

CHATBOT WITH AMAZON LEX



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Build a Chatbot with Amazon Lex

INTRODUCTION

In this lab, we are going to create and configure our very own Amazon Lex chatbot called BankerBot. Together, we'll walk through the entire process, from setting up the bot and defining its intents to integrating a Lambda function that will retrieve bank balance information. We'll start by building the bot from scratch, adding custom slot types, and fine-tuning the responses to ensure our bot can handle various user interactions smoothly. By the end of this lab, we'll have a fully functional chatbot capable of understanding user requests, handling errors, and even saving user details for more personalized conversations.

OBSERVATION AND SCREENSHOTS

Creating the BankerBot:

We started by logging into our AWS account and navigating to the Amazon Lex service. After switching to the Lex V2 console, we began the process of creating a new chatbot by selecting "Create bot" and choosing "Create a blank bot." We named our bot "BankerBot" and provided a brief description of its purpose. For IAM permissions, we opted to create a new role with basic Amazon Lex permissions, ensuring that our bot would be able to call Lambda functions later on. We confirmed that the bot did not fall under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and kept the default idle session timeout of 5 minutes. Moving forward, we selected the voice interaction settings, exploring different options before settling on a voice we liked. We kept the default intent classification confidence score threshold at 0.4, ensuring that our bot would only respond when it had a reasonable level of confidence in its understanding of user input. By the end of this step, we had successfully created the foundational settings for BankerBot.

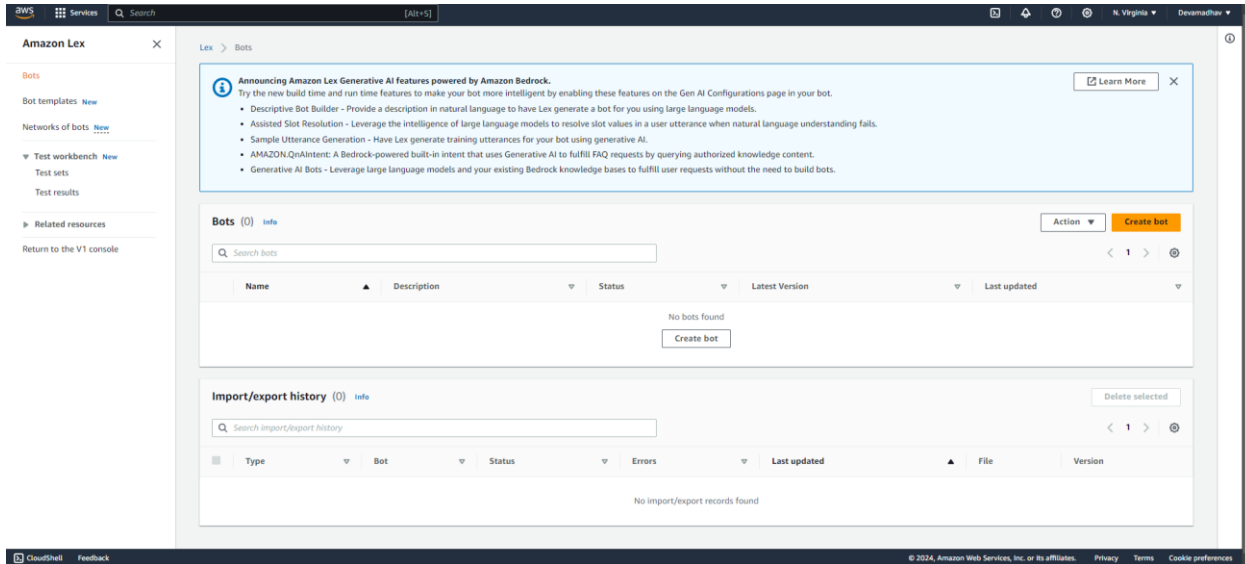


Figure 1 - Amazon Lex Console

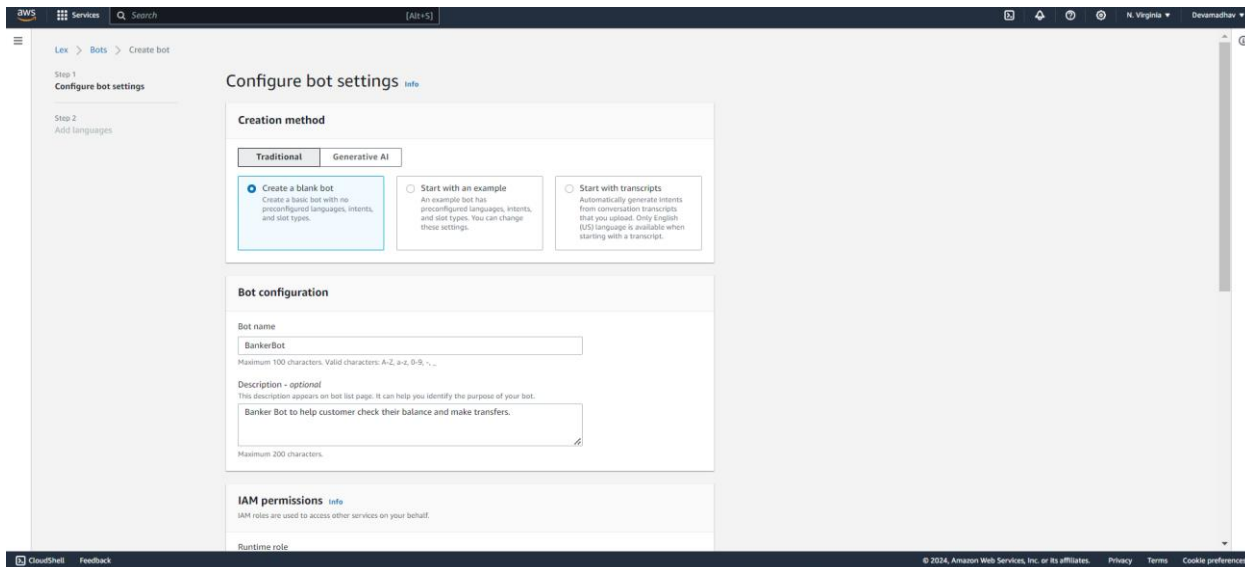


Figure 2 - Creating a new chatbot

IAM permissions [info](#)

IAM roles are used to access other services on your behalf.

Runtime role
Choose a role that defines permissions for your bot. To create a custom role, use the IAM console.

- ☒ Create a role with basic Amazon Lex permissions.
- ☐ Use an existing role.

New role
Amazon Lex creates a runtime role with permission to upload to Amazon CloudWatch Logs.

`AWSServiceRoleForLexV2Bots_A4OFYDGYSLM`

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) [info](#)

Is use of your bot subject to the [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act \(COPPA\)](#)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Idle session timeout
You can configure how long a session is maintained when the user does not provide any input and the session is idle. Amazon Lex retains context information until a session ends.

Session timeout
5 minute(s)

By default, session duration is 5 minutes, but you can specify any duration between 1 and 1440 minutes (24 hour).

Figure 3 - Creating a chat bot- configuring bot settings

Lex > Bots > Create bot

Step 1
Configure bot settings

Step 2
Add languages

Add language to bot [info](#)

▼ **Language: English (US)**

Select language
English (US)

Description - optional

Maximum 200 characters.

Voice interaction
The text-to-speech voice that your bot uses to interact with users.
Ruth

Voice sample
Hello, my name is Ruth. Let me know how I can assist you.

Intent classification confidence score threshold
0.40
Min: 0.00, max: 1.00.

Figure 4 - Creating a chat bot- configuring bot settings

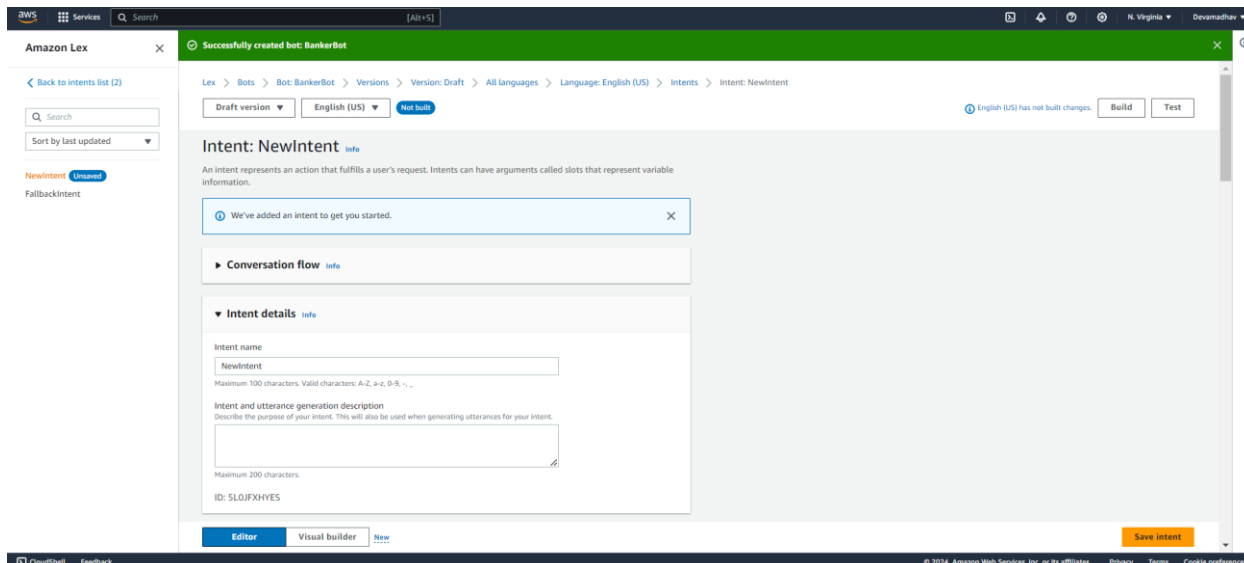


Figure 5 - Successfully created new bot

Setting Up the WelcomeIntent:

Understanding that there would be times when our bot might not understand a user's input, we customized the FallbackIntent. This intent serves as a catch-all for situations where the bot's confidence score is too low to match any defined intents. We navigated to the FallbackIntent and edited the default message to something more user-friendly and clear, such as "I'm sorry, I didn't understand that. Could you please rephrase?" We also added variations to this message to avoid repetitiveness, making the bot's responses feel more natural. By customizing the FallbackIntent, we aimed to improve the overall user experience, especially in cases where the bot couldn't accurately interpret the user's intent.

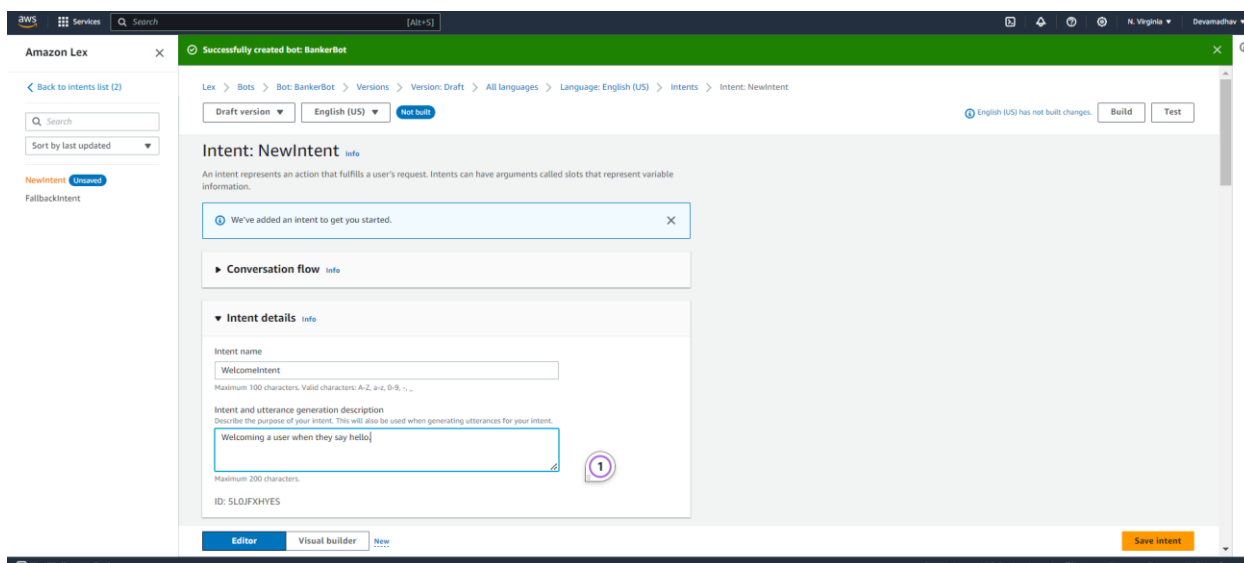


Figure 6 - Creating a new intent for the chat bot

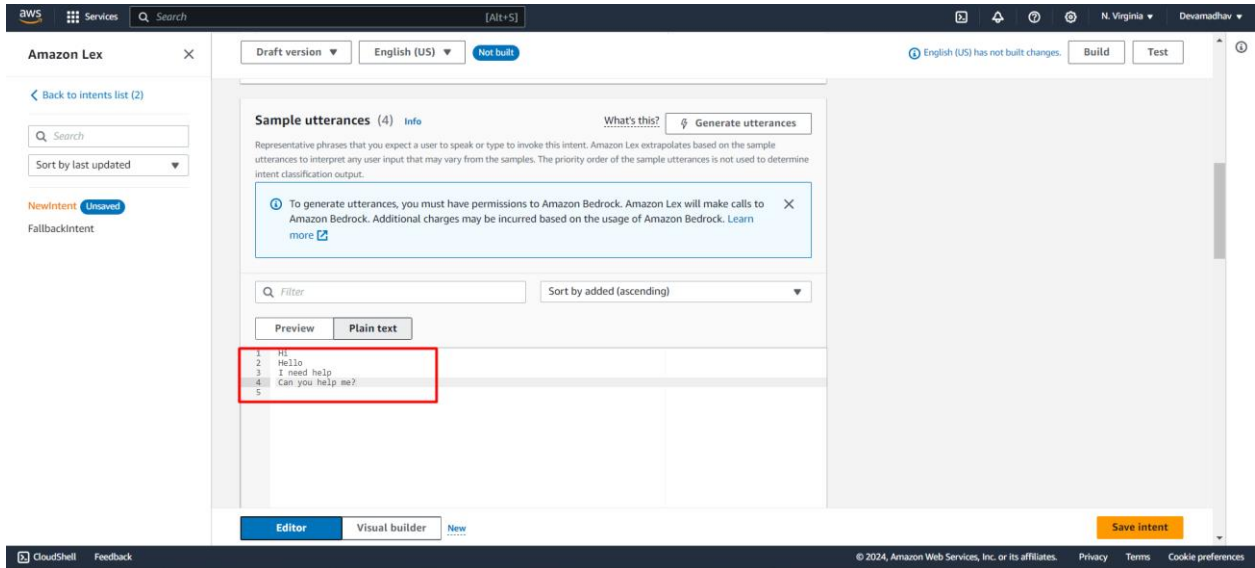


Figure 7 - Configuring sample utterances

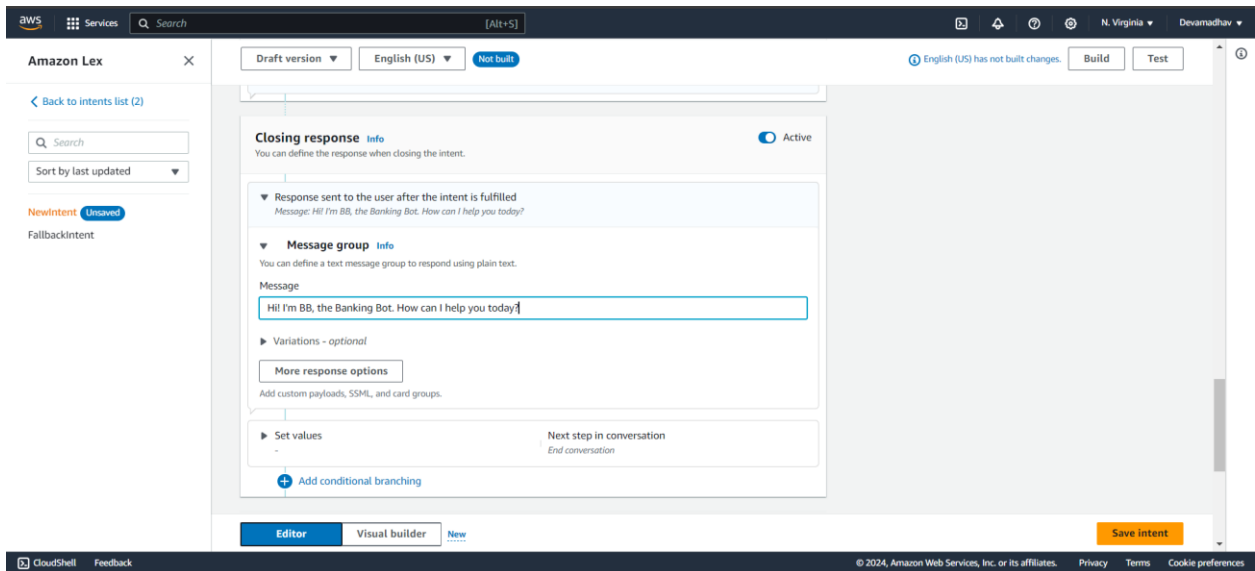


Figure 8 - Configuring the closing response

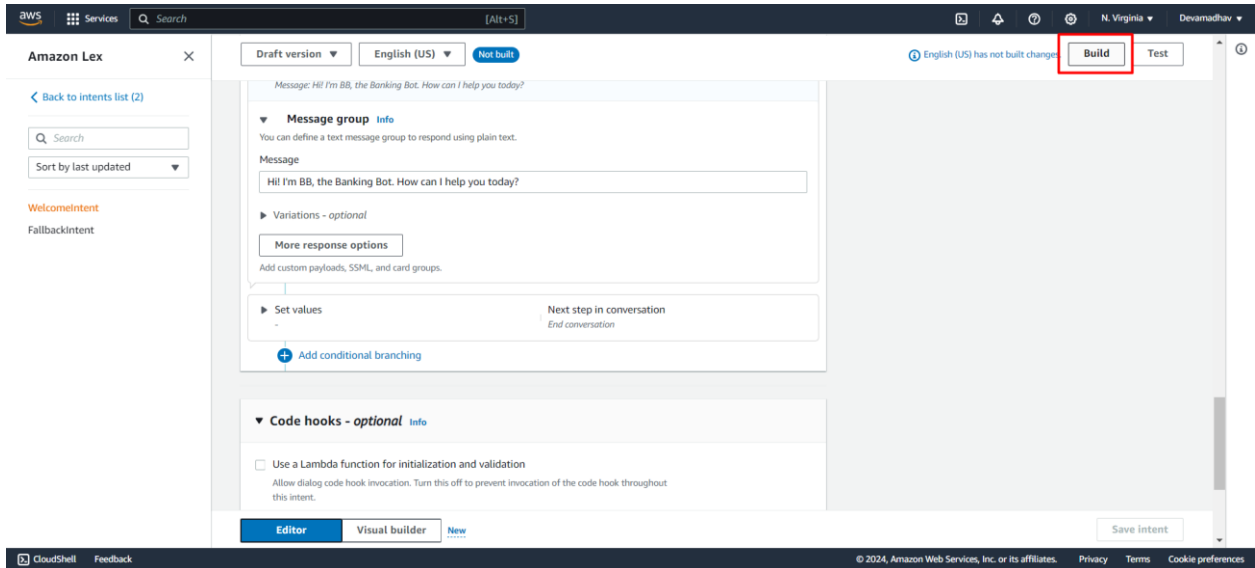


Figure 9 -Configured the Message group and building the bot

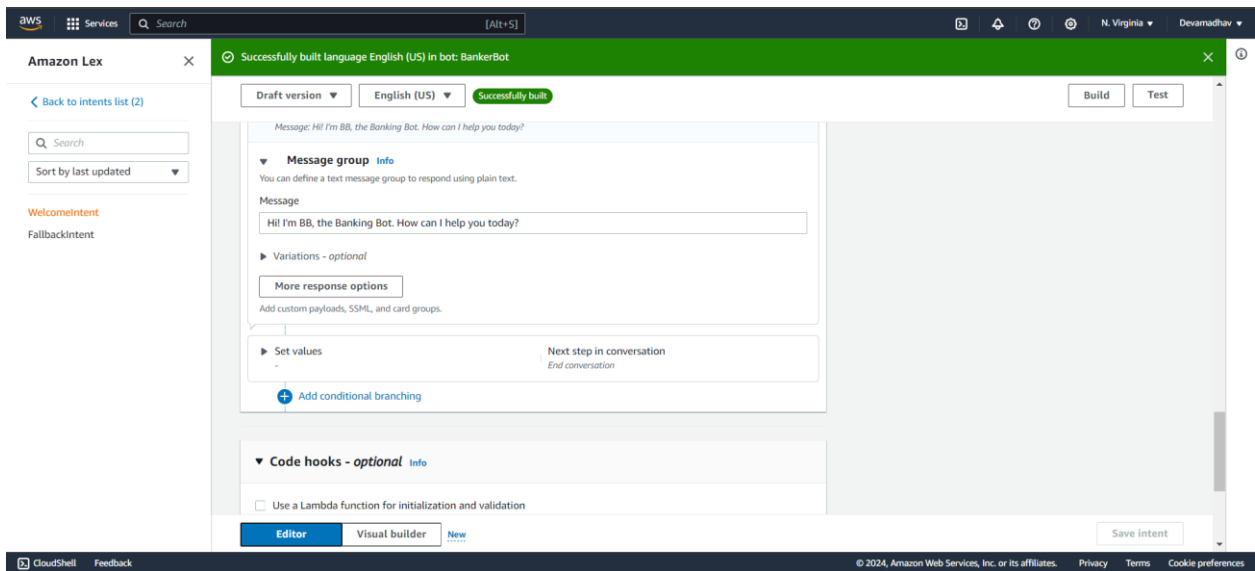


Figure 10 - Successfully created the intent

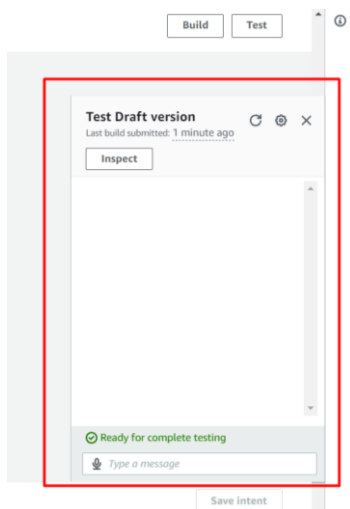


Figure 11 - Chatbot ready for testing

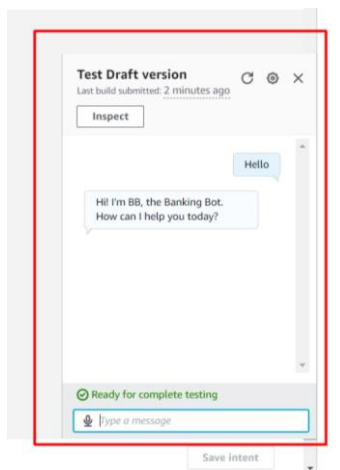


Figure 12 Bot successfully responding to our utterance provided

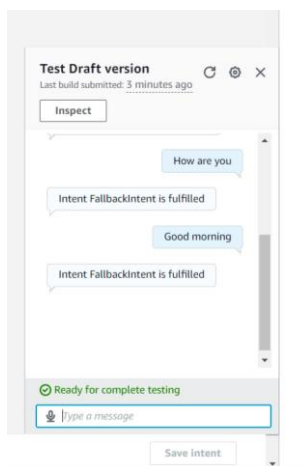


Figure 13 - Negative reply when a new question is asked other than the provided utterance

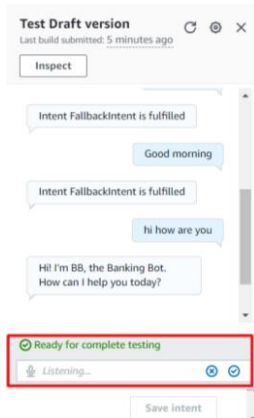


Figure 14 - Trying another utterances and used voice command option

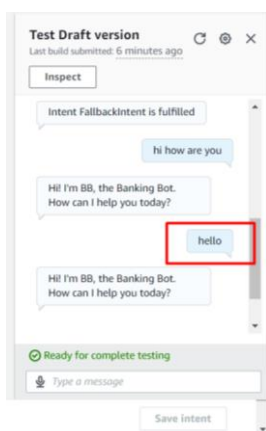


Figure 15 - Successful response for the voice command

Customizing the FallbackIntent:

Understanding that there would be times when our bot might not understand a user's input, we customized the FallbackIntent. This intent serves as a catch-all for situations where the bot's confidence score is too low to match any defined intents. We navigated to the FallbackIntent and edited the default message to something more user-friendly and clear, such as "I'm sorry, I didn't understand that. Could you please rephrase?" We also added variations to this message to avoid repetitiveness, making the bot's responses feel more natural. By customizing the FallbackIntent, we aimed to improve the overall user experience, especially in cases where the bot couldn't accurately interpret the user's intent.

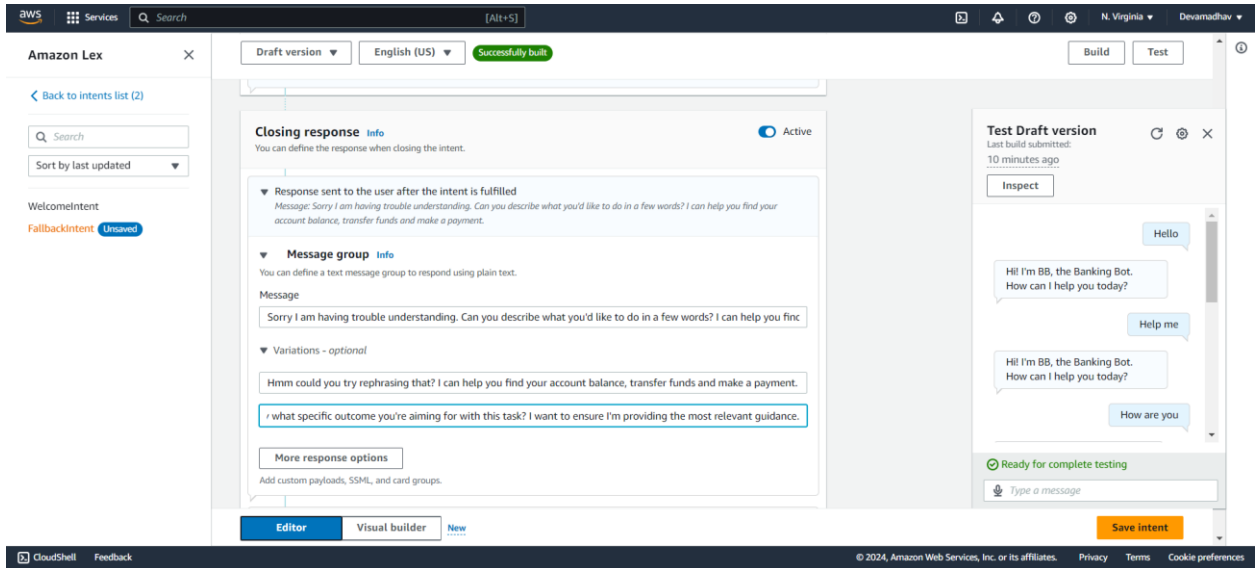


Figure 16 - Configuring the fallback intent

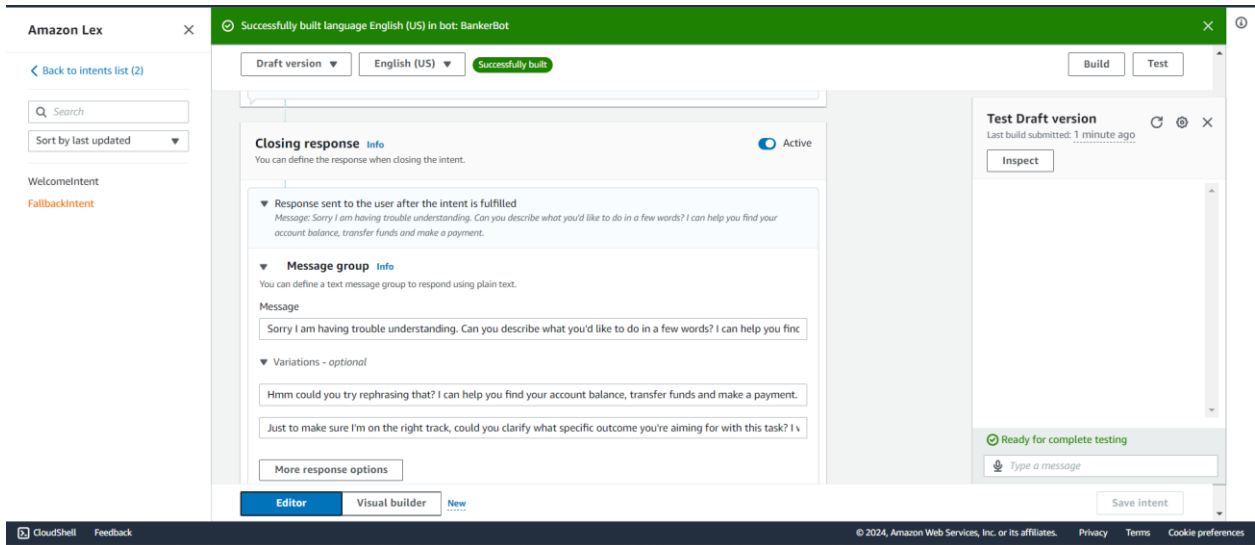


Figure 17 - Saved the changes by building the bot

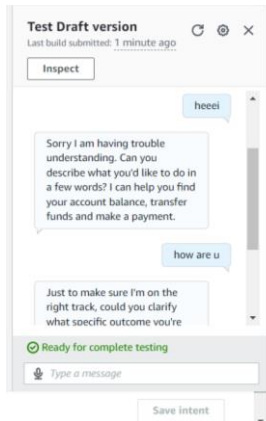


Figure 18 - Bot responding with alternative fallback intents

Creating the accountType Custom Slot:

To enhance the bot's functionality, we needed it to recognize specific account types when users asked about their bank balances. To achieve this, we created a custom slot type called accountType. We selected "Add slot type" from the left-hand navigation panel and chose to add a blank slot type. We named the slot accountType and restricted its values to only those we specified, ensuring the bot would only accept valid account types. We defined three values: "Checking," "Savings," and "Credit," along with a few synonyms for each to account for different ways users might refer to their accounts. This customization allowed the bot to accurately capture and use the account type information provided by the user, enhancing its ability to handle balance inquiries effectively.

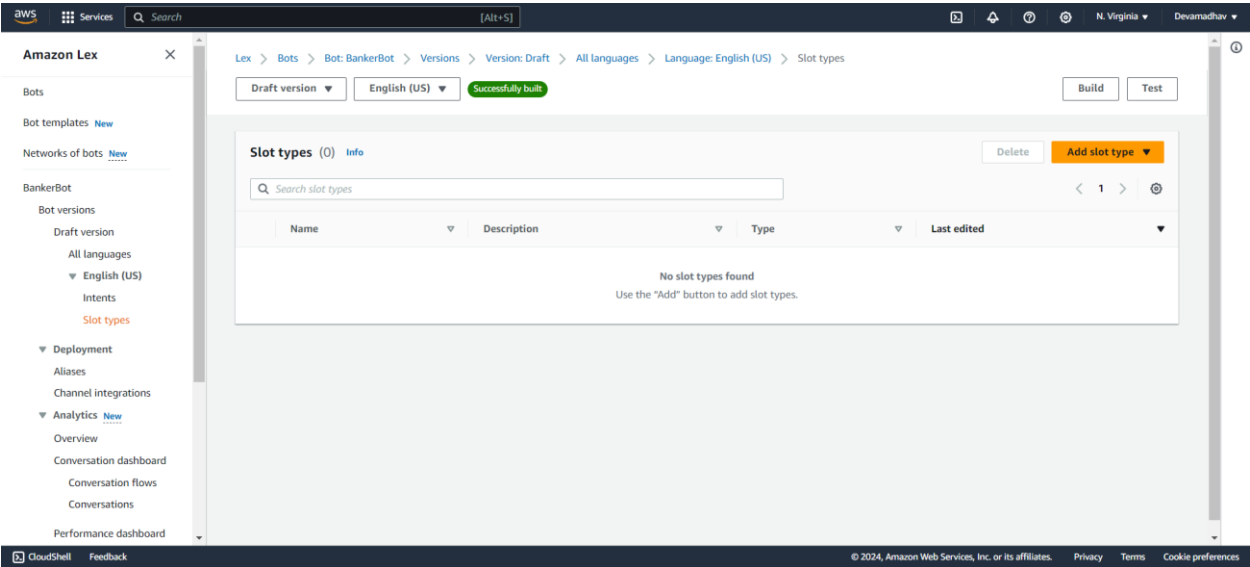


Figure 19 - Displaying the slots available

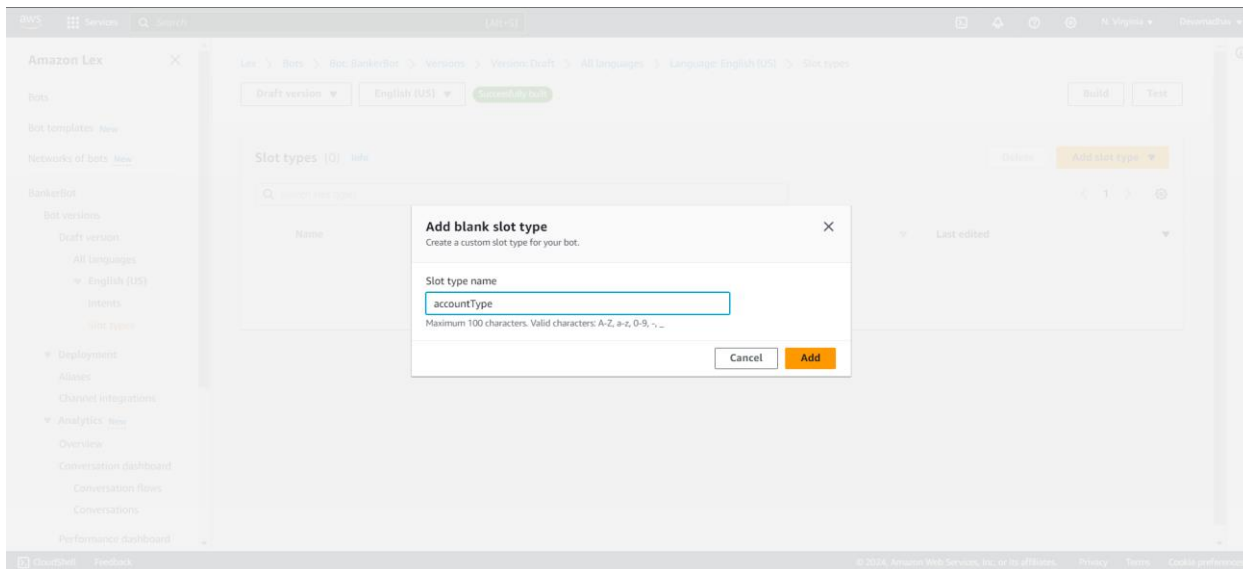


Figure 20 - Creating a new slot

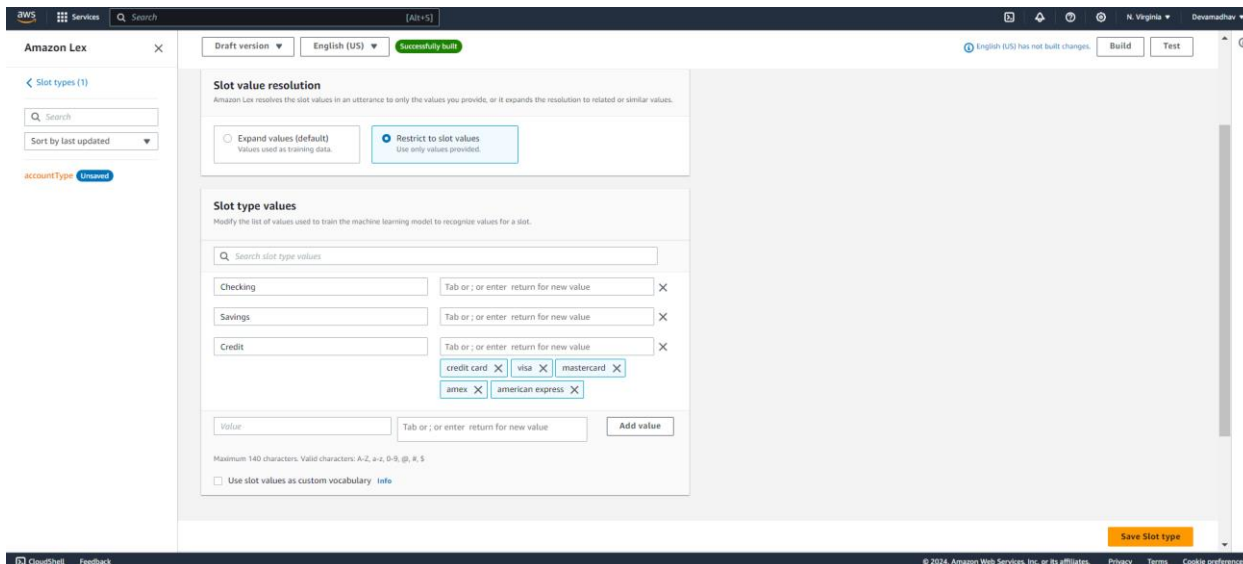


Figure 21 - Configuring the slot values

Developing the CheckBalance Intent:

With the accountType slot in place, we proceeded to create the CheckBalance intent, which would allow users to check their bank balances. We named the intent "CheckBalance" and provided a description explaining its purpose. In the sample utterances panel, we added various phrases users might say to check their balance, such as "What's my {accountType} balance?" and "Show me my balance for {accountType}." These utterances included the {accountType} placeholder, enabling the bot to identify and extract the account type from the user's input. We then added a slot to the intent, using our custom accountType slot type. We provided prompts for the bot to ask if the user didn't specify their account type initially, ensuring the conversation flowed smoothly. After saving and building the intent, we tested

it by asking the bot to check balances for different account types, confirming that it correctly prompted for and used the account type information.

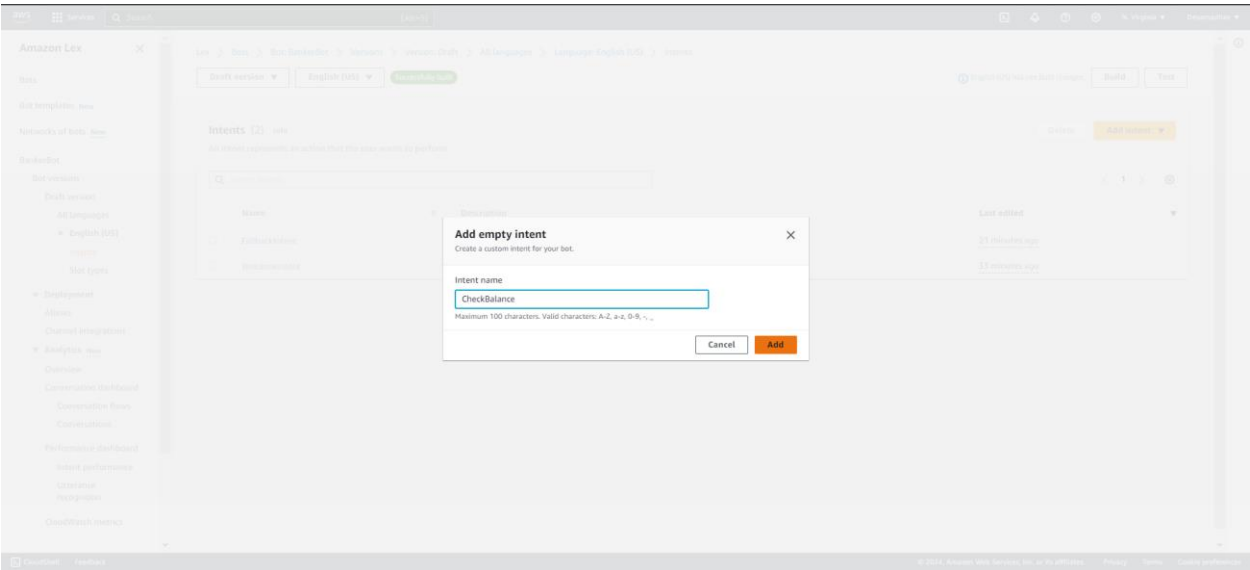


Figure 22 - Creating a new intent for checkBalance

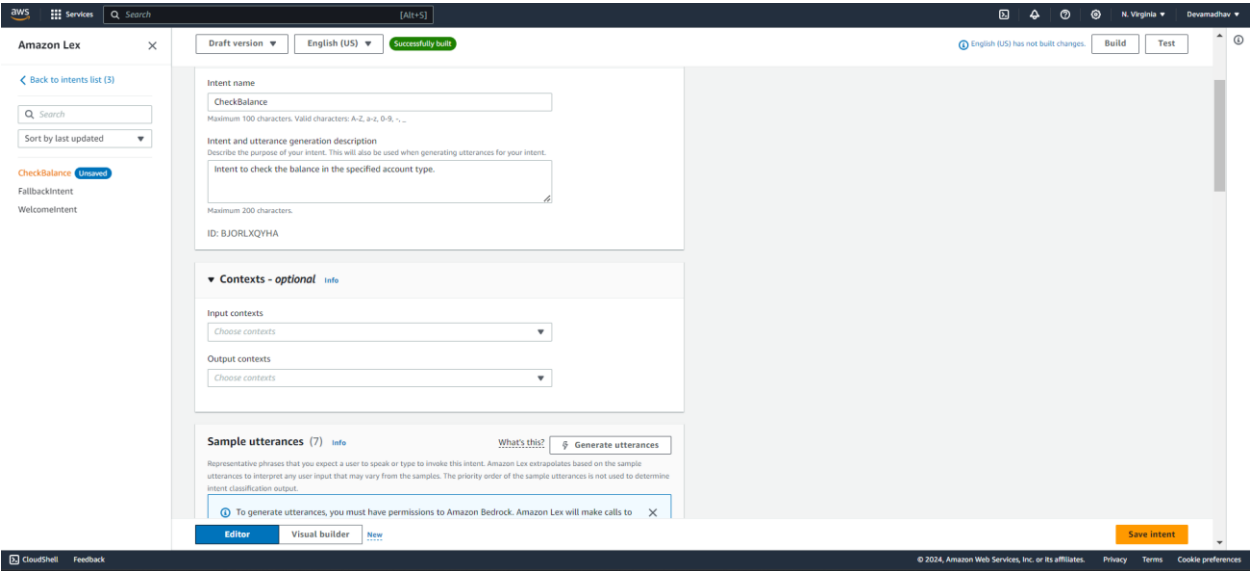


Figure 23 -Configuring the checkbalance intent

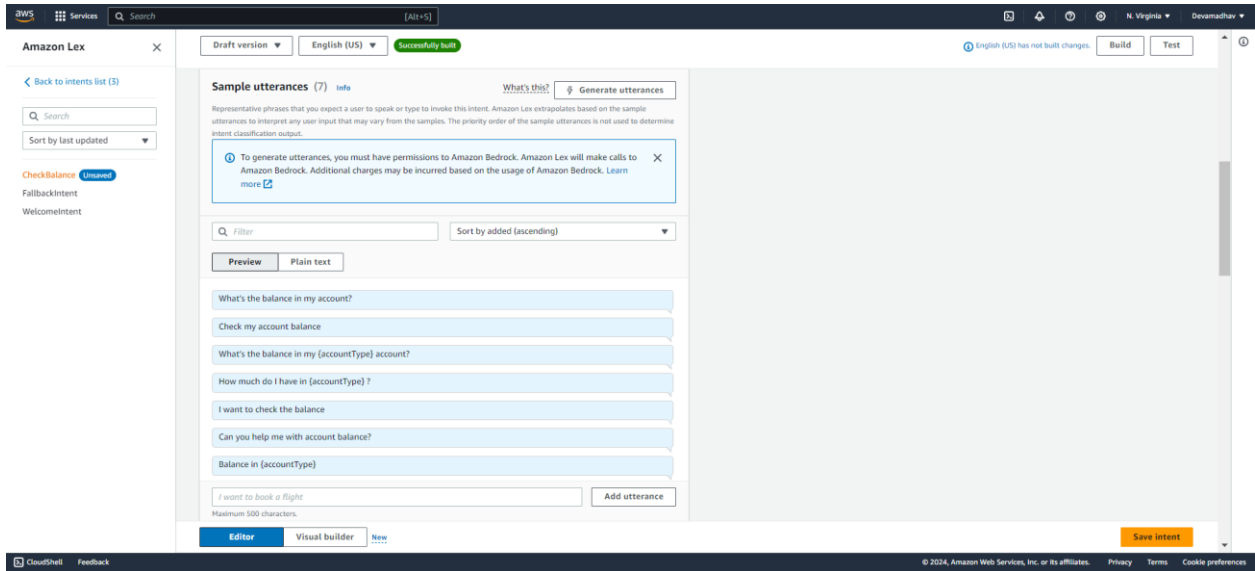


Figure 24 - Configured the utterances for the checkBalance

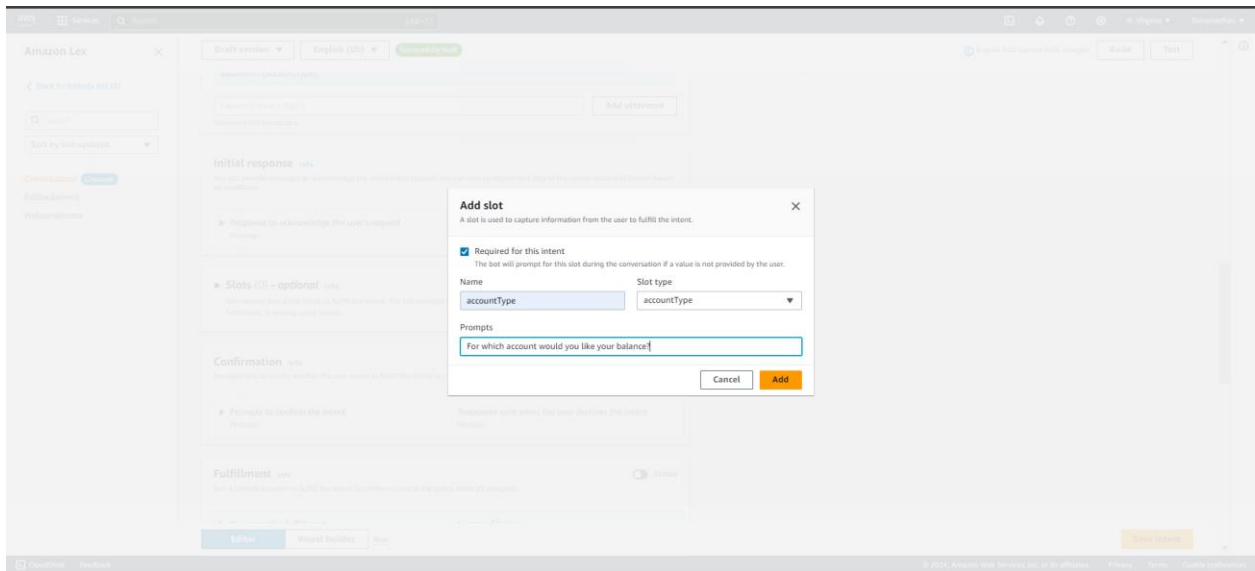


Figure 25 - Selected the newly created slot for checkBalance

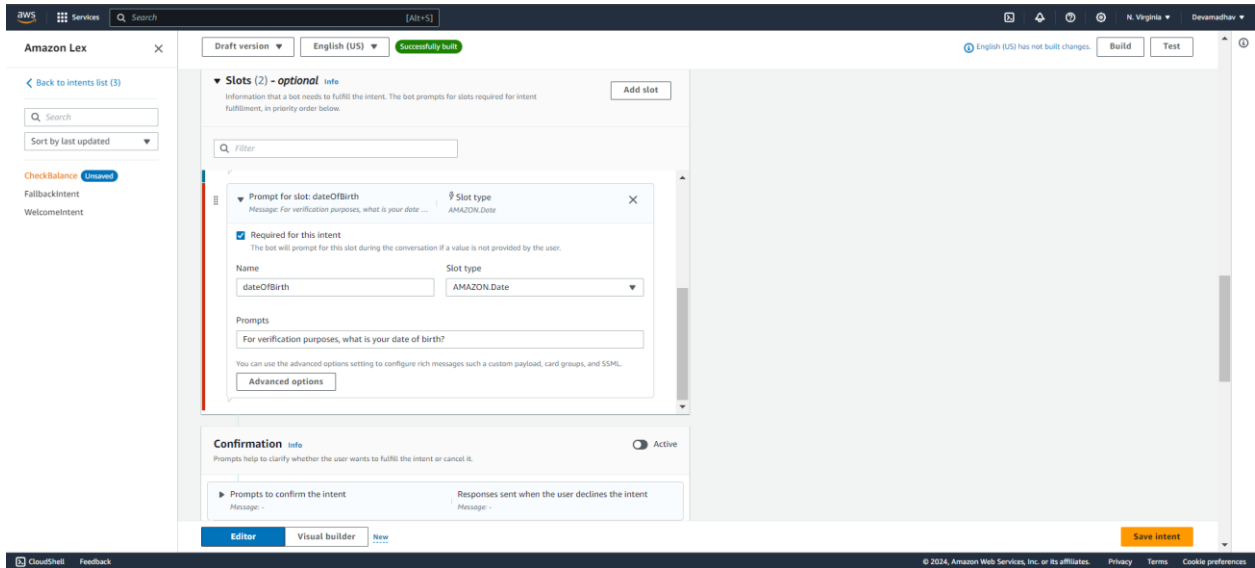


Figure 26 - Created another slot for date of birth

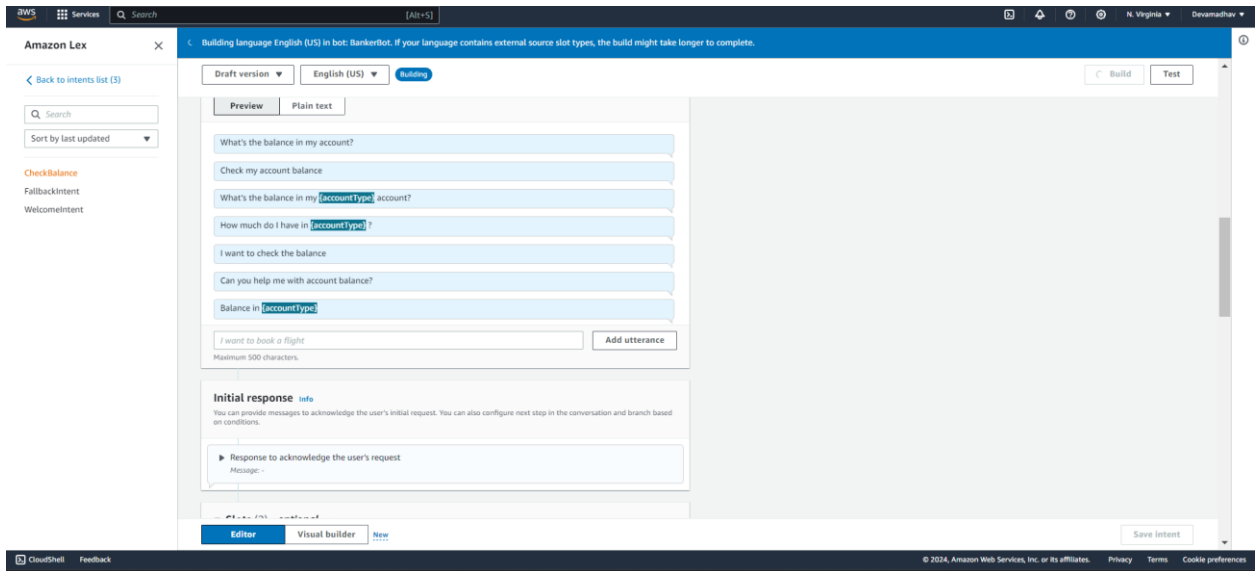


Figure 27 - Building the bot

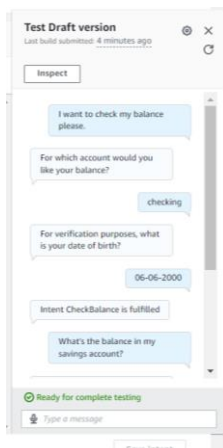


Figure 28 - Testing the bot with checkbalance

Integrating AWS Lambda with the Bot:

To make our bot more dynamic, we integrated it with an AWS Lambda function that would generate random bank balance figures. We started by navigating to the AWS Lambda service and creating a new function from scratch. We named the function "BankingBotEnglish" and selected Python 3.12 as the runtime. After creating the function, we scrolled down to the Function code section and replaced the placeholder code with a Python script that generated random bank balances. We then deployed the function, making it ready to use. Returning to the Amazon Lex console, we connected this Lambda function to our CheckBalance intent by associating it with the TestBotAlias version of our bot. This integration allowed the bot to retrieve and display random balance figures when users asked about their account balances, adding a layer of realism to our chatbot.

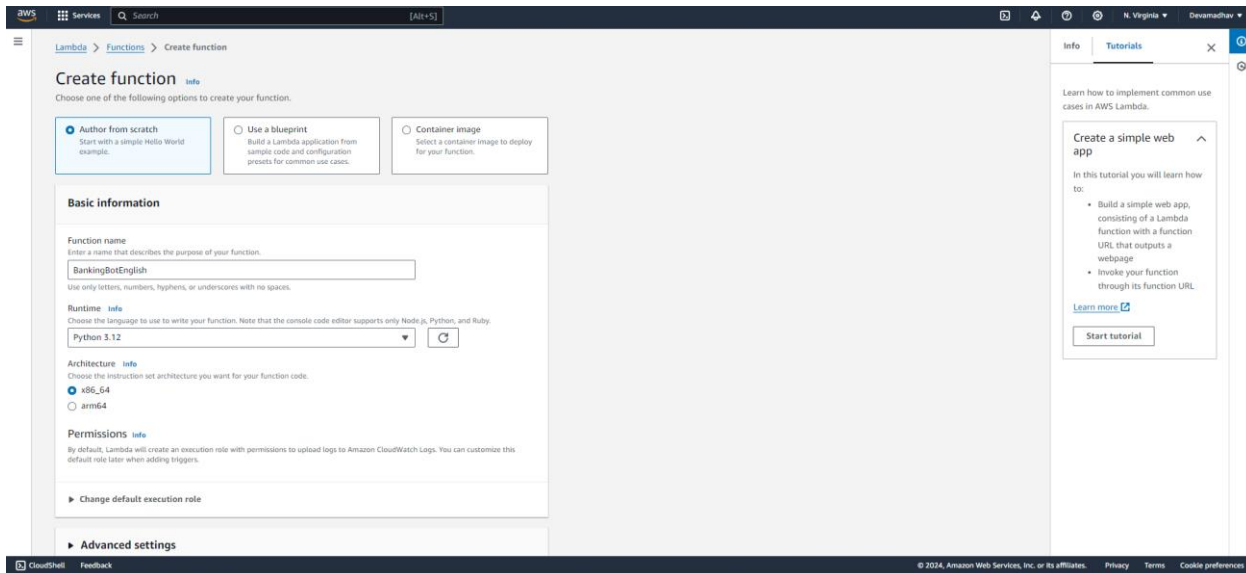


Figure 29 - Creating a new lamda function to generate random figures

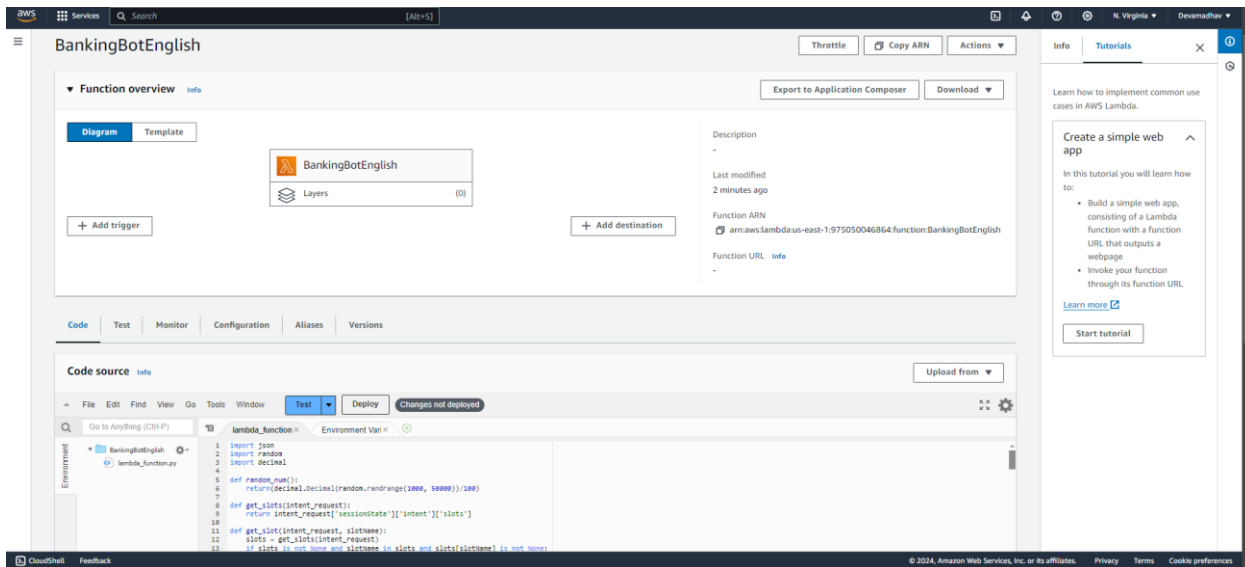


Figure 30 - Configured the code required

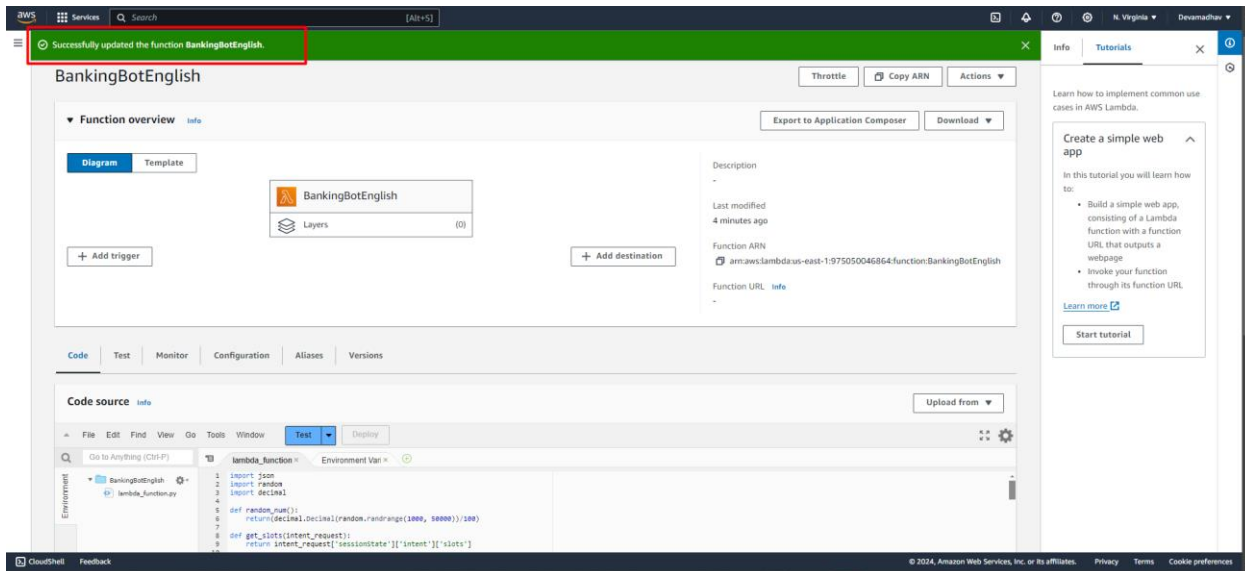


Figure 31 - Successfully created the new function

Connect AWS Lambda with Amazon Lex

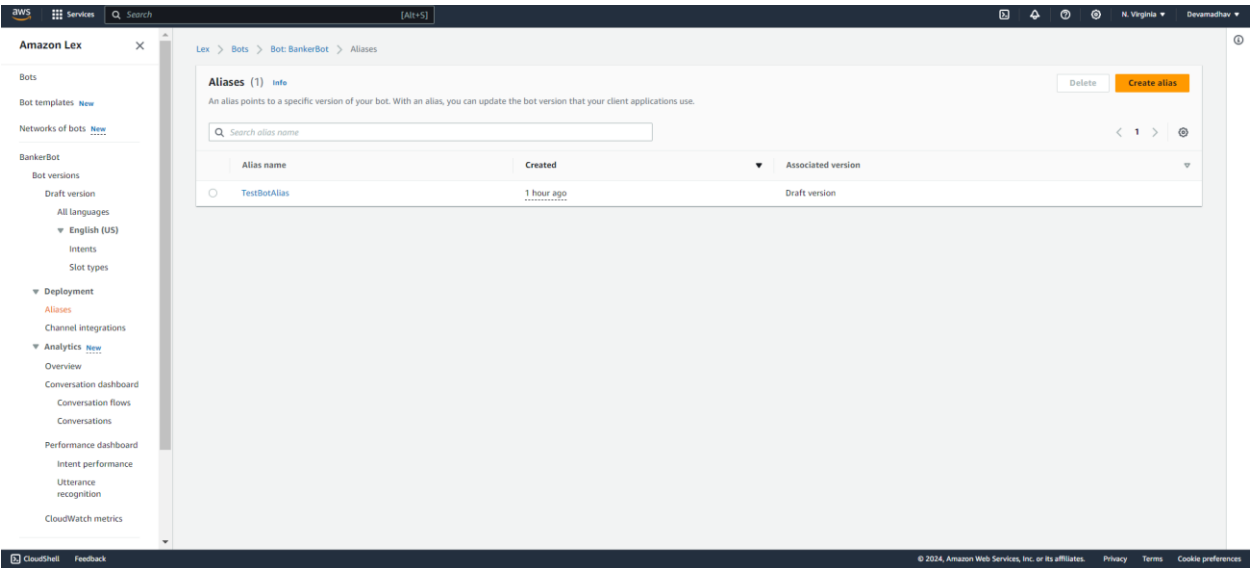


Figure 32 - Accessing Alias tab in Lex

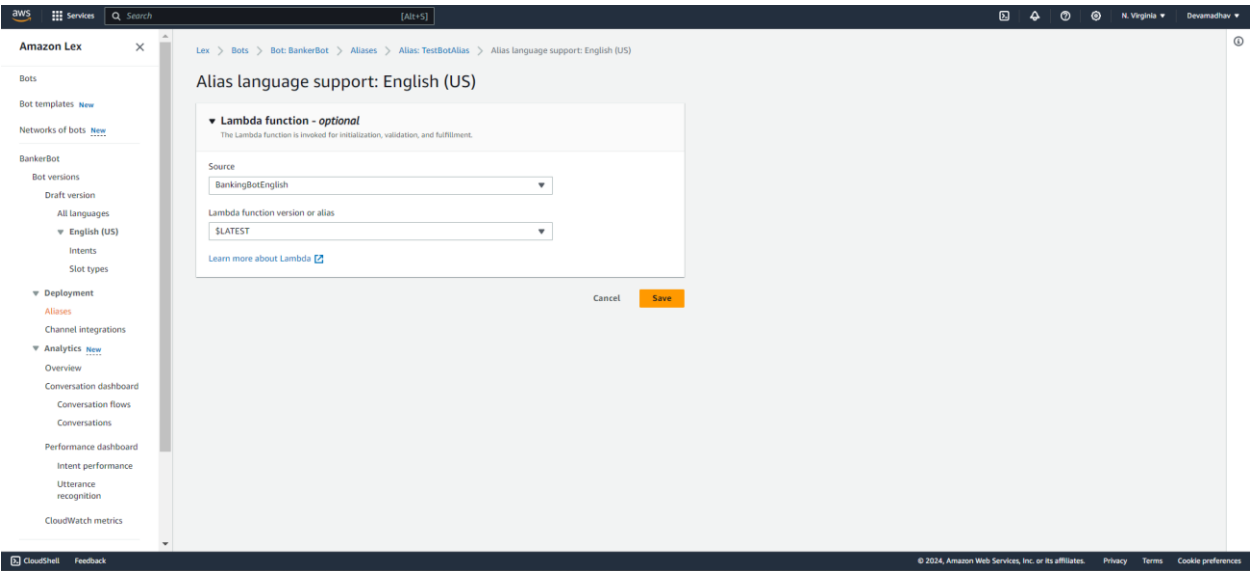


Figure 33 - Creating a new alias language support

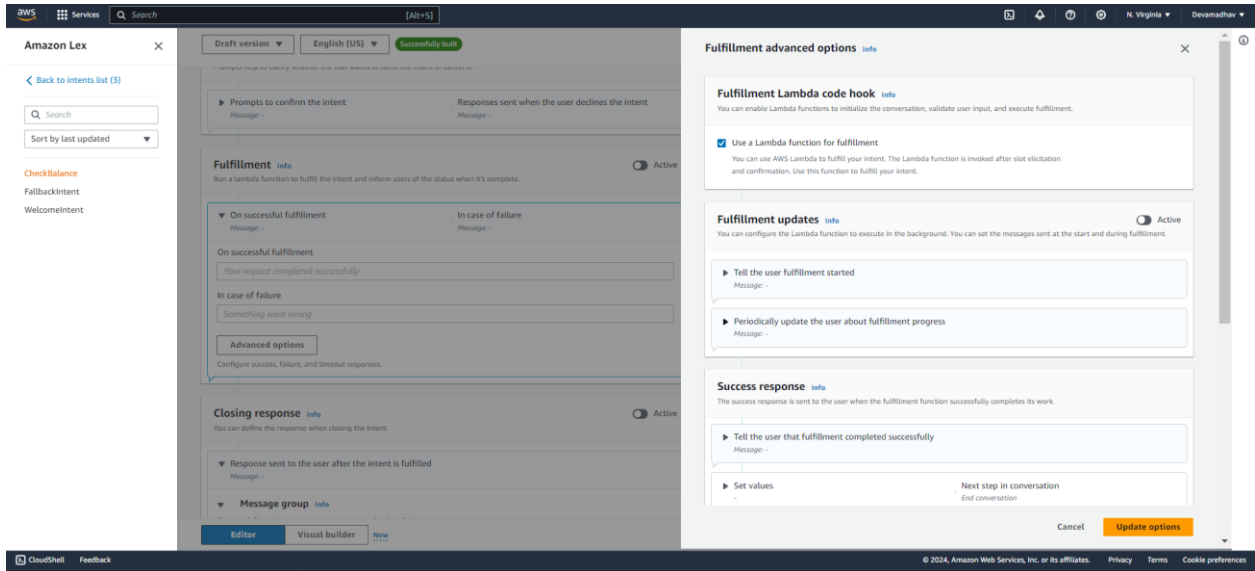


Figure 34 -selected the use lambda function for fullfillment

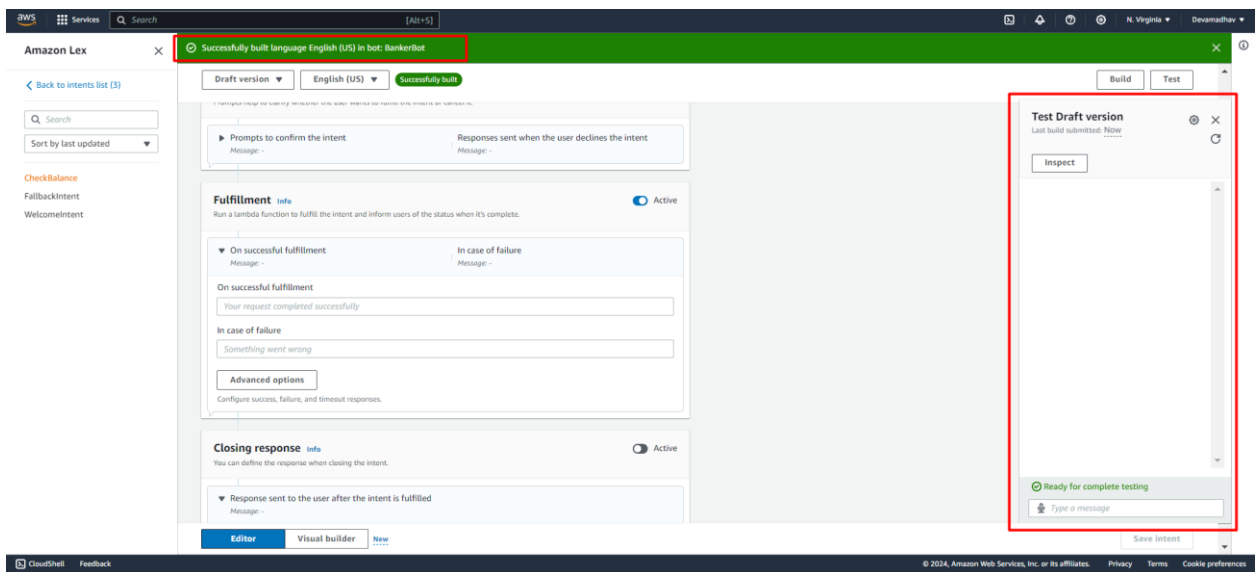


Figure 35 - Successfully built the language

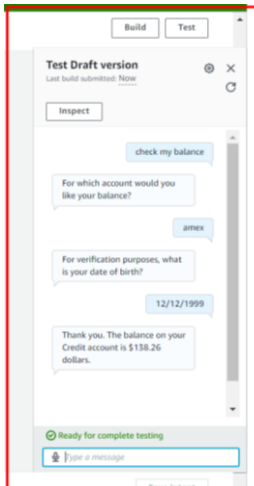


Figure 36 - Testing the bot

Create an output context from CheckBalance

In this step, we enhanced our BankerBot's ability to maintain the flow of conversation by creating an output context within the CheckBalance intent. The output context allows the bot to remember certain pieces of information, such as the user's selected account type, across multiple interactions within a defined period.

To do this, we navigated to the CheckBalance intent and scrolled down to the Context section. Here, we created a new output context and gave it a descriptive name, such as "AccountTypeContext." We set the context timeout to ensure that the bot retains this information for 5 turns or 90 seconds, whichever comes first. This configuration meant that if a user provided their account type, the bot could remember it for a short period, making subsequent interactions more efficient.

After saving the intent with the new context, we rebuilt the bot and conducted a series of tests. We observed that the bot correctly remembered the account type across multiple queries during the active context window. For instance, when we asked the bot to check the balance of a different account type within the same session, it no longer required us to specify the type again, demonstrating the successful implementation of the context feature.

This enhancement significantly improved the user experience by reducing redundant prompts and making the conversation with BankerBot feel more natural and intuitive.

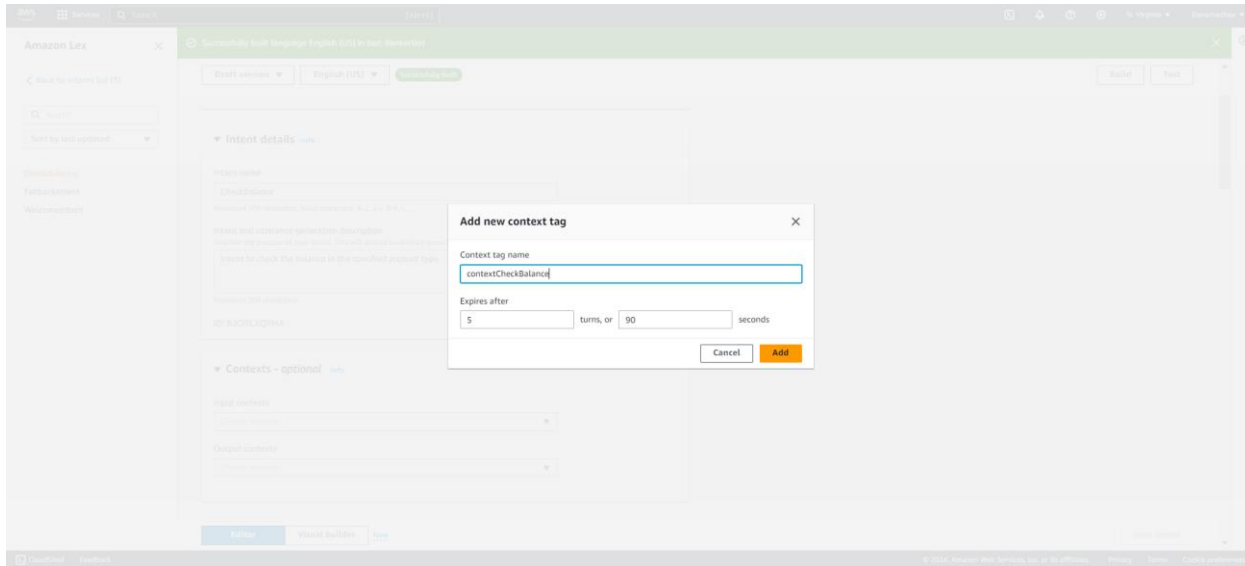


Figure 37 - Creating a new context tag contextCheck Balance

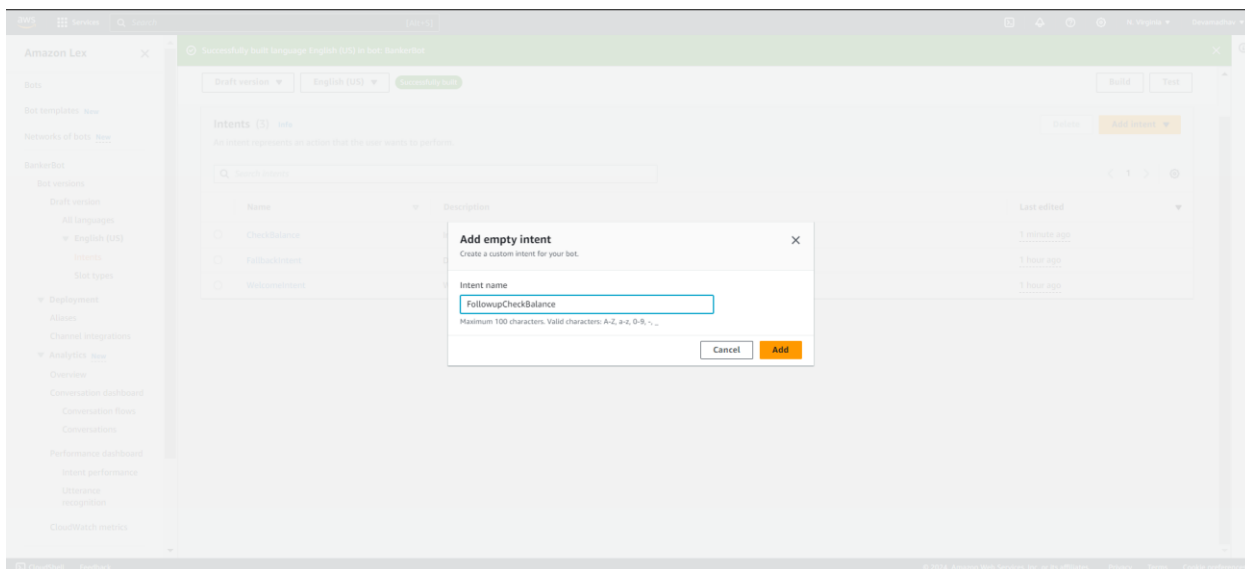


Figure 38 - Creating a new intent

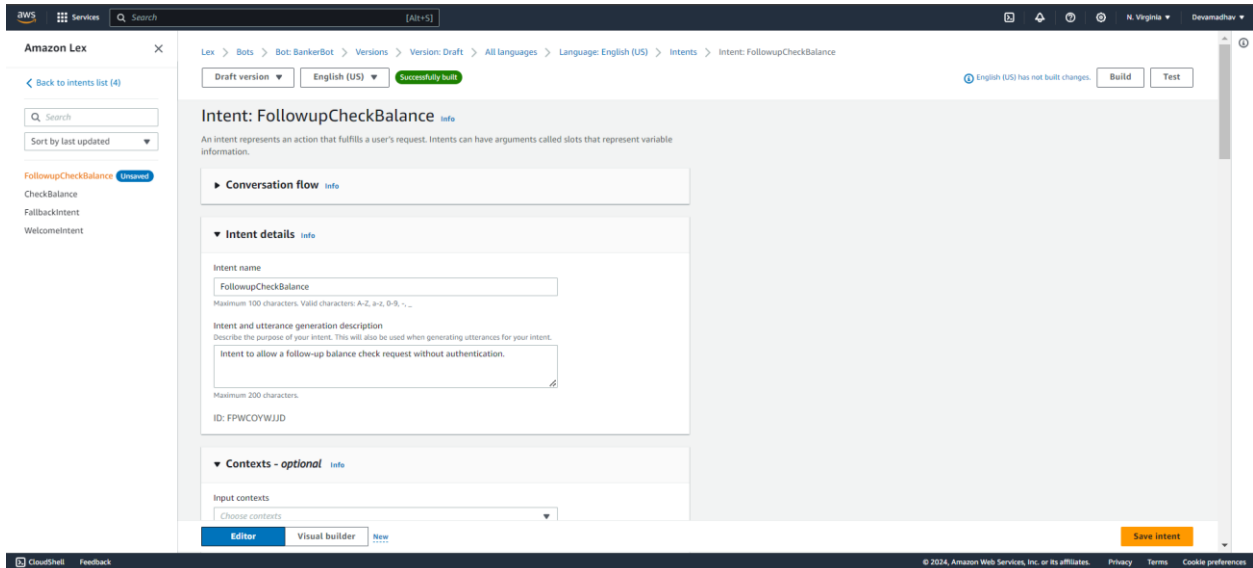


Figure 39 - Configuring the new intent

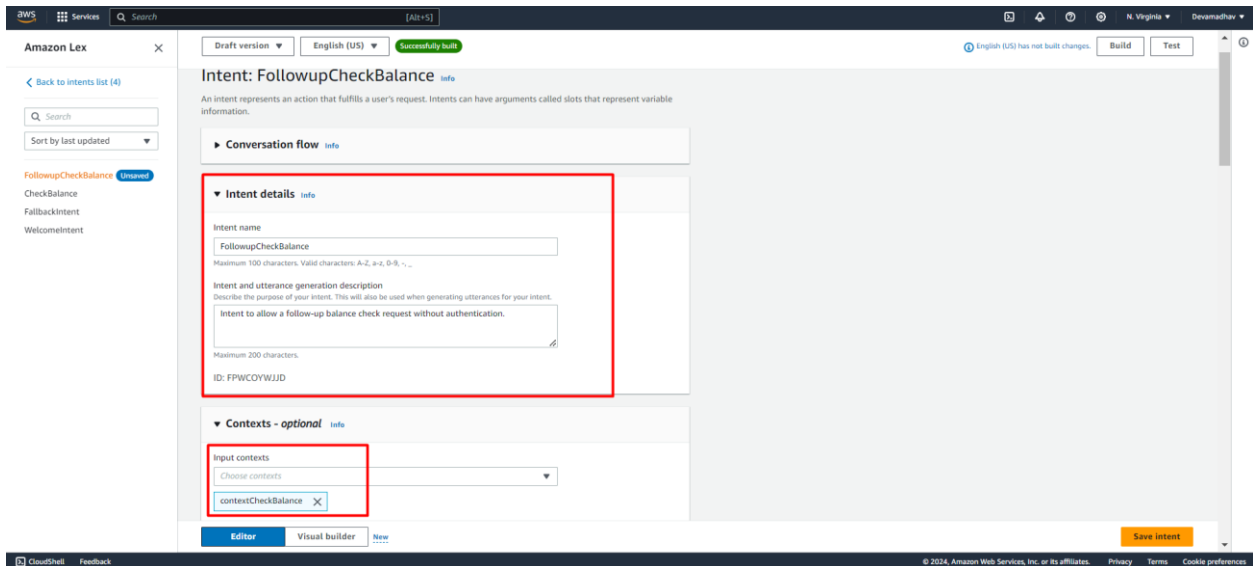


Figure 40 -Configuring context in followupcheckBalance

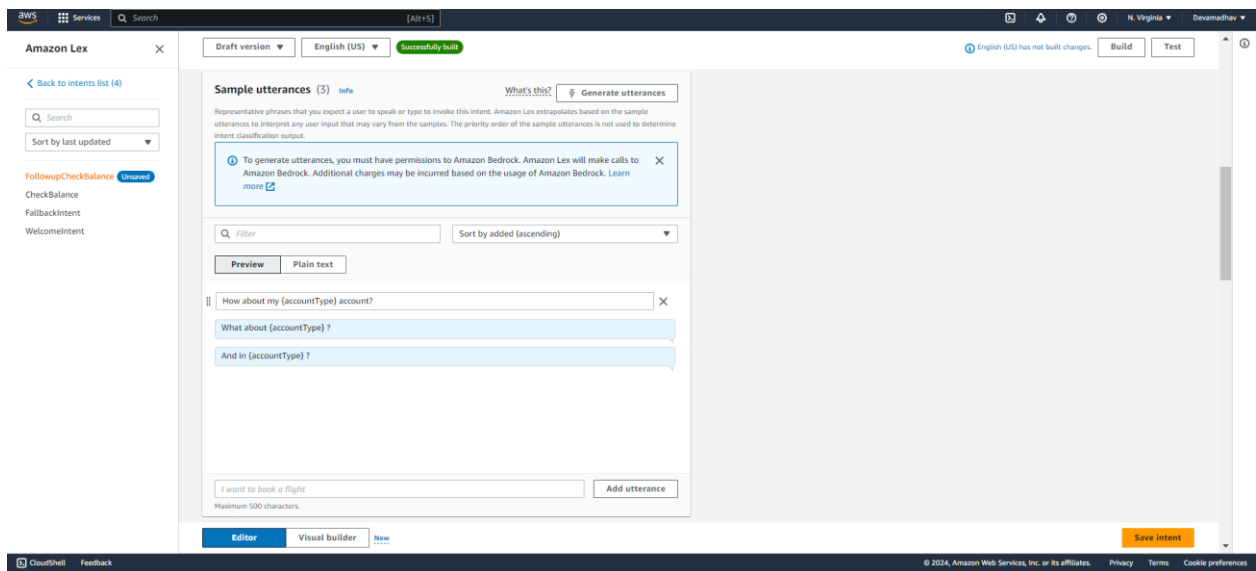


Figure 41 -Configured utteramces

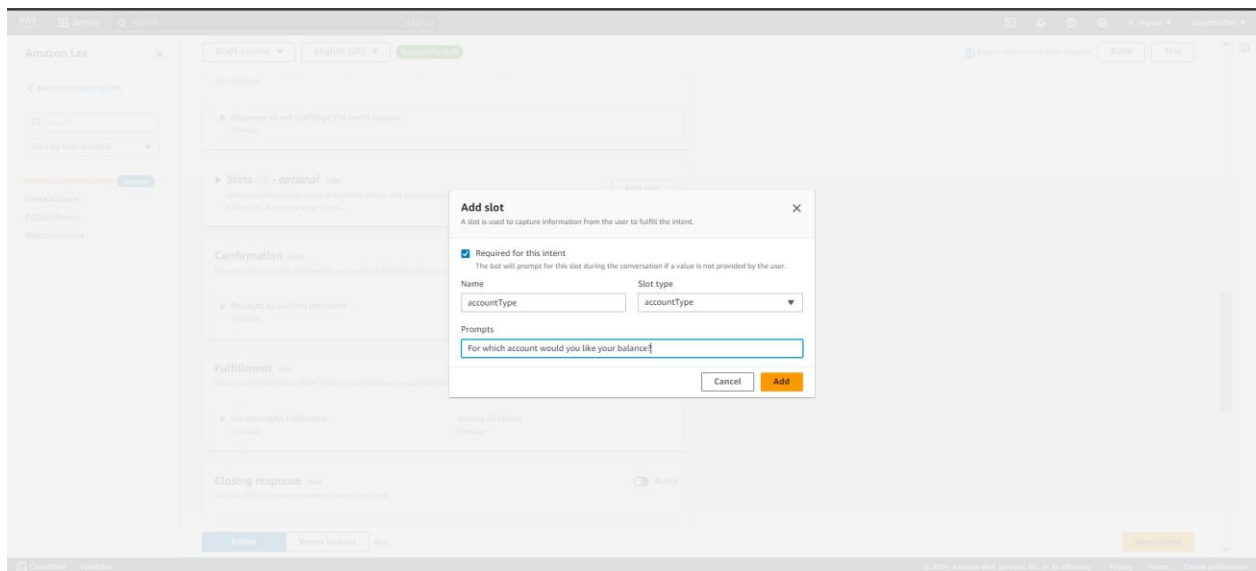


Figure 42 – Adding a new slot for account type for the new intent

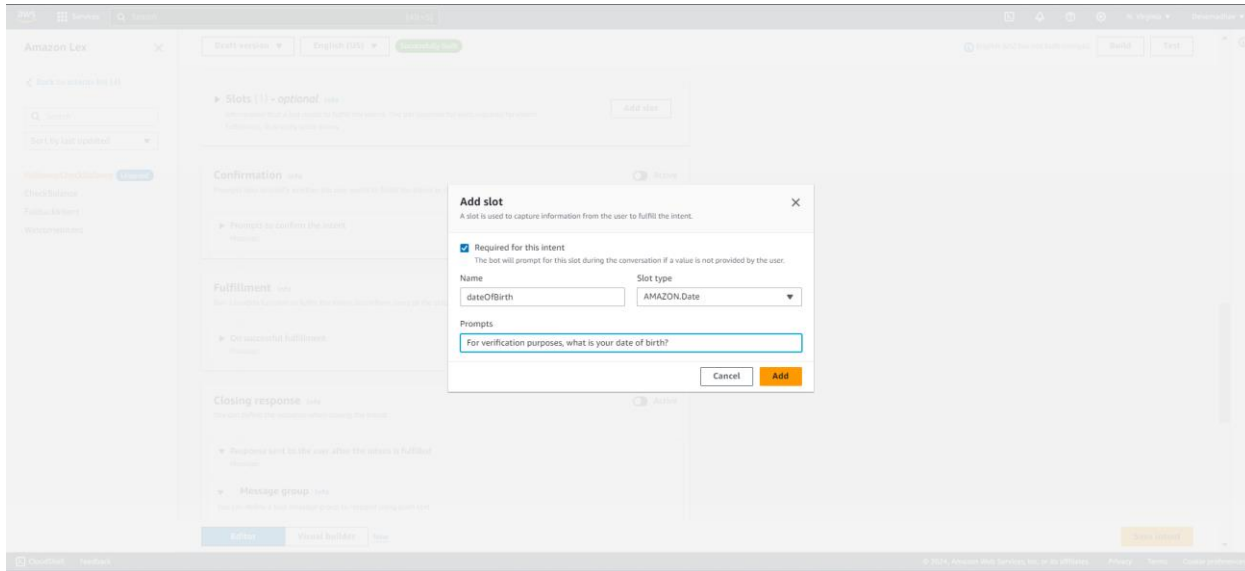


Figure 43 -Adding a new slot for Date of Birth

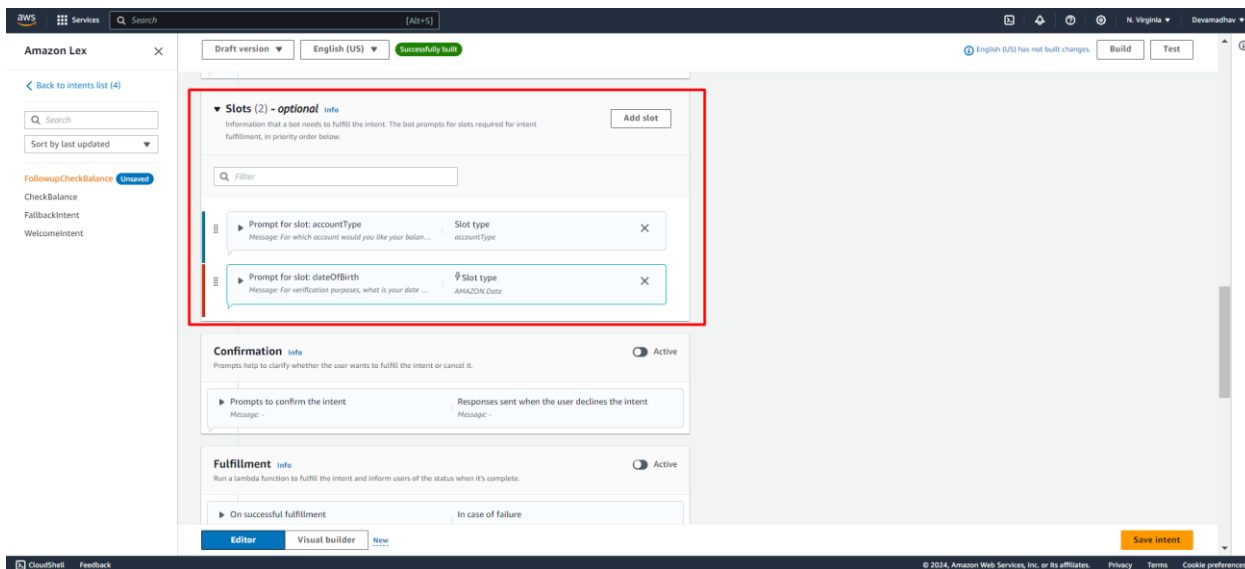


Figure 44 - Displaying the newly added slots

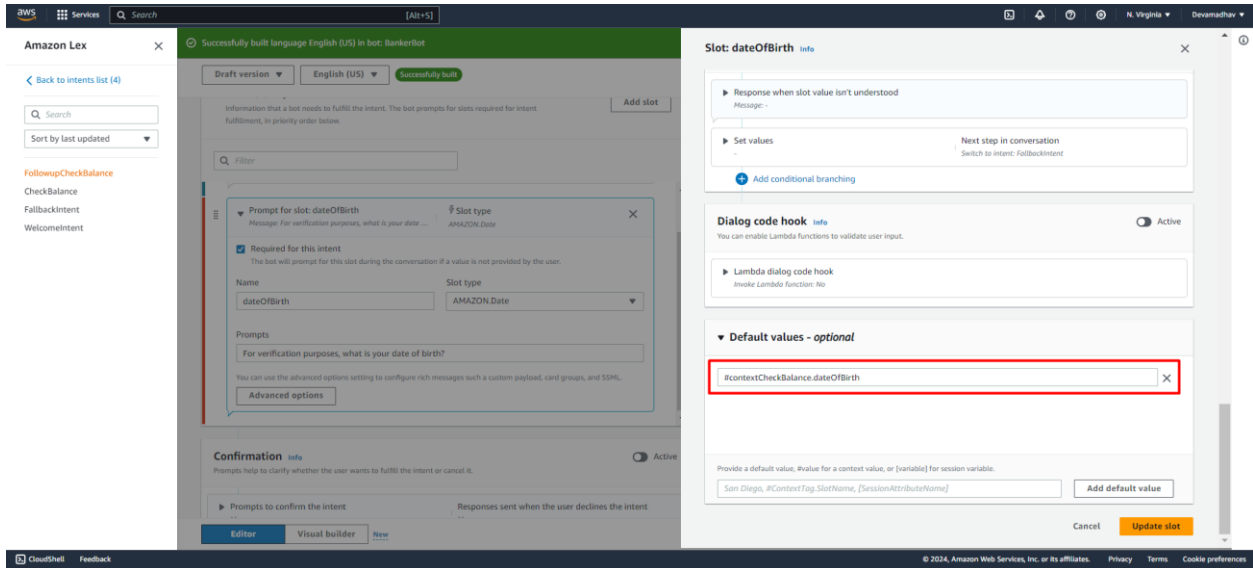


Figure 45 - Setting the default values

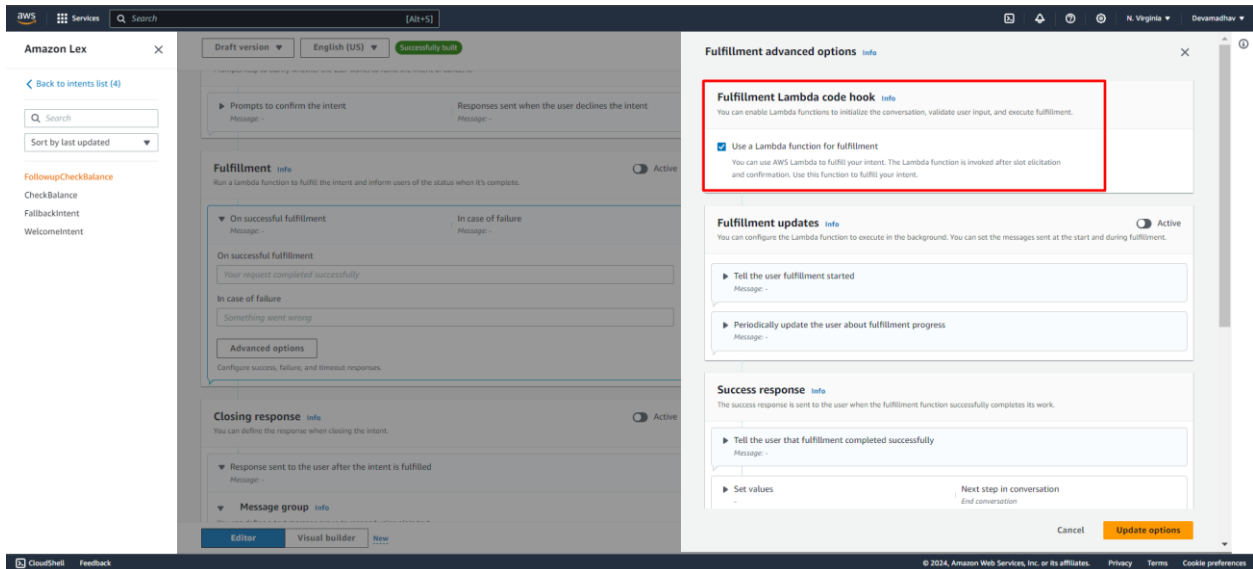


Figure 46 - Using the Lamda functions for fullfillment

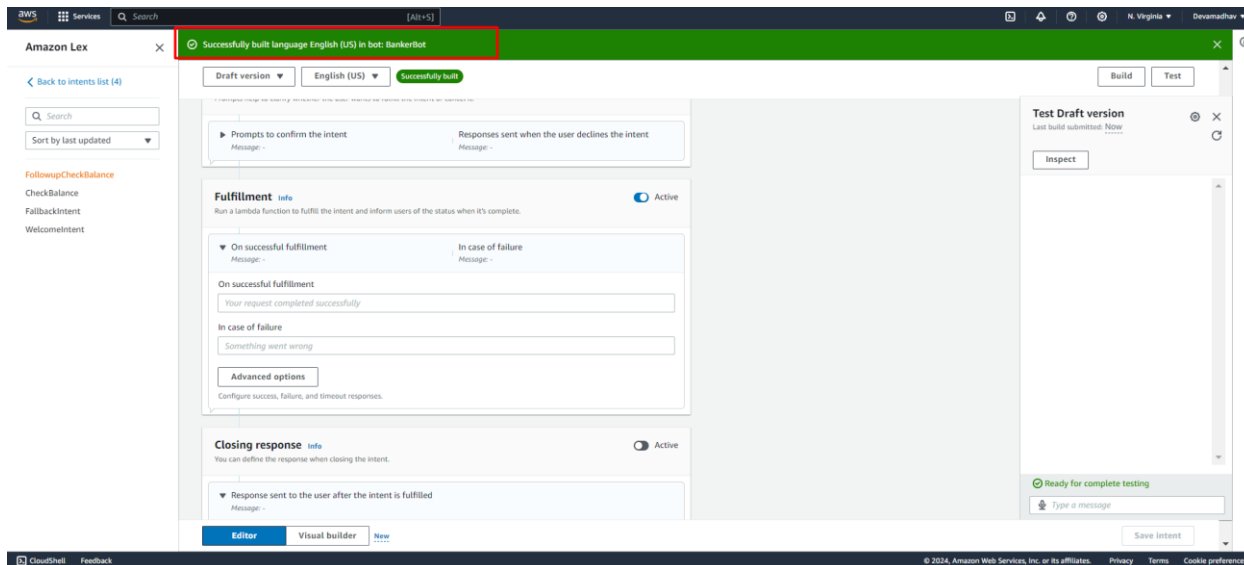


Figure 47 - Successfully built the new bot

Testing the Bot:

After setting up the Lambda function and connecting it to our bot, we thoroughly tested the entire system. We interacted with BankerBot by asking it to check the balance for different account types. During testing, we observed that the bot correctly recognized the account type, prompted for any missing information, and then retrieved and displayed a random balance figure using the Lambda function. This step was crucial in validating that all components were working together seamlessly and that the bot provided accurate and consistent responses to user queries.

Enhancing the Bot with Context Management:

To improve the user experience further, we added context management capabilities to BankerBot. We navigated back to the CheckBalance intent and created an output context tag. This tag allowed the bot to remember certain details, such as the user's account type, across multiple interactions. We set the context timeout to 5 turns or 90 seconds to balance usability with security concerns. After saving and building the intent with the new context tag, we tested the bot again to ensure it still operated correctly and that the context was being applied as expected. This enhancement made the bot more efficient by reducing the need for users to repeatedly provide the same information during a conversation.