



Registering and Managing Custom Skills in the Developer Portal

- [Introduction](#)
- [Understanding the Configuration](#)
- [Registering an Alexa Skill](#)
- [Updating the Configuration for an Existing Alexa Skill](#)
- [About the SSL Options](#)
- [Next Steps](#)

Introduction

Registering a new skill or ability on the [Amazon Developer Portal](#) creates a configuration containing the information that the Alexa service needs to do the following:

- Route requests to the AWS Lambda function or web service that implements the skill. AWS Lambda is a service offering by [Amazon Web Services](#).
- Display information about the skill in the Amazon Alexa App. The app shows all published skills, as well as all of your own skills currently under development.

You must register a skill before you can test it with the Service Simulator in the developer portal or an Alexa-enabled device.

Understanding the Configuration

The configuration for a skill includes information entered in the following sections on the developer portal:

- **Skill Information** defines basic information about the skill, such as its name and type.
- **Interaction Model** defines your voice user interface. This includes the intent schema, sample utterances, and any custom slot types.
- **SSL Certificate** collects information related to SSL. This is only used when you are hosting a skill on your own HTTPS endpoint, rather than using AWS Lambda.
- **Configuration** defines your endpoint and other options, such as account linking. This lets you [create a link](#) between the Alexa user and a user account in your own system.
- **Test** lets you enable your skill for testing and do basic testing in the Service Simulator. You can use this to send your service commands and see the responses it returns. You can also listen to the responses in Alexa's voice.
- **Publishing Information** determines how the skill is presented to end users in the Alexa app. For example, you provide

Alexa Skills Kit - Custom Skills

- + [Understanding Custom Skills](#)
- + [Get Started with Sample Code](#)
- + [Voice Design](#)
- + [Setting Up](#)
- + [Developing](#)
- + [Displaying Skill Cards](#)
- + [Testing](#)
- + [Publishing](#)
- + [Reference](#)

Other Resources

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Smart Home Skills](#)
- [Flash Briefing Skills](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Alexa Skills Kit Forum](#)
- [Alexa Voice Service](#)
- [Alexa Fund](#)

descriptive text and example phrases to help users understand how to use the skill, and image icons.

- **Privacy and Compliance** contains options related to user privacy, such as the URLs for your privacy policy and terms of use.

When you create a skill, you select the language for the skill (English (US), English (UK), or German). A skill can support multiple languages. See [Developing Skills in Multiple Languages](#) for details.

Registering an Alexa Skill

To configure a new skill, you need an account on the Developer Portal. If you don't already have an account, go to <https://developer.amazon.com/login.html> and create an account.

Note that you do not need to fill in all of the required fields for testing. The minimum requirements for testing are:

- **Skill Information: Skill Type, Name, and Invocation Name.**
- **Interaction Model:** (Including both the intent schema and the sample utterances).
- **Configuration: Endpoint.**
- **SSL Certificate** (Set to one of the three options. Not required for Lambda).
- **Test** (Set to **Enabled**).

When you are ready to submit the skill for certification, you must complete all of the sections. Once all required fields in a section are complete, a green check mark is displayed next to the section name. You can submit the skill for certification once all sections have the green check marks. For details about testing your skill to ensure it passes certification, see [Certification Requirements for Custom Skills](#).

Register a New Skill

1. Log on to the [Alexa section](#) of the developer portal.
From the developer portal console page, click **Apps & Services**, then **Alexa**.
2. In the Alexa Skills Kit box, click **Get Started**. This displays a list of your existing Alexa skills.
3. Click the **Add a New Skill** button.
4. Select the **Language** you want to add from the drop-down list. You can [add additional languages](#) after completing the initial configuration.
5. For the **Skill Type**, select **Custom Interaction Model**.
For more about the different types of skills, see [Understanding the Different Types of Skills](#).
6. Enter the **Name** and **Invocation Name**.
 - The name is displayed to end users when they view the list of published skills.
 - The invocation name is used with a set of defined phrases to invoke your skill.
 - You can change both of these items at any time until your skill is certified and published.
 - Once you have entered the **Skill Type, Name**, and **Invocation Name**, you can save the skill and complete the rest of the fields later.
7. If your skill uses the [AudioPlayer interface](#) to stream audio, set the **Audio Player** option to **Yes**.
8. On the **Interaction Model** page, copy and paste your **Intent Schema** and **Sample Utterances** into the provided text boxes.

Schema and **Sample utterances** into the provided text boxes, then choose **Next**.

- For details about creating the schema, see [Defining the Voice Interface](#) and [Custom Interaction Model Reference](#).
- If your skill uses the [AudioPlayer interface](#) to stream audio, be sure to include all the [required audio control intents](#) in your schema.

9. If you are hosting your cloud-based service as a web service, select the SSL option you want to use on the **SSL Certificate** page and choose **Next**. If you are hosting your service as a Lambda function, this section is not shown.

See [About the SSL Options](#) for more information about the three options.

If you select **I will upload a self-signed certificate**, open the certificate's .pem file in a text editor, copy the entire contents, and paste it into the provided text box.

10. On the **Configuration** page, enter your **Endpoint**.
 - If you are [hosting your service as an AWS Lambda function](#), select the **Lambda ARN** option and enter the ARN for your function.
 - If you are [hosting your service as a web service](#), select the **HTTPS** option and enter the full URL for your endpoint.
11. Also on the **Configuration** page, configure [account linking](#) if needed.
 - If your skill doesn't need account linking, select **No** and click **Next**.
 - If your skill will need account linking, but you aren't yet ready to set these options, click **Next** to skip this for now. These options are not required to *start* testing, but you will need to come back and fill in this section before you can test any account-linking specific features in your skill.
12. Make sure the **Test** page shows that your skill is **Enabled** for testing.

At this point, you should be able to [test the skill](#) using either the Service Simulator or an Alexa-enabled device.

Updating the Configuration for an Existing Alexa Skill

You can edit the configuration for a skill in the developer portal. Refer back to [Understanding the Configuration](#) for details about the configuration for an Alexa skill.

Note: Once a skill is published to users, it is considered *live*. You cannot edit the configuration while it is live. Instead, you must create a new *version*. See "Creating a New Version of an Alexa Skill" in [Publishing an Alexa Skill](#).

Note: as you test, you will likely add additional sample utterances. After adding a new utterance, there may be a short delay before the new utterance is available for testing, particularly if you want to test the utterance with your invocation name ("Alexa, ask <invocation name> to *give me the horoscope for Gemini*").

Edit the Configuration for an Existing Skill:

1. Log on to the [Alexa section](#) of the developer portal.

From the developer portal console page, click **Apps & Services**, then **Alexa**.
2. In the Alexa Skills Kit box, click **Get Started**. This displays a list

of your existing Alexa skills.

3. Find the skill to change in the list and choose **Edit**.
4. Click the section for the information you want to edit.

Delete the configuration for an Existing Skill in Development:

1. Log on to the [Alexa section](#) of the developer portal.
From the developer portal console page, click **Apps & Services**, then **Alexa**.
2. In the Alexa Skills Kit box, click **Get Started**. This displays a list of your existing Alexa skills.
3. Find the skill to change in the list and choose **Delete**.
Note that this completely removes the skill. All information you have entered for the skill is deleted.

You cannot delete skills that are either *live* or in *certification*.

About the SSL Options

▲ Important: The quickest way to get started with developing and testing is to use [AWS Lambda](#). Lambda functions do not need an SSL certificate.

When Alexa communicates with your web service, user requests and corresponding responses are transmitted over the Internet. To protect the confidentiality and integrity of this data, Alexa strictly enforces that HTTP connections are secured using SSL/TLS.

This means that the web service for a skill *published to users* must present a *valid, trusted certificate* when the connection is established and must possess the corresponding private key.

The configuration you need to get started depends on how you plan to get the SSL certificate for your web service:

1. If you host your web service on an endpoint for which you already have a certificate signed by an [Amazon-approved certificate authority](#), you do not need to do any further SSL configuration.
2. If you create your service as a *Lambda function* using [AWS Lambda](#), you do not need to do any SSL configuration. Lambda functions use invocation permissions to control who can call them. See [Creating an AWS Lambda Function for a Custom Skill](#).
3. If you host your web service with a cloud platform that provides a *wildcard certificate*, you do not need to do any further SSL configuration for testing.
 - A wildcard certificate is set up to provide SSL for multiple sub-domains. It still must be signed by a trusted certificate authority.
 - Check with the cloud hosting provider you are using to determine whether they provide this type of certificate to your web service.
 - Note that the wildcard certificate provided by your cloud platform must be signed by an Amazon-approved certificate authority.
4. If you create a free *self-signed certificate*, you can create the certificate yourself, upload it to the Developer Portal when you register the skill, and configure your endpoint to present this certificate when it connects to Alexa. See [Testing a Custom Skill](#) for instructions.
 - This option can only be used for testing.
 - Your endpoint will need to present a certificate

- Your endpoint will need to present a certificate signed by an [Amazon-approved certificate authority](#) when you make the new Alexa ability available to users.

Next Steps

Either create a Lambda function for your skill, or set up your web service:

- [Creating an AWS Lambda Function for a Custom Skill](#)
- [Hosting a Custom Skill as a Web Service](#)

Alternately, configure additional languages for your skill:

- [Developing Skills in Multiple Languages](#)

Previous:

- Go back to: [Voice Design Best Practices](#)
- Return to: [Steps to Build a Custom Skill](#)

SITEMAP

FOLLOW US



Alexa

[Alexa Skills Kit](#)
[Alexa Voice Service](#)
[Alexa Fund](#)

Services & APIs

[Earn](#)
[Engage](#)
[Build](#)

Devices

[Fire Tablets](#)
[Amazon Fire TV](#)
[Dash Replenishment Service](#)
[Fire Phone](#)
[Amazon Echo](#)
[Amazon Tap](#)

Resources

[Platforms](#)
[Learning Center](#)
[Development Tools](#)
[Promotional Tools](#)
[Marketing Tips](#)
[Other Resources](#)

Blog

[Subscribe to the Blog](#)
[#Announcements](#)
[#AmazonUnderground](#)
[#Alexa](#)
[#AmazonFireTV](#)
[#FireTablets](#)
[#How To](#)
[#Monetization](#)
[#APIs](#)
[#Marketing](#)
[#Gamedev](#)
[#Developer Spotlight](#)

Support

[Submitting Your Apps](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Forums](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[App Distribution Agreement](#)
[Mobile Ad Network Publisher Agreement](#)
[Mobile Ad Network Program Participation Requirements](#)
[Advertise Your App With Amazon Agreement](#)
[Program Materials License Agreement](#)
[Trademark Guidelines](#)
[Terms of Use](#)