



Alexa

is Listening to

You

**Lawsuit Alleging Amazon's Alexa Is Spying On
You Moves Forward**

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What is Alexa?

Alexa is a cloud based voice activated virtual assistant made by Amazon meant to help with or fulfill some tasks such as:

- Playing music
- Starting timers
- Setting reminders
- Search the web for answers



What is the lawsuit about?

Amazon is accused of :

- unlawfully recording and storing users sensitive information including but not limited to medical information
- Failing to properly disclose their data collection and what they are using it for



How is Amazon doing this?

Alexa is activated when it thinks certain 'wake' phrases are used such as "Alexa" or "Echo". Then it listens to the request and sends it over to Amazon's servers for analysis and receives the answer back. Amazon then stores all these recordings on their servers for future reference and development indefinitely.



This can be worse

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Who filed the Complaint?

Healthcare workers that noticed Alexa was activated without being prompted and recording patient information violating HIPPA without the workers intent.



Update on the lawsuit against Amazon

- A judge ordered Amazon to hand over 4.4 million files as evidence of the infraction
- Amazon failed to provide a date, time, and expense of producing the files
- Amazon tried to dodge the court's request by saying it was too burdensome and falls out of the lawsuits scope



This connects back to Slack and Wise

- Progress at all costs is not always good or free of drawbacks
- To keep in mind what they are trying to sell us
- Who's most benefiting from this progress