

Microsoft Azure

Microsoft Azure is a Cloud computing platform from Microsoft. Our primary used service is the cognitive services text analytics. For the Beuthbot we use the student version of Azure. We chose this provider because we did not need to provide a credit card here.

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Student Account

The Student Account is a free to use account from Microsoft Azure. Here we get some limited free access to different services of the Azure program. Details you can find under <https://azure.microsoft.com/de-de/free/students/>

Because we have problems when creating the account, we have designed a following short manual:

1. click on „activate now“ on <https://azure.microsoft.com/de-de/free/students/>
2. login with a private Microsoft account (no University Mail!)
3. after login you must verify your Student Account with University Mail
4. at last you must identify you by name, mail address and phone number here you get an activation code which you must type in

The important knowledge we get from this registration is that we need private Microsoft accounts and that the Microsoft support is not very helpful.

Cognitive Services Text Analytics

To use the service we create in our Azure account a BeuthBot Projekt (resource group). In this we create a Cognitive Services Text Analytics in North Europe. Now we get an API endpoint from Microsoft where we can do „Post“ request with our messages. We have four options to ask for: the language, analyze sentiment, Extract key phrases and Identify linked entities.

More information about the API you can find here <https://docs.microsoft.com/de-de/azure/cognitive-services/text-analytics/>.

For the moment we use the service directly in our gateway later we want to outsource the service in an extra NLU Request Service (Adapter for NLU).

Knowledge

Very quickly, we realized that it is not possible to operate a chatbot with the text analytics services without paying for the service. Because the free limited access of the service is consumed very quickly in our own tests. So, while we can show that it is possible to use a chatbot with this service, it will not be usable that way.

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