

# Just ask Bus Uncle

## Chatbot on Facebook Messenger informs you of bus arrival times — in Singlish



**BUS UNCLE:** The new chatbot allows users to “chat” on Facebook Messenger with a Singlish-speaking “bus uncle”.

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK/  
SGBUSUNCLE, GOOGLE, AFP,  
YOUTUBE

### ASK THE BUS UNCLE

The next time you need to know when your bus is arriving, you can just whip out your phone and send a message to Bus Uncle. His first reply to you will be: “Which street lah, bus stop lah, or send me location also can.”

After sending you the info – “Just 4 mins only better be at bus stop ah” – ask him if the information is “confirm?” and he’ll reply: “4 hours hahaha no la 4 mins.”

The entertaining “Bus Uncle” is actually a chatbot on Facebook Messenger created by Abhilash Murthy, a 24-year-old Information Systems Management graduate from Singapore Management University, according to website Tech in Asia.

The chatbot was “trained” to answer users’ queries using natural language processing, which involves the communication between intelligent systems and humans using natural languages.

When users send a message to Bus Uncle, they are asked for their location, which they can easily send at the touch of a button using Messenger’s in-built location-sharing function.

According to Bus Uncle’s Facebook page, the bus times are based on data from DataMall, which is the Land Transport Authority database.

Visit [facebook.com/sdbusuncle](https://facebook.com/sdbusuncle).