

Raspi Asterisk PBX Alexa Interface

2016-08-05 -- r.grokkett

version 0.9



Overview

This project is a proof-of-concept using Asterisk PBX, running on a Raspberry Pi Zero or better, interfaced to Amazon Alexa™ Voice Service API. Using a SIP Phone or SoftPhone, the user dials into their Raspberry Asterisk PBX extension and follows the prompts to speak questions which are sent to Amazon Alexa Voice Service. Responses are spoken back over the phone. No Amazon Echo™ required.

It uses a Perl AGI script and SOX to convert the audio formats and send & receive the AVS JSON API messages over the Internet. Amazon does not currently charge for this service, but you do have to create an AWS Developer account.

As this is only a proof-of-concept, it does not comply with Amazon's Public/Commercial terms & conditions. But it does meet their developer requirements for private, non-commercial use.

The primary limitation is that you cannot connect an external telephone number to this for use as an inbound service without modification to meet their requirements. (i.e. trigger the recording using a push button (touchtone?). Also, it has not been optimized to reduce overhead and improve response time. But for a single user demo, the Raspi Zero and AVS work quite well.

Requirements

- Raspberry Pi Zero, B+, 2 or 3

- Raspian Jessie installed and up to date
- Raspi ethernet or Wifi connected (direct Ethernet is best)
- SSH access to the Raspberry
- A SIP Phone (Such as Grandstream GXP1620) or SoftPhone such as:
http://www.asteriskguru.com/tutorials/xlite_softphone.html
<http://www.zoiper.com/en/voip-softphone/download/zoiper-classic>

This project assumes a working knowledge of Raspian command-line, SSH and some knowledge of Asterisk PBX. It also assumes you have a Raspberry Pi configured with Raspian Jessie and connected to your network. This does not require a GUI on the Raspberry, so assumes headless operation and a login prompt or SSH access.

Asterisk PBX Configuration

The Raspberry needs outbound Internet access but the Asterisk PBX does NOT need any external SIP Voice Provider. This project does not use inbound or outbound voice calls.

If you have never used Asterisk, you probably should look up some Asterisk tutorials. Though, most of the information isn't needed here.

This project should be done on a CLEAN, CONFIGURED RASPIAN JESSIE installation. Using an existing installation may have had modifications that impact Asterisk.

1. Install an Asterisk PBX on your Raspberry Pi:

```
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get upgrade
$ sudo apt-get install asterisk
```

2. Retrieve the project files from Github:

```
$ cd /home/pi
$ git clone https://github.com/rgrokkett/RaspiAsteriskAlexa
```

3. Add a SIP Phone to your Asterisk. Since there are many ways to do this, I am showing a generic configuration. Each phone has different options, but this should be all that is needed here.

This is adding an extension number 5310 to Asterisk. Remember, this does NOT include inbound or outbound calling. Only internal calls.

Backup your /etc/asterisk/*.conf files before editing!

There are snips of these files in the ./RaspiAsteriskAlexa/config/ directory, if you don't want to cut & paste from below.

```
$ cd config
$ sudo cp /etc/asterisk/sip.conf /etc/asterisk/sip.conf.bak
```

```
$ sudo cat sip.conf >> /etc/asterisk/sip.conf
$ sudo cp /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf.bak
$ sudo cat extensions.conf >> /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf
```

Append to /etc/asterisk/sip.conf

```
[5310]
type=friend
username=5310
fromuser=5310
host=dynamic
context=local
insecure=port
qualify=500
dtmfmode=rfc2833
disallow=all
allow=ulaw
obtained
progressinband=no
nat=no
mailbox=5310
callerid=5310
```

Append to /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf

```
; Basic SIP Phone
exten => 5310,1,Dial(SIP/5310,15)
exten => 5310,2,VoiceMail(5310,u)
exten => 5310,3,Hangup
exten => 5310,102,VoiceMail(5310,b)
exten => 5310,103,Hangup
```

SIP Phone options:

```
SIP Proxy Server: 192.168.1.XX      <- The IP Address of your Raspi Pi  $ hostname -I
Domain/Realm/Registration: <same IP as above>
Username: 5310
Password: <blank>
```

4. Configure your SIP Phone with the options above. Most other phone options are not used here, so can usually be ignored.
5. Reboot your Raspberry and your SIP Phone and see if you can get dial tone.
If so, try dialing **1000# on your SIP Phone**. You should get a built-in demo.

Debugging: If you don't get dial tone, your SIP Phone isn't registering to your Asterisk server.

Try the following:

- a. Power off and on the Raspberry and then the SIP phone to see if they reconnect.
- b. Verify the files above are edited correctly. Watch for syntax errors!
- c. \$ sudo asterisk -r

- d. CLI> sip show peers
This should show your sip phone's IP and status
Watch out for firewalls, particularly if using a softphone!
- e. Verify IP addresses of the Sip Phone and Raspi and be sure you can ping the phone from the Raspi.
- f. CLI> sip set debug on
This will display SIP connection attempt messages. If you see nothing after a few minutes, then your SIP Phone isn't even trying to talk to Asterisk. You need to dig into the SIP Phone's setup instructions.
- g. Asterisk log messages go to /var/log/asterisk/messages. But note there can be lots of nasty looking messages, most are for unused/unneeded features. So it can be difficult to decipher.

If you have successfully gotten dial tone and the demo, then you now have a working Asterisk PBX!

Alexa/Asterisk Install and Configuration

1. Install required packages:

You can run the install.sh script to do this.

```
$ cd /home/pi/RaspiAsteriskAlexa/  
$ bash ./install.sh
```

This takes a while and will ask questions along the way. Just accept the defaults.

```
# Install packages and files  
sudo cp alexa.agi /usr/share/asterisk/agi-bin/alexagi  
sudo cp avs_audio.json /etc/  
sudo cp sounds/alexasln /usr/share/asterisk/sounds/custom/  
  
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /usr/share/asterisk/agi-bin/alexagi  
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /etc/avs_audio.json  
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /usr/share/asterisk/sounds/custom/alexasln  
  
cp token.pl /home/pi  
sudo rm /tmp/*  
sudo rm /tmp/token.* /tmp/avs*  
  
# INSTALL VARIOUS PACKAGES  
sudo apt-get install sox  
sudo apt-get install libsox-fmt-mp3  
sudo apt-get install libwww-perl libjson-perl  
sudo apt-get install flac  
sudo curl -L http://cpanmin.us | perl - --sudo App::cpanminus  
sudo cpanm IO::Socket::SSL --force  
sudo perl -MCPAN -e 'install JSON'  
sudo apt-get install libjson-pp-perl
```

2. Verify the Asterisk /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf contains the below and append if needed:

```
$ sudo tail -30 /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf
```

/etc/asterisk/extensions.conf

```
; AMAZON ALEXA VOICE
[alexa_tts]
exten => 5555,1,Answer()
; Get an AWS Token
exten => 5555,n,System(/home/pi/token.pl)
; Play prompts
exten => 5555,n,Playback(/custom/alexa_hello)
exten => 5555,n,Playback(/custom/alexa_example)
; Alexa API integration
exten => 5555,n(record),agi(alexa.agi,en-us)
; Loop
exten => 5555,n,Playback(/custom/alexa_another)
exten => 5555,n,goto(record)
; These are not used currently
exten => 5555,n(goodbye),Playback(vm-goodbye)
exten => 5555,n,Hangup()
```

3. Add the following line to extensions.conf so that the extension is dial-able locally.

- a. Edit /etc/asterisk/extensions.conf
- b. Locate the section called [local]
- c. Add a line **"include => alexa_tts"**

/etc/asterisk/extensions.conf

```
[local]
;
; Master context for local, toll-free, and iaxtel calls only
;
ignorepat => 9
include => default
include => trunklocal
include => iaxtel700
include => trunktollfree
include => iaxprovider
include => alexa_tts
```

4. Reboot the Raspberry Pi to pick all these changes.
5. Finished with part 1.

Amazon Alexa Voice Service Setup

You have finished part 1 of the setup. Now you need to create a (free) account on Amazon Alexa Voice Services and get authentication tokens for your Raspi Asterisk.

Excerpted from *Getting Started with the Alexa Voice Service*:

<https://developer.amazon.com/public/solutions/alexa/alexa-voice-service/getting-started-with-the-alexa-voice-service>

Register Your Product with AVS

- Sign up for a [free Amazon developer account](#)
- Log in to the [Amazon Developer Portal](#)
- Select **Get Started** under Alexa Voice Service and follow the instructions to register your product

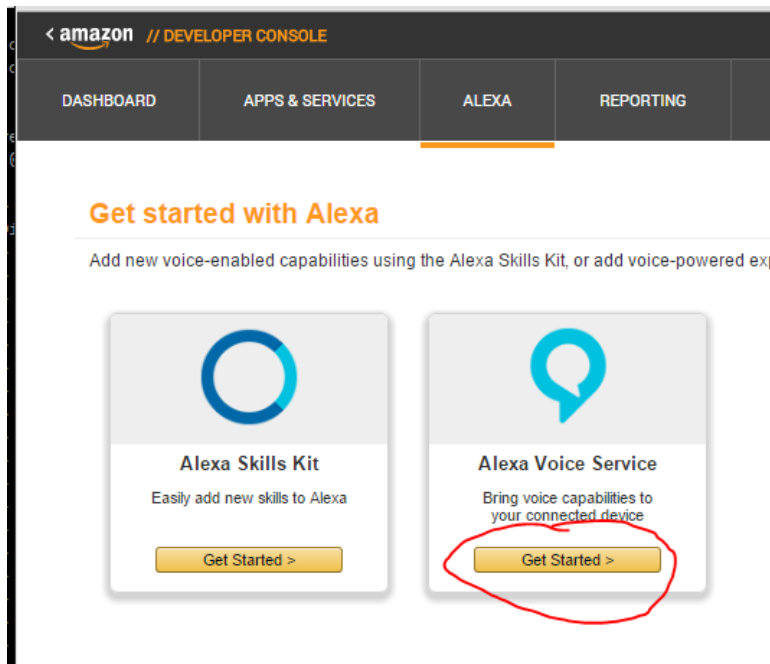


Fig. 1 – Amazon AVS

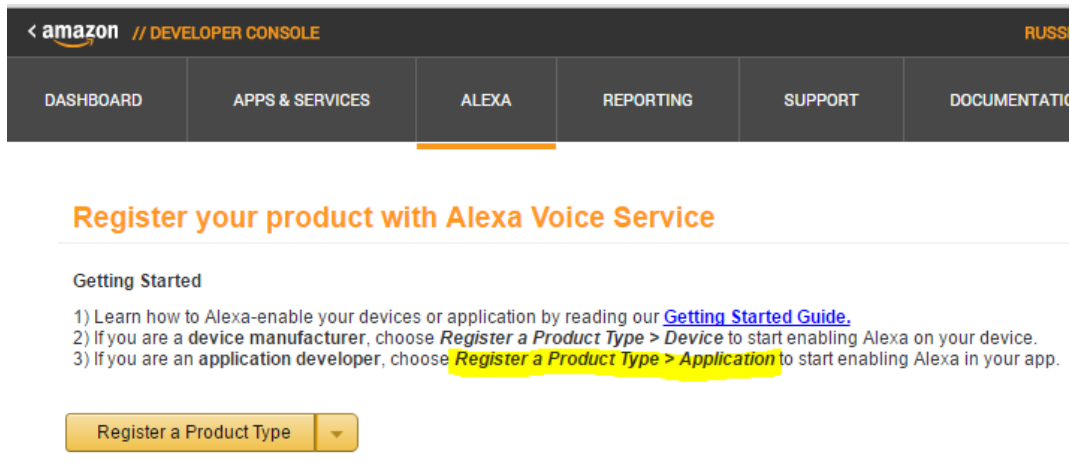


Fig.2 – Register a **Product Type > Application**

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Create a new Application Type

* Fields required

Application Type Info ✓

Security Profile ✓

Application Details ✓

Amazon Music ✓

Company Name
The name of the company you listed in your developer account profile.

Application Type ID *
Choose a unique name that identifies your application. This name will not be shown to end users. It may only contain letters, numbers and underscores.

Display Name *
Choose an application name that you want shown to your end users when they register their applications with Amazon.

Next

Fig.3 – Fill out the Application Type screen. Use any names you like.

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Create a new Application Type

* Fields required

Application Type Info ✓

Security Profile ✓

Application Details ✓

Amazon Music ✓

You need a security profile to identify your application. Your security profile credentials - client ID and client secret - allow your application to securely identify itself to the Alexa Voice Service. If you are building a website, click here to [Learn More](#). If you are building an Android or iOS app, click here to [Learn More](#).

Security Profile ? *
A security profile is how Amazon identifies your application.

General Web Settings Android/Kindle Settings iOS Settings

Security Profile Name *
Choose a name for your security profile.

Security Profile Description *
Choose a description for your security profile for Amazon services to use in communicating with you.

Create a new profile ▼

Next

Fig.4 – Create new profile with again, any name desired for the Security Profile Name.

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Create a new Application Type

* Fields required

Application Type Info ☒

Security Profile ☒

Application Details ☐

Amazon Music ☐

You need a security profile to identify your application. Your security profile credentials - client ID and client secret - allow your application to securely identify itself to the Alexa Voice Service. If you are building an Android or iOS app, click here to [Learn More](#).

Security Profile

A security profile is how Amazon identifies your application.

General Web Settings Android/Kindle Settings iOS Settings

Security Profile Description Asterisk PBX Alexa

Choose a description for your security profile for Amazon services to use in communicating with you.

Security Profile ID amzn1.application.db75660703f14 ...

This ID will identify your security profile in Amazon services.

Client ID amzn1.application-aa2-client.8b8b ...

This is a value specific to you that is assigned to you when you register with Login with Amazon.

Client Secret 819e5911683a026b84f932194cbe: ...

This is a secret specific to you that is assigned to you when you register with Login with Amazon. Confidential.

Fig.5 – Security IDs

You will need these IDs for your AGI script. Cut/paste to an empty text file or notepad.

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* Fields required

Application Type Info ☒

Security Profile ☒

Application Details ☒

Amazon Music ☒

You need a security profile to identify your application. Your security profile credentials - client ID and client secret - allow your application to securely identify itself to the Alexa Voice Service. If you are building a website, click here to [Learn More](#). If you are building an Android or iOS app, click here to [Learn More](#).

Security Profile

A security profile is how Amazon identifies your application.

General **Web Settings** Android/Kindle Settings iOS Settings

Allowed Origins

Your website origin, when using Login with Amazon.

Allowed Return URLs [https://localhost](#) [http://192.168.1.98:5000/code](#)

If you make HTTP calls to Login with Amazon with redirect_uri, specify them here.

Save Next

Fig.5b – Add Web Settings

Enter <https://localhost>
and http://{Your_Raspi_IP_address}:5000/code
To find your IP: `$ hostname -I`
The Port number is dummy just for initial setup.

Then click NEXT


DASHBOARD APPS & SERVICES ALEXA REPORTING SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION SETTINGS

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Create a new Application Type [Getting started](#) [AWS Agreement](#) [AWS Program Requirer](#)

Application Type Info ✓
Security Profile ✓
Application Details ✓
Amazon Music ✓

*** Fields required**

Image
Upload an image sized 142(width)x130(height) pixels in either PNG or JPG format. This image is displayed on your customer's [Manage Your Content and Devices](#) page.


Category *
Choose the category that best describes where and how your application is used.

Description *
Please provide a brief description of your application and its functionality.

Are you planning to distribute your application through an app marketplace?
Some Alexa content and domains may not be available on some app marketplaces.
☐ Amazon Appstore
☐ Apple App Store
☐ Google Play
☐ Other

What is your expected timeline for commercialization? *
If you would like to continue to have Audible enabled in your commercialized application, you will need to certify your application with Amazon before commercializing it. Get started evaluating Alexa (including Audible) in your application now, and we will contact you with guidance on the certification process. [Learn more](#).

How many applications are you planning to commercialize? *

Fig.6 – Fill in as desired (this is a non-commercial application)

Enable Security Profile

1. Open a web browser, and visit <https://developer.amazon.com/lwa/sp/overview.html>
You may need to log in again and repeat the above URL.
2. Select your security profile:

Login with Amazon

Login with Amazon allows users to login to registered third party websites or apps ('clients') using their Amazon user name and password information from their Amazon profile, including name, email address, and zip code. To get started, select an existing Security Profile

OR

Fig. 7 – Select your Security Profile

Enter a privacy policy URL beginning with <http://> or <https://>. For this example, you can enter a fake URL such as <http://example.com>.

Enter Consent Screen Information

Login with Amazon requires additional information that will be shown to users whenever you request access to their personal data.

Consent Privacy Notice URL * ?

Consent Logo Image ?

UPLOAD IMAGE

Fig. 8 – Consent Screen (enter a fake url)

3. On the next screen, next to the Alexa Voice Service Sample App Security Profile, click **Show Client ID and Client Secret**. This will display your client ID and client secret. Save these values. You'll need these, if you didn't already get these.

Login with Amazon

Login with Amazon allows users to login to registered third party websites or apps ('clients') using their Amazon user name and password. Clients may ask the u information from their Amazon profile, including name, email address, and zip code. To get started, select an existing Security Profile or create a new Security P

OR

Login with Amazon Configurations

Security Profile Name	OAuth2 Credentials
Alexa Voice Service Sample App Security Profile	Show Client ID and Client Secret

Login with Amazon

Login with Amazon allows users to login to registered third party websites or apps ('clients') using their Amazon user name and password. Clients may ask the u information from their Amazon profile, including name, email address, and zip code. To get started, select an existing Security Profile or create a new Security P

OR

Login with Amazon Configurations

Security Profile Name	OAuth2 Credentials
Alexa Voice Service Sample App Security Profile	<div>Client ID: amzn1.application-oa2-client- Client Secret:</div>

Fig. 9 – Client Credentials

Note: All of the following commands are all on one line each.

Excerpted from: <https://developer.amazon.com/public/apis/experience/cloud-drive/content/restful-api-getting-started>

4. Copy the URL below to a notepad and EDIT to insert your **client_id** and Paste to your browser.

https://www.amazon.com/ap/oa?client_id=YOURCLIENTID&scope=alexa%3Aall%3A%7B%22productID%22%3A%22kd_raspi_asterisk%22,%22productInstanceAttributes%22%3A%7B%22deviceSerialNumber%22%3A%2212345%22%7D%7D%7D&response_type=code&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Flocalhost

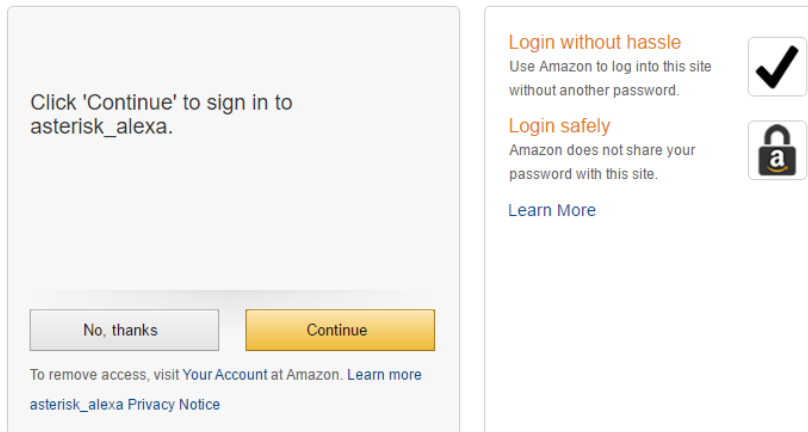
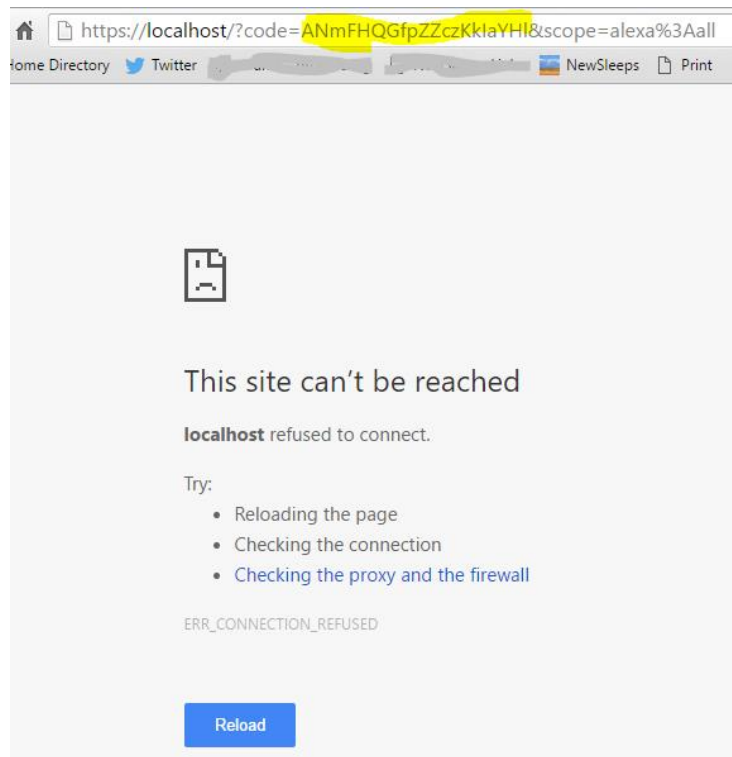


Fig. 10 -- Click Continue

5. You will receive a **browser error message**, but the Address URL should show a **provisioning token**:

`https://localhost/?code=YOURTOKEN&scope=alexia%3Aall`

Do NOT click anything more. Just copy & paste the URL to your notepad or text file.



6. On your Raspi, edit the file **grant_token.sh** and update the fields and run its cURL command:

```
$ nano grant_token.sh  
$ bash ./grant_token.sh
```

YOURTOKEN - Example: ANLdMXNCfOnqxCa...

YOURCLIENTID - Example: amzn1.application-oa2-client.0b1342a03a674c...

YOURCLIENTSECRET - Ex: 34c812a9c0601d18f14a7f7b035e6416918d...

You should receive back a big JSON message with an ACCESS TOKEN and a REFRESH_TOKEN.

7. Your access_token will be used by Asterisk every time it makes a call to Amazon API. But this token expires every hour, so Asterisk will be calling a program called **token.pl** each time you dial the Alexa extension number.

Your refresh_token never expires, but is only good for retrieving a new Access Token. It is used by token.pl to retrieve a new Access Token.

NOTE: Pay close attention to copying and pasting these two tokens. They are each one long line (no newlines).

8. Cut & Paste them into your notepad or text file and save the file for future reference.

Example:

```
{  
  "access_token": "Atza|IQEBLzAtAhRqd3LSY6n_A_VERY_LONG_STRING...",  
  "refresh_token": "Atzr|IQEBLjAsAhQgCKZ5Ind88BUAgdO9k7_ANOTHER_VERY_LONG_STRING",  
  "token_type": "bearer", "expires_in": 3600  
}
```

9. Edit the **token.pl** perl program inserting your Refresh Token and Client Secret. Then copy the token.pl to /home/pi/token.pl

```
$ nano token.pl  
$ cp token.pl /home/pi/
```

Be sure to cut/paste the RIGHT TOKENS! And don't cut off or alter them.

```
# Send POST Request  
my $post = "grant_type=refresh_token&refresh_token=  
YOUR_VERY_LONG_REFRESH_TOKEN&client_id=YOURCLIENTID&client_secret=YOURCLIENTSECRET" ;
```

Good News; Since the Refresh Token and Client Secret never expire, you only have to do all of these steps once.

NOTE: If you get errors, you can start again at Step 4, above (See. Fig.9 Client Credentials) and repeat the process. Look at the Amazon document <https://developer.amazon.com/public/apis/experience/cloud-drive/content/restful-api-getting-started>

10. Run the token.pl This will query Amazon OAuth2 and return a JSON which is parsed into the /tmp directory.

```
$ perl /home/pi/token.pl
```

Look in /tmp for the response files:

```
$ ls -l /tmp/token.*
```

```
-rw-rw---- 1 pi pi    439 Aug  4 13:39 token.avs
-rw-rw---- 1 pi pi    685 Aug  4 13:39 token.req
-rw-rw---- 1 pi pi    932 Aug  4 13:39 token.resp
```

You should view the files. You should NOT see any error message in them. The files will contain a new Access Token as well as the cURL request and response messages.

```
$ sudo cat /tmp/token.resp
```

Example of a good token.resp

```
{ "access_token": "Atza|IwEBILhKrSN8kfzozbImVfr6AAySL_kzVfEvamrA772hjH_Zvx-0IIIgJXNRK4tXvT6tkaLJ6kSh_F9UbDK3bU-iEfXxOA68jhGEhC3Vaw96pDrOvcuv29rL5Hxhte5-zWkzf-sL5il5PtuezNKWuPCvjpfCdB5Tmla6HaiebPk9cDWosHZkFLYVhvK5...", "refresh_token": "Atzr|IwEBIM617be3fOqudYsrfi9KXimW6432DWIgCptd-gGqFvnUOuXgN4cJ4l8uvzaQM4Ozoh-X-NflwgcgprrrG4cr0P2mmfrNBgICaUhtc0lt8Ra4Y31QsuElMhIrQWbzz3e0hWcI3xGprwhBEB6Yx6J43sAZnFUwrBo0QZ_iDJSWd7c3JqK5LtbzgDeczYn2M3pcbAyNJG8r3bj8zG0Q2v9k_BwGKXCDAe6TITse0YP_N89KCrMGP4WZPFGGrqAuOA8DAJSOKMGneqDLIX0wBc5R08xLNNnyYbGOQ...", "token_type": "bearer", "expires_in": 3600 }
```

If you see an error, turn on debug mode (below) in the **token.pl** and rerun the command. Be sure to VERIFY that you have cut&pasted the FULL refresh token, client ID and client Secret. Obviously, if these are wrong, Amazon API will return Authentication errors. Watch out for improper carriage returns in the tokens (there are none!) due to word wraps or cut/paste errors. Also use the correct tokens in the proper places. 99% of the problems will be related to the tokens.

```
# Send POST Request
my $debug = 1;
```

11. Delete the /tmp/token.* files after you have it working so that Asterisk can write new files.

```
$ sudo rm /tmp/token.*
```

You are now ready to try out your Asterisk Alexa interface.

12. Reboot your Raspberry Pi.

13. Using your SIP Phone, dial 5555#

You should dial tone, ringing and then audio prompts.

If you do, GREAT! Try any questions to Alexa:

- What is the weather in Atlanta, Georgia?
- How big is the Earth?
- What time is it in London, England?
- Tell me a Cat Joke
- Etc...

Just hang up when done. It will reset automatically.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- 1) You did get dial tone and able to call the Asterisk demo (1000#) didn't you?
- 2) Access Asterisk CLI: `$ sudo asterisk -r`
- 3) CLI> agi set debug on
- 4) CLI> core set debug 4
- 5) Make a call to 5555# again and watch the messages.
- 6) You can look at **/home/pi/RaspiAsteriskAlexa/alexag.agi** for matching debug messages to code.
Note that Asterisk displays lots of extra debug info beyond the messages

If you make changes to the Asterisk extensions.conf or sip.conf, you should restart Asterisk

CLI> core restart now

If you make changes to alexag.agi, you must copy it over to the AGI directory:

```
$ sudo cp alexag.agi /usr/share/asterisk/agi-bin/alexag.agi
```

- 7) Most likely issue is the Amazon Authentication failing. If the tokens are wrong, then it will not work! Go back to the token section to verify.
- 8) If the phone rings w/o answer, then extensions.conf has a problem in the 5555 section. You did add the `include => alexa_tts` statement?
If you edit extensions.conf, you must reload using CLI> dialplan reload
- 9) If the phone answers but no audio, verify that the files in the asterisk directories are owned by asterisk userid:

```
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /usr/share/asterisk/agi-bin/alexag.agi
```

```
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /etc/avs_audio.json  
sudo chown asterisk:asterisk /usr/share/asterisk/sounds/custom/alexa*.sln
```

- 10) If you get no response back from Alexa for your question, check the Amazon authentication again. Be sure you can ping `access-alexa-na.amazon.com` from your Raspi.
- 11) If all else fails, step back thru the commands above to be sure you didn't miss a step! There are many steps, so it's easy to accidentally skip one.

Results

I have found that the speech recognition of Amazon Alexa Voice Service is excellent when used with a SIP telephone and Asterisk PBX. The recognition appears to be quite good whether on a handset or speakerphone. The Raspberry Pi Zero is able to handle the Asterisk audio processing quite well, even when using WiFi. Of course, the wide range of question/answers that Amazon Alexa can handle is equivalent to Amazon Echo™, without the location and remote control services.

Next steps would be to pursue whether Amazon Voice Service API supports Amazon Lambda or IFTTT services for skills and remote control functionality.