Project Legal Statement

Introduction

Applications software should be critically evaluated in terms of legacy and data privacy. For a client-side application as AvaBot, we have attached importance to not only the usability but also the legal implications, manufacturing processes and sustainability during the development.

Data Privacy and Protection

The Bot Application, i.e., AvaBot will not keep or expose any data (documents, images or conversations) that has been sent and uploaded by users after the users finish using it. There will be no login or signup sections for users. The application is expected to be accessed by any legal citizens. Azure Bot Connector service would do the bot authentication for applications that have been channeled to the bot. For client applications using Direct Line, they authenticate requests either by using a secret key (only for development purposes) configured and obtained from the Azure portal or by using a token obtained at runtime. All customer data is encrypted with two layers of encryption in Azure Bot Service.

Licenses and Intellectual Property

For the dependencies used for the project, which are Node.js (License subject to dependencies), Microsoft Bot Framework (MIT License), Axios (MIT License), Express (MIT License), Form-data (MIT License), Mocha (MIT License), Chai (MIT License), Haystack (Apache-2.0 License), Flask (BSD-3-Clause License), Gunicorn (MIT License), Nginx (MIT License), Numpy (BSD-3-Clause License), NLTK (Apache-2.0 License), Sumy (Apache-2.0 License), Pdfminer (MIT License), Pdftitle (GPL-3.0 License), Pandas (BSD-3-Clause License) and etc., all of them allows for commercial use, modification with changes stated and private use. The source code of AvaBot is licensed under GNU General Public License v3.0 as discussed with our client.

For the application development. we used the Microsoft's Azure services and APIs. Here is the list of services that were used:

1. Cognitive Services (Form Recognizer, LUIS, QnA Maker)

2. Storage Account
3. Web App Bot
4. App Service (App Service Plan)
5. Virtual Network
6. Application Insights
7. Search Service
8. Shared Dashboard
9. Function App

No copyrighted resources such as images are used other than those stated above.

Sustainability and Costing

The client will need to pay for hosting our solution, where three paid azure services are utilized:

1. QnA Maker: 9.98 USD per month
2. Form Recognizer: 50 USD per 1000 transactions
3. Function Apps (two functions via HTTP trigger) : each $0.20 per million executions, 1 million executions free grant per month

The bot structure and the API functions can be reused for many purposes other than the application solely.

Conclusion

In the statement were discussed the legacy and data privacy aspects of our project, as well as the sustainability of the application which will aid in further improvements of the application and benefit other developers.

References:

Bot framework authentication types in the Azure Bot Service - Bot Service | Microsoft Docs: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/bot-service/bot-builder-concept-authentication-types?view=azure-bot-service-4.0

Azure Bot Service encryption for data at rest - Bot Service | Microsoft Docs: https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/bot-service/bot-service-encryption?view=azure-bot-service-4.0

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