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## Amazon alexa developer guide

When you build an Alexa Smart Home skill, users can control their devices with cloud data using your skills. For smart home skills, the voice interaction model has already been built for you. When a user speaks to Alexa, Alexa interprets the utteration and sends a message to your skill that communicates the request. Your skill responds to the message by changing the status of a device, for example by dimming a light, or by sending information about the device status, for example by telling the user whether a light is on or off. For an overview of other types of Alexa skills you build with the Alexa Skills Kit, see [Index of Skill Types](#). Who can develop smart home skills for Alexa Anyone can develop a Smart Home skill. The Smart Home Skill API defines voice interactions for you, which means Alexa knows how to interpret the user's speech and what guidelines should be sent to your skills. Smart Home skill development falls into two categories: device manufacturers who want to enable customers to interact with their devices with the cloud with their voice. Independent developers who want to create an Alexa skill for connected cloud devices, either for private use or for general public use. What types of devices are supported You connect virtually any type of device with Alexa to the Smart Home Skill API. For smart home skills, the voice interaction model is already built for you. You control how you want the user to communicate with your device, and then you implement in your skill the capabilities interfaces that make these interactions possible. For example, if your device is a lamp and you want the user to be able to turn the lamp on and off, implement the `Alexa.PowerController` interface into your skill. Most devices deploy multiple interfaces to enable voice interaction with multiple functions. For the full list of smart home interfaces, see [List of Alexa interfaces](#). Many Alexa interfaces only need to be deployed for specific device types, but other interfaces can be implemented for many types of devices. For example, implement the `ThermostatController` interface only for thermostats, but implement interfaces such as `PowerLevelController` for many types of devices. Where possible, choose an interface that's specific to your device, because Alexa can support more specific functionality. For example, you can model the concept of device brightness with `PercentageController` or `RangeController`, but if you deploy the `BrightnessController` interface instead, Alexa provides built-in support for the phrase `Alexa, dim the lights`. For recommendations on which you need to implement for a number of common device types. How the Smart Home skill API works The Smart Home Skill API provides capabilities that help you describe your devices and the features, events, and guidelines they support. To describe your device to Alexa, send a `Discover.Response` event after receiving a one Alexa's guidance during the device detection process. Alexa uses this description of your device and the ability to automatically enable certain functionality, such as: `Native Voice User Interface (VUI)` for many general commands. Contextual targeting, which allows Alexa to use contextual cues, such as device groups, to issue commands that target the right device, even if the customer is not explicit. Control devices through routines. View and control devices with the Alexa app. In addition to supporting voice requests, the API also updates you when a device's status changes. This allows customers to ask Alexa for a device and see an up-to-date status of the device in the Alexa app. For example, a customer can use the Alexa app to check the temperature of their home or to see if there's a light on. To support these customer scenarios, this API has the following features: `Capabilities interfaces` - These interfaces describe the functionality of a device. A device, or endpoint, can implement the combination of capabilities interfaces that best represent the features. For example, a light that can be turned on and off can deploy two interfaces: `PowerController` and `BrightnessController`. A similar light that has these two functions and also supports tunable white light can also implement `ColorTemperatureController`. Synchronous and asynchronous messages : When Alexa sends a guideline, your Smart Home skill responds with a message called an event, synchronous or asynchronous. You're free to choose asynchronous or synchronous responses or a combination of the two, which works best for your device and cloud architecture. Notifications for device status changes : Provide you with proactive status updates for Alexa in event messages. Alexa can then provide this information in the Alexa app and allow customers to take action if necessary. For example, if a door unlocks, send this change report to Alexa and see the change in your customer's Alexa app. Query : Capabilities define properties that Alexa can request so that customers can check the current state of a device using Alexa or the Alexa app. The following image shows an overview of the functionality offered by the Smart Home Skill API. For example, a customer makes your Smart Home skill possible, links the skill to their account to your device's cloud, and asks Alexa to discover devices associated with that account. Later, when the customers say (for example), `Alexa, turn the kitchen light to 50 percent`, or makes a change to a device setting in the Alexa app, Alexa uses information from the customer's expression or app to compose a message that endpoint and identifies the operation to perform. This message, called a guideline, is sent to your skill that controls the kitchen light. The guideline includes: The message about the possibility (e.g. `BrightnessController.Set(Brightness)`), which contains the new setting value. Contains. endpoint ID (an ID that represents the endpoint that the customer called kitchen light). Information that the customer verifies. Your skill code, hosted in AWS Lambda, a compute service provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS), receives and dissects the guideline and validates the authentication data. Your skill communicates with your systems or device cloud, through communication channels you've defined, to set the brightness on the customer's kitchen light. Your skill responds to Alexa with a message that mentions an event that indicates whether the operation was successful. You have the ability to send the event synchronously from the Lambda function or asynchronously from the device cloud. Alexa uses this response to provide the right response to the customer. For example, Alexa may say , `OK` to indicate that the requested guideline has been processed. Later, the customer manually turns off the kitchen light, so your skill sends a change report event to Alexa to indicate that the light is now off. Next steps to create a skill To get started, you'll see steps to build a Smart Home skill. Other sources When you build for speech, you don't just add speech to your app and call it a speech experience. Learn how to reinvent the whole experience from a voice-first perspective. What makes an Alexa skill attractive to customers? What keeps customers coming back over time? Learn the qualities of the best performing Alexa skills, and then build your own eye-catching skill that delights customers. From fun games to educational lessons, build Up Alexa skills that appeal to young minds. Learn what kids find attractive when it comes to speech experiences, and then start building to reach a whole new generation. Find out how to make money from your Alexa skill using in-skill purchasing (ISP) and Amazon Pay for Alexa Skills. Learn the basics about designing a premium experience, what products to use, how to build and how to measure and optimize your revenue. Hear from developers who have found success monetizing their skills. Developers are adding voice to their wildest gaming ideas, imagining a whole new way to engage players while making money and even building a business. Download this white paper to join the pioneers who build voice-first games. A voice user interface (VUI) allows people to use voice input to control computers and devices. Learn the 7 steps you follow to design a speech experience, from idea to dialogue flow to voice interaction. Use Amazon Web Services (AWS) to build a professional backend for your Alexa skill. Make sure that your skill includes both unexpected traffic peaks and more use in the can handle the time. When we look at some of the most engaging Alexa skills, we see a variety of speech

experiences that stand out from the rest. Discover voice design tips from top Alexa developers with some of the most popular skills. There are technical aspects to building for speech, as well as creative concepts that go into design designing Alexa skills. Discover the 10 things every Alexa skill should do.

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