

CHATTING WITH JAVASCRIPT

JSUnconf 2016
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2016 - YEAR OF THE BOTS?

What about ...

- ... ELIZA in 1966?
- ... IRC (Internet Relay Chat) created in 1988?

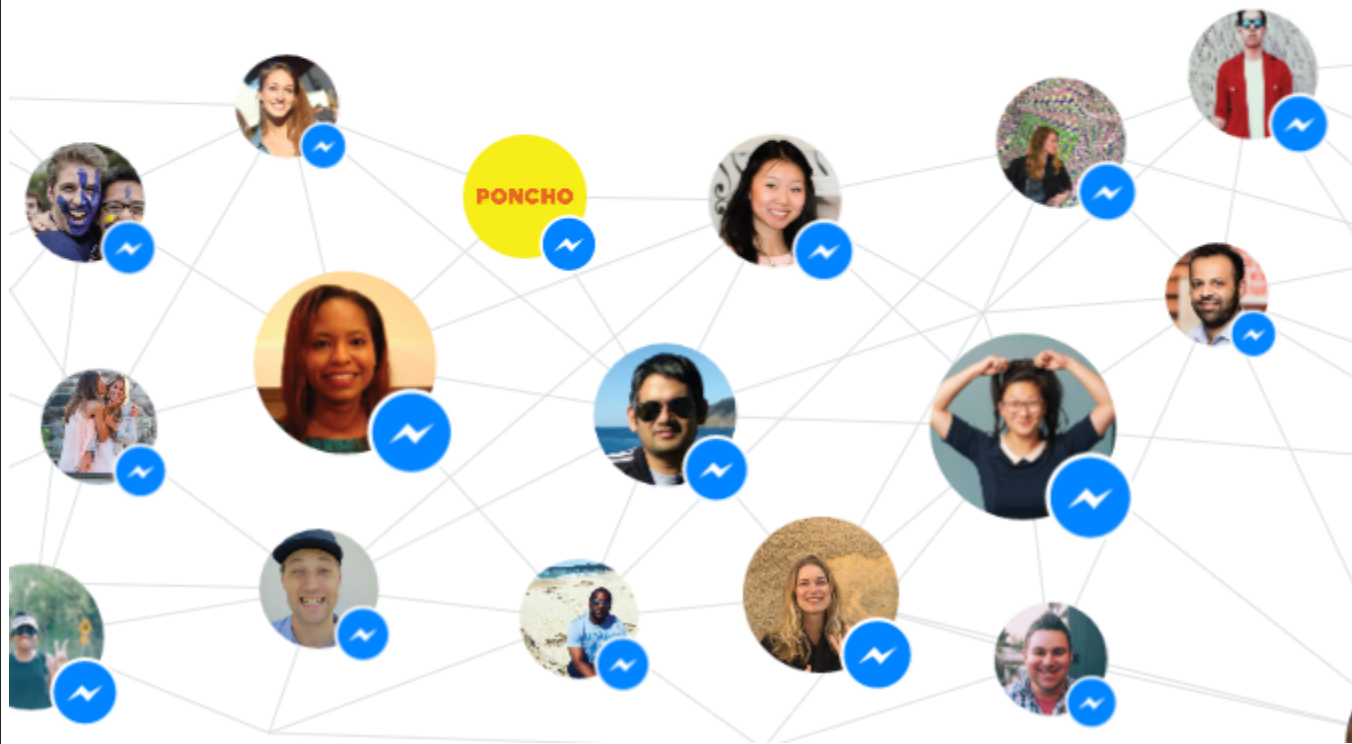
BOTS - WHY NOW?

A PLATFORM DESIGNED FOR BUSINESSES AND DEVELOPERS BETA

900 million people are on Messenger

Now you can interact with them where they already are

START BUILDING



BOTS - WHY NOW?

Do I code ...

- ... an app for Android?
- ... an app for iOS?
- ... or a bot that I can attach to many chat services and even SMS?

BOTS - WHY NOW?

If I interact with you, I will ...

- ... not click your checkboxes.
- ... nor press your submit button.
- ... just talk to you!

Talking or chatting is the most natural and pretty effective
human API.

BOTS - WHY NOW?

Wait, I'm not really "talking" to the chatbot. I'm typing on a tiny smartphone keyboard!



BOTS - NOW!

- Many, many people can be reached.
- They provide a very different type of API than apps and desktop applications.
- You can eventually use your voice to interact.



TIME TO CODE!

This demonstration will code a chatbot that will be hooked into Telegram. This has the advantage that the bot can be executed on your local computer rather than pushing the bot into the cloud.

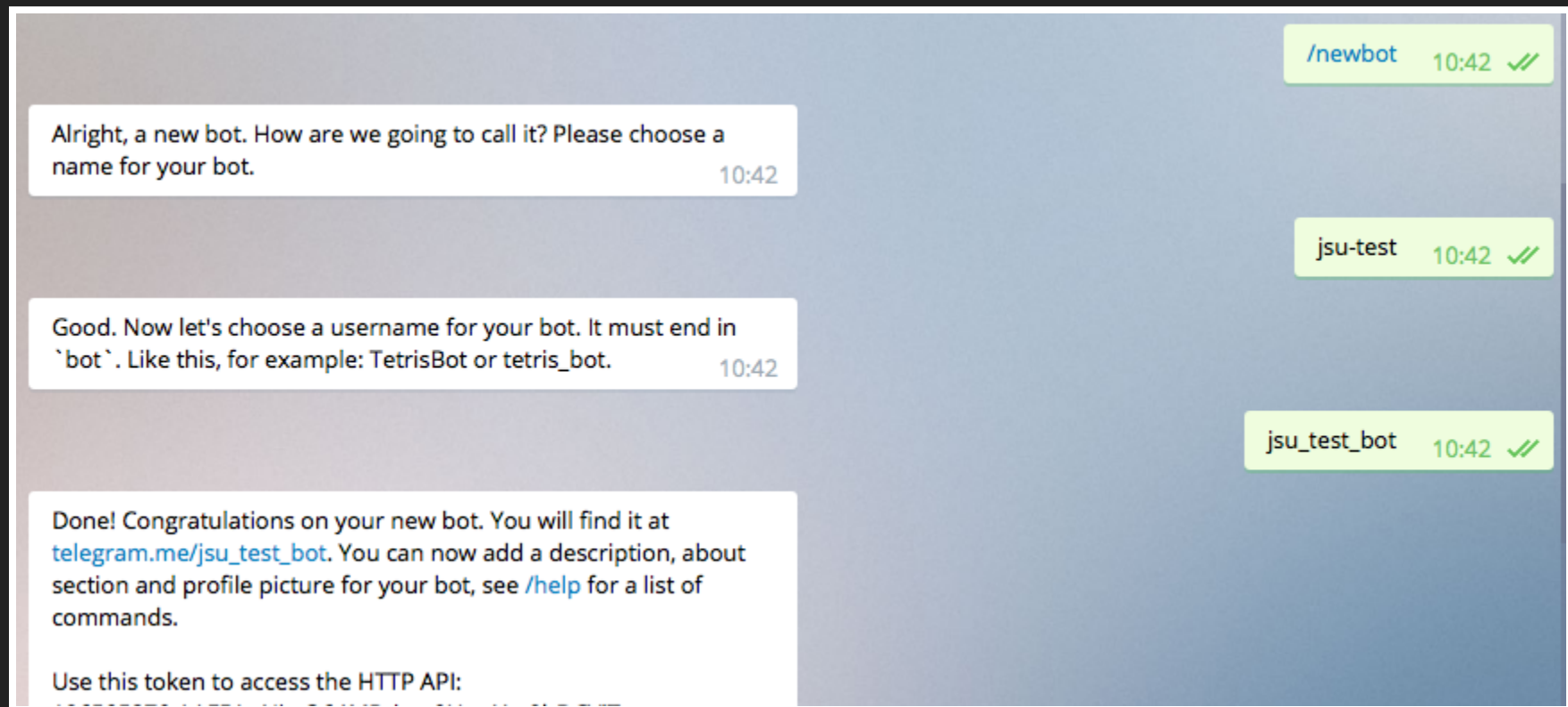
INSTALL "NODE-TELEGRAM-BOT-API"

```
npm install node-telegram-bot-api
```

REQUIRE "NODE-TELEGRAM-BOT-API"

```
var TelegramBot = require('node-telegram-bot-api');
```

GET A TOKEN FROM "@BOTFATHER"



START A CHAT "@JSUNCONF_BOT"

You can now start the chat with the bot at
http://telegram.me/jsunconf_bot

PROVIDE THE CODE WITH THE TOKEN

```
var token = '5962984670:AKSUAqNjHyO64MRFix0UywYvz9bDCVjTqc';
```

CREATE THE POLLING BOT OBJECT

```
var bot = new TelegramBot(token, {polling: true});
```

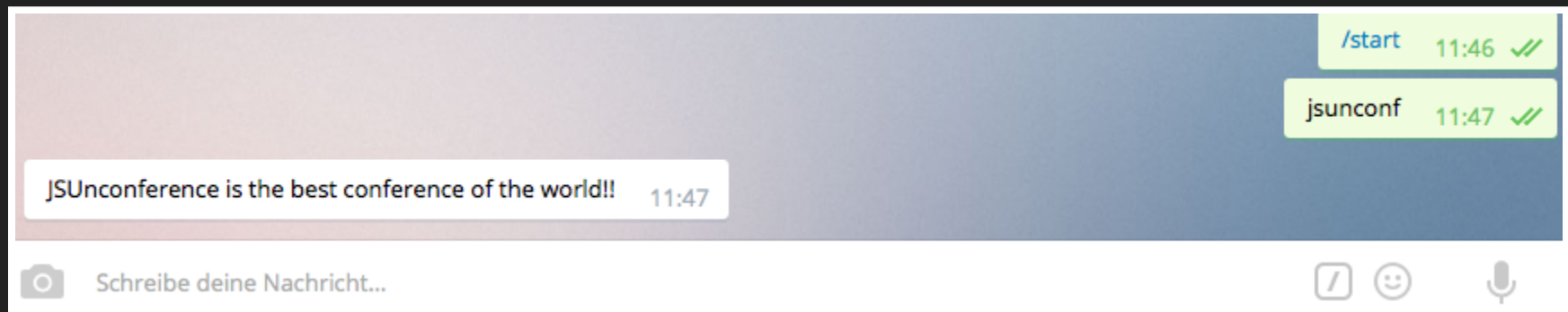
LET THE CODE CHAT

```
bot.onText(/JSUnconf/i, function (msg, match) {  
  bot.sendMessage(msg.from.id, 'JSUnconference is the best conference  
});
```


START YOUR BOT

```
node index.js
```

AND HERE YOU CHAT...



HOW TO MAKE IT USEFUL?

- Do not try to make it intelligent...
- ...at least at first!
- Make it good in one thing!
- Let the bot introduce it to the human first so the human knows its capabilities.

CAVEATS

- To be really clever bots will need NLP and AI. That is still hard stuff.
- Most chat systems only offer to contact a webhook with updates. You will need to install it in the cloud.
- Chatbots may be nice but are no hammer and not every problem is a nail.

LINKS

- Telegram Bot API: <https://core.telegram.org/bots/api>
- node-telegram-bot-api: <https://github.com/yagop/node-telegram-bot-api>
- Facebook Messenger Platform:
<https://developers.facebook.com/docs/messenger-platform>
- Facebook Messenger Platform:
<https://developers.facebook.com/docs/messenger-platform>
- Microsoft bot builder: <http://docs.botframework.com/>

I MIGHT BLOG ABOUT IT

Especially on running a bot on AWS Lambda + AWS Gateway API. Updates will be on <https://twitter.com/gunnarwrobel>.

THANKS!