

Getting Started with Voice API

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Getting Started with Voice API

Use the Voice API to make and receive calls, play audio, send and receive DTMF tones, and to record calls.

Workshop plan:

- Introduce concepts and vocabulary (mostly talking)
- Make and receive calls (hands-on)
- Interact with user input (hands-on)

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A bit of talking, then three exercises for you to try. Use the time well, we're here to help and we'd love to show you around!

First up: the abbreviation you're going to hear the most today!

NCCO: Nexmo Call Control Object



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NCCO: Nexmo Call Control Object

A series of steps: e.g. text-to-speech

```
[
  {
    "action": "talk",
    "text": "You are listening to a call made with Nexmo Voice API"
  }
]
```

You can find a full reference here:

<https://developer.nexmo.com/voice/voice-api/ncco-reference>

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NCCOs describe the flow of the call. They are a series of steps described in JSON

NCCOs can contain multiple objects in the array, they are done in order and then the call ends when there are no more

DEMO: Open the NCCO reference page from developer.nexmo.com to encourage people (list of examples on next slide, don't list here)

NCCO: Nexmo Call Control Object

Elements in an NCCO may include:

- text-to-speech
- playing audio (optionally looping)
- recording a call
- accepting DTMF input
- transferring a call (to a conference, or a new NCCO)
- ... and much more

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Emphasise that these are really important at every stage of voice call applications!

Recordings: start with NCCO, webhook on completion with download link. This is in one of today's stretch goals

Audio should be hosted on a public URL, such as S3

DTMF you ask for input, and give the URL to send a webhook to with digits in. That URL (synchronously) returns a new NCCO in response to the given data.

Call vs Conferences is the next slide

Calls vs Conferences

There are two types of conversation that you might use:

- A "call" is a temporary conversation that only exists for as long as the call is taking place
- A "conference" is a conversation with a name, that additional callers can be added to. This type of conversation persists and can be reused.

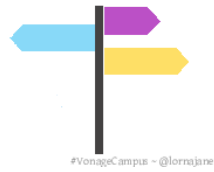
```
{
  "action": "conversation",
  "name": "nexmo-conference-standard",
  "record": "true"
}
```

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Today's examples only use calls

Use a Conference when you need to know which conversation to have new users join, e.g. conference call or an outgoing call to connect to an existing call when it is answered

Nexmo Voice API



Nexmo Voice API

Make an API call to:

- make an outgoing call (our first hands-on exercise today)
- hang up a call
- transfer a call
- interact with an in-progress call
- get information about current and past calls

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Make the distinction between the NCCO (supplied when the call is started/answered) and the API which operates on the in-progress call and can change things even during the course of an NCCO.

How to Use Voice API

The Voice API is an HTTP API

- Explore the API with Postman or your favorite HTTP client
- Use request(s) or whichever library you prefer in your application
- Try one of our Server SDKs: <https://developer.nexmo.com/tools> (recommended)

You will find lots of code examples and the API reference on <https://developer.nexmo.com>

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Really recommend our server SDKs, they make things easier. Available for Java, .NET, Python, NodeJS, PHP, Ruby and Golang.

Code samples on Nexmo Developer have cURL as well so if you're not using a lib, check those

For exploring the APIs, grab the OpenAPI spec and import into Postman. DEMO but no API calls (you need a JWT). Video of this also available

NCCO + API = Many Good Things



Combining the NCCOs to control program flow and the API calls to react to events allows us to create interesting and fully-featured applications.

Some things can be done with either technique, but some things need one or the other! Expect to need both.

Voice API Examples

- IVR
 - Incoming call, serve NCCO to answer it
 - Prompt user for DTMF input
 - DTMF input arrives as a webhook, return a new NCCO
- Proxy
 - Incoming call, serve NCCO to answer it
 - Put user into conference
 - API call to place outgoing call to other user, with NCCO to join same conference

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IVR = Interactive Voice Response

Use the proxy to allow customers to connect with staff (for example) without revealing actual numbers

Next: more detail on webhooks

Voice Webhooks

Data to your application from Nexmo

- Webhooks are events sent via HTTP request to an endpoint in your application
- Your application needs to be able to receive requests and respond

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(This is almost a title slide, third and final part of the puzzle)

Webhooks are the link we've missed so far. Things happen, we let your app know

Updates on status, and payloads in response to events

Must ack the webhook, in a specific timeframe. Nexmo will retry if not

Set your URLs through the dashboard or via CLI when you create your application configuration and register a phone number to it

Voice Webhooks

Webhooks can be expected:

- When the call is answered, an HTTP request to the `answer_url`
- When events such as "ringing", "answered", "completed" occur, HTTP requests to the `event_url`
- Keypad digits from an input action are sent to the specified URL
- When a recording is completed, an HTTP request to the `recording_url`
- When a notify action in an NCCO is processed

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Answer webhook when someone calls your Nexmo number. Nexmo servers hit your URL and you return an NCCO.

Events show up at the `event_url`. This is great for knowing what is going on - errors go there too!

DTMF input results in a webhook with a `dtmf` field, you return an NCCO

When recording is ready, webhook to `recording_url` has a link to the file to download

`notify` is an NCCO action that sends a webhook to a URL. The NCCO continues afterwards, useful for progress indicators - or you can return an NCCO

There are some tricks to working with webhooks locally: I'd like to share some tips

Webhooks on Dev Platforms

<https://ngrok.com/> - secure tunnel to your dev platform

Use this tool to:

- webhook into code running locally
- inspect the request and response of the webhook
- replay requests and see the responses

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Proprietary tool with a free tier

Get a paid account to get a static URL so you don't have to update your webhook configs so often!

You could also push to cloud

Ngrok for Testing Webhooks

Start the tunnel on your laptop: receive a public URL



We have a blog post about this: <https://www.nexmo.com/blog/2017/07/04/local-development-nexmo-ngrok-tunnel-dr>

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The Answer Webhook

When someone calls your Nexmo number, you get a webhook like this:

```
{
  "from": "442079460000",
  "to": "447700900000",
  "uuid": "aaaaaaaa-bbbb-cccc-dddd-0123456789ab",
  "conversation_uuid": "CON-aaaaaaaa-bbbb-cccc-dddd-0123456789ab"
}
```

Your code must return a valid NCCO

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Compare with when we do an outgoing call, we can either specify an `answer_url` and serve an NCCO, or provide the NCCO when making the call

The Event Webhook

Many different events can produce webhooks to the `event_url`:

- Changes in call state e.g. "ringing"/"answered"
- record and input actions can specify a URL, which may be the same as the event URL
- Errors will also be sent to the `event_url`

Detailed reference: <https://developer.nexmo.com/voice/voice-api/webhook-reference#event-webhook>

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Voice Events Logger

A tool you can use to direct your event_url to, it just acknowledges the webhook and displays what arrived.

<https://github.com/Nexmo/voice-event-logger> - it can be run locally or deployed to Heroku

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A very basic debugging tool to get you started. In a real application you would want to handle the events yourself.

Further Reading

- Exercises at <https://voice-workshop.nexmodev.com/>
- Developer portal <https://developer.nexmo.com>
- Tutorials for Voice API
<https://developer.nexmo.com/voice/voice-api/use-cases/>
- Our blog <https://nexmo.com/blog>
- Tell us what you think! @NexmoDev on twitter

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The exercises are the rest of the session.
Please use the time! Ask us anything!

Any tech stack will do