

# Getting Started with <cfalexa>

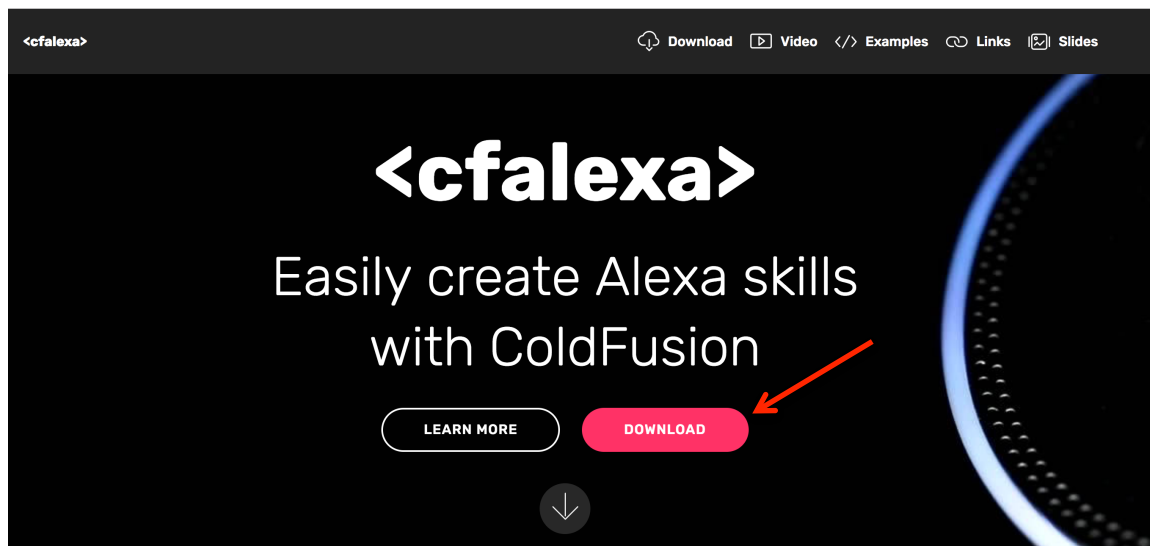
**Note:** Amazon Alexa requires the ability to connect to your ColdFusion website. Therefore, you **MUST** have a site available to the general public when building Alexa skills. A developers version of ColdFusion running on your laptop or desktop **WILL NOT** work.

Also, your site must support HTTP over SSL/TLS, leveraging an Amazon-trusted certificate. For testing, Amazon accepts different methods for providing a certificate. For details, see [About the SSL Options](#). For more information about requirements, see [Requirements for Your Web Service](#).

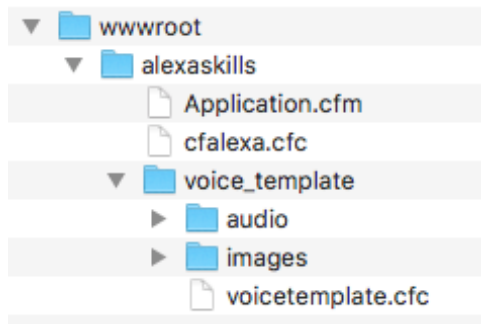
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## Let's Begin.

Go to [www.cfalexa.com](http://www.cfalexa.com) and download cfalexa.

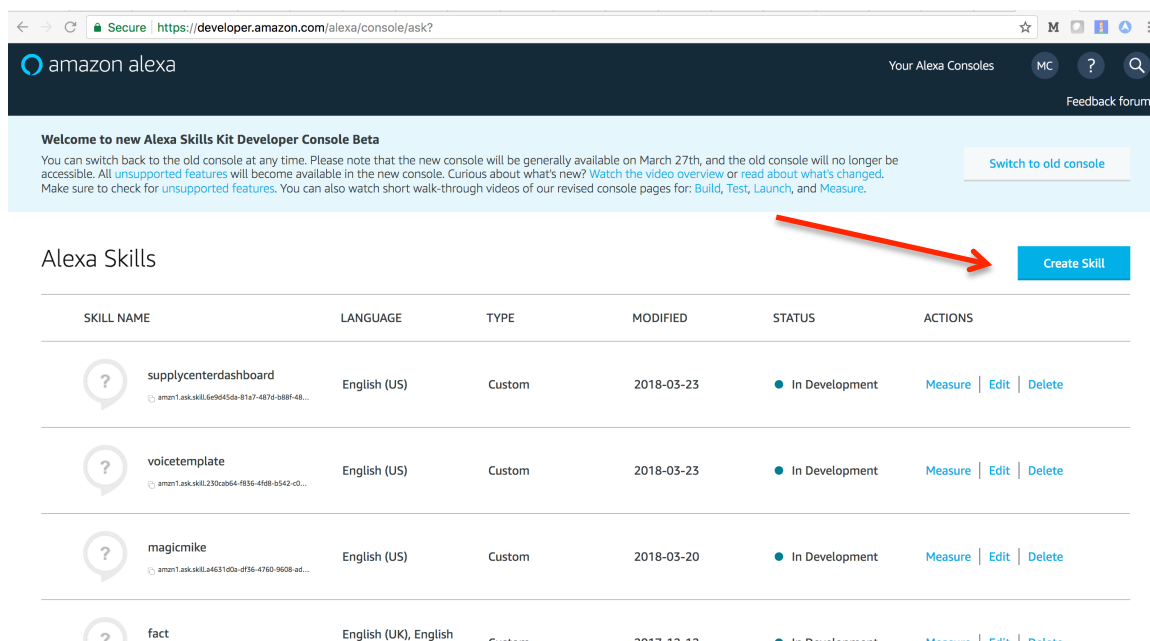


Unzip the code into the root folder of your ColdFusion web site.



Log in to the developer console at <https://developer.amazon.com/alexa/console/ask>. If you have purchased any Alexa devices through Amazon, make sure to log in using the same ID you used when you purchased your device.

Click on the “Create Skill” button.



Enter “voicetemplate” for skill name. Make sure the “custom” card is selected. Click the “Create Skill” button.

alex developer console

Create a new skill

Cancel Create skill

Skill name

voicetemplate

Skill name must have at least 2 characters. 13/50 characters

Default language

English (US)

More languages can be added to your skill after creation

Choose a model to add to your skill

There are many ways to start building a skill. You can design your own custom model or start with a pre-built model. Pre-built models are interaction models that contain a package of intents and utterances that you can add to your skill.

Custom

Design a unique experience for your users. A custom model enables you to create all of your skill's interactions.

Flash Briefing

Give users control of their news feed. This pre-built model lets users control what updates they listen to.

"Alexa, what's in the news?"

Smart Home

Give users control of their smart home devices. This pre-built model lets users turn off the lights and other devices without getting up.

"Alexa, turn on the kitchen lights"

Video

Let users find and consume video content. This pre-built model supports content searches and content suggestions.

"Alexa, play Interstellar"

English

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Select the “Start from scratch” card and click the “Choose” button.

alex developer console

< Your Skills testskill Build Test Distribution Certification Analytics

Choose a template

Choose

Select a quick start template to get started with a predefined skill or simply "Start from scratch"

Start from scratch

Design a unique experience for your users and define your custom model from scratch.

Fact Skill

Provided a list of interesting facts about a topic, Alexa will select a fact at random and tell it to the user when the skill is invoked. Includes 1 custom intent, and 4 built-in intents.

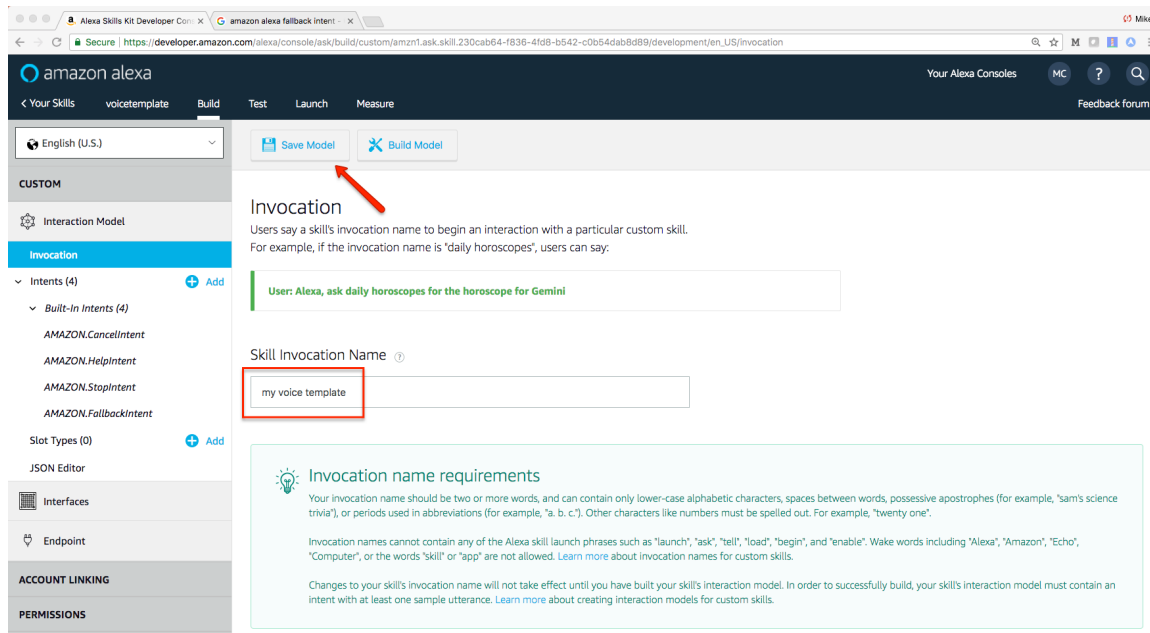
Quiz Game Skill

Provided a list of interesting facts about a topic, Alexa will quiz a user with facts from the list. Includes 1 custom intent with 1 slot, and 6 built-in intents.

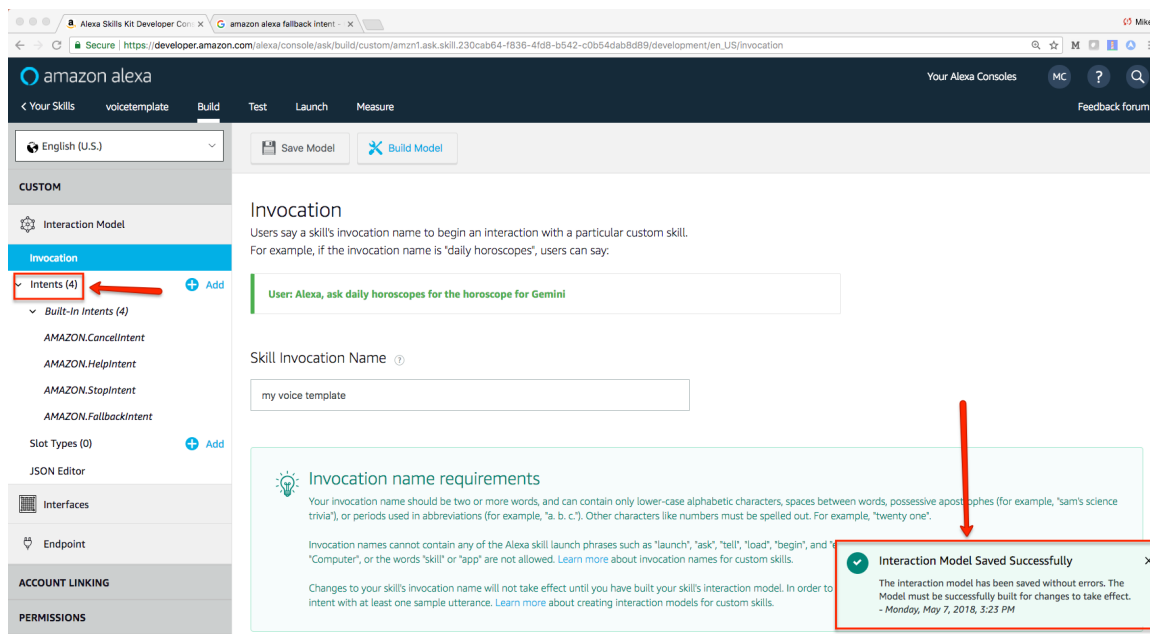
High-Low Game Skill

Try to guess the target number. Alexa tells the player if the target number is higher or lower than their current guess. Includes 2 custom intents with 5 slots, and 5 built-in intents.

Click “Invocation”. Enter “my voice template” for the Skill Invocation name and then click the Save Model button.



A message box will appear when your model is saved successfully. Next, click “Intents” in the left navigation.



Some default intents will automatically be included. We want to add three more. One custom intent and two from Alexa's built in library. To add intents from Alexa's library, click the radio button to "Use an existing intent from Alexa's built-in-library". Search for the name of the intent. Then click the "Add Intent" button next to the proper intent. The two intents you want to add from Alexa's library are: AMAZON.RepeatIntent and AMAZON.StartOverIntent.

Add AMAZON.RepeatIntent.

## Add Intent

An intent represents an action that fulfills a user's spoken request. [Learn more](#) about intents.

☐ Create custom intent <sup>?</sup>

Enter name for intent

Create custom intent

☒ Use an existing intent from Alexa's built-in library <sup>?</sup>

[Learn more](#) about using built-in intents.

AMAZON.RepeatIntent



Name

Description

1/145 built-ins



AMAZON.RepeatIntent

+ Add Intent

Now add AMAZON.StartOverIntent.

☒ Use an existing intent from Alexa's built-in library <sup>?</sup>

[Learn more](#) about using built-in intents.

AMAZON.StartOverIntent



Name

Description

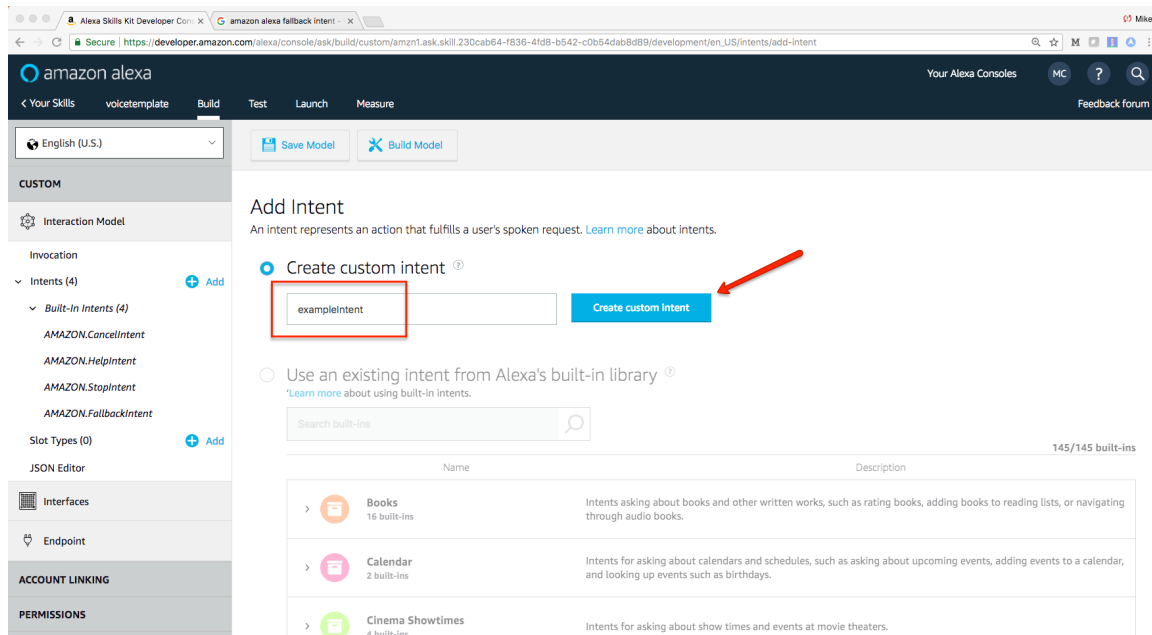
1/145 built-ins



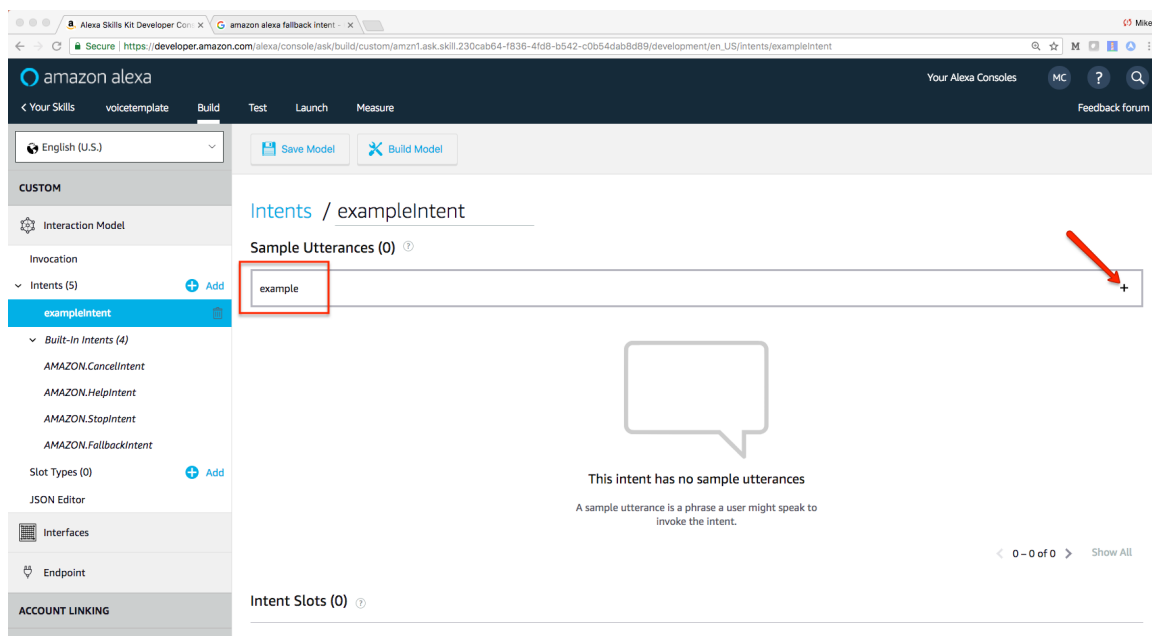
AMAZON.StartOverIntent

+ Add Intent

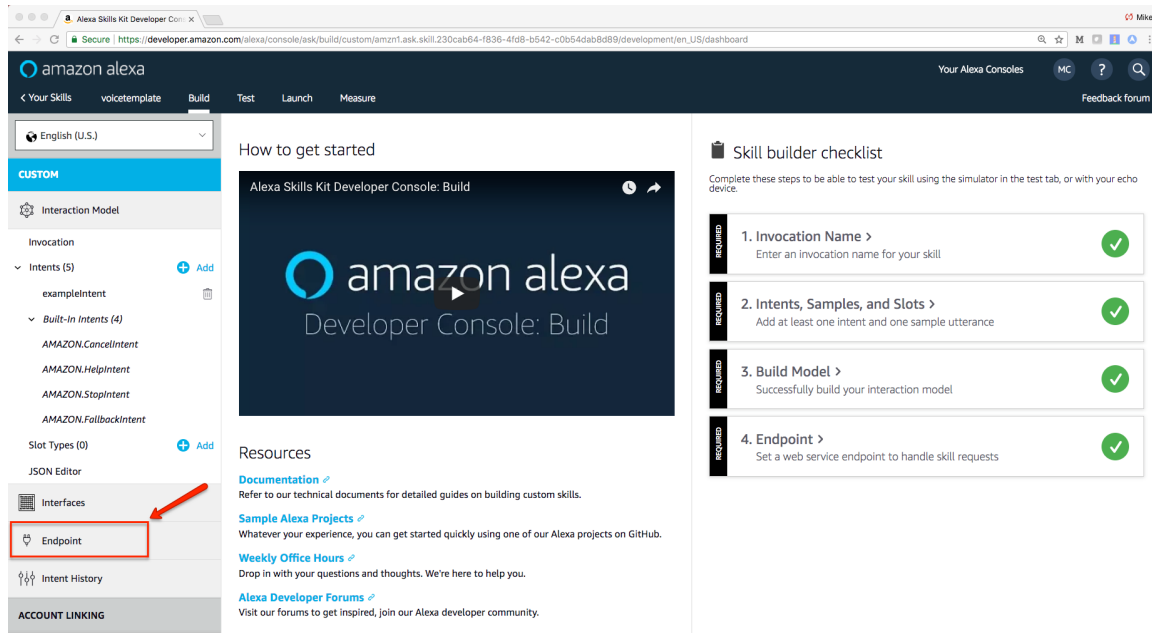
After adding both of the built-in intents, next you can add a custom intent called “exampleintent”. Select the radio button for “Create custom intent”, enter “exampleintent” in the text box and click the “Creat custom intent” button.



Next you will enter an utterance. In the text box enter “example” and then click the plus sign.



The last part is to define your endpoint. Click “Endpoint” in the left navigation.



Select the “HTTPS” radio button. In the “Default Region” section enter: [https://your\\_web\\_address/alexaskills/voice\\_template/voicetemplate.cfc?method=start](https://your_web_address/alexaskills/voice_template/voicetemplate.cfc?method=start) in the URL text box. Ignore the other (optional) regions.

## Service Endpoint Type

Select how you will host your skill's service endpoint.

☐ AWS Lambda ARN <sup>?</sup>  
(Recommended)

☒ HTTPS <sup>?</sup>

Default Region <sup>?</sup>  
(Required)

Select SSL certificate type

North America <sup>?</sup>  
(Optional)

Select SSL certificate type

Click the dropdown for “Select SSL certificate type” and pick the one that matches your setup. The second option often works just fine.

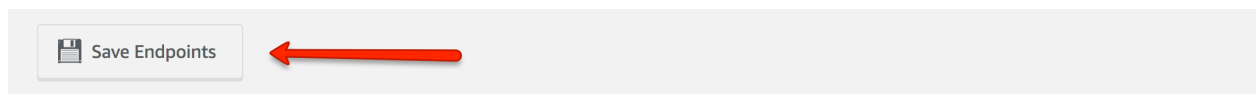
Select SSL certificate type

My development endpoint has a certificate from a trusted certificate authority

My development endpoint is a sub-domain of a domain that has a wildcard certificate from a certificate authority

I will upload a self-signed certificate in X 509 format

Click the “Save Endpoints” button.



## Endpoint



The Endpoint will receive POST requests when a user interacts with your Alexa Skill. The request body contains parameters that your service can use to perform logic and generate a JSON-formatted response. Learn more about AWS Lambda endpoints [here](#). You can host your own HTTPS web service endpoint as long as the service meets the requirements described [here](#).

## Service Endpoint Type

Select how you will host your skill's service endpoint.

☐ AWS Lambda ARN (Recommended) [?](#)

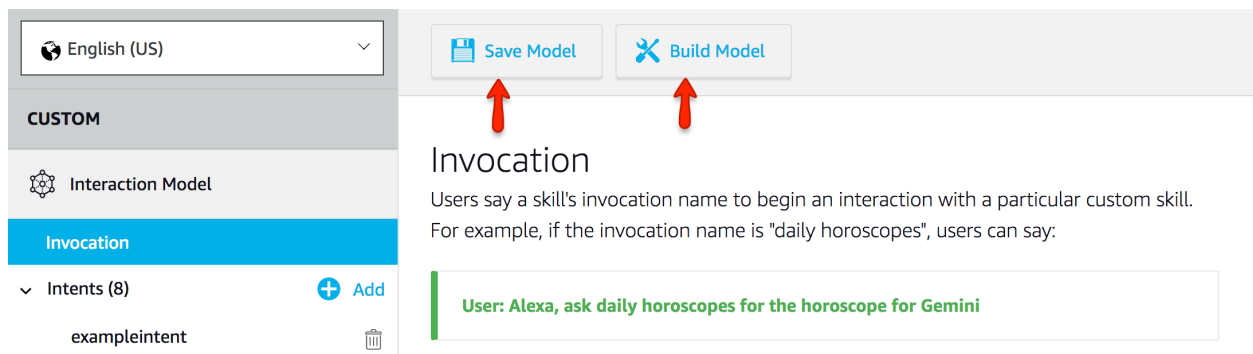
☒ HTTPS [?](#)

Default Region [?](#)

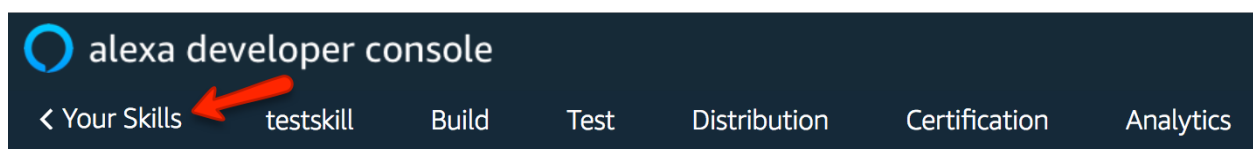
Enter URI...



Finally, you want to build your model. Click on the “Invocation” link in the left hand navigation. Then click the “Save Model” button. Once the save is complete, click the “Build Model” button.



Your voicetemplate skill is now defined and saved on Amazon. Before testing, you need to retrieve your skill ID and copy it to your voicetemplate.cfc code. Click the “Your Skills” link in the top navigation.

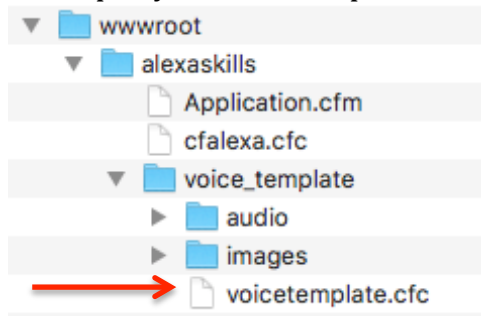


Locate your voicetemplate skill and click on “View Skill ID”.



Copy the ID that appears in the popup box.

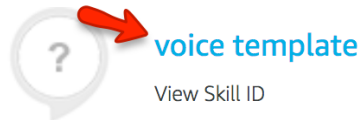
Now open your voicetemplate.cfc code.



Find the following code and paste in your skill ID. Do not include the curly braces. Save your file.

```
<!-- replace the value of skillID with the applicationID of YOUR skill
from the developers portal -->
<cfset this.skillID = "{put your skill ID here}">
```

Go back to the developer dashboard. Click on your voicetemplate skill name.



Click the “Test” menu item on the top navigation. Then enable the skill for testing (top left). In the input box type a launch word followed by your invocation name. Example: “open my voice template”. Alexa will send your request to the Amazon cloud where your request will be routed to your endpoint and your voicetemplate.cfc will return a welcome response.

The screenshot shows the Alexa Developer Console interface. At the top, the 'Test' tab is selected in the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several checkboxes: 'Test is enabled for this skill' (checked), 'Skill I/O' (checked), 'Echo Show Display' (checked), 'Echo Spot Display' (checked), and 'Device Log' (unchecked). The main area is divided into three sections: 'Alexa Simulator', 'Manual JSON', and 'Voice &amp; Tone'. The 'Alexa Simulator' section shows a speech bubble with the text 'Welcome to the alexa skill template for ColdFusion. This template has only one intent. Say, example, to activate the intent.' The 'Manual JSON' section shows the 'JSON Input' and 'JSON Output' for the skill. The 'Voice &amp; Tone' section shows a speech bubble with the text 'open my voice template'.

Your voice template is now up and running. Use it as a building block for your own custom skills. If you want some ideas to get you started, go to <https://www.cfalexa.com/index.cfm#features3-16> to download some code examples.

Good luck and have fun!