

MX HOMEPRO

ALEXA INTEGRATION



amazon



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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 Fire TV/Stick

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

- Part 1 is completed from within the MX HomePro Editor.
- Part 2 is completed from the Amazon Alexa mobile app (iOS or 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. Assure that all basic/advanced devices and automated activities are programmed prior to integrating with Alexa.

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:

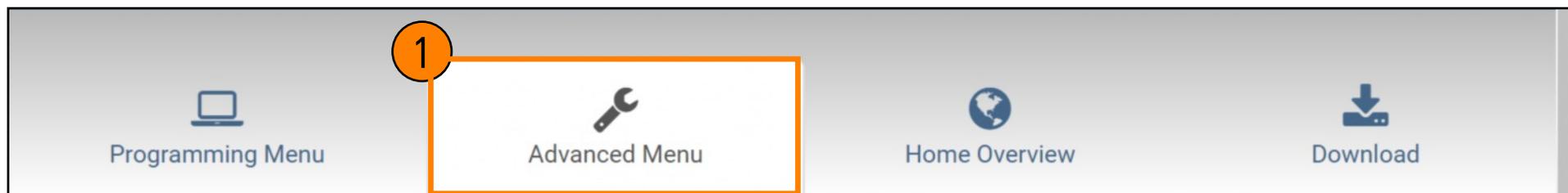
Alexa can **only** control devices in a **single room** as defined in the MX HomePro Editor software.

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.

Follow these steps to create a Smart Home Scene:

1. Select the Advanced Menu tab.



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.

What service are you integrating with?

3 Amazon Alexa

◀ Back

4 Next ▶



4. Select Next.

5. Select Continue to setup Smart Home Scenes.

Alexa Setup

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

5 Continue to setup Smart Home Scenes

Finish Alexa Setup

Cancel - Do not add Alexa to the system

6. Choose which type of Smart Home Scene to create and select Next. This is the phrase that triggers the URC Smart Home scene.

Choose the type of Smart Home Scene

Turn on **6**

Turn off

i Turn On and Turn Off are the only trigger commands supported by the Alexa module.

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7. 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.

Set the Smart Home Scene trigger phrase

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

Alexa, turn on:

7

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8
Next

8. Select Next.

i

This custom phrase works in conjunction with the type (Turn On/Off) selected in the previous step to trigger an Alexa Voice Command macro (i.e. "Alexa... Turn On Living Room Blu-ray Player).

9. 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](#)).

Edit Movie

Smart Home Scene Steps

Add delay

Add jump to

Test

Select device and command

Device

Blu-Ray/DVD

Commands

Power

Add

Test it!

Special functions

9

☰ 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

← Back

10
Next

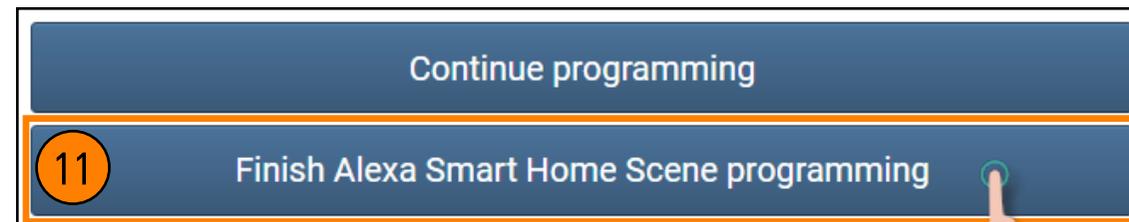
10. Select Next.

11. Select Finish Alexa Smart Home Scene programming.

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



Repeat this procedure for adding additional Alexa Voice Command macros into the MX HomePro system. Selecting Continue programming allows the programmer to create another Smart Home Scene.



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.alexamazon.com).

Follow these steps:

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



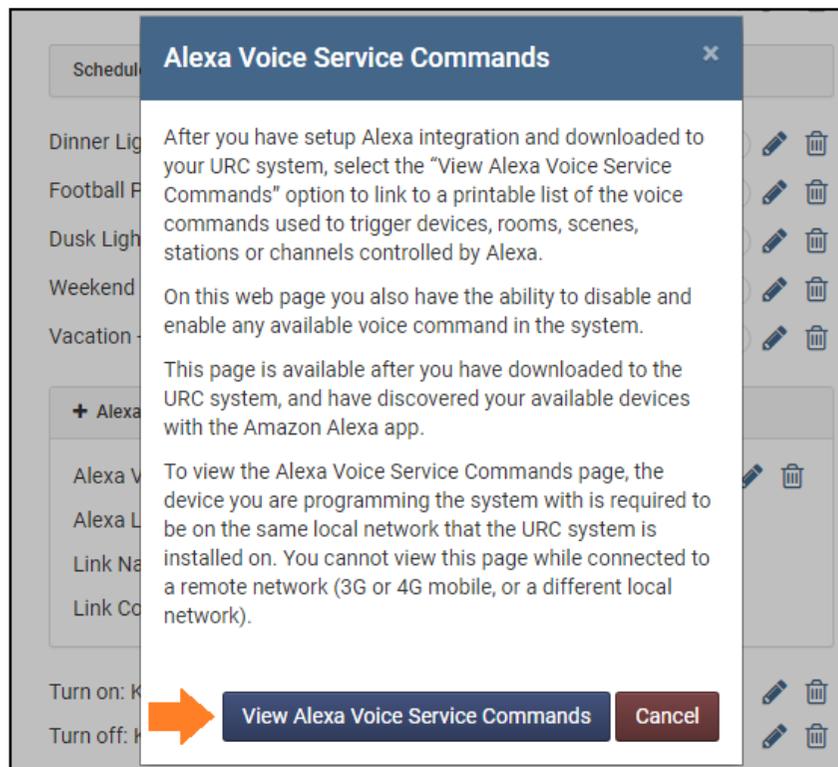
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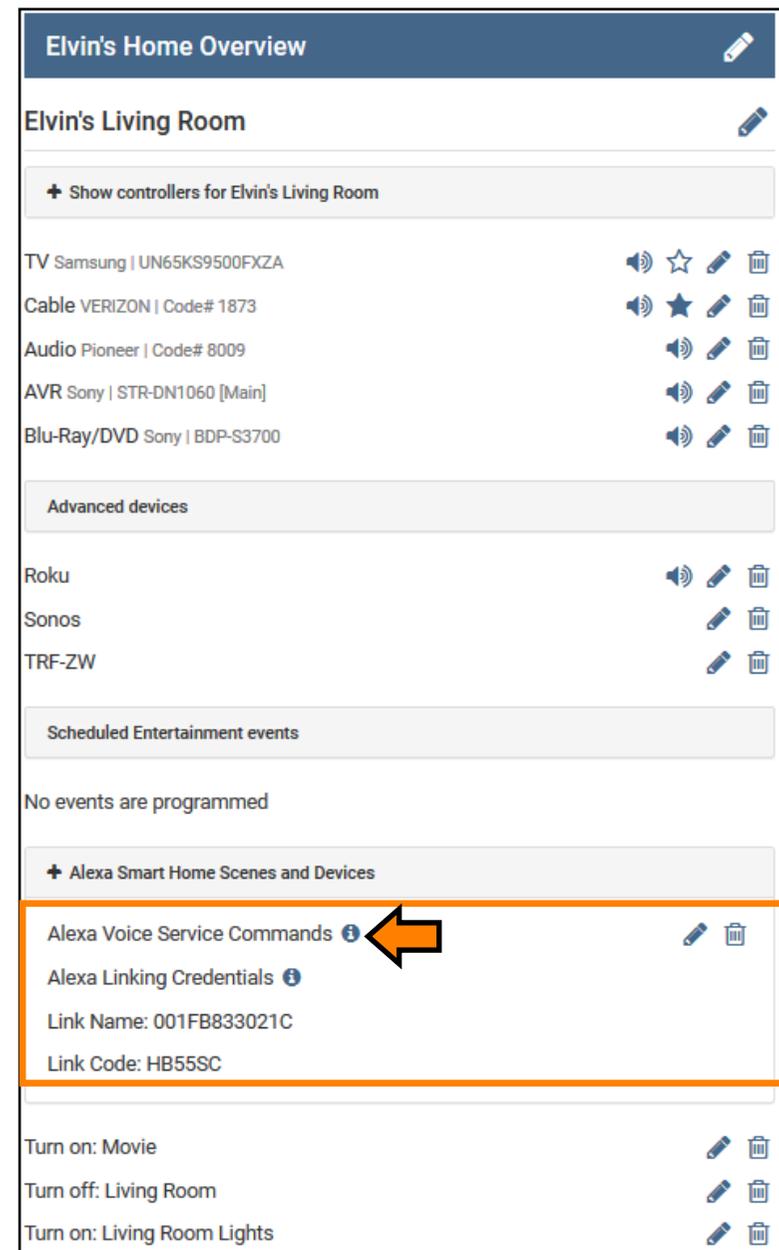
2. Scroll down to the Alexa Smart Home Scenes and Devices Section and select the plus (+) icon to reveal the following:

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

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](#).



2

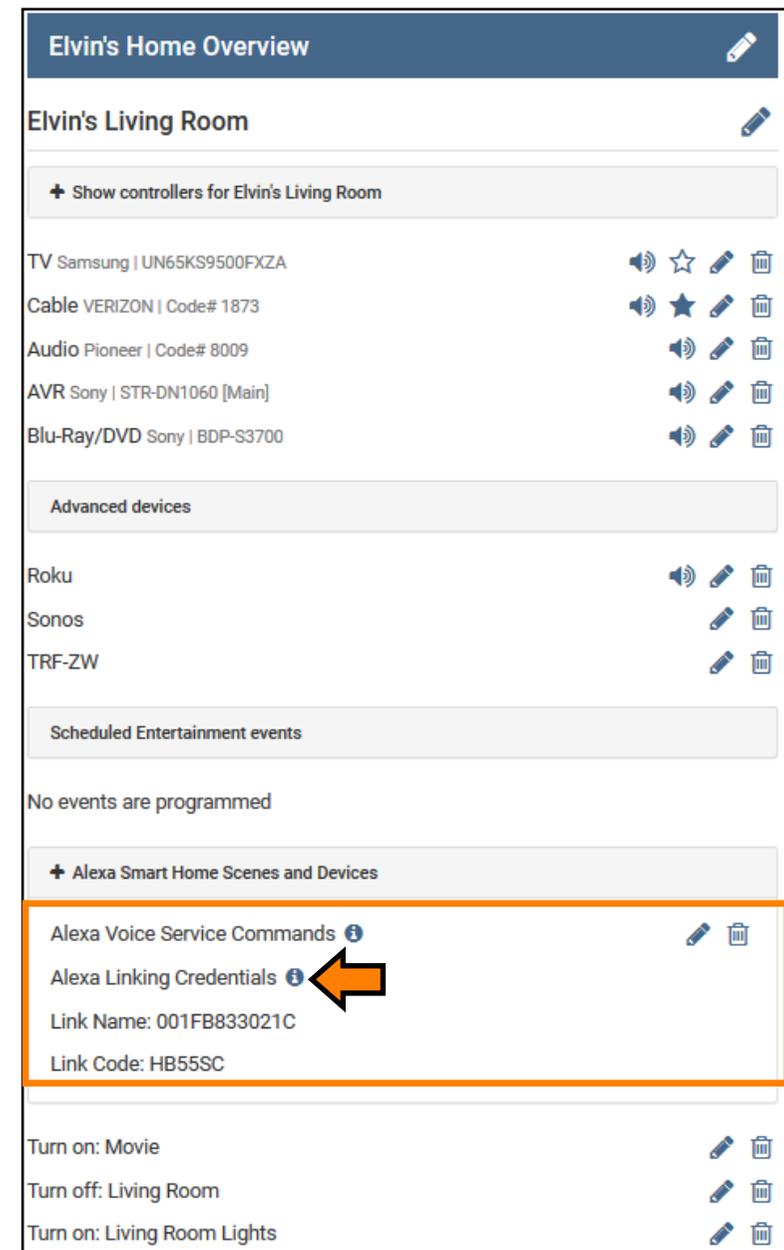
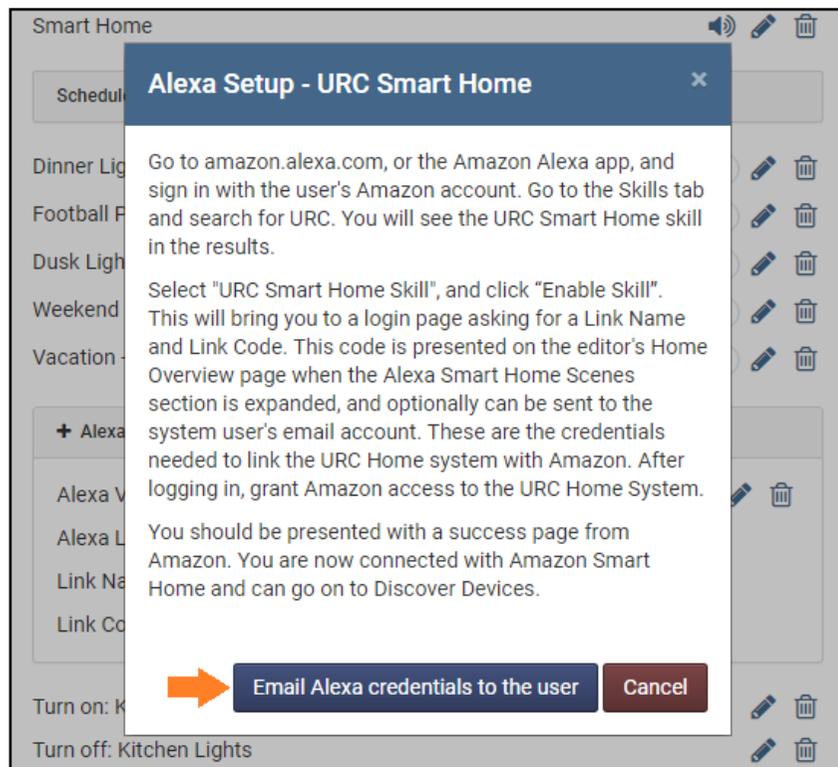


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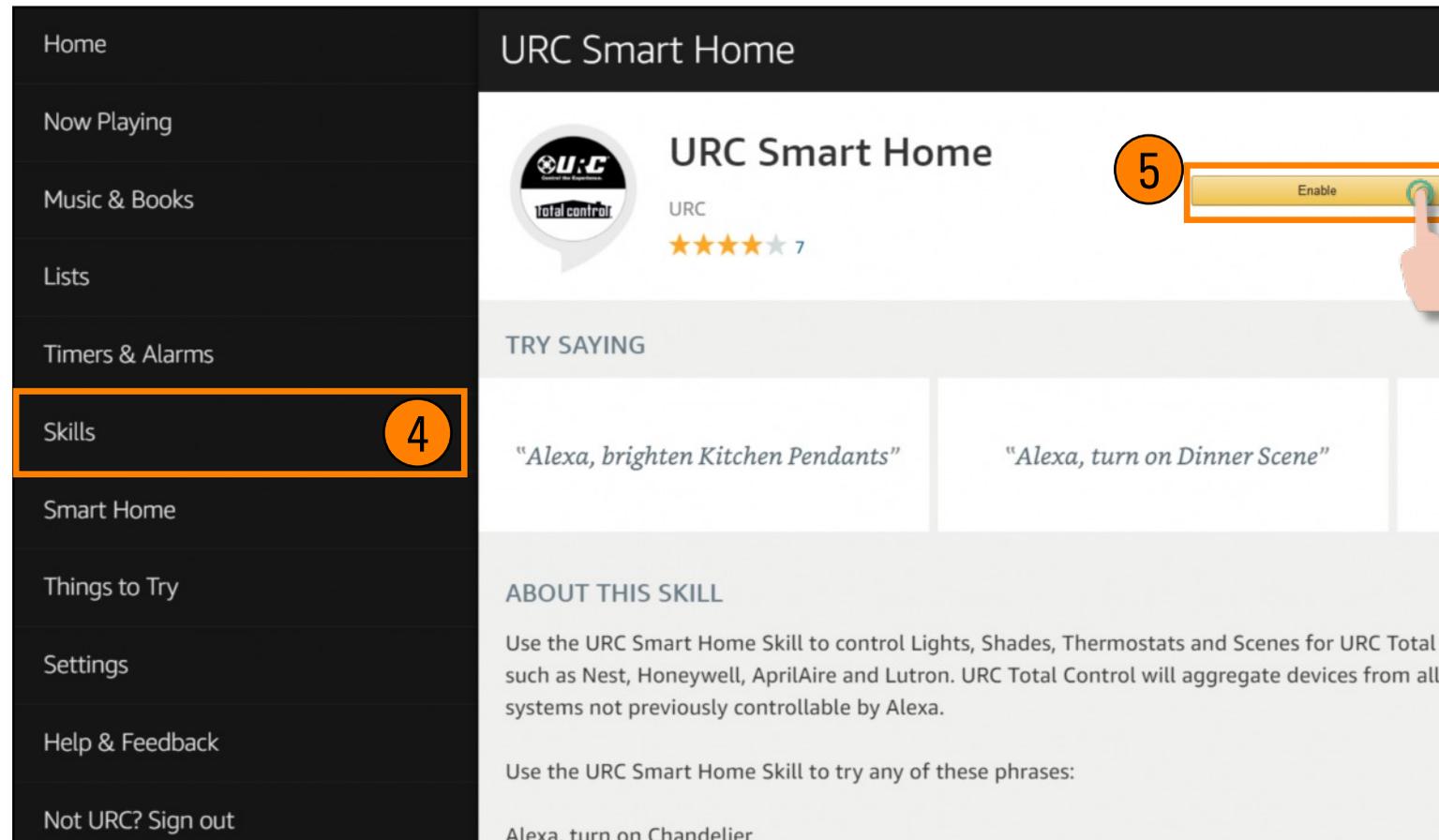
- **Alexa Linking Credentials:** below this text is the Link Name and Link Code that is used to link URC to the Amazon account. Selecting the info circle at the right of the text reveals the Alexa Setup - URC Smart Home window (see below).

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
or the Alexa mobile app.
4. Select the Skills tab and enter URC Smart Home in the search bar and click Search.
5. Select Enable.

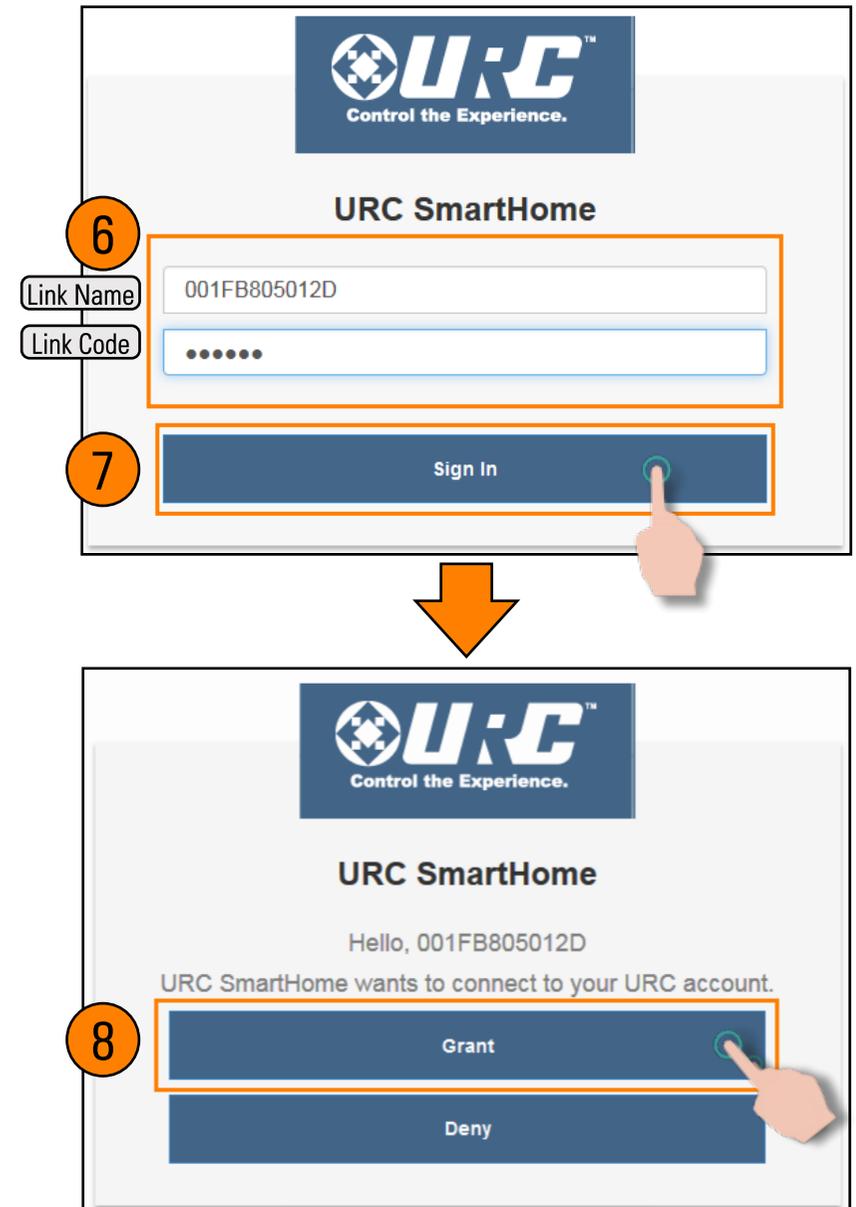
 This guide uses the Alexa web portal; however, procedures are identical from within the Alexa mobile app.



The screenshot shows the Alexa Skills interface. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, Now Playing, Music & Books, Lists, Timers & Alarms, Skills (highlighted with a circled '4'), Smart Home, Things to Try, Settings, Help & Feedback, and Not URC? Sign out. The main content area is titled 'URC Smart Home' and features the URC logo, the skill name 'URC Smart Home', the developer 'URC', and a 7-star rating. An 'Enable' button is highlighted with a circled '5' and a hand cursor. Below the skill name is a 'TRY SAYING' section with two example phrases: "Alexa, brighten Kitchen Pendants" and "Alexa, turn on Dinner Scene". An 'ABOUT THIS SKILL' section follows, describing the skill's capabilities for controlling lights, shades, thermostats, and scenes for URC Total Control systems. It also lists example phrases like "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.



The image shows two sequential screenshots of the URC SmartHome interface. The top screenshot, labeled with a circled '6', shows the sign-in screen. It features the URC logo at the top, followed by the text 'URC SmartHome'. Below this are two input fields: 'Link Name' containing '001FB805012D' and 'Link Code' containing six dots. A 'Sign In' button is located below the input fields, with a circled '7' and a hand icon pointing to it. The bottom screenshot, labeled with a circled '8', shows the grant screen. It features the URC logo at the top, followed by the text 'URC SmartHome'. Below this is a greeting 'Hello, 001FB805012D' and a message 'URC SmartHome wants to connect to your URC account.' Below the message are two buttons: 'Grant' and 'Deny'. A circled '8' and a hand icon are pointing to the 'Grant' button. An orange arrow points from the 'Sign In' button in the top screenshot to the 'Grant' button in the bottom screenshot.

Device Discovery:

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

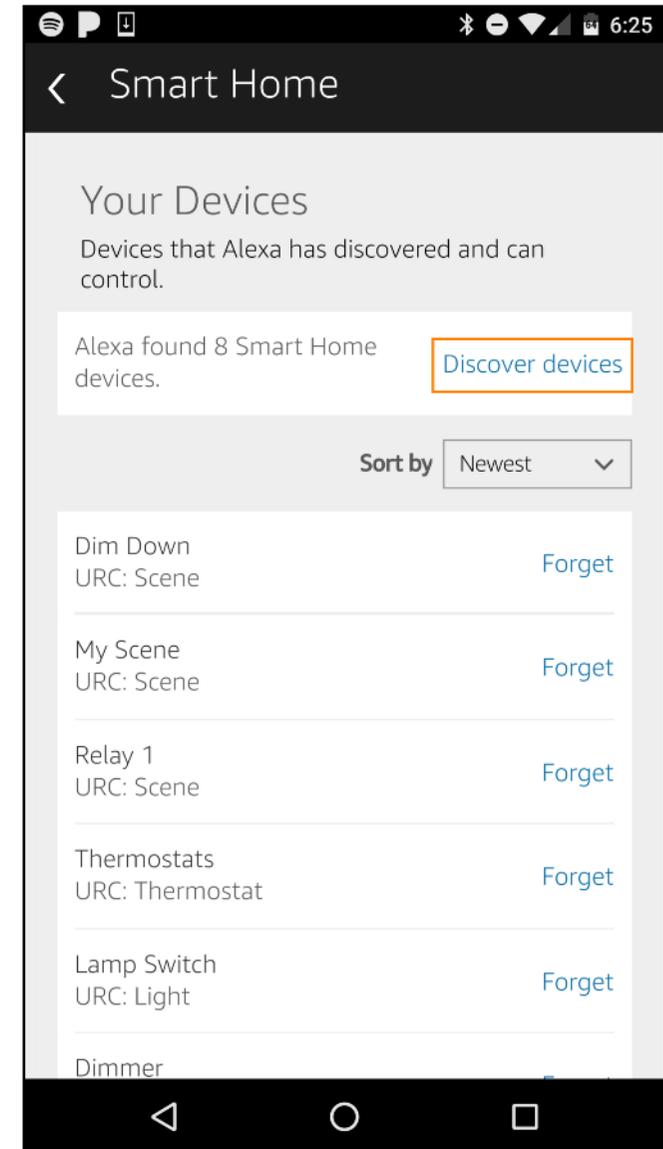
- Discover Devices using the the Alexa web browser (alexa.amazon.com)
- Discover Devices using the Alexa mobile app and select Discover Devices.
- Discover Devices using a verbal command, "Alexa... Discover Devices".

Devices that can be discovered are:

- URC Smart Home Scenes (Alexa macros/automated activities)
- URC TRF-ZW (lights, thermostat 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 only)
- 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 also controls the same device.

Advanced Devices do **NOT** require the creation of a **Smart Home Scene** for control. URC Smart Home Scene(s) are only needed for controlling devices that are **NOT** included in the list above (i.e. TV's 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:

192.168.7.18:51535

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 HomeSet Editor, refer to [Page 8](#).



Navigating the Alexa Voice Service Page:

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

- **Home:** this option is available regardless of what menu is displayed. Whenever this button is selected, the page is redirected to the home page, image located above.



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

This menu is broken into four (4) categories each with vital information:

1. **Device Name:** label provided for the Alexa macro in the MX HomePro Editor.
2. **Command:** the phrase used to trigger the event.
3. **Device Type:** labels the type of device (i.e. Scene, Lights, etc.).
4. **Module:** labels if the Alexa command was derived from the Editor, Z-Wave, or an Advanced Device.
5. **Enabled:** if a check mark is present, this means the Alexa command is enabled. An unchecked box signifies and disabled command.

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 to the top right of the Device List page:

- Home:** directs user back to Home Page.
- Print List:** generates a printable page outlining all the available voice commands.
- Help:** displays a web page with FAQs.



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

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

1. **Module:** dictates where the device 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.

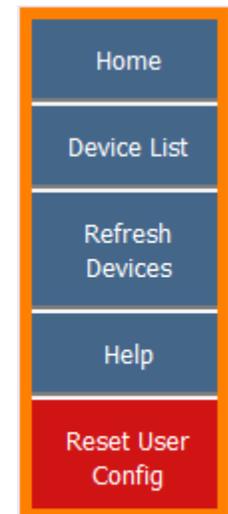
If any changes are made on this page, select the **Update** button to confirm.

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

Update

These four (4) options are available to the top right of the Advanced Configuration Page:

- Home:** returns to the Alexa Voice Service home page.
- Device List:** displays the Device List page as view on the previous 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:

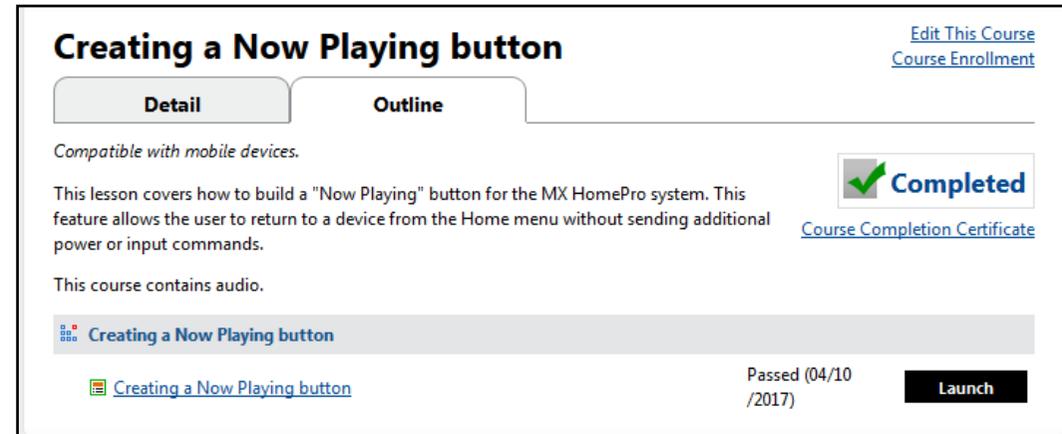
When integrating Alexa with MX HomePro there are certain procedures that are highly recommended to utilize the system properly.

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** e-learning course available from the URC Control Room.



The screenshot shows the interface for the e-learning course "Creating a Now Playing button". At the top right, there are links for "Edit This Course" and "Course Enrollment". Below the title, there are two tabs: "Detail" (selected) and "Outline". The main content area includes the text "Compatible with mobile devices.", a description of the lesson, a "Completed" status indicator with a green checkmark, and a link for "Course Completion Certificate". At the bottom, there is a progress bar for "Creating a Now Playing button" and a "Launch" button. The score "Passed (04/10 /2017)" is displayed on the right side of the progress bar.

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.

