

Lab 6: BART Helper

To take our exploration of leveraging external APIs forward, I have built and committed to the 'master' branch a new Alexa Skill called BART Helper. This Skill retrieves information about the [Bay Area Rapid Transit](#) System (one of Silicon Valley's public transportation systems).

Currently, this Skill can only tell you what the upcoming three holidays are, when BART will operate on a modified schedule. For instance, here is a sample interaction:

User: "Alexa, ask BART Helper what the upcoming holidays are."

Alexa: "The upcoming 3 holidays are Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day."

Your task for this lab is to make Alexa's response more helpful. Not only should she tell you *what* the upcoming holidays are, but also what their respective dates are.

To do this, you will need to look at my Java code, and locate where to add this functionality. You will also need to look at the [BART API Docs](#), and specifically at the "Holidays" API, since that is what my code is calling. You can see the JSON response returned by the "Holidays" API [here](#).

Steps to completing this Lab:

1. Update your branch code from 'master'
 - a. In Github Desktop:
 - i. [Windows]:
 1. Click "Fetch Origin"
 2. Then click "Pull Origin"
 - ii. [Mac]:
 1. Just click "Sync" (no need to "Compare to master" -- I've already done that for you)
 - b. In Eclipse:
 - i. Right click "alexa-skills-kit-samples" → Maven → Update Project
2. Configure BART Helper in your Amazon Developer Console
3. Create a new AWS Lambda function for BART Helper
4. Test in simulator and on Echo device (if possible) to ensure you get the expected output
5. Make changes to the Java code to add functionality described above
6. Re-compile (using Maven), re-upload to Lambda, and test until satisfied
7. Commit code changes to your branch using Github Desktop