# Regulatory Challenges for Robo-Advice

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**Erasmus** 





# **Types of Robo-Advisors**

# 1. Interface between financial services provider and consumer

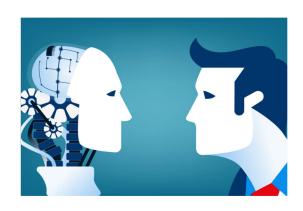
- a. Purchase
- b. Service
- c. Claims mgt

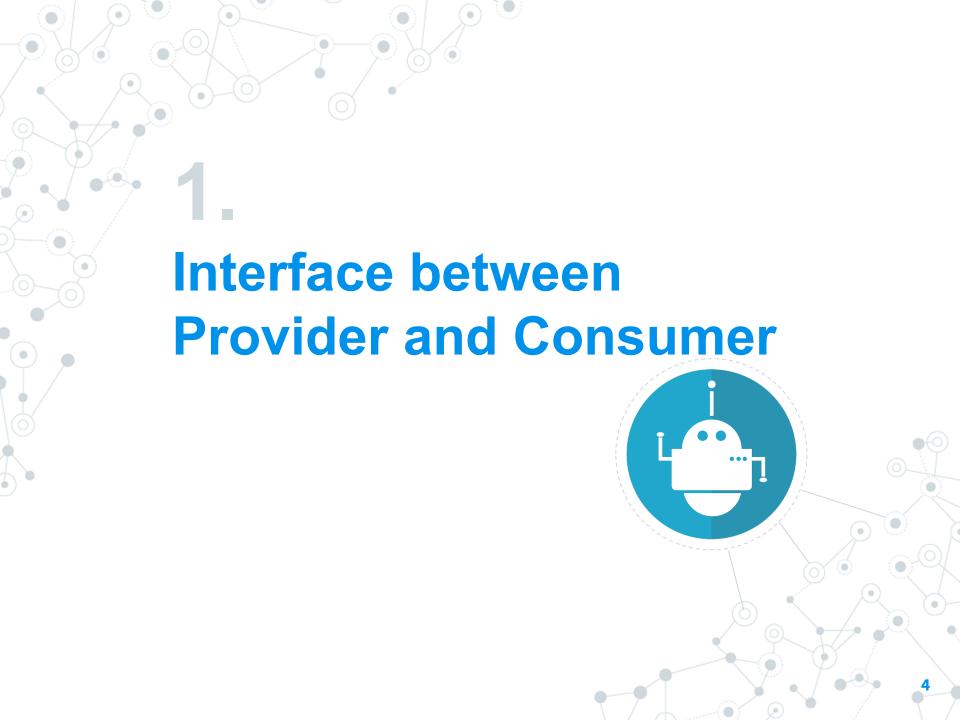


"Hello, I am Chloe. I am here to help."

# 2. Tool matching a consumer to a financial product

Price comparison site or a more sophisticated decision support tool





# **Software Wizards**

Fixed sequence of dialogues to facilitate form filling.

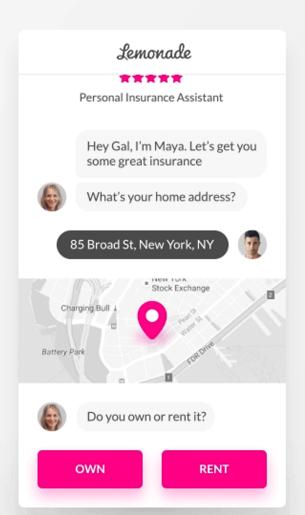
# **Chatbots**

Variable dialogue systems, potentially using AI

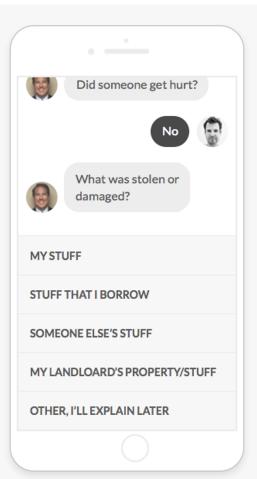


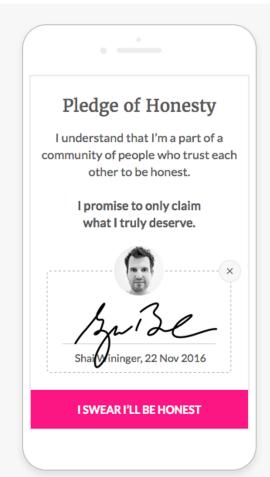
# **Lemonade Maya**

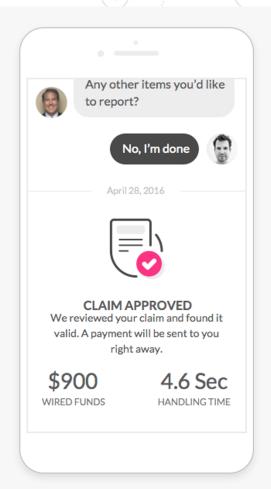




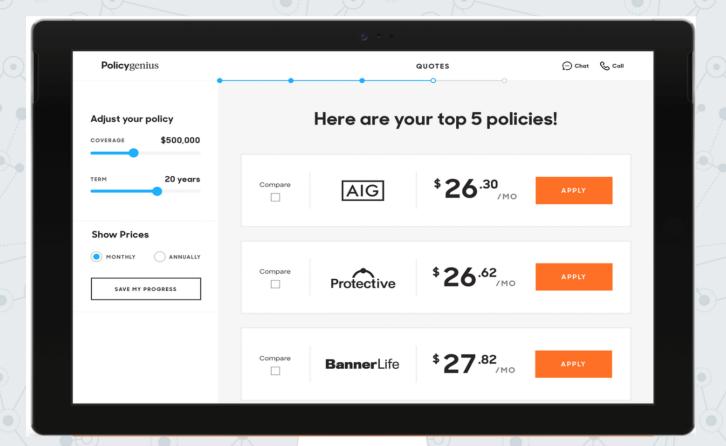
### **Lemonade Jim**











# **Policygenius**

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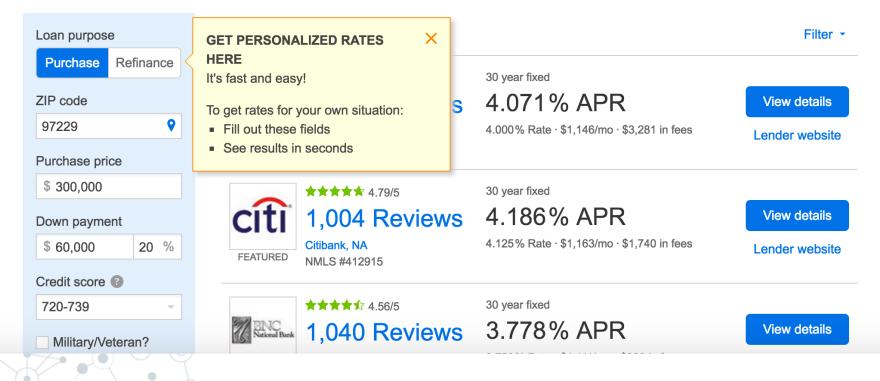
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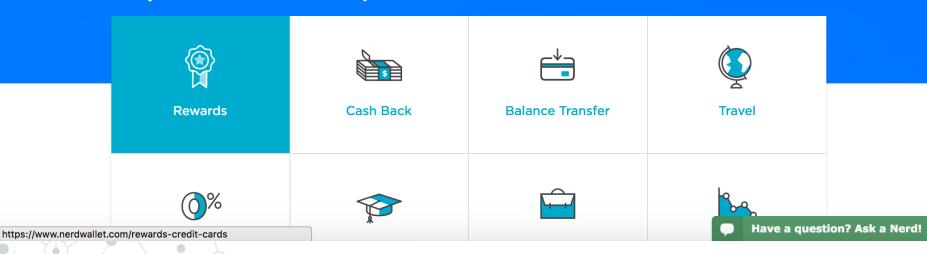


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# We can help you choose the right health plan.

Answer a few questions and we will identify plans that fit your needs. It's quick & easy!



Help Me Choose

No Thanks. Browse On My Own



#### **How It Works**



#### **Quick & Easy Process**

Three short steps to collect the medications, doctors and other information used to determine plan "fit".



#### **Your Score**

Your Plan Score (100 being the highest), determined on a number of dimensions, identifies how well each plan fits your needs.



Utilize our detailed cost estimations and benefit descriptions to make the right, educated decision for you.

Expertise -



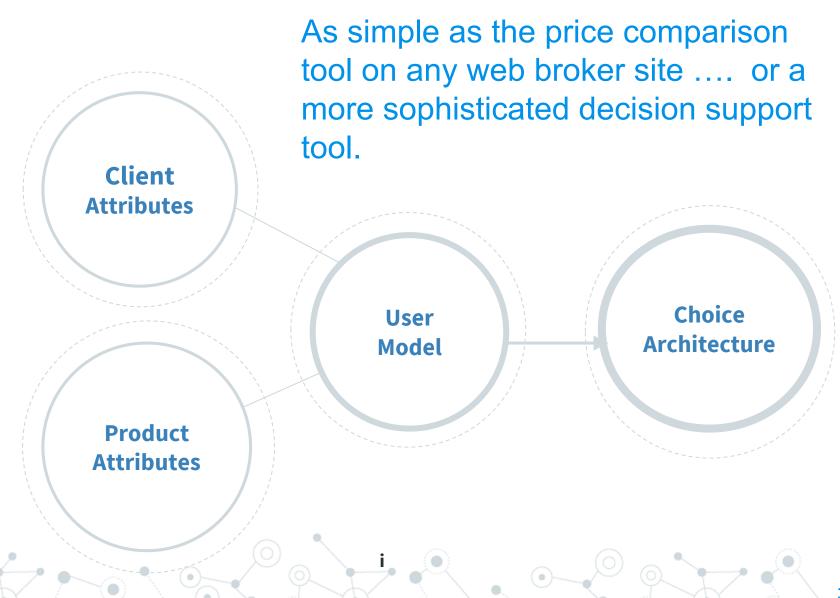
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Our software applies their best thinking to the moves we make in your account. Automated planning and investing is how we deliver all their expertise in your pocket.







# 3. Regulatory Considerations

# What is the proper role of government in:

- 1. Monitoring the quality of robo advice (as a 21<sup>st</sup> century analog to regulation of human intermediaries' competence and honesty)?
- 2. Making data available to facilitate robo advice?
- 3. Promoting values such as autonomy?
- If people had access to, and took advantage of, good quality robo advice, what could be the consequences for financial services regulation?

# In theory, robo advisors are:

- Always on
- 100% competent at the (difficult) math
- Immune to the paradox of choice
- Unbiased
- Transparent
- Scalable: marginal cost approaches \$0



## Regulatory focal points for robo advisors

#### **CORE COMPONENT**



- 1. Algorithms/models:
- 2. Data:
  - 1. Product attributes
  - 2. Consumer attributes
- 3. Choice architecture
- 4. IT infrastructure

#### **REGULATORY CONCERN**



- 1. Bias, competence, fairness, scale
- 2. Access, quality,
  - 1. Producers won't provide
  - 2. Data incomplete, biased
- 3. Bias, competence, autonomy
- 4. Security, privacy, reliability

Should there be a license for robo-advice software?

# Questions about algorithms & models

- What is the model maximizing?
- What product/consumer attributes does it consider?
- Are there other factors it considers?
- What factors did you consider and reject? Why?
- How are weights assigned to attributes?
- How do you identify edge cases? What do you do about them?
- How do you measure success & improvement over time?



### **Questions about data**

- Where do you get your product & customer data?
- What other sources of data are there?
- What product attribute data do carriers have that you do not?
- What customer attribute data would you like to get but cannot?
- How do you check quality of the data?
  - What problems have you found and how have you overcome them?
  - What do you do about missing data?

### Questions about choice architecture

- What are some of the decisions you made in constructing your choice architecture?
- How have you tested your choice architecture?
- Did you follow recognized best practices? What are they?
- What do you track about progress through the choice environment? How do you use that data?
- What patterns do you see in the variance between your recommendations and customers' choices? What do you learn from those patterns?
  - Do you promote autonomy? How?

## **Beyond basic competence**

- Challenge:
  - Promoting diversity and quality among robo advisors
    - Contests (and contests of contests)
  - Promoting autonomy
- Opportunities:
  - Greater intermediary accountability
  - Greater product diversity without the paradox of choice

# Thanks!

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