

AMAZON ALEXA

February 16, 2021

Amazon Alexa, also known as **ALEXA** is a virtual assistant (artificial intelligence) AI developed by Amazon . The first release was the Echo smart speaker in 2014.

Platform:

Fire OS (Alexa)

iOS (Apple)

Android

Cortana (Windows 10)

Linux

Windows 8 & above

Type of Device

Intelligent personal assistant, cloud-based voice service

Functions:

Alexa can perform a number of preset functions out-of-the-box such as set timers, share the current weather, create lists, access news, articles, play music from a variety of sources and many more.

Alexa listens for the commands and performs the appropriate function, or skill, to answer a question or command

Purpose:

An Alexa devices is capable of voice interaction, music playback, making to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts, playing audiobooks, and providing weather, traffic, sports, and other real-time information, such as news. **Alexa** can also control several smart devices using itself as a home automation system.

How does it work:

Alexa's question answering ability is partly powered by the Wolfram Language.

When questions are asked, Alexa converts sound waves into text which allows it to gather information from various sources.

Behind the scenes, the data gathered is then passed by Wolfram's technology to generate suitable and accurate answers

How does it work - cont

Perform third-party skills that users can enable.

Some of the most popular:

- ‘Question of the day’
- “Joke of the day”
- “National Geographic Geo Quiz” (trivia)”
- “Big Sky” for hyper local weather updates
- “Sleep and Relaxation sounds” - for listening to calming sounds
- “Sesame Street” for children’s entertainment
- “Fitbit” for Fitbit users who want to check in on their health stats

Technology Advancements

- June 2016 (1000) Functions (skills)
- April 2019 (90,000) Functions
- August 2018 Microsoft's Cortana available
- December 2018 integration with Wolfram Alpha which provides enhanced accuracy for user questions related to (math, science, astronomy, engineering, geography, history, and more).

Alexa and Echo devices provide transparency and control

Alexa devices are designed with privacy in mind.

When you talk to Alexa, by using the wake word, or pressing the action button; only then will the device begin recording and sending your request.

All interactions are encrypted in transit to amazon's cloud

You can tell when Alexa is listening with the light indicator or the audible tone

Echo smart speakers have a microphone off button to disconnect the microphone.

On Echo devices with a camera, you can turn off the camera and microphone with a button.

Alexa and Echo devices provide transparency and control - cont

Privacy settings in the Alexa app you can view, hear, and delete your voice recordings or not saved. To delete by voice, say “Alexa, delete what I just said” or “delete everything I ever said”.

The Alexa app runs on “IOS, ANDROID, WINDOWS, MAC OS, and LINUX

Alexa in the Kitchen

“Alexa, announce dinner is ready”

“Alexa, how long is chicken good for?”

“Alexa, show me cookie recipes.”

“Alexa, how long should I steam rice?”

“Alexa, convert 2 cups to ounces”

“Alexa, set timer for 8 minutes”

“Alexa, set second timer for minutes”

“Alexa, how many tablespoons are in a cup”

“Alexa, how many calories are in a banana”

“Alexa, put eggs, milk and bread on my shopping list”

Skills

“Alexa open Dominos”

“Alexa open The Bartender”

“Alexa, open Starbucks”

Alexa in the Bedroom

“Alexa, wake me up to country music at 7 AM ”

“Alexa, open sleep sounds.”

“Alexa, help me meditate.”

“Alexa, good morning?

“Alexa, play relaxing music.”

“Alexa, turn off the lights *.”

“Alexa, lock the front door/ * ”

Good morning will kick off your days weather forecast, followed by words of inspiration and news updates.

Alexa in the Bedroom - Cont

Control your smart home from bed *

