

amazon



VOICE ASSISTANT INTEGRATION GUIDE

Google



ASSISTANT

MX HomePro™

MX HOMEPRO

VOICE INTEGRATION

Overview:

"Alexa... Turn On Living Room", "Alexa... Turn Off Bedroom Lamp", these are just a few examples of Alexa Voice Command macros that can be created using the Amazon Alexa module for MX HomePro.

This module adds voice control to any MX HomePro system. Voice commands can use either of the following trigger words:

- "Alexa... Turn On..."
- "Alexa... Turn Off..."

Devices compatible with Alexa Voice Services:

- Amazon Echo
- Amazon Echo Dot
- Amazon Tap
- Amazon FireTV/Stick

There are two (2) parts involved with integrating Alexa with MX HomePro.

- **Part 1** is completed from the MX HomePro Editor
- **Part 2** is completed from the Amazon Alexa mobile app (iOS/Android) or the Alexa web portal (alexa.amazon.com).

Alexa Reserved Words:

Alexa has a list of reserved phrases that are utilized as internal Amazon commands. Refrain from using any of these words when creating custom Alexa Automation events:

- "Alexa... Turn On Set"
- "Alexa... Turn On Pause"
- "Alexa... Turn On Volume"
- "Alexa... Turn On Mute"
- "Alexa... Turn On Play"



Part 1: MX HomePro Programming:

The following procedures are performed from within the MX HomePro cloud editor. Assume that all basic/advanced devices and automated activities are programmed prior to integrating with Alexa.

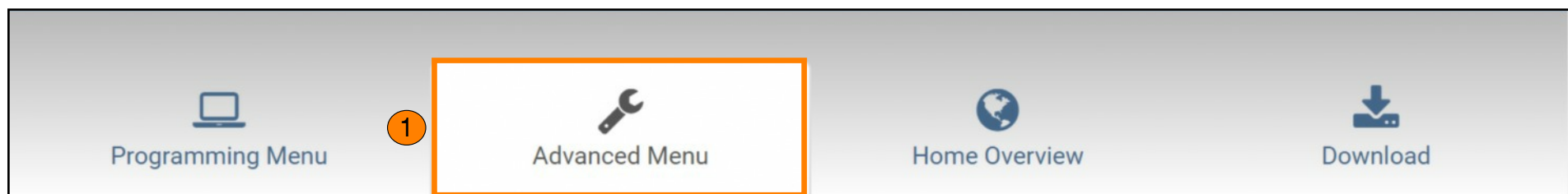
Perform the following steps:

1. Select the **Advanced Menu**.

Although it is possible to have up to five (5) rooms in an MX HomePro system, it is still a "per room" system. This means each room that intends to use Alexa Voice Service commands must be programmed individually.









Things to Know:

- Alexa can only control devices in a single room as defined in the MX HomePro Editor.
- Alexa communicates to an MX HomePro system through the URC Smart Home Skill for Alexa.
- Custom URC activities function through Smart Home Scenes which are created from within the MX HomePro Editor.



2. Select "**Integrate with an External Service**".

You are programming: URC Home

-  Automate activities in the system ?
-  Edit your automated activities ?
-  Add a room to the system ?
-  Edit the Entertainment Menu ?
-  Edit a device's layout and functions ?
-  Learn codes from an IR remote ?
-  **Integrate with an External Service** ?
-  Program a different room ?

3. Choose "**Amazon Alexa**" and select **Next**.

What service are you integrating with?

☒ Amazon Alexa 3

☐ Google Assistant

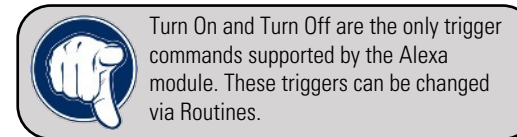
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4. Select **Next**.

5. Select "**Continue to setup Smart Home Scenes**".

6. Choose which type of Smart Home Scene (Turn On/Off) and select Next. This selection is the start of the phrase that triggers the URC Smart Home scene.



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Alexa Setup

All lights and thermostats added to this system will be discovered by Alexa after downloading this configuration file to the system.

Continue to setup Smart Home Scenes

Finish Alexa Setup

Cancel - Do not add Alexa to the system

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Turn on

Turn off

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- Enter the trigger phrase that is spoken to execute the Smart Home Scene. This can be any custom phrase.

Always keep in mind pronunciation and **reserved words** when settings up the phrases.

- Select **Next**.

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Set the Smart Home Scene trigger phrase


This is the phrase spoken to Alexa to trigger this Smart Home Scene.

Alexa, turn on:

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 This custom phrase works in conjunction with the type (Turn On/Off) selected on the previous page to trigger Alexa Voice Command macros (e.g. "Alexa... Turn On Living Room Blu-ray")

- Program the macro that is executed when the Alexa phrase is issued. This window functions the same as programming an Automated Activity (please see the MX HomePro Programming Guide).

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Edit Movie

Smart Home Scene Steps

Add delay

Test

Add jump to

≡ TV: POWER ON

×

≡ Delay 5 seconds

×

≡ TV: HDMI1

×

≡ Delay 3 seconds

×

≡ Audio: Power On

×

≡ Delay 3 seconds

×

≡ Audio: BD/DVD

×

≡ Delay 3 seconds

×

≡ Blu-Ray/DVD: Power

×

Delete all steps

Select device and command

Device

Blu-Ray/DVD

Commands

Power

Add

Test it!

Special functions

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Next ▶

- Select **Next**.

11. Select **Finish Alexa Smart Home Programming**.

To program another Alexa Smart Home scene, select Continue Programming and follow these same steps.



Repeat this process for adding additional Alexa Voice Command macros into the MX HomePro system. Selecting "Continue Programming" allows the programmer to create another Smart Home scene

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Continue programming

Finish Alexa Smart Home Scene programming

Part 2: Configuring Alexa

To enable integration with Alexa Voice Service, additional setup is required.

URC integrates with Alexa by using the URC Smart Home Skill. The skill can be downloaded and enabled from with the Alexa mobile app (iOS/Android) or on the Alexa web portal (www.alexa.amazon.com)

Follow these steps:

1. Select the **Home Overview** tab in the MX HomePro Editor.



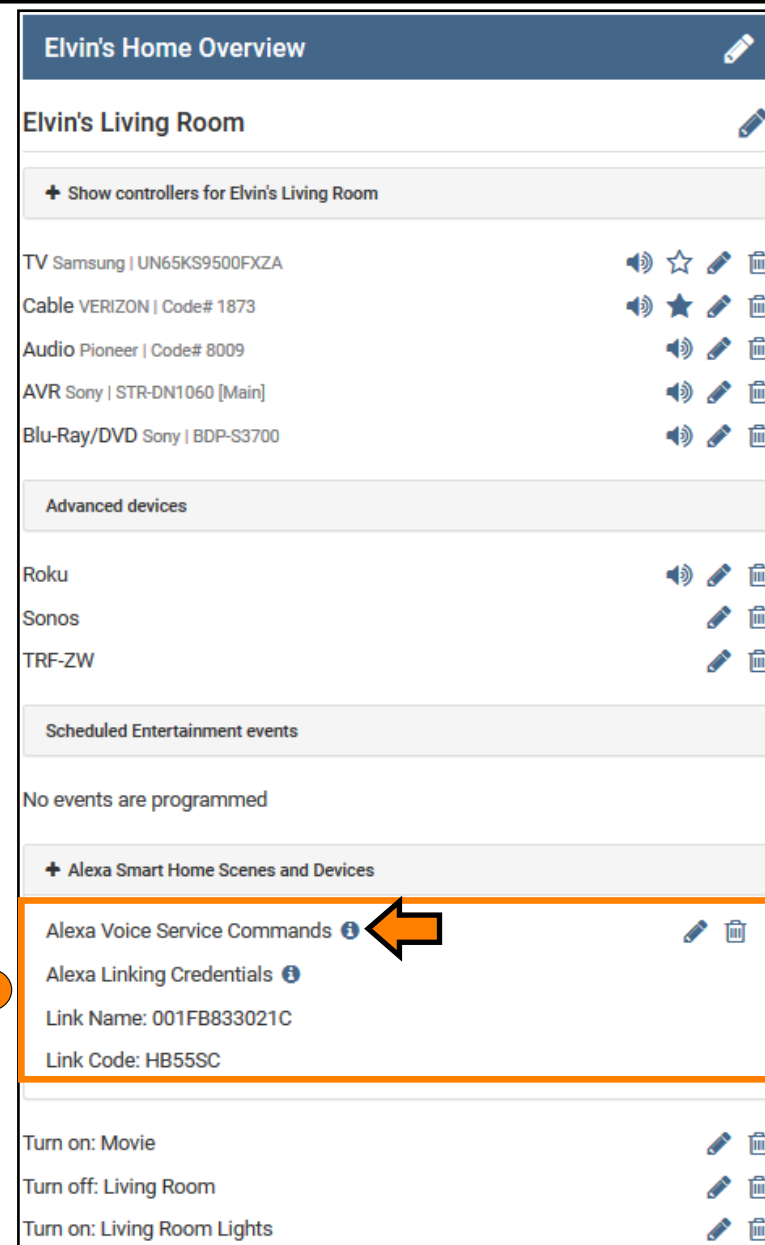
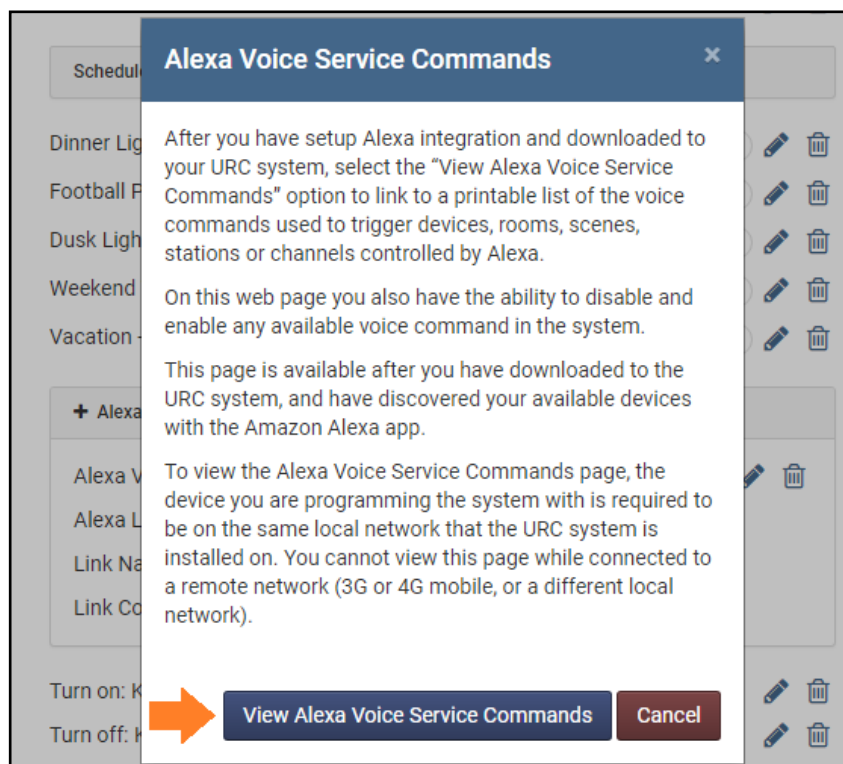
MX HOMEPRO

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2. Scroll down to the Alexa Smart Home Scenes and Devices section and select the plus (+) icon to reveal the following:

- **Alexa Voice Service Commands:** select the info circle located at the right of the text to reveal the Alexa Voice Service Commands box.

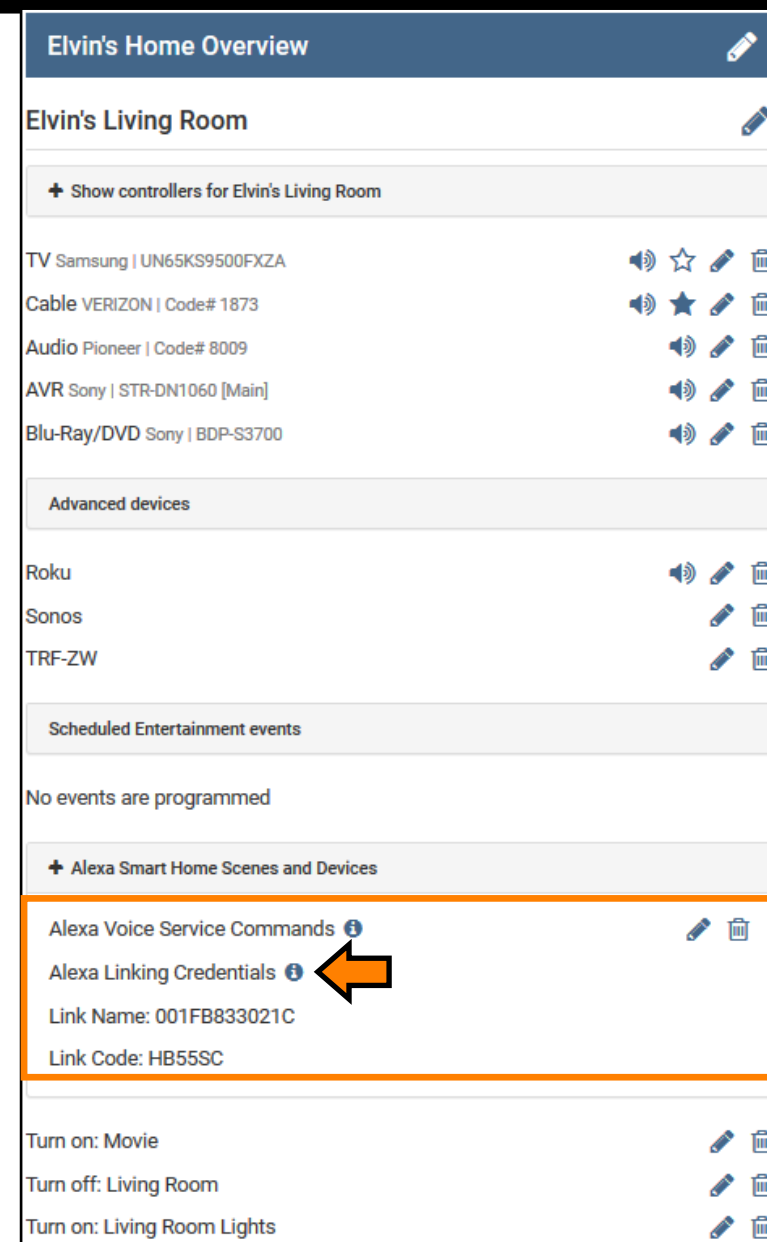
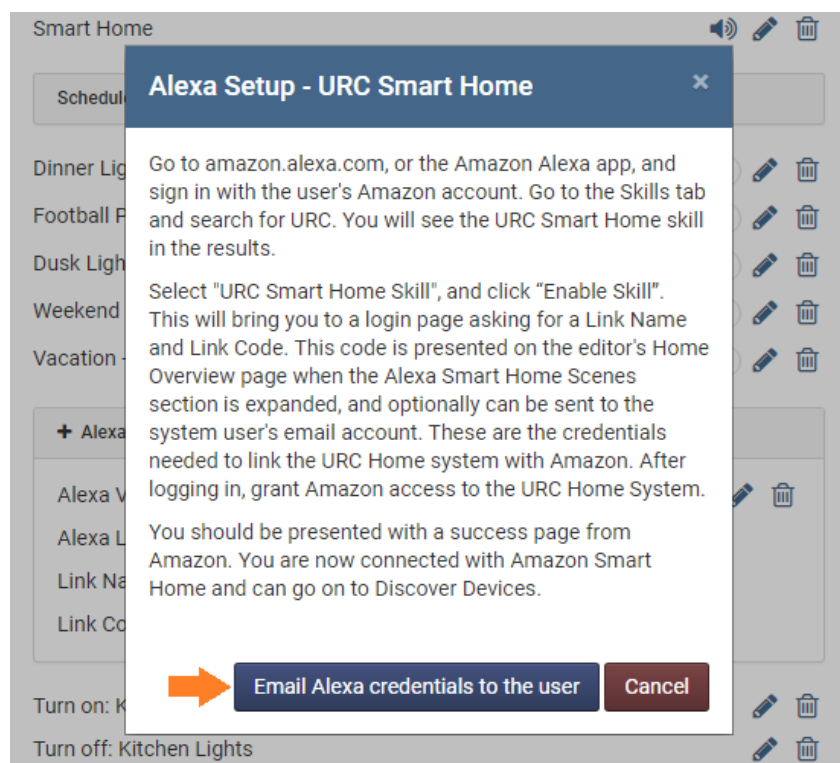
If on the same local network that the URC system is installed on, select View Alexa Voice Service Commands to access the Alexa Voice Service web page. For assistance on navigating this website, refer to page 13.



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- **Alexa Linking Credentials:** Below this text is the Link Name and Link Code that is used to link URC to the Amazon account. Selecting the info circle at the right of the text reveals the Alexa Setup - URC Smart home window.
- **Select Email Alexa Credentials** to the User and the Editor generates an email with the Link Name and Code. This is then sent to the email registered under the MX HomePro account.



3. Log into the customer's Amazon account using the following:

- www.alexa.amazon.com
- Alexa Mobile App

4. Select the **"Skills"** tab and enter **URC Smart Home** in the search bar and click the Search button.

5. Select **Enable**.



This guide uses the Alexa web portal as an example; however, procedures are identical when setting up from the Alexa mobile app (iOS/Android).

Home

Now Playing

Music & Books

Lists

Timers & Alarms

Skills

Smart Home


Things to Try

Settings

Help & Feedback

Not URC? Sign out

URC Smart Home

 **URC Smart Home**

URC

★★★★★ 7

Enable

TRY SAYING

"Alexa, brighten Kitchen Pendants"

"Alexa, turn on Dinner Scene"

ABOUT THIS SKILL

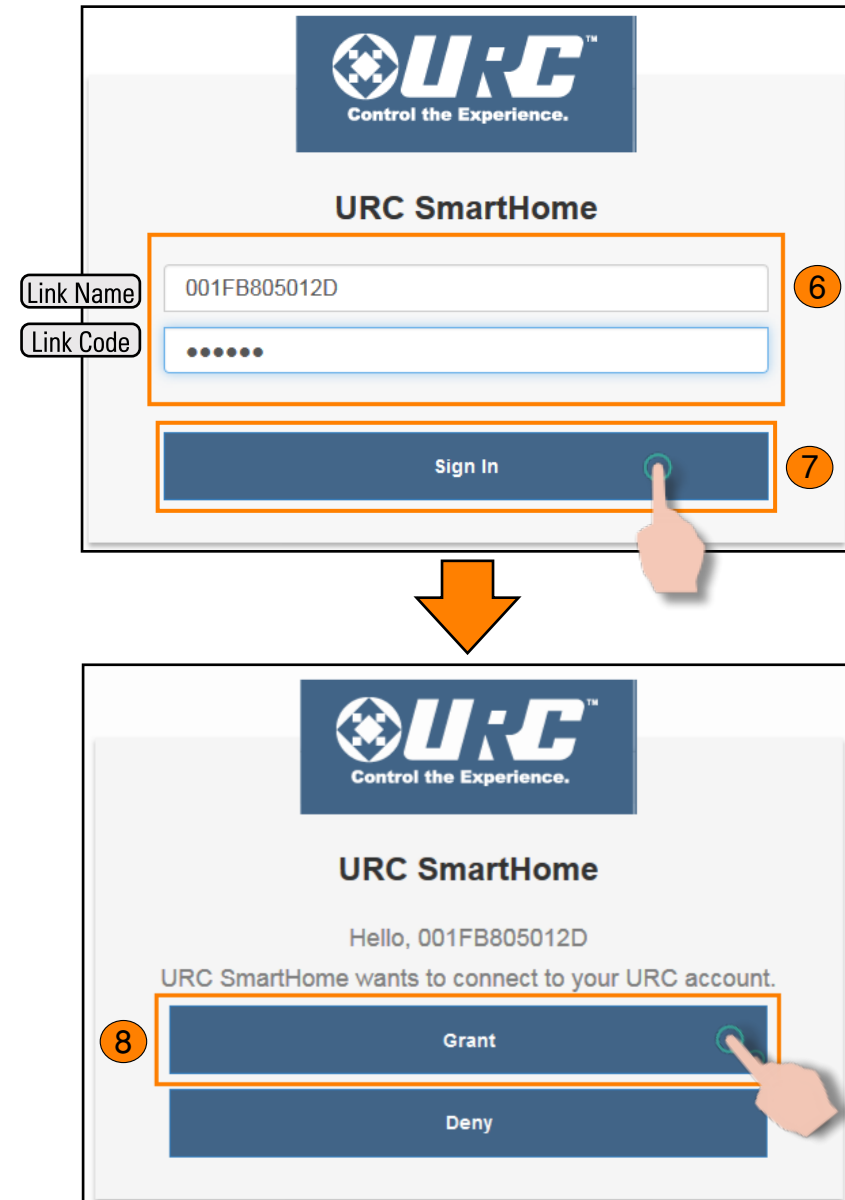
Use the URC Smart Home Skill to control Lights, Shades, Thermostats and Scenes for URC Total Control systems such as Nest, Honeywell, AprilAire and Lutron. URC Total Control will aggregate devices from all systems not previously controllable by Alexa.

Use the URC Smart Home Skill to try any of these phrases:

Alexa, turn on Chandelier

6. Enter the **Link Name** and **Link Code** credentials acquired from Step 2.
7. Select **Sign In**.
8. Select **Grant**.

To discover devices with Alexa, please see the next page for full details.



URC SmartHome

Link Name: 001FB805012D

Link Code:

Sign In

URC SmartHome

Hello, 001FB805012D

URC SmartHome wants to connect to your URC account.

Grant

Deny

Device Discovery:

There are three (3) different ways to discover devices:

- Using the **Alexa Web Browser**
- Using the **Alexa mobile app** and selecting Discover Devices
- Using a verbal command "**Alexa...Discover Devices**"

Devices that can be discovered are:

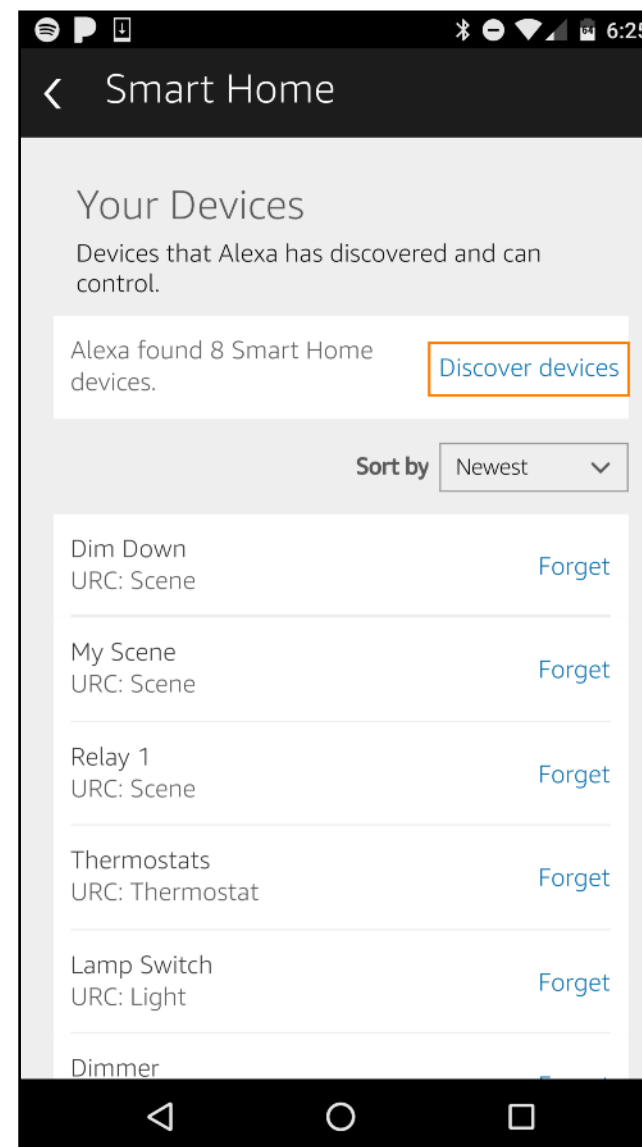
- URC Smart Home Scenes (Alexa Macros/Automated Activities)
- URC TRF-ZW (Lights, Thermostats, and Scenes*)

*Scenes containing locks or other protected devices DO NOT execute via Alexa for security precautions.

- Lutron Caseta (Lights)
- Lutron Radio Ra2 (Lights, Thermostats, and Shades)
- CoolMasterNet (Thermostats)
- Nest (Thermostat)
- Honeywell Total Connect (Thermostats)

These devices are discovered by Alexa and can be controlled using unique voice commands. When using one of these **Advanced Devices** in the system, be sure to **disable** any conflicting Alexa Smart Skills that controls the same device.

Advanced Devices do NOT require the creation of Smart Home Scenes for control. URC Smart Home Scenes are only needed for controlling devices that are not included in the list above (e.g. TVs, Cable, Blu-ray, etc.).



Alexa Voice Service Page:

Using any web browser, log into the Alexa Voice Service web page. This contains vital information for testing Alexa commands as well as providing a printable sheet listing each command for the end-user.

To access this page the primary hub's IP address is required. Find the primary hub's IP address via the Home Overview tab on the MX HomePro Editor.

Enter the following information:

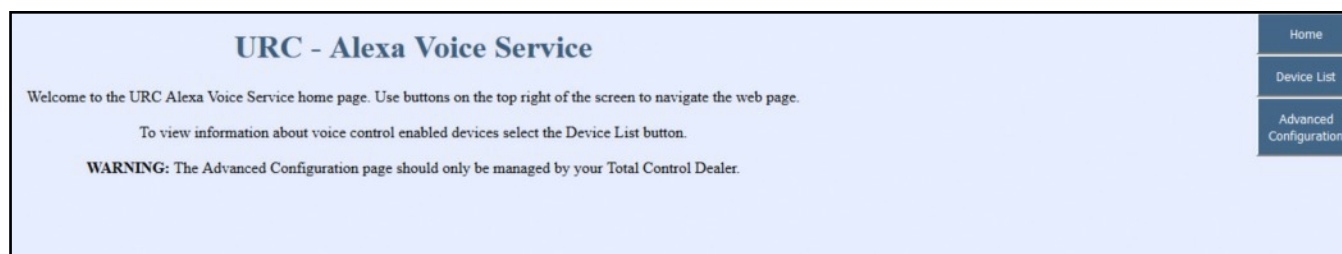
<Primary Hub IP>:51535

Here is an example:

192.168.7.201:51535

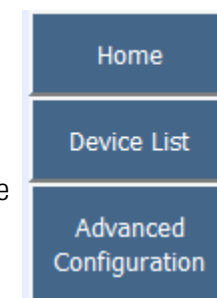
Entering this information into any web browser directs the web page to the **Alexa Voice Service** home page.

This can also be accessed from the **HomePro Editor**, refer to [page 8](#).

**Navigating the Alexa Voice Service Page:**

There are three (3) options at the right of the home page:

- **Home:** When selected, it always returns the user back to the Home Page.



- **Device List:** displays all of the available voice commands that were programmed into the MX HomePro system.

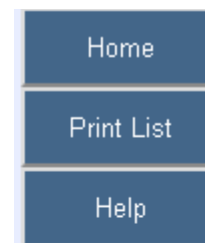
This menu is broken into five (5) columns with vital information:

1. **Device Name:** Label provided for the Alexa Macro.
2. **Command:** The phrase that triggers the event/macro
3. **Device Type:** Defines the type of device (Scene, Light, etc.)
4. **Module:** Defines where the command was programmed (MX HomePro, Z-Wave, etc.)
5. **Enabled:** When checked, the voice command is live and when unchecked it is disabled.

Alexa Voice Service Commands				
Device Name	Command	Device Type	Module	Enabled
Family Room cable tv	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room cable tv. " "Alexa, turn off the Family Room cable tv. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room lights	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room lights. " "Alexa, turn off the Family Room lights. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
cable channel twelve	"Alexa, turn on the cable channel twelve. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room mobile light	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room mobile light. " "Alexa, turn off the Family Room mobile light. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room Mobile light fifty percent	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room Mobile light fifty percent. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room volume up	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room volume up. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room volume down	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room volume down. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room volume up ten	"Alexa, turn on the Family Room volume up ten. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Room volume down ten	"Alexa, turn off the Family Room volume down ten. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
family cable tv volume up forty	"Alexa, turn on the family cable tv volume up forty. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
family cable tv volume down forty	"Alexa, turn off the family cable tv volume down forty. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
house	"Alexa, turn on the house. " "Alexa, turn off the house. "	Scene	URC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

These three (3) options are available at the top right of the **Device List** page:

- **Home:** Directs the user to the Home Page
- **Print List:** Generates a printable page outlining all the available voice commands
- **Help:** Displays the web page with FAQs



- **Advanced Configuration Page:** This page lists all of the Advanced Devices in the system (Z-Wave, Nest, Lutron, etc)

This menu is broken down into three (3) categories:

1. **Modules:** Where the device was derived from
2. **Features:** Describes what the device is controlling
3. **Enabled:** This check box is selected by default signifying that Alexa has the capability to control this device.

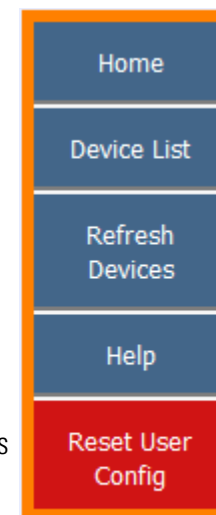
Un-checking this box disables Alexa from controlling that Advanced Device.

If any changes are made on this page, select the **Update** button to confirm.

Advanced Configuration Page		
Module	Features	Enabled
Zwave	Lights Scenes Thermostats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nest	Thermostats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Update		

These five (5) options are available on the top right of the **Advanced Configuration Page:**

- **Home:** Returns to the Home Page
- **Device List:** Displays the **Device List** page
- **Refresh Devices:** Refreshes the web page to view any changes from MX HomePro downloads or after selecting the Update button.
- **Help:** Displays a web page with FAQs
- **Reset User Config:** Selecting this removes any customized settings and restores everything to the default state.



Best Practices:

When integrating Alexa with MX HomePro there are certain procedures that are highly recommended to utilize the system properly.

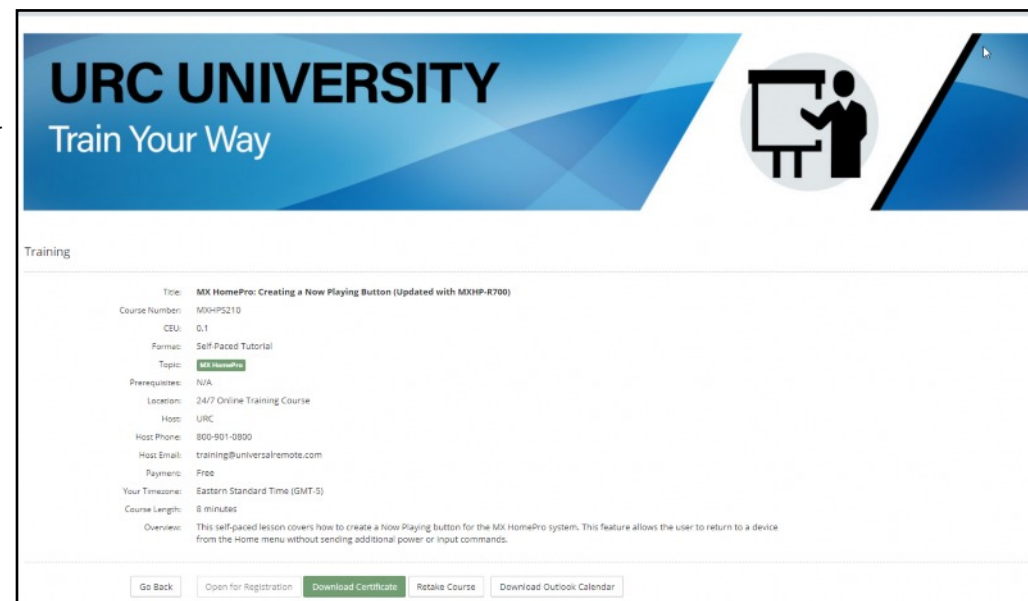
Now Playing Button:

MX HomePro does not track devices the system is currently using. This means after issuing an Alexa Voice service command, the user Interfaces (MX HomePro App or MXHP-R500 remote control) remains on the Entertainment/Main menu. To jump users to the current device Alexa previously executed, a **Now Playing** button can be created.

A **Now Playing** button creates a button on the Entertainment Menu that automatically jumps the user into the current activity. This keeps the user in sync and in control of the MX HomePro system while utilizing Alexa Integration.

For assistance setting up a **Now Playing** button, please refer to **Creating a Now Playing Button** eLearning course available in the URC Dealer Portal, link found below:

<https://urcportal.com/training/TrainingDetail/119?tab=3&page=1>

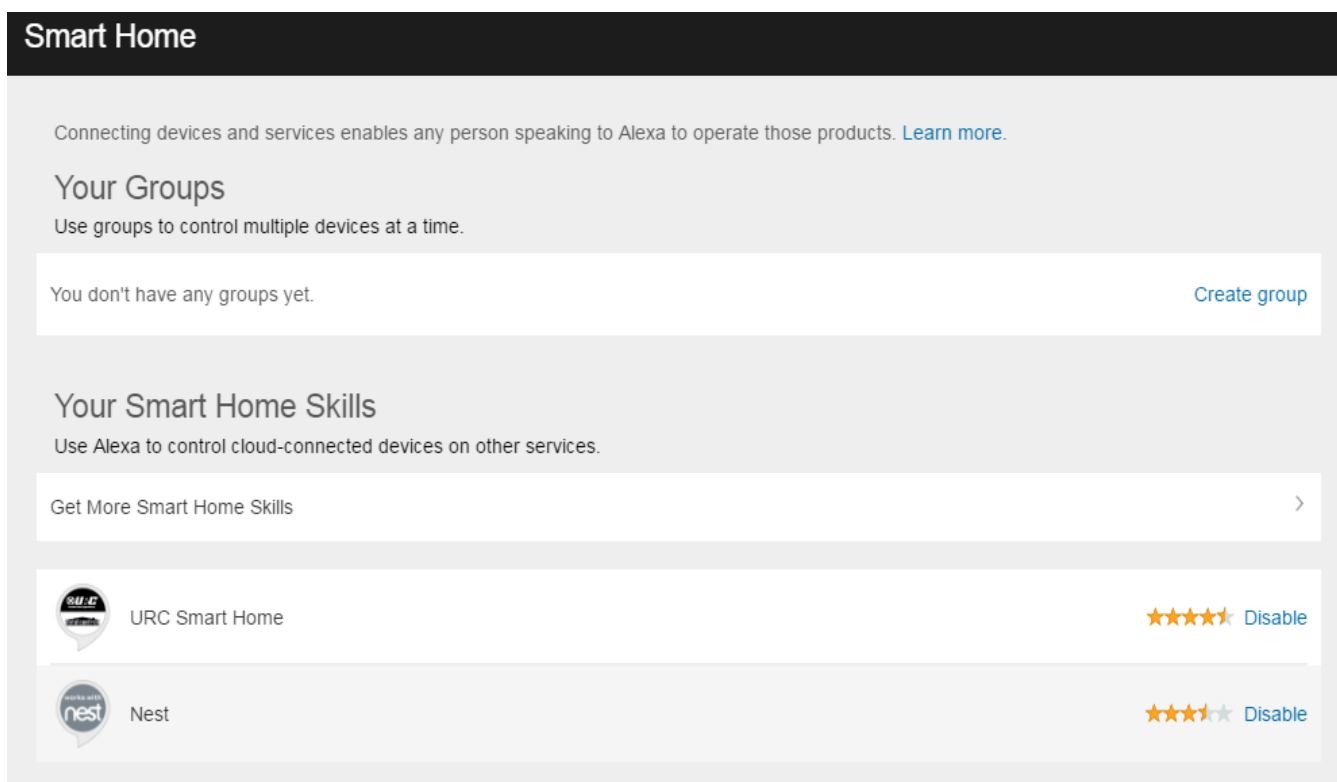


Duplicate Prevention:

In the image to the right the URC Smart Home skill and the Nest skill are both enabled.

When discovering devices this creates a duplicate within Alexa. Now when issues commands to control the Nest thermostat Alexa responds stating that it has found multiple devices with this name.

Disable the Nest skill by selecting the Disable button located to the right of the skills. These skill are located in the on the Smart Home tab.



Google Assistant Integration:

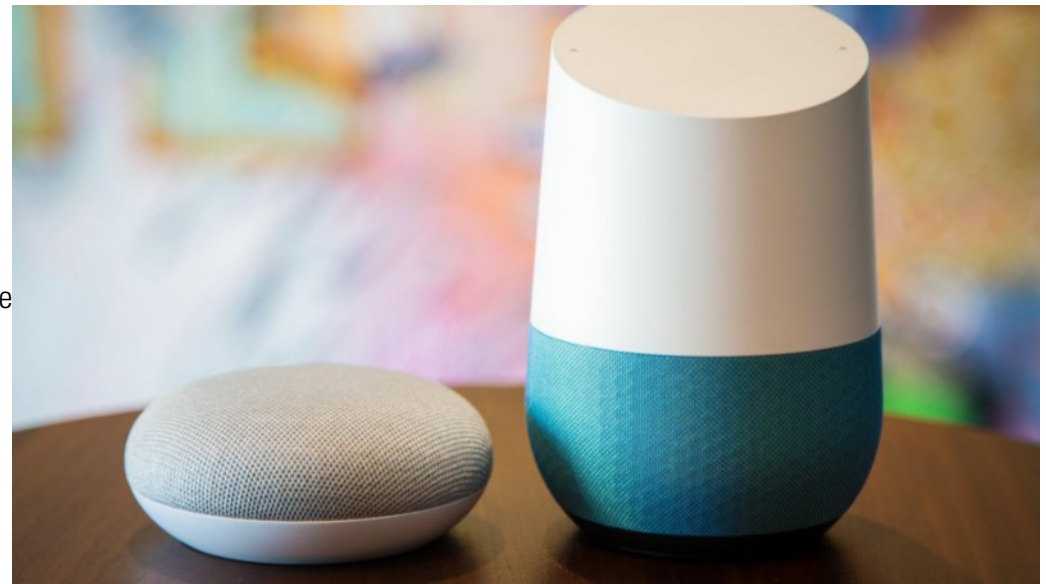
This section covers the process of enabling the Google Assistant voice service on any MX HomePro system.

Google Assistant voice integration provides end-users with up to four (4) verbal phrases to trigger activities, events, or any custom programmed macro.

Verbal commands, by default, must be initiated with the phrase “**Hey Google, tell URC...**” however, this can be changed through the Google Assistant app with the usage of shortcuts. Shortcuts allow the programmer to customize the trigger phrase of any Google Assistant macro programmed via the MX HomePro Editor.

It is a good practice to create a “**Now Playing**” button on the user interface. Doing so provides the end-user with a button that jumps the interface to the current (active) activity or device. Use the link below to learn how to create this button:

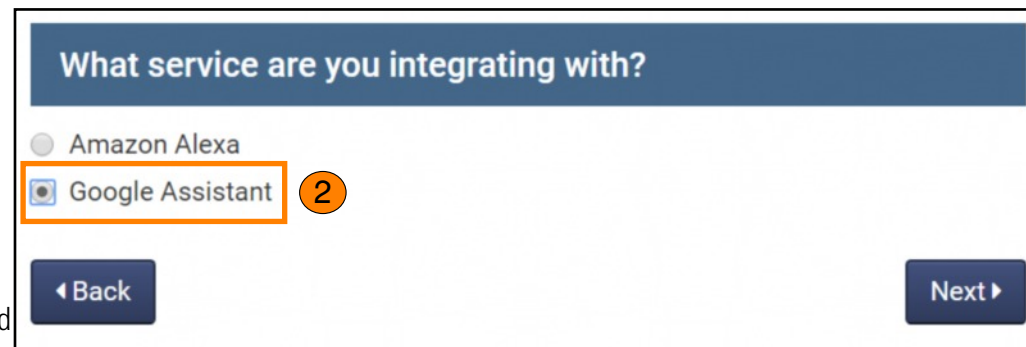
- <https://urcportal.com/training/TrainingDetail/119?tab=3&page=1>



MX HomePro Programming:

Follow these steps to integrate with Google Assistant. The example below enables the Google Assistant voice service and configures a voice command for the "Living Room Cable" activity:

1. From the Advanced Menu, select **"Integrate with an External Service"**.
2. Select **Google Assistant** and click on **Next**.
3. **Enter a name for the custom action** and select **Next**, this label is not viewed by the end-user and serves as programmer's reference.

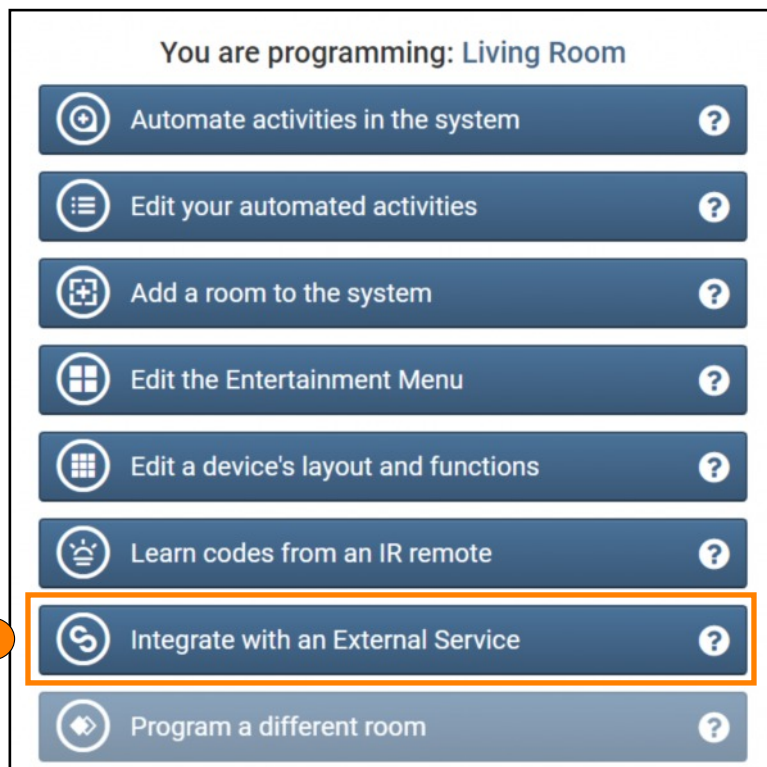


What service are you integrating with?

☐ Amazon Alexa

☒ Google Assistant 2

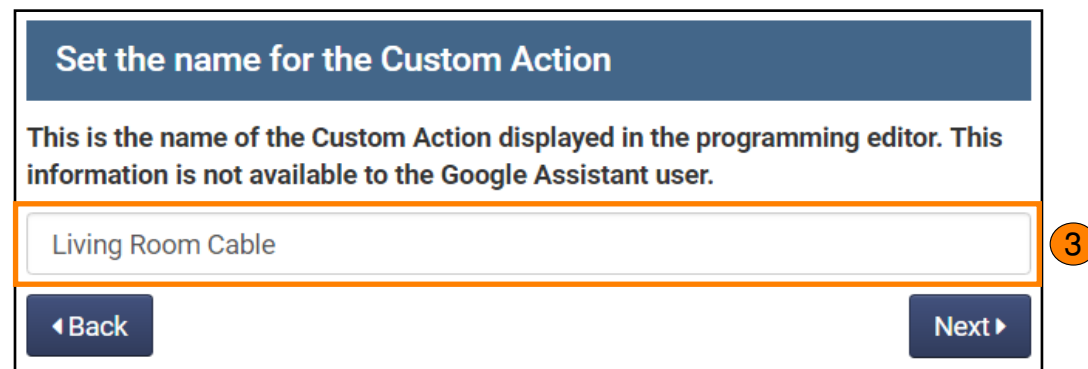
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You are programming: Living Room

1

- Automate activities in the system ?
- Edit your automated activities ?
- Add a room to the system ?
- Edit the Entertainment Menu ?
- Edit a device's layout and functions ?
- Learn codes from an IR remote ?
- Integrate with an External Service ?
- Program a different room ?



Set the name for the Custom Action

This is the name of the Custom Action displayed in the programming editor. This information is not available to the Google Assistant user.

Living Room Cable 3

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4. **Enter up to four (4) custom phrase statements** and select **Next**, these verbal queues are used to trigger the custom action. Only one (1) custom phrase is required.

4

Set the Custom Phrase(s) for this action

Enter up to four Custom Phrase statements that will be used to trigger this Custom Action. Entry of only one Custom Phrase is required. Up to four different Custom Phrases can be used to trigger this Custom Action.

"Hey Google, tell URC..." Custom Phrase 1

Turn on living room cable

"Tell URC..." Custom Phrase 2 (optional)

Cable TV on

"Tell URC..." Custom Phrase 3 (optional)

Living room cable TV on

"Tell URC..." Custom Phrase 4 (optional)

Lets watch cable

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5. Google Assistant, by default, responds with **"OK"** after triggering a custom action. However, the option **"Use a custom response"** can be used to have the service respond with any custom phrase.

Choose a response option and select **Next**.

5

Set the Google Assistant response

☒ "OK"

☐ Use a custom response

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6. Program the custom action the same as configuring any Automated Activity in MX HomePro. A custom action is a type of Automated Activity (macro).

Once the custom action has been programmed, select **Next**.

7. Two (2) options are displayed, choose one:

- **Continue Programming:** Make this selection to program another Google Assistant custom action. Return to [page 2](#) of this guide to review the programming steps.
- **Finish Google Assistant Custom Action Programming:** Choose this option when all Google Assistant Custom Actions have been programmed. Once selected the MX HomePro Editor is returned to the Advanced Menu.

6

Edit Living Room Cable

Custom Action Steps

Add delay

Add jump to

Test

Add jump to

Select device and command

Device

TV

Commands

POWER ON

Add

Test it!

Special functions

Delete all steps

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Training Tip: Adding **delays** to the macro can preserve its functionality and integrity. Remember, certain devices (TVs, Projectors, etc.) require longer power on delays

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Continue programming

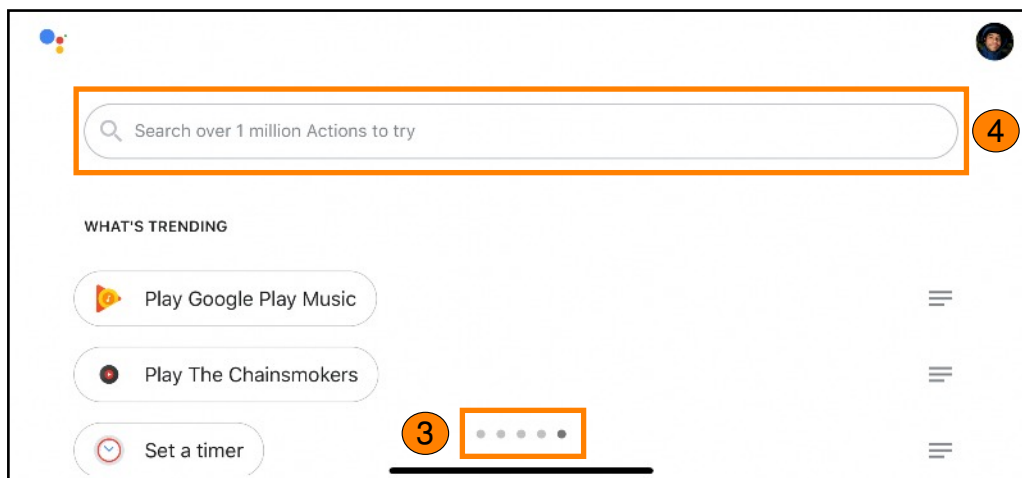
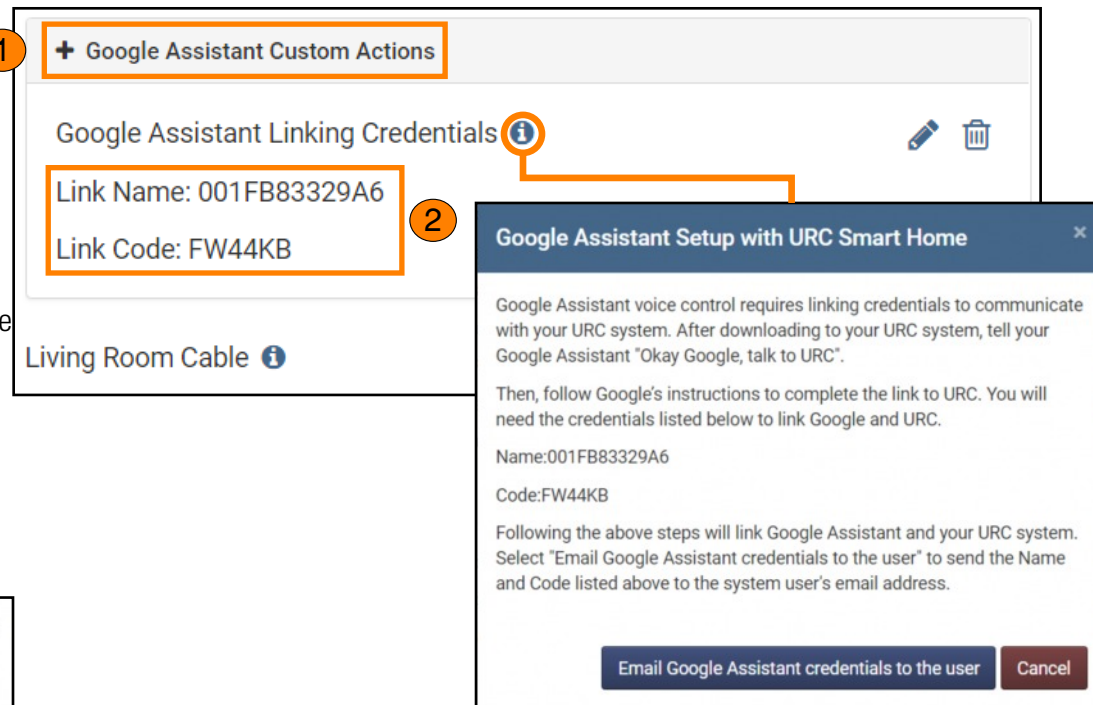
Finish Google Assistant Custom Action programming

Google Assistant App Configuration:

Now that all the Custom Action commands have been programmed, the system is ready to grant permissions through the Google Assistant app. Before following these steps, assure that the mobile device contains the Google Assistant app:

1. From the **Home Overview** tab, locate the **Google Assistant Custom Action** drop-down menu.
2. Make note of the **Link Name** and **Link Code**, this is required within the Google Assistant app during the authorization process.

Optional Email: Selecting the icon at the right of "Google Assistant Linking Credentials" allows the programmer to email the Link Name and Link Code.

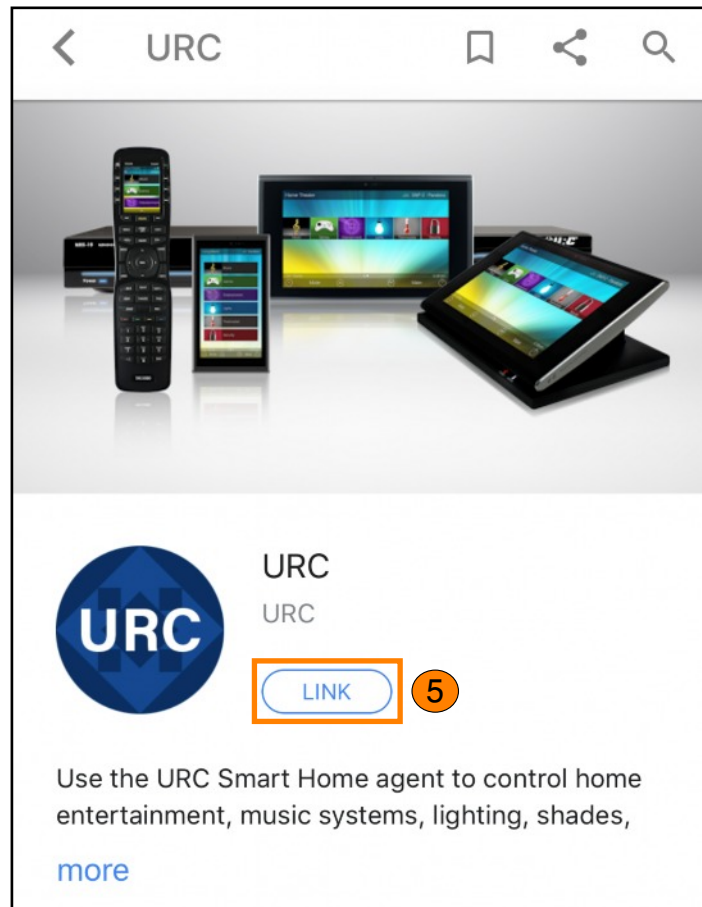


3. Scroll to the far right until the **"Search over 1 million Actions to try"** screen is displayed.
4. Enter **"URC"** into the search field to locate the Smart Home agent.

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5. Select **LINK**.



6. Enter the **Link Name** and **Link code** that was displayed in the MX HomePro Editor. To locate these credentials, please refer to the [previous page](#).
7. Select **Sign In** to complete the integration process.

