**ALEXA CUSTOM SKILL – Anirudh Menon**

Accenture UKI - Liquid Studio Challenge

In a nutshell, this is a custom Alexa skill where I have used YouTube API to pull data from my personal YouTube channel and used Alexa to get specific information about the channel. Three specific type of data is fetched from YouTube,

1. Total number of subscribers to that channel
2. Total number of views in that channel
3. Video in that channel with maximum views

To achieve this,

1. I logged in to Amazon Developer Console and used Alexa Skills Kit to create a custom Alexa skill in. I set Application Id, **Invocation Name** (Application launch request voice command), and set up **Interaction Model** (Application Intent Requests which are series of voice commands to interact with Alexa)
2. I configured the service endpoint to be **AWS Lambda Resource**
3. I logged in to AWS console to create a lambda function in Node.js 6.10
4. Since, we are pulling data from YouTube, it’s API endpoint had to be fetched. To do this, I created an **API Key in YouTube**’s developer console and enabled YouTube Data API to be accessed using that key and configured HTTP GET url’s for each intent we are looking to implement, which would become service endpoints for our lambda function.
5. For appropriate intent, I would use its corresponding YouTube service endpoint and parse JSON response received to select the data I require for Alexa to perform TTS and read back.
6. I created two helper functions. One, to create a plaintext response and endOfSession flag. Two, to encapsulate this data into an HTTP response for AWS to receive.
7. I used Amazon’s Service Simulator to test this skill.

NOTE: First two intents worked fine (Views and Subscriptions). Third intent seems to have some problem with YouTube’s endpoint link where in, testing the url on youtube’s console would yield accurate JSON response, but copying it to the web browser would give me invalidSearchFilter error