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### Amazon Alexa Skill: Yourself

I have created an AWS account and have begun developing an Amazon Alexa Skill called “Yourself” that will be triggered when an individual asks “Alexa, ask yourself...” In my opinion, voice assistance devices like Apple’s Siri, Amazon’s Alexa, Microsoft’s Cortana, and Google’s Google Assist are not as helpful and useful as they could be. I would like to make Alexa have the ability to state one’s horoscope, google questions when the answer is unknown, and play the audio of Youtube videos.

I would like Alexa to be able to ask for someone’s date

of birth and provide a horoscope for them. Once Alexa provides the individual with their horoscope, she will simply state their sign, and follow up with another question if they would like to hear a brief description about their sign. I plan to use an if-else statement in order to execute this part of the program. In addition, I would also like Alexa to state the brief description of the sign if a user’s asks “Alexa, ask yourself more about a virgo.” Look at figure 1 for the UML diagram of the horoscope aspect of this skill.

Class Name: Yourself
Birthday: int
month()
date()

A more challenging problem I would like to solve is to program alexa to always respond with an answer. Personally, it aggravates me when I ask Alexa a question and her response is “I don't know the answer to that question”, and I would like to never hear her say that statement ever again. I would like to make her google the question that is asked and when she doesn't have an answer to google it and read the first three google search results. Although this may not be the most useful thing to hear, often there is information that may answer your question in the result title, or summary.

The last thing I will attempt to have Alexa do is to play the audio of the first Youtube video that pops up. Currently, when one asks Alexa to play a song, without an Amazon music library, she plays a 10-20 second preview of that song. I would like to be able to ask “Alexa, ask yourself to play the song...” I would like to code a similar strategy to play a Youtube video as I will use to read the Google results. I think this will be very useful when someone wants to hear a song from their childhood, or a new release that may not necessarily be in their Amazon music library. It could also be helpful when someone wants to listen to a cover or a particular song.

Although there are a few different Amazon Alexa Horoscope Skills, there are not really any skills that will have the ability to read the google search results, except for the one skill called Ask Google, when Alexa doesn't know the answer to a particular question. Interestingly, there are no skills that will play a Youtube video, or at least I was not able to find one. As you can see, the Amazon Alexa Skill, Yourself, that I am trying to create can be very helpful and will improve the experience of owning voice assist technology.