Deep QA: Moving beyond the hype to examine the challenges in creating a cognitive assistant for humans

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Abstract

According to Wikipedia, Watson is "an artificially intelligent computer system capable of answering questions posed in natural language, developed in IBM's DeepQA project by a research team". Hiding behind this fairly bland definition is a complex set of technological challenges that cover areas ranging from NLP to context management, dialogue structure, feedback loops, and personalisation. In this talk Jennifer will first introduce several key NL projects from IBM Research to give an overview of the lab's work and will then delve into the Life of Watson, what 'he' could be when he 'grows up', and the many deep research questions that need to be addressed along the way.