What is Xatkit?

Xatkit (https://xatkit.com/) is the easiest way to create advanced (chat)bots. Xatkit is an open source platform that allows anyone to easily create and deploy single chatbots using our high-level chatbot definition languages (textual DSLs). In our approach, chatbots can be defined without writing code (what it’s known as a low-code or no-code approach to software development). Xatkit takes care of translating these chatbot specifications to the actual running bot.

This specification involves a set of intents (each intent represents a possible intention the client has when interacting with the bot) and for each intent the corresponding reaction to be executed (either a text reply as part of the conversation, the call/s to an external service or both). Intents are recognized via a Natural Language Understanding (NLU) component that takes as input the user sentences and tries to match them against the expected intents.

The same bot can be deployed over a number of platforms without any rewriting (e.g. a company could first offer the chatbot over Facebook messenger and then decide to add also Telegram support without needing to redefine the bot behavior). A set of predefined platforms are prepackaged with the platform. Once the bot is defined and the client has chosen the set of platforms to deploy the bot over, the Xatkit runtime component “compiles”, deploys and executes the bot.

The following figure tries to summarize this process.

A Complex Chatbot use case of the project team’s choice

If the students have an idea for a useful (and non-trivial) chatbot AND that chatbot requires to extend or create a new platform in Xatkit (e.g. because the chatbot requires a connection with some external API or needs to use a messaging platform not yet part of
Xatkit), we believe this exercise of creating the chatbot plus extending the required Xatkit components for its good performance would be also an interesting project.

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