

Conversation design fundamentals

Program agenda

- What makes a conversation?
- 2 The role of the conversation designer
- 3 Fundamentals of conversation design

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When all you have are words, you need to make them count

What makes a conversation?

What makes a conversation a great conversation?

It should be natural

- Collaborative
- Personable
- Concise and relevant

Embraces positive human qualities

- Non-repeating, non-rigid
- Empathy, humour, contrition (as appropriate!)
- Acknowledging, reciprocity, comprehension

Open, not constrained, nor restricted

- User shouldn't have to use specific trigger words
- Ability to move around the conversation topics
- Never locked in to a repeating cycle

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The role of the conversation designer is to ensure and champion the drive for conversational excellence

The role of the conversation designer

What do you get from having a conversation designer/champion



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Fundamentals of conversation design

The conversation designer has to bridge a gap between two different worlds

The human

The digital assistant

Is ambiguous and imprecise

Tries to map to a single intent and extract entity values

May imply meaning

Needs the user to be explicit

May switch conversation and context

Tends to be rigid in conversation flow

Uses natural conversation with human characteristics

Needs to be explicitly coded to mimic characteristics of human conversation



Define your digital assistant persona

If you don't define and take control of the persona, users will project their own

It is part of your brand

- Formal or friendly?
- Are you trying to project specific traits
 - Trustworthy, financially astute, cheerful?

It is a template for your development

Consistency across your digital assistant development

Helps define how you deal with all facets of a conversation

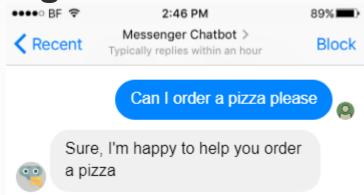
- Failures or not understanding
- Escalations or problems
- Returning users

- Acknowledgment (discourse markers)
 - Confirms the user has been "heard"
- 2. Implicit confirmation
 - Shows what the digital assistant has understood
- 3. Prompt
 - Cue the user for what the digital assistant expects next
- **4.** Choice architecture
 - How you might guide the user to make the right choice
- 5. Jenga technique
 - Take out words without changing meaning
 - Reduce cognitive load

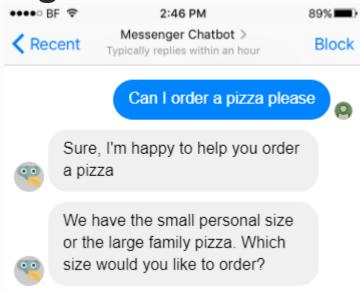
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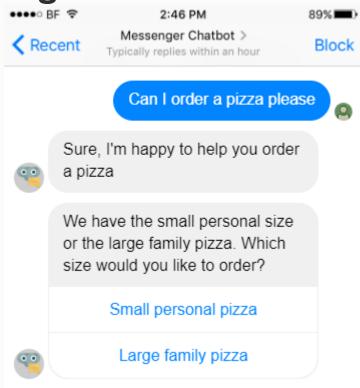
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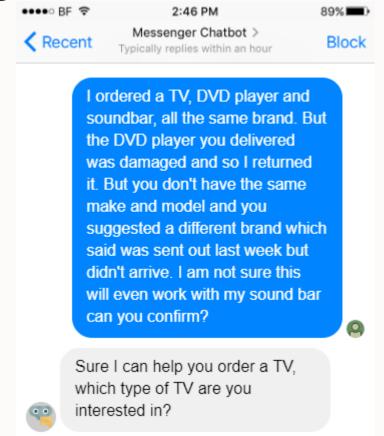
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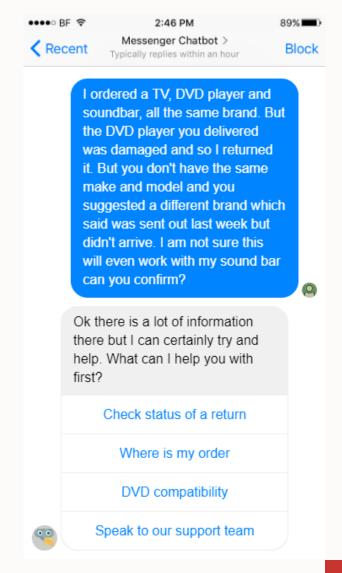
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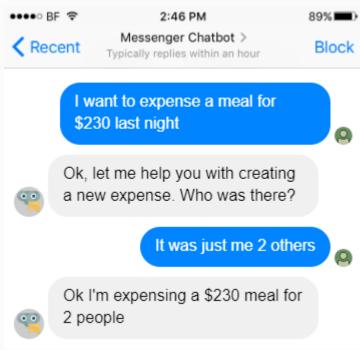
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 - Deal with ambiguity
- 2. The user or language is imprecise
 - Try and better guide the user to give the right information
- 3. The user expects the meaning to be inferred
 - User may not answer explicitly but meaning could be inferred
- 4. Contextual awareness
 - Understanding may be relevant to the current conversation
- 5. Ensuring the persona shines through
 - Nurture and encourage the persona throughout the conversation



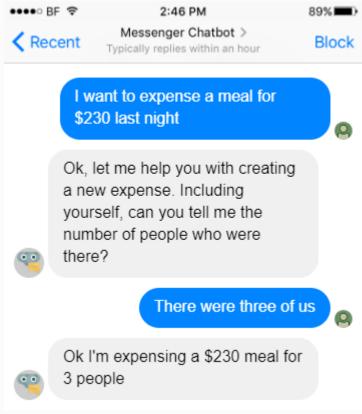
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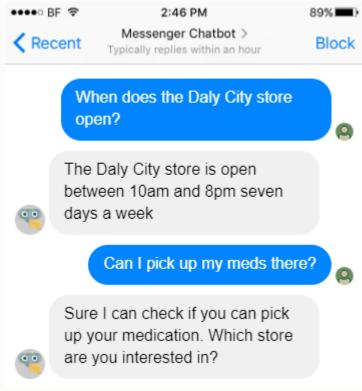
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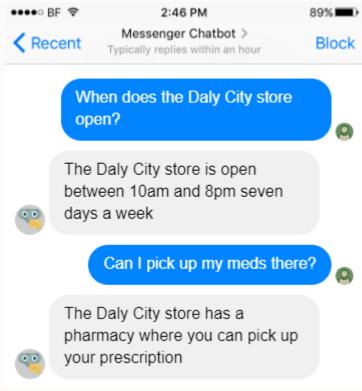
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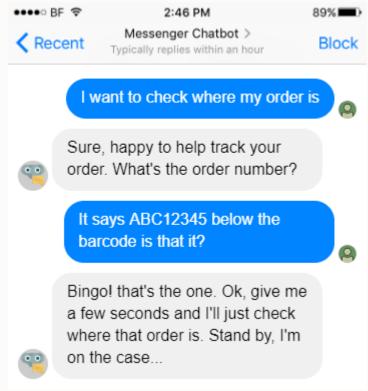
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