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| To: | Marty Gephart |
| From: | Jim Tannenbaum |
| CC: | Rachna Chadha |
| Date: | 02/26/18 |
| Re: | Trip report for Alexa Dev Day |

Rachna and I attended an Alexa Day event in New York City on February 20th. Alexa Dev Days are free, interactive events from Amazon. We engaged in hands-on workshops where we learned to create voice experiences and hear the latest on UI design and industry trends.

The morning session covered the basics of creating a basic voice application. The session speaker assumed that the conference attendees had not created a voice application prior to attending the conference. Although most of the material was a review, I did gain a better understanding of how to use slots while designing an application.

The afternoon session was more interesting. We learned about new utilities and upcoming new features. For example, there is a skill code generator utility that takes the json language model created after a skill is designed, and generates that java script code that is used to interact with the skill. This java script code can then be customized and hosted either in the Amazon cloud or on a hosted server.

A new feature that we heard about was having a progressive response, where Alexa will let the user know something is happening while a time-consuming event is being processed. This feature will be useful when waiting for a long running data base query to respond. An upcoming feature is notifications. The Alexa team isn’t sure when to roll this feature out, since they are concerned that too many applications will use the feature (a yellow light ring or beep), overwhelming the user.

Rachna and I plan on demonstrating some of the skills we learned in an upcoming architecture group meeting.