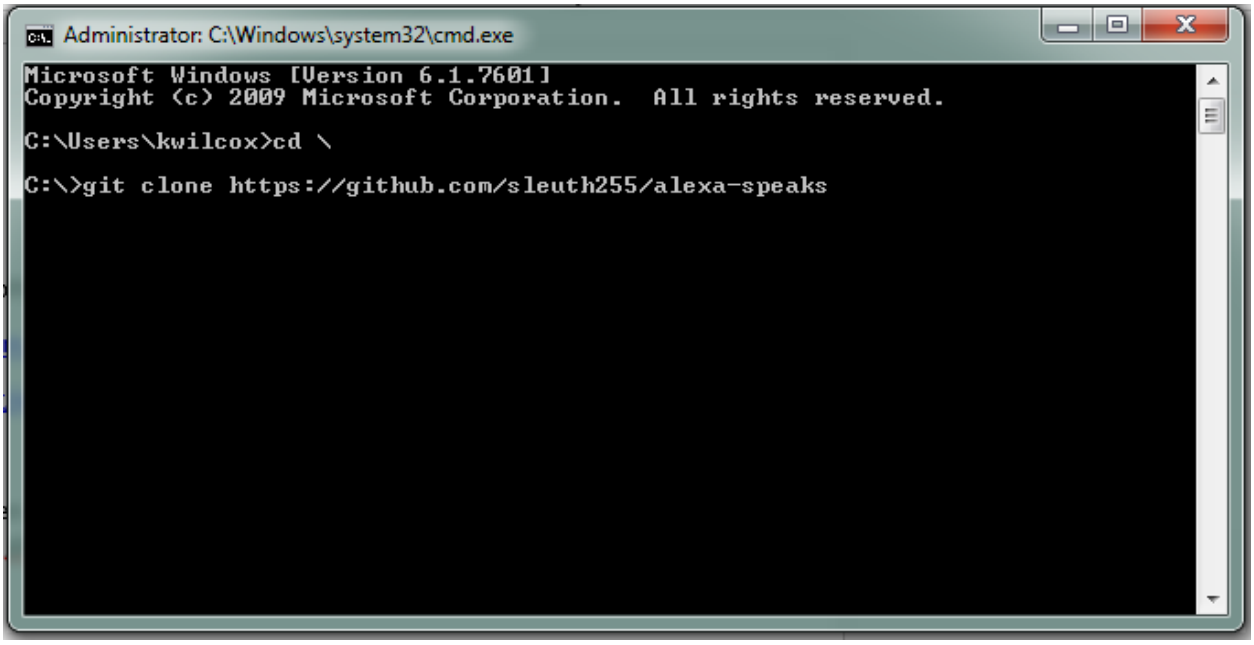
Installing Alexa-speaks on your Home Automation server.

First you will need to install two pieces of software on your server: git command line utilities and node.js

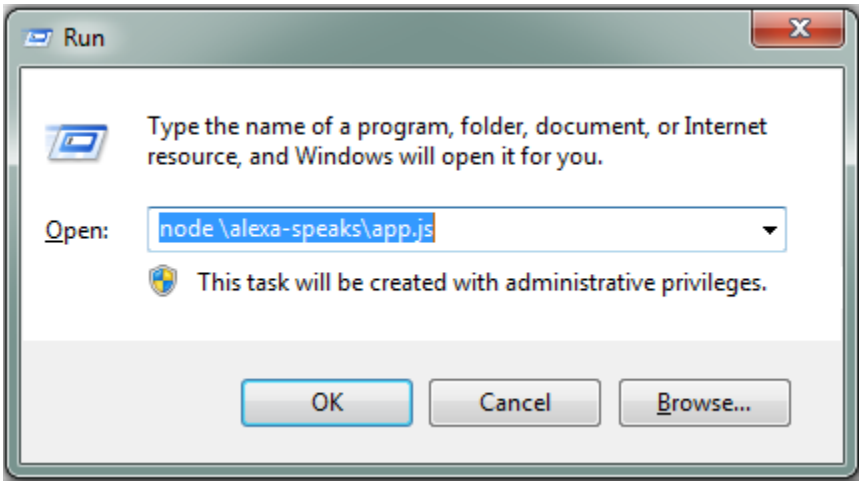
Git utilities are available here: https://git-scm.com/downloads

Node.js is available here: https://nodejs.org/en/download/

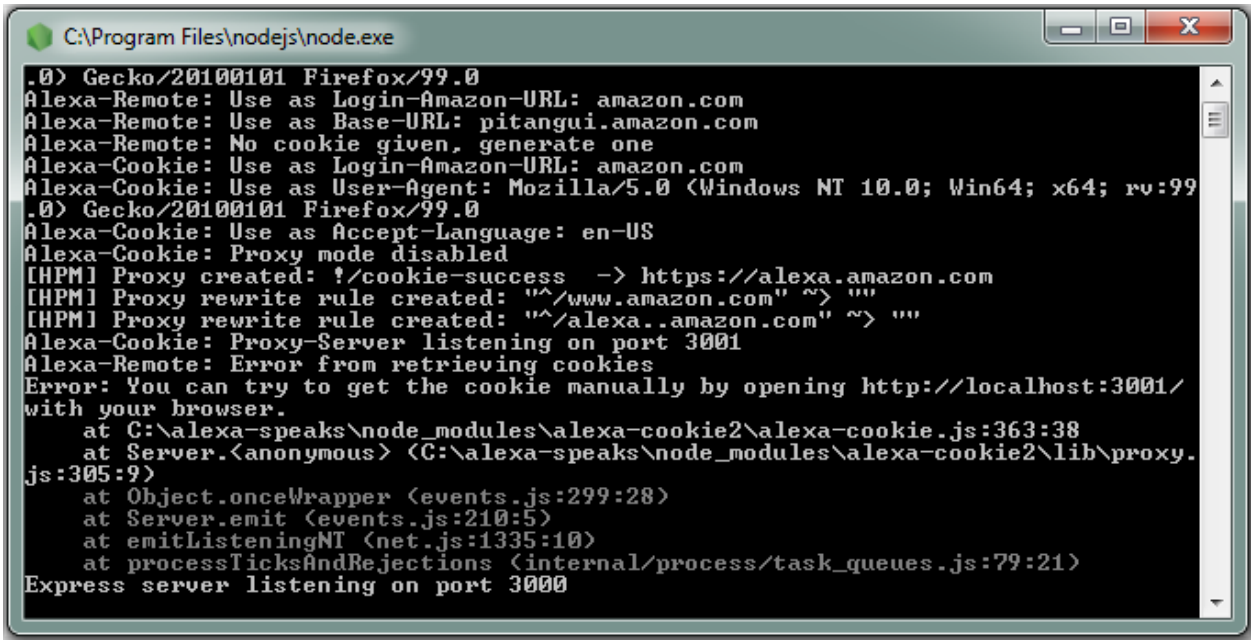
Once these are installed on your server, open a command prompt and change to the topmost directory. Next, install the alexa-speaks binaries using git clone https://github.com/sleuth255/alexa-speaks. Here's how this looks:



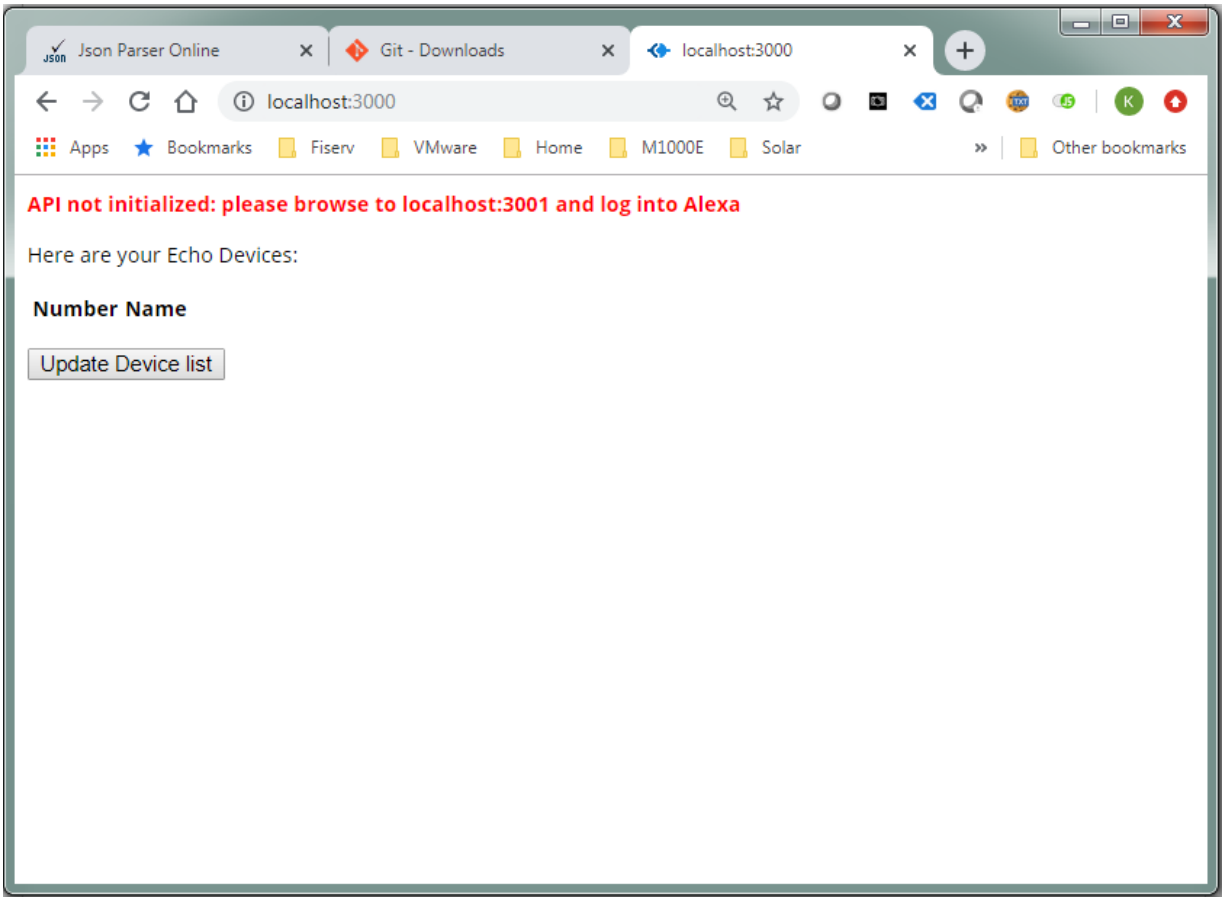
This will create an alexa-speaks subdirectory under the root of your c: drive. Next, launch the website by pressing <windows>R. A run dialog box should pop up. Enter "node c:\alexa-speaks\app.js" and press the OK button. Here's what this looks like:



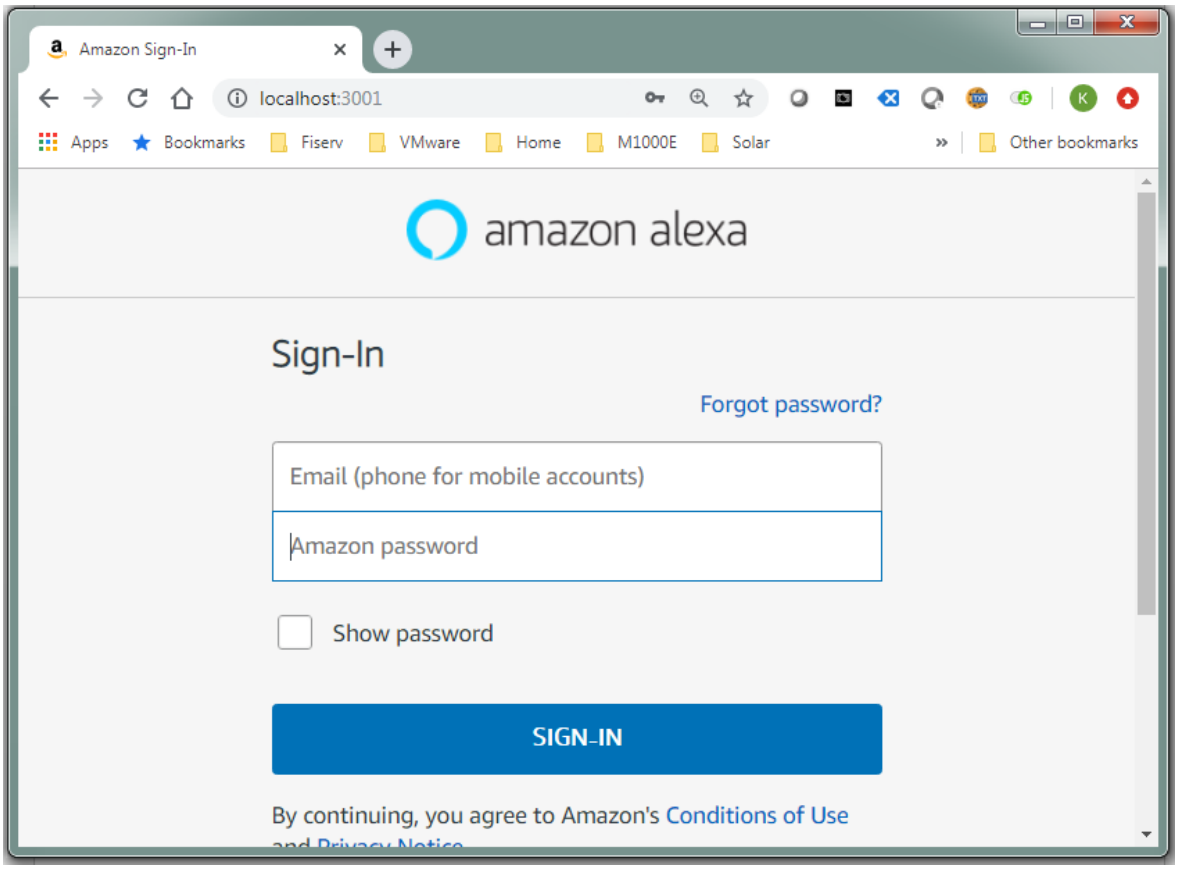
Node.js will launch in a new window and will show the following:



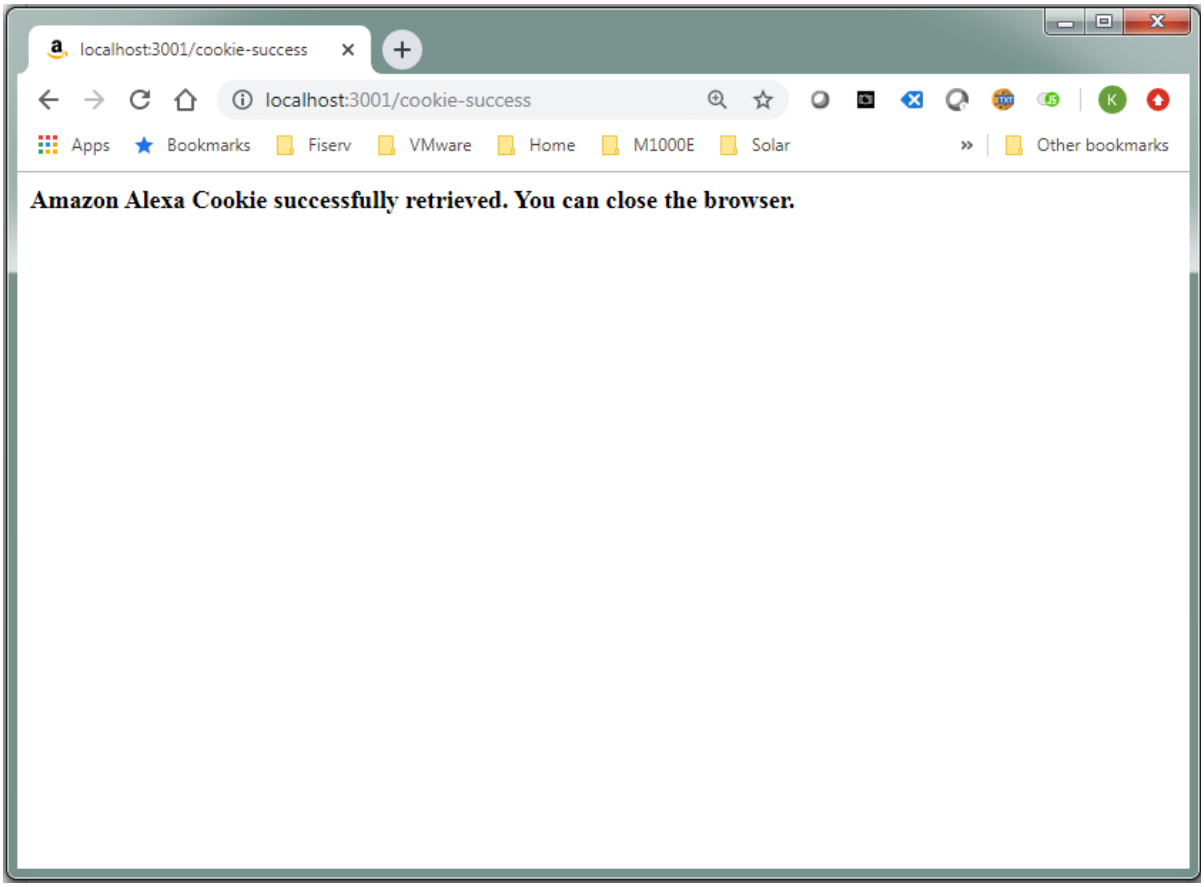
You may get a firewall popup. Choose Allow for private networks. Now you should be able to browse to the management site url: http://localhost:3000. It will show that the API hasn't been initialized yet:



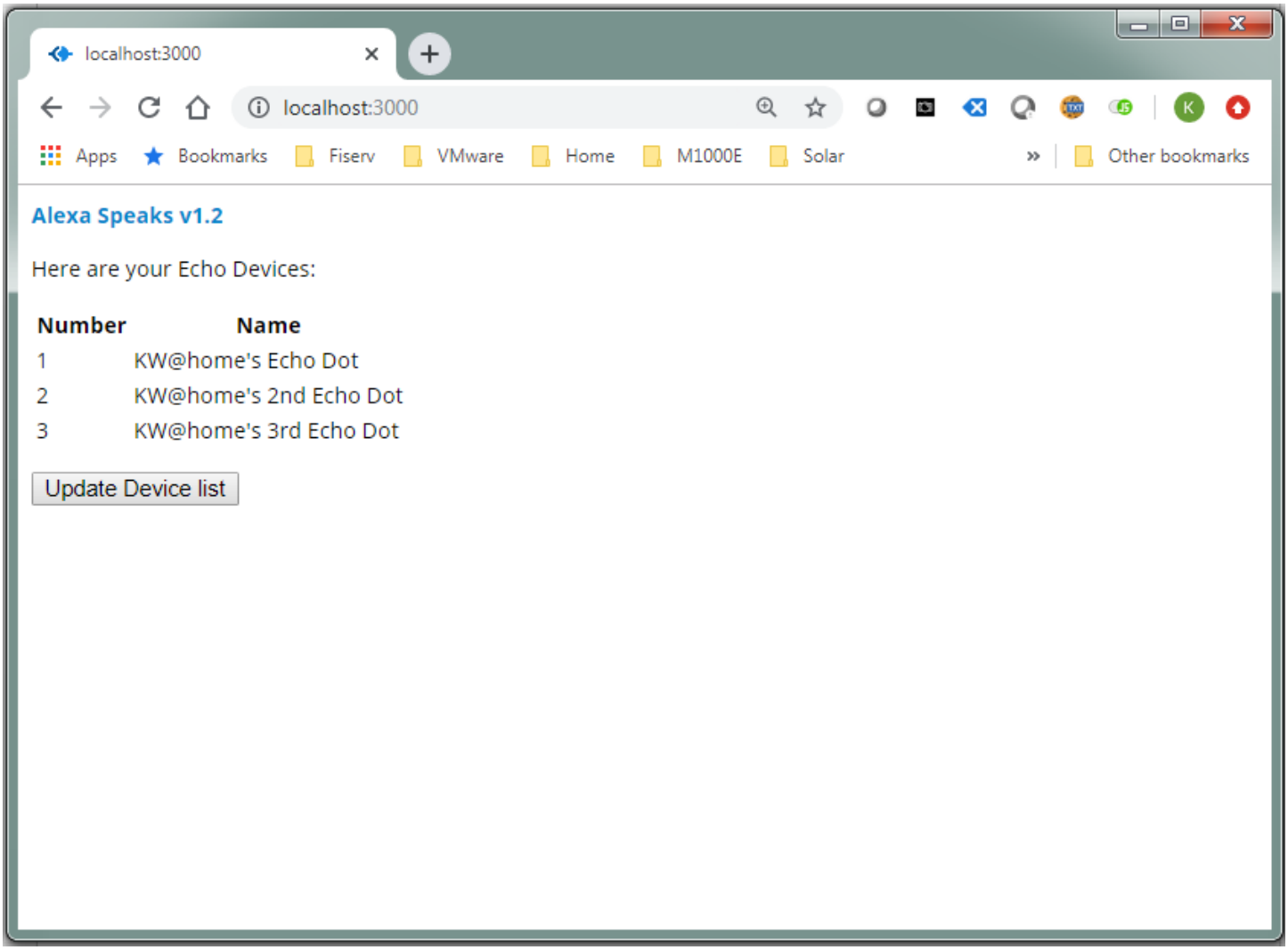
Do as the site suggests, and browse to the proxy site at http://localhost:3001 where a login page to the alexa online site is displayed (Note: IE and edge don't allow cookies by default, so you may need to install a real browser like chrome or firefox before trying this next step):



Enter your amazon credentials and solve any capcha that may be subsequently displayed after you press the SIGN-IN button. The successful Cookie retrieval message should be shown next and you can return to the management page at http://localhost:3000.



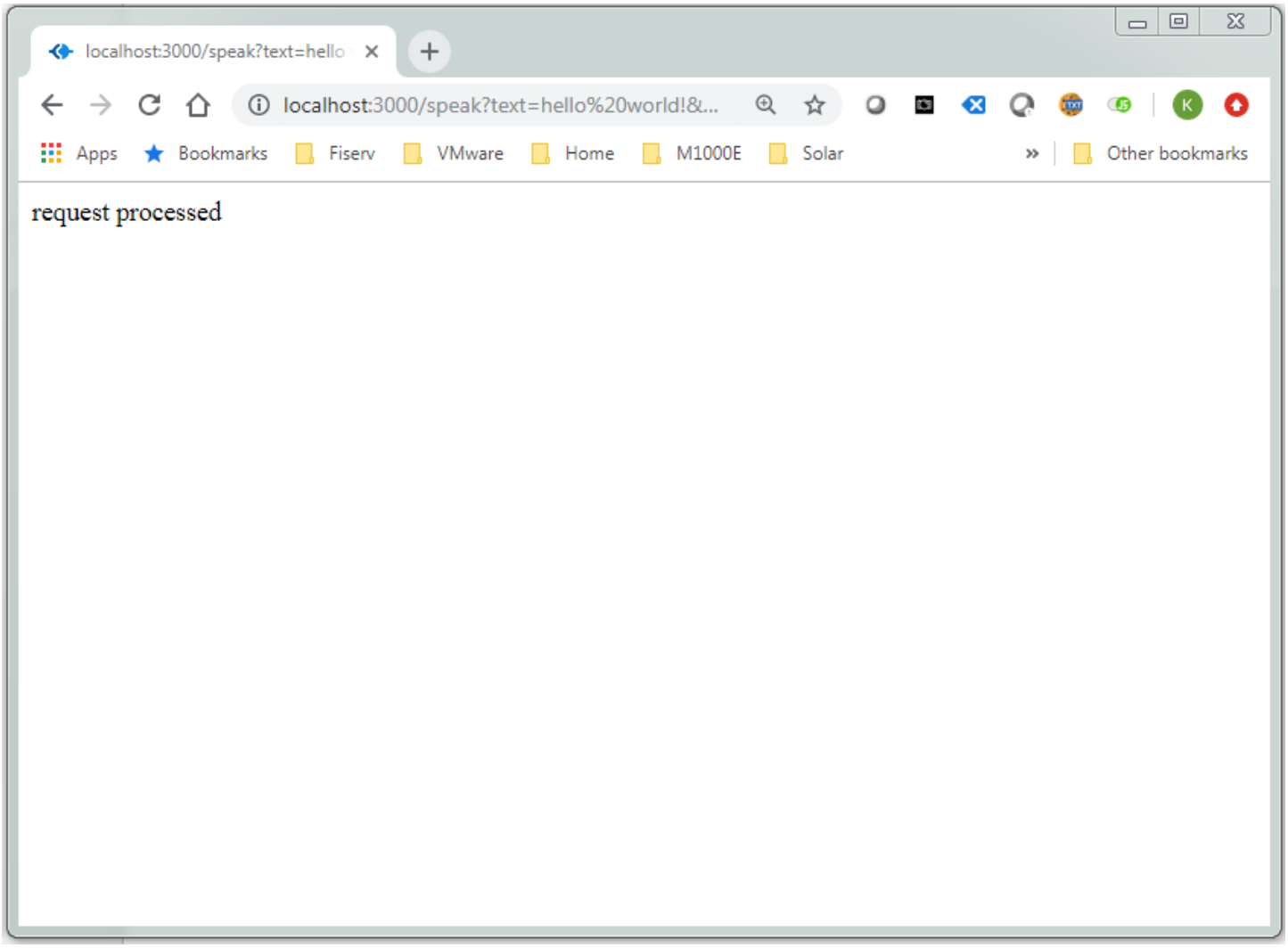
Refresh that page until the API error message goes away (should only take a few seconds). You should then be presented with a list of your Alexa devices. Make a note of these because the API uses the device numbers to determine who should speak:



Congratulations! You now have text to speech control over alexa! Test this by browsing to the following url:

https://localhost:3000/speak?text=Hello World!&who=all

When you do this, all of your Echo devices should say “Hello World!” and the website should display the following:



You can cause any combination of your Alexa devices to speak by changing “who=all” to who=<a comma separated list of numbers> ie: who=1,2 or who=3 etc…