot is fully operational before you do this.

Use this token to access the HTTP API:

Keep your token **secure** and **store it safely**, it can be used by anyone to control your bot.

For a description of the Bot API, see this page:
<https://core.telegram.org/bots/api>

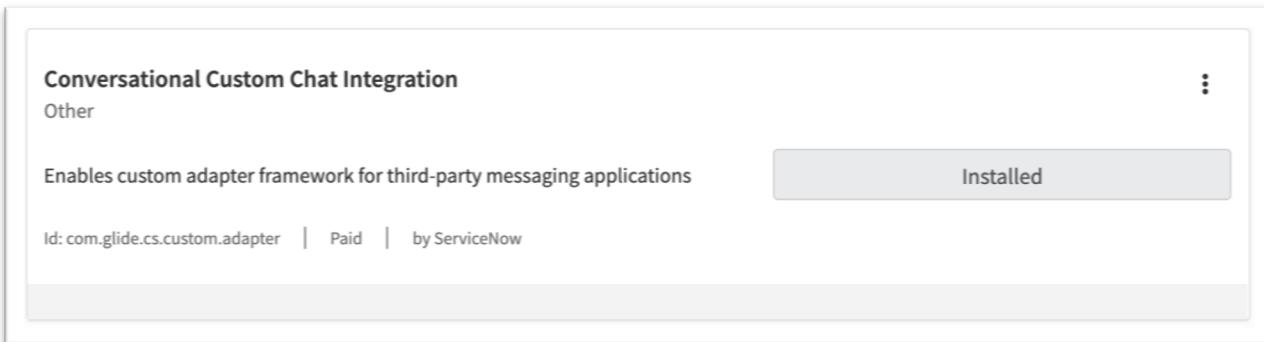
ServiceNow Configuration

Activate Plugins

Activate the following prerequisite plugins –

- Glide Virtual Agent (com.glide.cs.chatbot)
- Conversational Custom Chat Integration (com.glide.cs.custom.adapter)
- Customer Service (com.sn_customerservice)
- Advanced Work Assignment (com.glide.awa)
- Conversational Messaging (com.glide.messaging.awa)

"Conversational Custom Chat Integration" plugin enables custom adapter framework for developing third-party messaging applications.



Define Messaging Channel

Define a new messaging channel for "Telegram" by navigating to "Telegram Messenger -> Configuration -> Messaging Channel"

The screenshot shows a 'Messaging Channel' configuration screen. It is a 'New record' form with the following fields: 'Name' set to 'Telegram', 'Type' set to 'Messaging', and a 'Submit' button at the bottom. The header indicates it is a 'Messaging Channel' and 'New record'.

Define Verification Tokens

Define inbound and outbound verification tokens for "Telegram" by creating a new record in the "token_verification" table. Navigate to "Telegram Messenger -> Configuration -> Hash Message Verification".

Inbound verification token

Create a random verification token to authenticate inbound messages from Telegram Bot. This token will be used during the Telegram webhook registration process.

The screenshot shows a 'Token Verification' configuration screen for a 'Telegram Inbound Token'. The form includes fields for 'Name' (set to 'Telegram Inbound Token'), 'Description' (empty), 'Token' (set to '*****'), and a password field containing 'servicenowtoken'. The 'Update' button is visible in the top right corner. The header indicates it is for 'Token Verification' and 'Telegram Inbound Token'.

Outbound verification token

Use "Access Token" generated by the Telegram Bot during the registration process.

The screenshot shows a ServiceNow interface for managing tokens. The title bar reads "Token Verification" and "Telegram Outbound Token". The main area contains three fields: "Name" (set to "Telegram Outbound Token"), "Description" (empty), and "Token" (represented by a series of asterisks). A lock icon is visible next to the token field. The top right corner features standard edit and save icons, along with an "Update" button.

Define Message Auth

Define a new Message Auth for "Telegram" by creating a new record in the "message_auth" table. Navigate to "Telegram Messenger -> Configuration -> Message Auth".

Name	Telegram Message Auth	Inbound message verification	Telegram Inbound Token
Provider	Telegram Provider	Outbound message creation	Telegram Outbound Token
Group name		Outbound service token	
Service Portal			

Define Messaging Provider

Define a new messaging provider for "Telegram" by creating a new record in the "sys_cs_provider" table. Navigate to "Telegram Messenger -> Configuration -> Messaging Provider".

Name	Telegram Provider	Provider attributes action	x_snc_messenger.telegram_provider_attribute_action
Channel	Telegram	Sender action	x_snc_messenger.telegram_sender_action
Link account action		Response processor action	
Account Linking Enabled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contextual action	

Enter following Flow Designer Actions –

Attribute	Flow Designer Action
Provider attributes action	x_snc_messenger.telegram_provider_attribute_action
Sender action	x_snc_messenger.telegram_sender_action

Define Messaging Provider

Define inbound and outbound transformation actions for different Control Types.

Messaging Provider Applications (1) Custom Adapter Configurations (3)

Provider = Telegram Provider	Control type	Inbound transformer action	Outbound transformer action
	TopicPickerControl	x_snc_messenger.telegram_topic_picker_inbound_transformer	x_snc_messenger.telegram_topic_picker_outbound_transformer
	InputText	x_snc_messenger.telegram_input_text_inbound_transformer	x_snc_messenger.telegram_input_text_outbound_transformer
	OutputText	(empty)	x_snc_messenger.telegram_output_text_outbound_transformer

Control Type	Inbound Transformer Action	Outbound Transformer Action
Topic Picker Control	x_snc_messenger.telegram_topic_picker_inbound_transformer	x_snc_messenger.telegram_topic_picker_outbound_transformer
InputText	x_snc_messenger.telegram_input_text_inbound_transformer	x_snc_messenger.telegram_input_text_outbound_transformer
OutputText		x_snc_messenger.telegram_output_text_outbound_transformer

Define Messaging Provider Application

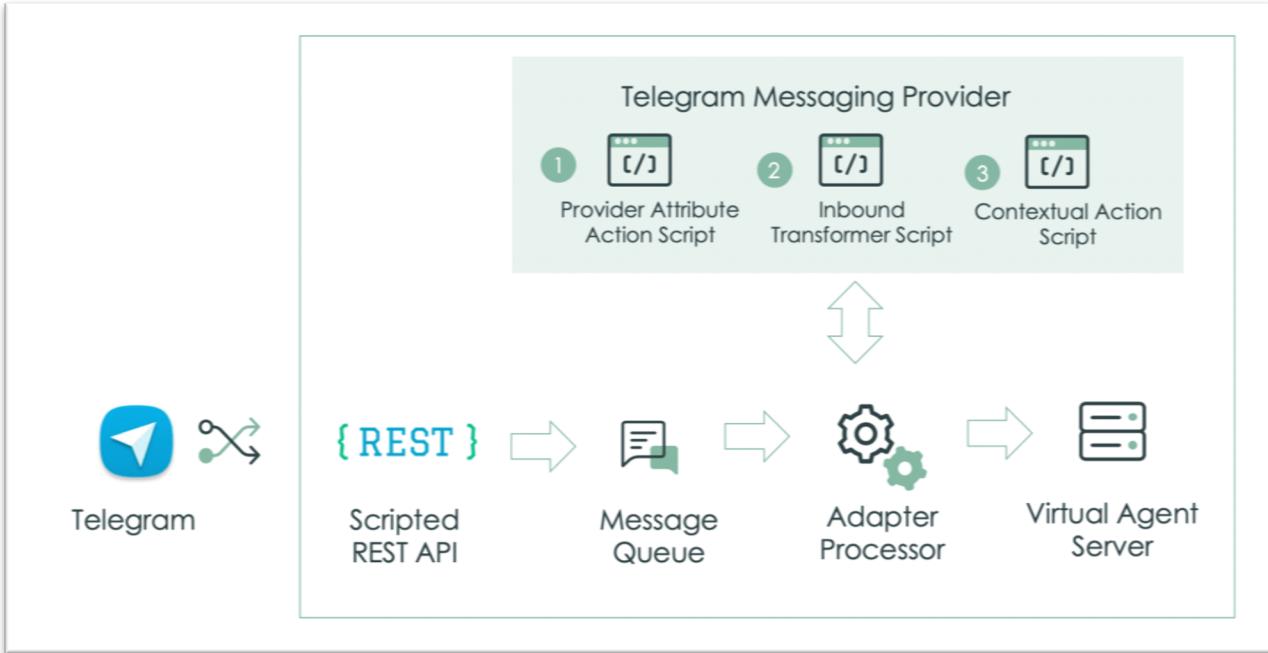
Define a new messaging provider Application for "Telegram" by creating a new record in the "sys_cs_provider_application" table. Navigate to "Telegram Messenger -> Configuration -> Messaging Provider Applications".

Messaging Provider Application
Telegram Messaging Provider Application

Name	Telegram Messaging Provider Application	Message auth	Telegram Message Auth
Provider	Telegram Provider	Inbound ID	telegram
Short description	Telegram Messaging Provider Application		

ServiceNow Development

Inbound Integration Architecture



Note: Refer ServiceNow product documentation for additional details.

Telegram Message Structure

Telegram "Message" object represents incoming or outgoing Telegram Message. Please visit [Telegram API documentation](#) to understand the structure of this object.

Sample Telegram Message

```
{
  "data": {
    "update_id": 837802716,
    "message": {
      "message_id": 43,
      "from": {
        "id": 1278637050,
        "is_bot": false,
        "first_name": "Peter",
        "last_name": "Parker",
        "language_code": "en"
      },
      "chat": {
        "id": 1278637050,
        "first_name": "Peter",
        "last_name": "Parker",
        "type": "private"
      },
      "date": 1593025169,
      "text": "Hello Telegram how is it going?"
    }
  },
  "url": "https://XXXXXXXX.service-now.com/api/x_snc_messenger/telegram/webhook/servicenowtoken",
  "userId": 1278637050,
  "requestId": 837802716,
  "token": "servicenowtoken"
}
```

Scripted REST API

API	Resource	Resource Path
Telegram	Webhook	/api/x_snc_messenger/telegram/webhook/{token}

Scripted REST API offers endpoint Url which acts as a Telegram webhook. Telegram will send an HTTPS POST request to this endpoint, containing a JSON-serialized Update. Scripted REST API executes following activities –

- Retrieve token from the incoming request

- Retrieve user information and payload from the incoming request
- Submit the message to the queue for the subsequent processing

Provider Attribute Action Script

Flow Designer Action	Description
telegram_provider_attribute_action	Process incoming telegram message to extract token, payload and user details.

Provider Attribute Actions Script is invoked by the “Adapter Processor” to process the newly received message. This script is responsible for executing following activities –

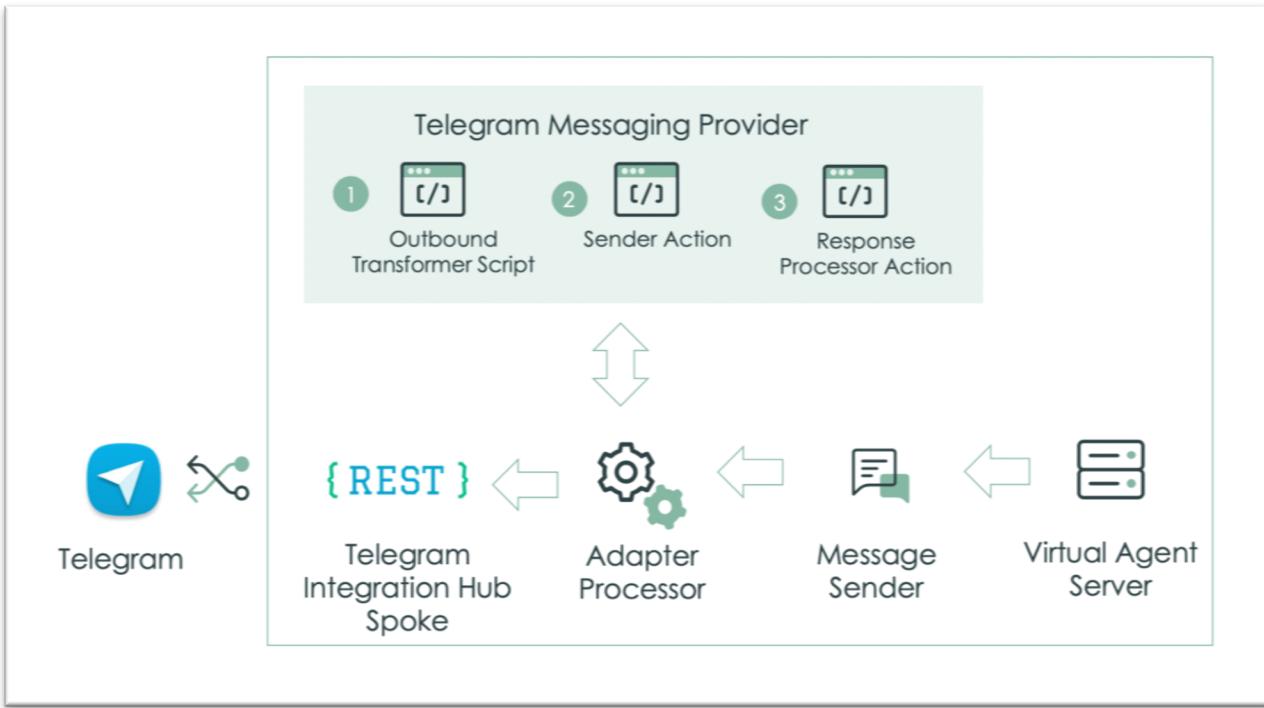
- Parse incoming message to extract token, username, and message from the payload.

Inbound Transformer Script

The inbound transformer scripts convert incoming messages in a format that the Virtual Agent recognizes. It determines the required value to be injected into the rich control that is presented to the user. Following inbound transformation scripts are defined for Telegram integration –

Flow Designer Action	Description
telegram_input_text_inbound_transformer	Transforms telegram text message into Virtual Agent text message.
telegram_topic_picker_inbound_transformer	Action to transform Topic Picker rich control.

Outbound Integration Architecture



Note: Refer ServiceNow product documentation for additional details.

Sender Action Script

Flow Designer Action	Description
telegram_sender_action	Sender action script triggers a subflow to asynchronously send outbound message
telegram_sender_action_subflow	Flow sends outbound message by triggering telegram sender API action
Telegram_sender_action_api	Flow Action which invokes Telegram REST API action
Telegram_sender_action_rest	Flow action to invoke Telegram SendMessage REST API

Webhook Configuration

A webhook is a way for a web app to communicate real-time information. Use “setWebhook” method to specify an endpoint Url and receive incoming updates via an outgoing webhook. Whenever there is an update for the bot, Telegram will send an HTTPS POST request to the specified endpoint, containing a JSON-serialized Update. Refer Telegram [API documentation](#) for additional details.

```
curl  
https://api.telegram.org/bot<token>/setWebhook?url=https://<instance>.service  
-now.com/api/x_snc_messenger/telegram/webhook/<inbound verification token>
```

Upon successful completion, you should see following confirmation message.

```
{"ok":true,"result":true,"description":"Webhook was set"}
```

Summary

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