Alexa's Architectural Components

Alexa Service	This is a free Service provided by Amazon, that any developer can leverage to build skills upon. It needs to be configured by developer(s) in order to correctly process the words uttered by users to the Echo Device. Additionally, this service: • Processes the user's input audio and maps it to an *Intent*. • Calls the appropriate API of a backend service • Receives text responses from a backend service, and forwards them on to the Echo Device • Receives visual responses from a backend service, and forwards them on to a mobile application
Amazon Developer Portal	This is Amazon's Developer portal (developer.amazon.com). It allows developers to configure / specify the kinds of utterances and intents that the Alexa Service can handle.
Amazon Alexa App	This is the mobile app users have installed on their phones, where they can see any visual representation of a response to their utterance.
Developer's Application Service	This is where all the logic code for your Alexa Skill resides. This is the service that, once told what the user's *Intent* is, responds accordingly (i.e., by performing the corresponding action). It contains the publicly accessible API that the Alexa Service can call to complete various tasks. Upon completing the corresponding action for the *Intent*, it returns a text and/or visual response.
Echo Device	This is the physical Echo-enabled device (like the Echo Dot), which sits in front of users. It records audio uttered by users, and also echoes back an appropriate response.