**Artificial Intelligence Powered FAQ Assistant for Instant Answers**

**Nikita Hemnani1, Kajal Patil2, Sunidhi Chavan3, Nikita Patil4, Ashish Bhole5**

*1,2,3,4UG Engineering Student*

*Department of Computer Engineering, SSBT’s College of Engineering, KBC North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, India, 425001*

*5Associate Professor*

*Department of Computer Engineering, SSBT’s College of Engineering, KBC North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, India, 425001*

***Abstract –*** *The motivation behind AI-based chatbots stems from the desire to create automated systems which simulate human-like conversations, providing convenient and efficient solutions for tasks such as customer support, information retrieval, and task automation. In a settled landscape, AI chatbots facilitate seamless customer interactions. Yet, a significant influx of user inquiries beyond the trained scope triggers system confusion. Consequently, customers experience inconsistencies and prolonged query resolution times, negatively impacting user experience. By deploying advanced training techniques, refining error-handling mechanisms, and expanding the chatbot’s knowledge base, equilibrium is restored, and users enjoy improved engagement and efficient issue resolution. The approach behind AI-based chatbots involves utilizing natural language processing, machine learning, and large datasets to train models which understand and generate human-like responses, enabling effective communication and interaction with users. Creating an AI-based chatbot yields various results, including improved customer engagement, reduced workload for human agents, faster response times, 24/7 availability, and enhanced user experiences, all contributing to increased operational efficiency and user satisfaction. AI chatbots serve as versatile tools, enhancing customer experiences through personalized interactions, while also aiding businesses in optimizing the operations and support services. The evolving capabilities signify a pivotal shift in human-technology interaction.*

***Keywords-******Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Chatbot, Food Website, Meal Ordering System.***

**INTRODUCTION**

Chatbots, a fusion of AI and human-like communication, redefine digital engagement by emulating natural conversations. Beyond basic responses, they excel in understanding context and user intent, enabling dynamic interactions. the adaptability allows customization for diverse purposes such as customer support, sales, information dissemination, and entertainment. Businesses leverage chatbots to automate tasks, enhance customer service, and provide round-the-clock support, elevating overall user experiences. In the ever-evolving technological landscape, chatbots stand out as versatile tools reshaping human-machine interactions.

Chatbots have a historical lineage dating back to the early days of computing, with pioneers like ELIZA in the mid-1960s, focused on basic text-based conversations [1]. The early iterations operated on rudimentary keyword recognition and template-based responses, representing a foundational but limited approach. Progress in computer science and AI over the decades propelled chatbots into a new era, integrating natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning algorithms. Such evolution empowered chatbots to understand and produce human-like language, a shift hastened by the ascendancy of the internet and adoption of digital platforms. Recognizing the potential, businesses embraced chatbots to enhance customer service, automate tasks, and improve user experiences on websites and social media.

A chatbot is one example of technology that is used in computer-mediated communication where Artificial Intelligence agents increasingly occupy roles once served by humans [6]. Conversational agents can be seen being used in various applications . In businesses [10] for marketing and customer support, in healthcare [11] as a personal assistant, in education [12] as a personal tutor, and in entertainment [13] for assisting players in digital games. The future promises even greater sophistication, with chatbots evolving into versatile virtual assistants. The persistent evolution in the field continues to blur the boundaries between human and machine communication, outlining a dynamic trajectory for the role of chatbots across various industries.

Culinary businesses swiftly recognized the potential of these chatbots, embracing them to enhance customer service, automate tasks, and elevate user experiences on restaurant websites and social media. This digital dialogue extended beyond static interfaces, providing dynamic and responsive interactions centered around the love for exquisite cuisine.

Implemented on the restaurant's website, the chatbots seamlessly navigate diverse culinary sectors, enhancing online menus, assisting with reservations, and personalizing dining experiences. The future promises even greater culinary sophistication as chatbots evolve into versatile virtual culinary assistants, simplifying patrons' digital journey and enriching the restaurant's online presence.

**LITERATURE SURVEY**

In [1], the study navigates the evolving terrain of e-learning, artificial intelligence, and chatbot integration in education. Unveiling the trends in e-learning, the study acknowledges its advantages in flexibility and personalization while scrutinizing inherent challenges such as learning efficiency and isolation. The proposition of a hybrid-model chatbot as a learning assistant demonstrates innovation in addressing these challenges. While the paper offers a comprehensive review and practical examples, the limitations, including a confined integration scope and subjective user satisfaction, underscore the need for continued research and refinement. Overall, this study not only enriches our understanding of contemporary educational technologies but also signals the potential for transformative advancements in learning assistance through intelligently designed chatbots.

In [2], the study investigates the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbots in organizations undergoing digital transformation. Highlighting chatbots' increasing intelligence and diverse applications in decision making, automation, and communication, the study emphasizes their pivotal role in contemporary computer mediated communication. The objectives center on providing a comprehensive overview of academic chatbot studies, identifying business implications, and addressing research gaps. Employing a systematic literature review methodology, the paper navigates diverse chatbot studies, emphasizing interdisciplinary research and contributing to a nuanced understanding of their evolving role in modern business landscapes.

In [3], the study unveils Jaicob, a modular chatbot tailored for Data Science learning, within the context of the evolving cognitive computing landscape. Emphasizing the shift from basic programs to sophisticated systems, the study underscores the potential of chatbots, particularly in education. While recognizing their cognitive benefits, such as enhancing student performance and aiding teachers, the research acknowledges the limited adoption of these technologies. Jaicob stands out with its modular design and positive evaluation results, despite some challenges. Overall, the study offers a comprehensive exploration of cognitive computing in education, showcasing Jaicob's practicality and hinting at the promising future of user friendly chatbots in learning experiences. Future work aims to expand Jaicob's reach across various knowledge domains, underscoring cognitive computing's growing impact in education.

NLP encompasses a fusion of various aspects of machine learning, drawing from computer sciences, artificial intelligence, and linguistics. It primarily focuses on the intricate realm of communications and interactions between computers and human languages. Yet, the complexity of implementing the technology surpasses its initial appearance. Achieving flawless communication and understanding between users and systems demands a comprehensive grasp of all aspects involved. Given the nature of communication, even a seemingly simple word harbor multiple meanings and connotations due to the mood or feeling attached to it, influenced by the tone in which it was spoken. For instance, a word as straightforward as ”what” serve various purposes and express different emotions in different scenarios[4]. NLP enables communication between users and computers, as well as between computers, using natural languages. It involves three key analyses: parsing, semantic interpretation, and knowledge-based structures. Parsing identifies the syntax of sentences, breaking them down into subject, predicate, and object. Semantic interpretation assigns meaning to the text, drawing on word definitions and linguistic structures like noun or verb transitivity. Ultimately, NLP focuses on processing sentences to facilitate effective communication and understanding [9].

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

In a dynamic landscape, AI chatbots excel in facilitating seamless customer interactions; however, when confronted with an overwhelming surge of user inquiries beyond their initially trained parameters, the system encounters a state of confusion. This dilemma, exacerbated by the complexity of queries, leads to a ripple effect of inconsistencies in responses and prolonged resolution times, significantly compromising the overall user experience. Consequently, users may find themselves grappling with frustration and dissatisfaction, as the chatbot's limitations become apparent. The potential erosion of trust in the chatbot's reliability poses a substantial risk, necessitating a comprehensive approach to enhance adaptability, broaden knowledge coverage, and fortify error-handling mechanisms for sustained positive engagement and efficient issue resolution.

**SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE**

The System architecture refers to the overall design and organization of a complex system, which includes hardware, software, and various components interact with each other to achieve specific goals. It involves defining the system’s structure, components, and interfaces, as well as the relationships between them[5]. A good system architecture ensures the system is reliable, scalable, and maintainable, while meeting the functional and non-functional requirements. In Figure 1 the architecture of the system is presented.

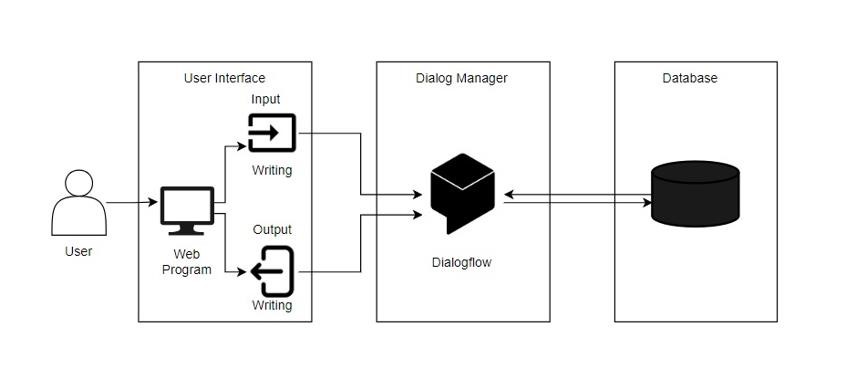


Figure 1- System Architecture

The User Interface (UI) serves as the primary point of interaction for users. It facilitates natural language input, allowing users to express their food preferences and place orders. The UI also presents responses generated by the chatbot, offering information about menu items, order status, and other pertinent details.

Behind the scenes, Dialogflow functions as the dialog manager, aiding in the recognition of user intents. It discerns the underlying purpose behind user messages, enabling the system to determine whether the user intends to place an order, inquire about menu items, or track an existing order.

Upon indication of the intent to place an order, the system's business logic comes into play. It adds items to the cart and can also remove items when it is asked to. When an order is placed, the chatbot generates a new order-id, calculates the total cost, and displays it to the user. This business logic interacts with the database to access and update information related to menu items, orders, and order status, ensuring real-time data accuracy.

The database stores comprehensive information about the food menu, including item names, prices, and order status. It serves as the foundational repository for the chatbot's operations, enabling efficient access to relevant information and facilitating seamless user experiences.

**METHODOLOGY**

*A.**Machine Learning Model*

The Chatbot Model module is integral to the functionality and effectiveness of our conversational interface. Its core responsibilities revolve around leveraging advanced natural language processing (NLP) techniques within the Dialogflow platform to analyze conversations, train models, and generate responses that feel natural and relevant to users. Central to the module's operation is natural language understanding (NLU), a crucial component where NLP algorithms process and interpret user requests [7]. This involves intricate data preprocessing and intent identification, which lays the foundation for understanding the nuances of user queries and formulating appropriate responses. Furthermore, the module engages in training and evaluation of various dialogue models to identify the most effective ones. Through iterative refinement and testing, it aims to continuously improve the chatbot's ability to comprehend user intents and generate accurate responses. Once responses are generated, they are seamlessly integrated into the user interface module, ensuring a cohesive and intuitive conversational experience for users. The primary objective of the Chatbot Model module is to deliver accurate and contextually relevant responses to user inquiries. By enhancing the conversational experience and enabling efficient interaction, it plays a crucial role in driving user satisfaction .

*B. User Interface of the Application*

The user interface of the application offers a seamless experience by integrating a visually appealing frontend displaying the menu of food items. Users effortlessly browse through the menu while also accessing the integrated chatbot for instant assistance with any queries. The interface prioritizes ease of use and responsiveness, ensuring a smooth navigation experience. With a refreshing design and convenient access to information, users make informed decisions about food choices. Overall, user interface aims to provide a user-friendly platform where users explore menu and receive prompt assistance whenever needed, optimizing the experience with the application.

*C. Web Server and other services.*

The Web Server and Other Services module plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth operation and optimal performance of the application. It is primarily responsible for managing various aspects of the application's functionality, with a specific focus on harnessing the power of Fast API technology. At its core, the module involves hosting the application on a Fast API powered web server, which serves as the backbone for handling incoming requests and delivering responses efficiently. This ensures that users experience minimal latency and enjoy swift navigation through the application. Furthermore, the module encompasses the efficient storage and retrieval of data within a database. By employing best practices in data management, it ensures that information is stored securely and accessed quickly, contributing to the overall responsiveness of the application. The module facilitates seamless communication with external services or data sources through APIs. This allows the application to integrate with third-party platforms or retrieve additional data as needed, enriching the user experience with diverse functionalities and resources.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The chatbot implementation is a multifaceted system designed to streamline the user experience across various functionalities, including menu recommendations, order placement, order tracking, cart management, and small talk. At its core, the chatbot harnesses the power of Dialogflow for natural language understanding, enabling seamless communication between users and the food website.

*A. Menu Recommendations*

Utilizing Dialogflow's capabilities, users can effortlessly request menu recommendations tailored to their preferences. By parsing user inputs and leveraging predefined intents and entities, the chatbot intelligently suggests menu items that align with user tastes.

*B. New Order Management*

For order management, the chatbot seamlessly integrates with a FastAPI backend powered by Python, facilitating smooth order processing and tracking. Users can initiate new orders directly through the chat interface, specifying their desired items and quantities. The backend orchestrates order fulfilment, manages inventory, and stores order details in a MySQL database for future reference which will help manage and build the data structure [8].

*C. Track Order*

Tracking order status is made simple with the chatbot's real-time updates. Users can inquire about the progress of their orders and receive information about preparation and delivery status. Through secure communication with the backend, the chatbot retrieves and relays order status information, ensuring users remain informed throughout the entire fulfilment process.

*D. Cart Management*

The chatbot empowers users with control over their shopping experience through intuitive cart management functionalities. Users can add, remove, or modify items in their shopping cart directly within the chat interface, enhancing convenience and flexibility. With seamless integration across frontend and backend components, our chatbot delivers a cohesive and user-centric solution for food enthusiasts, revolutionizing the online ordering experience.

**RESULTS**

In today’s fast-paced digital world, where convenience is key, focusing on user-friendly solutions is crucial, particularly within the food industry. The project aims to redefine the way people experience food by introducing an innovative chatbot-based platform seamlessly integrated into an attractive and intuitive frontend interface.

The primary objective is to simplify the process of interacting with food services, providing users with a comprehensive solution to anticipates and meets the needs with exceptional ease. Whether it’s browsing menus, receiving tailored recommendations, placing orders, or tracking the order progress, the platform strives to offer a complete and hassle-free experience, prioritizes user satisfaction over anything else.

Utilizing cutting-edge technology and thoughtful design principles, the platform not only streamlines the user journey but also enhances it, creating an engaging and interactive environment where users feel empowered and delighted at every step. Ultimately, the success of project hinges on its ability to seamlessly merge advanced technology with user-centric design, setting a new standard for digital culinary experiences.

The Table 1 shows a detailed summary of Results, outlining features, description, input example and corresponding output.

Table 1- Results

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sr | Featu-res | Description | Input Exam-ple | Corresp-onding output |
| 1 | Expl-ore Menu | Allow users to explore the menu items available on the website. | I want to place a new order. | List of menu items. |
| 2 | Recommendation | Provides personal-ized recomm-endations to users. | Recommend someth-ing. | List of recomm-ended menu items. |
| 3 | Man-age items | Enables users to remove items from the order. | Remove pizza from my order. | Message indicat-ing success-ful removal of the item from the order. |
| 4 | New Order | Facilitates placing new orders for food items available on the website. | I want 2 Pizzas and 1 Vadapav. | Message displaying, So far you have: 2 Pizzas and 1 Vadapav. Do you need anything else? |
| 5 | Track order | Allow user to track the status of their orders. | Track my order with ID 12. | Output displays order status like in transit, in progress. |

**CONCLUSION**

The implementation of a chatbot on a food website represents a significant leap forward in user interaction and satisfaction. Its instantaneous responses to menu inquiries, order tracking, and general questions not only simplify decision-making but also provide personalized recommendations tailored to individual preferences. This emphasis on convenience and efficiency nurtures customer loyalty and encourages repeat engagement, enhanced by the chatbot's round-the-clock availability for immediate assistance. With its multifunctional capabilities, from providing recommendations to managing orders and engaging in casual conversation, the chatbot truly revolutionizes the user experience, setting a new standard for online food service excellence.

Leveraging sophisticated AI algorithms, it will anticipate user preferences, seamlessly integrating feedback analysis to refine its recommendations continually. With robust payment gateway integration, transactions will be secure and effortless, ensuring a frictionless journey from order to delivery. This holistic approach promises an ever-evolving chatbot that enhances customer satisfaction.

**REFERENCES**

1. *Wu, Eric Hsiao-Kuang, Chun-Han Lin, Yu-Yen Ou, Chen-Zhong Liu, Wei-Kai Wang, and Chi-Yun Chao. ”Advantages and constraints of a hybrid model K-12 E-Learning assistant chatbot.” Ieee Access 8 (2020): 77788-77801.*
2. *Miklosik, Andrej, Nina Evans, and Athar Mahmood Ahmed Qureshi. ”The use of chatbots in digital business transformation: A systematic literature review.” IEEE Access 9 (2021): 106530-106539.*
3. *Carlander-Reuterfelt, Daniel, Alvaro Carrera, Carlos A. Iglesias, ´ Oscar Araque, Juan ´ Fernando S´anchez Rada, and Sergio Mu˜noz. ”JAICOB: A data science chatbot.” IEEE Access 8 (2020): 180672-180680.*
4. *Nidhi Singh Kushwaha1, Pawan Singh.”Artificial Intelligence based Chatbot: A Case Study.” Journal of Management and Service Science, 2022, Vol. 02, Iss. 01, S. No. 004.*
5. *Tamrakar, Rohit, and Niraj Wani. ”Design and development of CHATBOT: A review.” In Proceedings of International Conference On“Latest Trends in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering”. https://www.researchgate. net/publication/351228837. 2021.*
6. *Beattie, Austin, Autumn P. Edwards, and Chad Edwards. "A bot and a smile: Interpersonal impressions of chatbots and humans using emoji in computer-mediated communication." In Communicating Artificial Intelligence (AI), pp. 41-59. Routledge, 2020.*
7. *Kulkarni, Pradnya, Ameya Mahabaleshwarkar, Mrunalini Kulkarni, Nachiket Sirsikar, and Kunal Gadgil. "Conversational AI: An overview of methodologies, applications & future scope." In 2019 5th International conference on computing, communication, control and automation (ICCUBEA), pp. 1-7. IEEE, 2019.*
8. Oguntosin, Victoria, and Ayobami Olomo. "Development of an e-commerce chatbot for a university shopping mall." Applied Computational Intelligence and Soft Computing 2021 (2021): 1-14.
9. *Setiaji, Bayu, and Ferry Wahyu Wibowo. "Chatbot using a knowledge in database: human-to-machine conversation modeling." In 2016 7th international conference on intelligent systems, modelling and simulation (ISMS), pp. 72-77. IEEE, 2016.*
10. *Bavaresco, Rodrigo, Diórgenes Silveira, Eduardo Reis, Jorge Barbosa, Rodrigo Righi, Cristiano Costa, Rodolfo Antunes et al. "Conversational agents in business: A systematic literature review and future research directions." Computer Science Review 36 (2020): 100239.*
11. *Montenegro, Joao Luis Zeni, Cristiano André da Costa, and Rodrigo da Rosa Righi. "Survey of conversational agents in health." Expert Systems with Applications 129 (2019): 56-67.*
12. *Hobert, Sebastian, and Raphael Meyer von Wolff. "Say hello to your new automated tutor–a structured literature review on pedagogical conversational agents." (2019).*
13. *Fraser, Jamie, Ioannis Papaioannou, and Oliver Lemon. "Spoken conversational ai in video games: Emotional dialogue management increases user engagement." In Proceedings of the 18th international conference on intelligent virtual agents, pp. 179-184. 2018.*