

# digitalSTROM Alexa Native Skill – Quick Guide

## Preface

In contrast to the previous, generic Skill, Amazon Alexa offers also a native Skill specifically designed for Smart Home applications. This is designed to control native devices, i.e. you can control native digitalSTROM devices (lighting, shading) directly via the Skill by voice. No scenarios are required for this. digitalSTROM integrates this Skill via dS-Cloud (available from 06.09.2022). In addition, the new skill simplifies voice control by eliminating the addition "...say digitalstrom...".

The actual voice recognition is completely in the hands of Amazon and is constantly being further developed (moreover, it is an adapting, self-learning system). Therefore, it is not possible to specify a list of standard commands; the linguistic combinations are almost limitless.

## Connecting with digitalSTROM

Please follow these simple steps to connect your digitalSTROM system with the Amazon Echo:

1. Open the Alexa app (App Store or Play Store) and select Skills.
2. Select Categories and then Smart Home or search for digitalSTROM.
3. Select Activate Skill.
4. Log in with your digitalSTROM credentials and follow the instructions to complete the setup.
5. Now you can get started and control your digitalSTROM home via voice control with the Amazon Echo.
6. If you have already performed steps 1-5, only the following points need to be performed after a dS-Cloud update:
  - a) Call Alexa with "Alexa, search for new devices".
  - b) Previously Alexa known scenes remain listed. These should be removed manually using the Alexa app.
  - c) New rules can be created in the dSS app under "User Defined Actions" (UDA).
  - d) Newly created or renamed UDA's must be searched for by using Alexa (6a).

If you purchased an Amazon Echo in the USA, the country settings for your Amazon Echo may need to be changed.

1. In your Amazon account, select My Content and Devices.
2. Select Settings.
3. Under Country Settings, change the country to Germany.

## Perform commands and User Defined Actions

The Amazon Echo can be used to control lights, shades or other devices networked with digitalSTROM. Simple commands such as "Alexa, switch on the light in the living room." can be invoked.

User Defined Actions usually consist of several commands that form a complete sequence – such as "Alexa, execute get up."

Depending on what settings you have defined for these User Defined Actions, they will be called. Example: "Alexa, execute get up."

- The shutters open in all rooms
- The lights in the bathroom and kitchen turn on

If you want to turn off all the lights in the house, you should use a formulation like: "Alexa, turn off all the lights." or "Alexa, turn off the lights in the whole house."

When doing so, make sure to always specify the room name in which a command is to be executed. In addition, you should always make sure to use the room names as they appear in the other digitalSTROM apps.

**The new feature allows to execute any number of UDA's (User Defined Actions) in the dS system.** I.e., all UDA's created in the dSS are available for voice control. Please note that voice control is exclusively limited to UDA's; the ApplicationZoneScenario and DeviceScenario scene types are not required and are therefore not available. UDA's can also be used to control non-native devices such as heating etc.

**Please pay attention to clear, linguistically well distinguishable UDA designations.** This was true for both the former Generic Skill and the new Native Skill. In general, the user experience is improved if commands are worded precisely and % values are used: "Alexa, open blinds to 50%" or "Alexa, close blinds in living room to 100%".

## Privacy and Data Protection

The following information is provided to the best of our knowledge. digitalSTROM strictly rejects any liability and guarantee for correctness.

Amazon Alexa only uses data that is absolutely necessary for voice control: device name, type, capability, device id, state. No temporary or presence data is transmitted to Amazon. If the Skill is not active, no data is transmitted either.