

WHAT IS A

A chatbot is a computer program that uses artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language processing (NLP) to understand customer questions and automate responses to them, simulating human conversation.

Chatbots can make it easy for users to find the information they need by responding to their questions and requests—through text input, audio input, or both—without the need for human intervention.

Chatbot technology is almost everywhere these days, from the smart speakers at home to messaging applications in the workplace. The latest AI chatbots are often referred to as “virtual assistants” or “virtual agents.” They can use audio input, such as Apple's Siri, Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa, or interact with you via SMS text messaging. Either way, you're able to ask questions about what you need in a conversational way, and the chatbot can help refine your search through responses and follow-up questions.

CHATBOT?

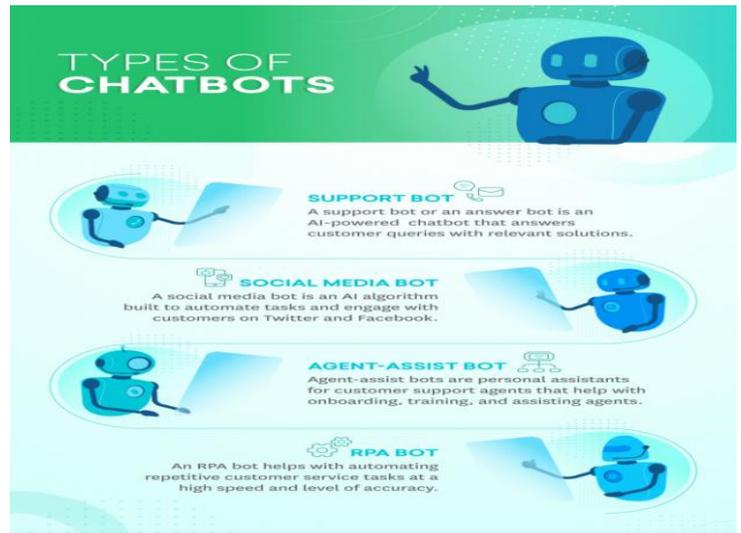
computer program



CHATBOTS VS. AI CHATBOTS VS. VIRTUAL AGENTS

You may notice the terms chatbot, AI chatbot and virtual agent being used interchangeably at times. And it's true that some chatbots are now using complex algorithms to provide more detailed responses.

However, it is worth noting that the deep learning capabilities of AI chatbots enable interactions to become more accurate over time, building a web of appropriate responses via their interactions with humans. The longer an AI chatbot has been in operation, the stronger its responses become. So an AI chatbot using deep learning may provide a more detailed and accurate response to a query, and especially to the intentions behind the query, than a chatbot with recently integrated algorithm-based knowledge.



ENDING THE CHATBOT'S 'SPIRAL OF MISERY'

Customer service chatbots may finally become more intelligent, more conversational and more helpful.

Some household gadget is misbehaving, and you need help. Or you have a question about travel arrangements or insurance coverage. You go to the company's website and a digital imp pops up in a small text window. "How can I help you?" it asks. Or you call a customer service number, and a chirpy automaton asks the same thing.

Gamely, you go ahead, typing or telling the chatbot what you want. Its formulaic replies are off the mark. It doesn't really understand you. Several wayward linguistic volleys later, you give up in despair.

That experience is so common that customer service experts have a name for it: "the spiral of misery."

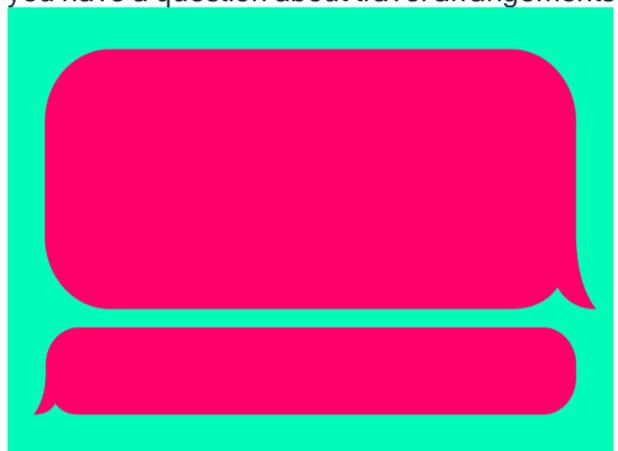
But there is good news. Customer service chatbots are becoming less robotic. And they are on a path to improve significantly over the next several years, according to researchers, industry executives and analysts, pulled along by advances in artificial intelligence. They will become more intelligent, more conversational, more humanlike and, most important, more helpful.

"Even now, there are times you sort of can't tell it's not a human," said Bern Elliot, an analyst at Gartner, a technology research firm. "It's not as good as you'd like, but it is moving in that direction. And innovation is occurring at a rapid pace."

In research projects, A.I. has delivered amazing feats of understanding and producing language, known as natural language processing. A.I. software can write stories and poems, answer trivia questions, translate dozens of languages, and has even created computer programs. These projects typically have all but unlimited computing power and tap unlimited volumes of readily accessible data across the web.

Consumer digital assistant software, like Apple's Siri and Amazon's Alexa, also roams the wide-open web to answer questions.

CHATBOTS: THE GOOD



As for applications for chatbots using NLP, the sky is the limit in industries as diverse as healthcare, education, retail, tourism and others. With many people trying to educate their children via Zoom, chatbots can deliver AI enabled education across the world. Some hair salons have been employing chatbots to schedule appointments and they are also being used for scheduling things like airport shuttles and rental cars.

Healthcare presents perhaps one of the biggest opportunities for virtual assistants. Automated text reminders of appointments have resulted in reduced no show rates in the U.S. And in rural parts of the world, chatbots are helping to connect patients to clinicians via digital consultations.

For example, in Rwanda where there are only one doctor and six healthcare workers per 10,000 people, healthbots are helping reduce the heavy demand on health centre staff. Instead of standing in line to see an in-person provider, patients can access consultations with doctors or nurses over the phone from anywhere in the country. They can receive a text message code for a prescription or a lab test.

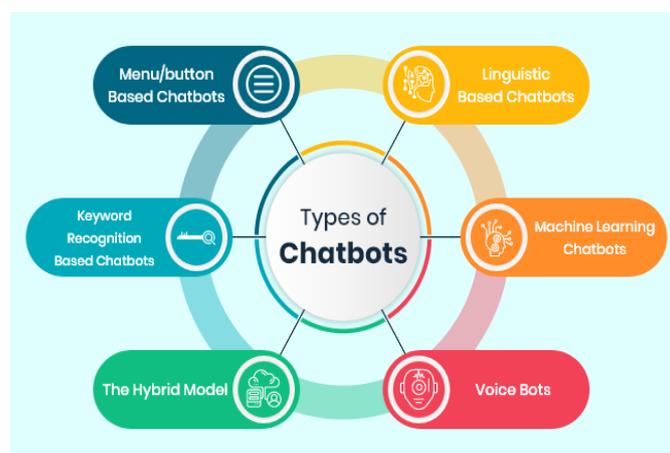
In the future, these healthbots will become triage tools that will use AI localized for Rwandan language and epidemiology to allow even more patients to be served. For patients that require a physical consultation, the triage tool will prioritize those needing the most urgent care. The triage tool can also share patient information with clinicians. This makes it easier for them to quickly access what they need to treat the patient.

Through such virtual assistants, more effective use of scarce health resources will be possible. In return, the quality of care will be improved, and healthcare workers will be kept in the loop.

CHATBOTS: THE BAD

AI is continuously learning but its algorithms are designed by humans who have biases. One of the pitfalls in using AI powered chatbots is the lack of diversity among creators that can lead to biased responses. Often heavily accented users are misunderstood by bots and that can have implications for patients as well as anyone seeking correct information. Poor guidance, incorrect diagnoses and failure to access timely interventions can result in serious consequences. The challenge is to attract more diverse programmers and recognize specific instances of inequity in communications.

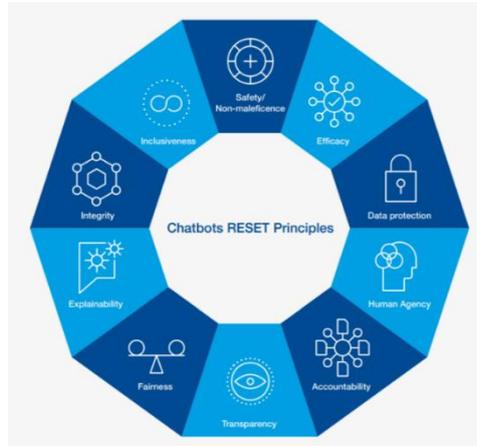
Information privacy is also a serious consideration, as is the ability of users to distinguish whether they're speaking to a bot powered virtual assistants increasingly sophisticated "natural" all the time. It's patients or other users are talking to a human or a advice from a physician or To address this University proposes that be required to produce, on identification that they are



or to a human. NLP are becoming and sound more understandable that should wonder if they bot - or getting medical a bot.

issue, Stanford artificial agents should demand, unambiguous bots. In addition, the

proposal calls for including assistant's history of ownership could potentially address tracking who's responsible for outcomes. Implementation of such proposals questions, but a comprehensive boundaries and keep people and safe. A Deloitte AI Institute and Engagement Centre study details can collaborate to help ensure realized and concerns over its innovation.



information about the virtual and usage. This information concerns and the question of

is bound to lead to further debate is needed to establish their sensitive information Chamber Technology how industry and government that AI's benefits are fully risks do not dampen



WEBSITE LINK:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/03/technology/ai-chatbot.html#:~:text=Customer%20service%20chatbots%20are%20becoming%20less%20robotic.%20And,conversational%2C%20more%20humanlike%20and%2C%20most%20important%2C%20more%20helpful.>

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