



# ALEXA

## ITS FUNCTION & ETHICAL ISSUES

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### Introduction

Alexa is an Artificial Intelligence (AI), launched by Amazon in 2014, however, it was not made public until 2015. Siri, Google Assistant, Cortana are some of the AI's that has taken over the digital world, also known as digital assistant. Alexa recognizes human commands and states the user's questions. The daily tasks that was once done by human can now be done by Alexa., as it can take notes, play music, news, read sport scores and check weather.

### Functions

Apart from streaming the music or news and forecasting weather, Alexa has various inbuilt functions:

- ❖ The wakeup name "Alexa" can be changed into any other preferred name, such as computer or dot.
- ❖ Play same playlist in multiple Alexa assistant.
- ❖ Share profiles.
- ❖ Use within distance
- ❖ Thinking and Acting Humanly.

### Ethical Issues

Being a good listener and accepting the commands of human, Alexa on the other hand can be a tough choice to share the information with. Saying that this digital assistant can lead to privacy issues. The companies like Apple has stated that the data that they obtain from the device are collected as a big data, and that they sell the data's for the governments. Accordingly, there can be less job opportunities for personal assistants as their work can now be done by Alexa. Nonetheless, multiuser can be another issue as other person can misuse the hosts data.

```
class LaunchRequestHandler(AbstractRequestHandler):
    """Handler for Skill Launch."""
    def can_handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> bool

        return ask_utils.is_request_type("LaunchRequest")(handler_input)

    def handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> Response
        speak_output = "Welcome, you can say Hello or Help. Which would you like to try?"

        return (
            handler_input.response_builder
                .speak(speak_output)
                .ask(speak_output)
                .response
        )
```

```
class HelloWorldIntentHandler(AbstractRequestHandler):
    """Handler for Hello World Intent."""
    def can_handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> bool
        return ask_utils.is_intent_name("HelloWorldIntent")(handler_input)

    def handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> Response
        speak_output = "Hello World!"

        return (
            handler_input.response_builder
                .speak(speak_output)
                # .ask("add a reprompt if you want to keep the session open for the user to respond")
                .response
        )
```

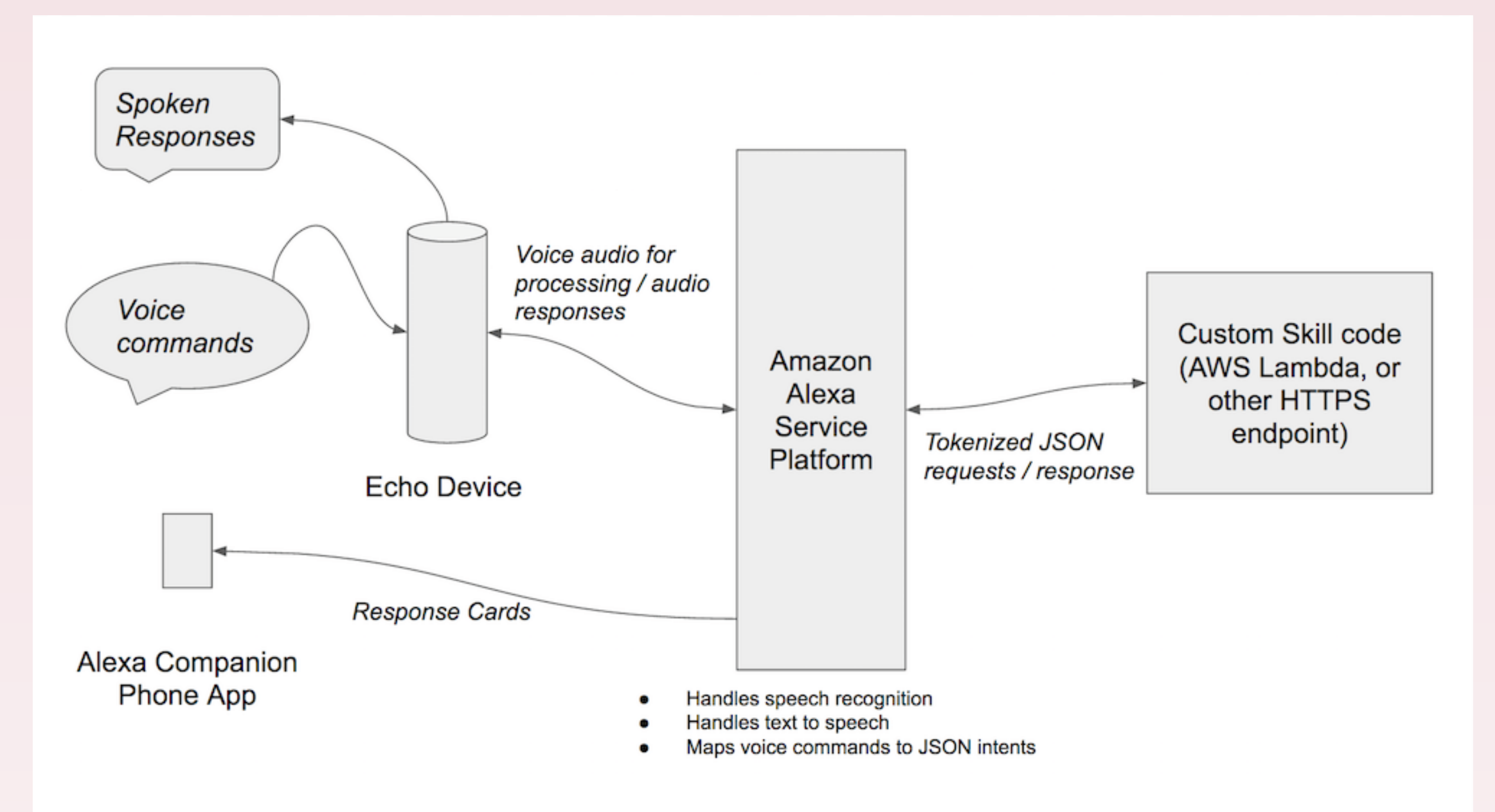
```
class HelpIntentHandler(AbstractRequestHandler):
    """Handler for Help Intent."""
    def can_handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> bool
        return ask_utils.is_intent_name("AMAZON.HelpIntent")(handler_input)

    def handle(self, handler_input):
        # type: (HandlerInput) -> Response
        speak_output = "You can say hello to me! How can I help?"

        return (
            handler_input.response_builder
                .speak(speak_output)
                .ask(speak_output)
                .response
        )
```

### Skills

The built in in alexa is fairly composed of different programming schemes. Specifically, the developer uses Amazon Web Services (AWS) Lambda, which supports code in Node.js (Javascript), Java, Python, C#, or Go. Similarly, Jovo is the first open source framework that allows to build voice apps, test or debug voice apps in the browser, and allows to get the settings information.



### References

- ❖ <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/amazon-alexa-the-smart-persons-guide/>
- ❖ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon\\_Alexa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Alexa)
- ❖ <https://www.alphr.com/amazon/1009596/hidden-secrets-amazon-echo-alexa-tips-tricks>
- ❖ <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/oct/09/alexa-are-you-invading-my-privacy-the-dark-side-of-our-voice-assistants>
- ❖ <https://www.the-ambient.com/guides/amazon-alexa-missing-manual-130>
- ❖ <https://github.com/jovotech/jovo-framework>