**What is Alexa Helper:**

The suite of Alexa Helper applications are add-ins to the main SmartThings mobile application that allow for additional control over your SmartThings devices using the Amazon Echo. The Amazon Echo already has control over switches and dimmers within the SmartThings environment; however, it cannot natively control other SmartThings devices such as locks, speakers or thermostats. In addition, there is no way to natively trigger SmartThings modes, routines or security states. With the Alexa Helper applications, almost all things within the SmartThings home can be controlled, along with the ability to control other locations, a function not even the SmartThings infrastructure allows easily.

**Definitions:**

**Virtual Switch**-A device within the SmartThings environment that appears to be a regular switch. However, the device is ‘virtual’ and not tied to a physical device.

**Momentary Tile**-A type of virtual switch that behaves like a spring loaded physical switch. In other words, it is in a normally closed (off) state. When pressed, it comes on momentarily, and the turns itself off.

**Virtual Dimmer**-Another type of virtual switch that acts as a dimmer. You can not only turn this virtual device on or off but you can also set different levels (0 to 100) of ‘brightness’. Again, this is just a virtual device that is not tied to any physical device in the SmartThings environment.

**IDE**-Abbreviation for “Integrated Development Environment”. In the context of the SmartThings environment, this is the web site located at <http://ide.smartthings.com> that allows for advanced functionality within the SmartThings environment. This allows you to set up custom devices and applications that appear within your SmartThings mobile application.

**GitHub**-A web-based repository that allows for distribution revision control and source code management functionality.

**OAuth**-Provides client applications a secure method for accessing resources on behalf of the resource owner. Within the context of SmartThings, certain custom applications that allow for remote access (such as remotely turning on or off a light) will require additional authentication. As the owner of the resource, you can authorize remote access to an application by enabling OAuth.

**Access Token**-A security identity that is linked to OAuth and in the context of SmartThings, allows for remote control of a locations devices.

**URL**-Uniform Resource Locator, or basically the address of a web site or online resource, such as <http://www.smartthings.com>

**Conventions:**

The following conventions are used throughout this manual.

**Web sites/URLs** - <http://www.smartthings.com>

**Spoken Commands** - *<”Alexa, turn on the front porch”>*