**Twitter Bot**

Concept Proposal

In order to concept your Twitter bot, you need to survey the landscape of identifiable and non-malicious bots on the platform. You can start by exploring [my Twitter list of bots](https://twitter.com/Rmlivingstone/lists/twitter-bots/members), but there are other lists of bots available on the Web. Note what different types of bots do, and which types seem the most interesting to you and your work.

Also, read these essays and profiles of Twitter bots:

Neyfakh. (2014). [The Botmaker Who Sees Through the Internet](https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2014/01/24/the-botmaker-who-sees-through-internet/V7Qn7HU8TPPl7MSM2TvbsJ/story.html)

Sample. (2014). [A Protest Bot is a Bot so Specific You Can’t Mistake it for Bullsh\*t.](https://medium.com/@samplereality/a-protest-bot-is-a-bot-so-specific-you-cant-mistake-it-for-bullshit-90fe10b7fbaa#.1a84r4to2)

As you develop a concept for your bot, also consider the perimeters of the [Google Sheet Twitter Bot](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qfHjpevccgUXLwIgxlNKBejvcWeyqTP5Fj6vfBuBwuI/edit?usp=sharing) template that we’ll be using. Your bot will be bound by the posting types enabled by this template.

One you have developed a concept, write a 1 paragraph description of your bot, addressing:

* what your bot will do
* how often it will post
* where you will get the data

Then, write a 1 paragraph justification of your bo, addressing:

* why it is a good/interesting/useful//uncanny/etc. idea?
* why it should exist
* what specific audiences it will speak to

In addition, create a Twitter list of similar bots on Twitter, or bots that inspired your concept. Submit a link to your Twitter list.

Twitter Bot Account Set-Up

Your Twitter bot will need a unique Twitter account/handle. Set up a new account [with the instructions on Twitter](https://twitter.com/i/flow/signup). It’s ok if you haven’t settled on an exact Twitter handle for your bot; you can modify the account name later if necessary.

Your Twitter bot account will also need to apply for Twitter Developer status. Go to [the Twitter Apps page](https://apps.twitter.com/) and follow the instructions to apply. In the description section, be sure to accurately describe what your bot will do and that it is non-malicious and for educational or artistic purposes. Twitter should respond to your application within a week and will notify you by email when approved.

In a separate tab, navigate [to the SSBot page on Github](https://github.com/zachwhalen/ssbot). The Google Sheet template we will be using was developed by Zach Whalen and has gone through a number of versions. Scroll down to the “Spreadsheet Releases” section and click on SSBot v0.5.2, which is the latest release. This will open the Google Sheet.

Be sure to start by making a copy of the spreadsheet using “Make a Copy” from the File menu. Name the sheet similarly to the name of your Twitter bot. This sheet will be saved to your Google Drive, where you may move it to a separate folder if necessary.

Then, follow the instructions on the Google Sheet to connect the sheet to your Twitter bot’s account. Additional documentation on using the sheet is available [on Zach Whalen’s website](http://www.zachwhalen.net/posts/how-to-make-a-twitter-bot-with-google-spreadsheets-version-04/). Note that the App interface on Twitter has changed a bit, so some of the information is located in different places or tabs.

Once the sheet is connected to your Twitter account, you’ll want to send a test tweet. You can do this using the default data in the sheet, or you can delete the default data and begin adding your own data. You can send a test tweet, as well as control the connection between the sheet and the Twitter account, using the Bot menu on the sheet. Note that when you send your first test tweet, you will be prompted by Twitter to authorize the connection. Follow the instructions on the pop-up windows as you complete this process.

Data Collection and Set-Up

Based on your bot concept, collect the necessary data for your spreadsheet. You may take advantage of existing data online (with proper attribution) or you may create your own dataset (or a combination of both).

The Google Sheet template offers various tabs that dictate various output patterns for your bot. Choose the tab that is most appropriate for your concept, and clear that tab of any default data. Then, use that tab to store your data. You may either use the sheet to collect your data as you go, or you may want to use a completely separate spreadsheet to collect your data, and then transfer your complete data to the Google sheet when you’re ready.

Twitter Bot Launch

On the day selected, your Twitter bot should be fully launched. You may choose to delete any tweets that were sent out during the set-up and testing process.

As with any social media account, you may choose to follow or interact with other accounts. Please stick to your bot’s concept, however; do not use the account for your personal communication.

Reflection

As with any technical or creative project, the period after completion offers you perspective on the process and your work. In a 3 page reflection, please discuss your overall experience with this project. You may address your concept’s genesis, but please also address these questions:

* What was the most challenging part of this project?
* What was the most satisfying part of this project?
* What skills were involved in creating this project? What skills did you improve on personally?
* Does this bot concept still resonate with you now that it’s a reality?
* How/why is the bot important? (to you, to Twitter, to the Internet, etc.)