

Alexa Home Automation Skill Integration

Purpose

This integration uses a custom skill that allows HomeSeer users to control all of their [devices](#), [features](#) and events. The voice syntax is a bit more complex than it is with our [SmartHome skill](#) but it provides more complete control of systems.



HomeSeer Home Automation Skill

"Alexa, tell HomeSeer to run the event "End Of Day""

Works With...

- All HomeSeer Devices & Features
- All HomeSeer Events

Voice Command Syntax Samples

- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to turn off the kitchen light"
- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to set the thermostat to 65 degrees"
- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to unlock the front door"
- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to get the status of my temperature sensor"
- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to run the SUNSET event"
- "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to close the garage door"

Requirements

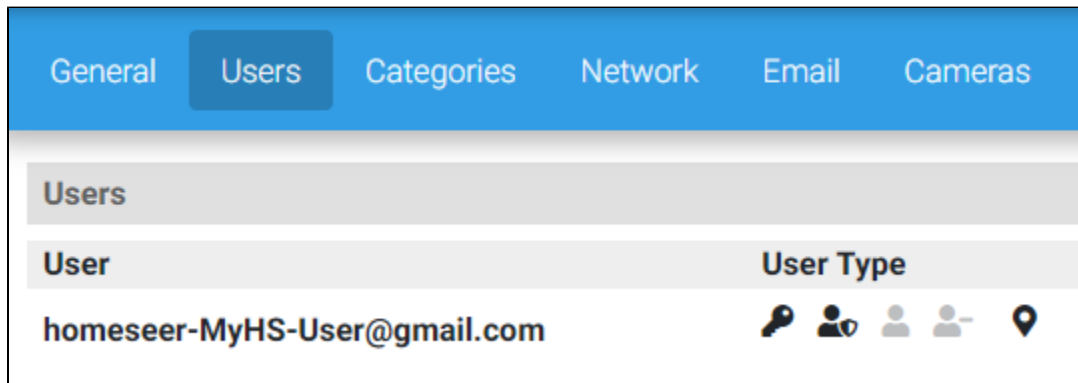
- HomeSeer HS4 System (HomeTroller or computer running HS4 software)
- [MyHS Remote Access Service](#)
- Amazon Alexa-powered device(s) (Echo, Fire Tablet or similar)

Initial Setup

You'll need to add a user account to your HS4 system with your MyHS credentials and you'll need to enable **Admin** and **Local** permissions for this account. Once that's done, you'll need to enable voice commands for the HomeSeer devices or device features you wish to control with Alexa. Note that if you have multiple HomeSeer systems and a Premium MyHS account, you'll need to create unique MyHS users for each system. Please follow the steps outlined in this doc: [Using Alexa with Multiple HS Systems](#). Then, follow the steps below:

Add MyHS User Account to HS4

Open your HomeSeer system's web interface and navigate to **Setup > Users**. Add a new user with your MyHS account credentials. Enable **Admin** and **Local** permissions.



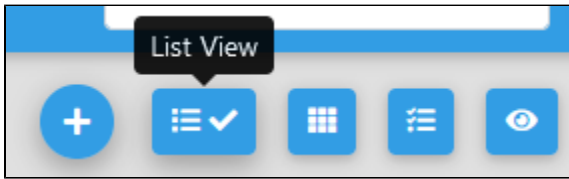
Enable Voice Commands for HS4 Devices or Features

Devices or **features** must be **manually enabled for voice commands** in order to be controlled by Alexa. In this section, we'll show you how to check the voice settings of your current system and how to edit those settings to yield the best results.

How to Tell Which Devices or Features are Enabled for Voice

Follow the steps below to determine which devices or features are currently enabled for voice in your HS4 system:

1. Navigate to your **Devices page** and enable list view by clicking the **List View** button



2. Scroll through your list of devices and look for any instance of a **microphone icon**.
 - If a microphone appears next to the device, the device is enabled for voice.
Note: Devices should ONLY be enabled for voice commands **IF THEY ARE CONTROLLABLE**. If devices are not controllable, be sure to disable them for voice commands.
 - If a microphone appears next to a feature, that feature is enabled for voice.

In this example, the microphones show us that the device (Dual Lamp Module) is **not enabled** for voice and the that the features (Candle Lights and Sofa Table Lamp) **are enabled** for voice.



How to Determine Whether Devices or Features Should be Enabled for Voice

In general, enabling devices is all that will be required for most systems.

However, if you have devices with multiple **controllable features**, you'll need to enable features for those devices. Such devices include (but are not limited to)...

- Smart Plug Strips
- Multi-Relay Devices
- Dual Lamp or Appliance Modules

Use the guide below to determine which method is best for enabling voice with your system. Then use the steps below to enable voice commands for your devices or for your feature(s).

Enable Devices	Enable Features
Use this option if the device is controllable	Use this option if the features are controllable
<p>First Floor Living Room</p> <p> Flower Lights (997) </p>	<p>First Floor Living Room</p> <p> Dual Lamp Module (999)</p> <p> Candle Lights (1000) </p> <p> Sofa Table Lamp (1001) </p>
If the device is enabled for voice, the discovered device will use the root name and it will be controllable.	If the features are enabled for voice, the discovered devices will use the feature names and will be controllable.

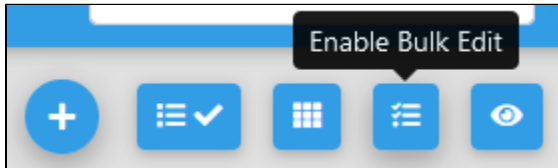
How to Enable Voice Commands for devices or Features

Voice commands can be enabled by editing the settings of **of a single device** or by using the **Bulk Edit** feature or HS4.

- **To enable voice commands for a single device,**
 1. Navigate to the settings for its device or for its feature(s),
 2. Check the **Voice Command Enabled** checkbox:



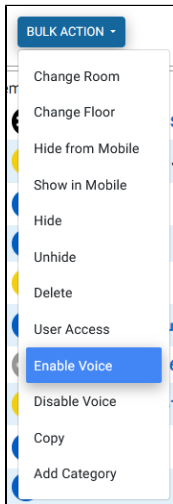
- **To enable voice commands for multiple devices,**
 1. Enable bulk editing by clicking the **Bulk Edit** button.



2. Check the check boxes next to the devices or features you wish to enable
Note: If you check the device check box, the feature check boxes will also be checked by default. **Be sure to un-check the feature check boxes** before enabling voice for these devices.



3. Open the Bulk Action menu at the top of the devices page and select Enable Voice



How to Change Voice Command Names

By default this integration is designed to recognize the **Device Name** or **Feature Name** in your spoken commands. However, this may not always be desirable. For example, let's say you have a **Floodlight Sensor** device with a feature called **Switch**. Normally, you'd have to speak "**Alexa, tell HomeSeer to turn on the Floodlight Sensor Switch**". That's pretty wordy and not very intuitive. To improve on this, we've included a **Voice Command** field that's designed to override the name field. To use it...

1. Navigate to the settings page of the device or feature you wish to edit
2. Enter the name you wish to speak into the **Voice Command** Field
3. Click the **Save** button

In the example below, "Flood Lights" are entered into the **Voice Command** field. The resulting spoken command now becomes: "Alexa, tell HomeSeer to turn on the Flood Lights".

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a device named "Outside Garage Floodlight Sensor". At the top, there are three tabs: "Feature" (selected), "Status/Graphics", and "Z-W". Below the title, there is a "Feature Name" field containing the word "Switch". A blue button labeled "ADD CATEGORY" is positioned below the feature name. Underneath, a "Voice Command (Alexa/Google)" field contains the text "Flood Lights". At the bottom of the screen, there is a checkmark icon followed by the text "Voice Command Enabled".

Smart Home Skill Setup

1. Open the Alexa app on your mobile device or visit <https://alexa.amazon.com> from your web browser and sign in to your Amazon account.
2. Click or tap **Skills** or **Skills & Games** and search for HomeSeer.
3. Select **HomeSeer Home Automation Skill** and click **Enable**.
4. Our MyHS login page will appear. Enter your credentials and click **Log In**.
5. Close the login window after successful account linking

Testing Control of Devices

Use the syntax and examples below to construct phrases that will control and obtain status from HomeSeer devices.

Syntax Template

- "{Attention Phrase} {Command} {Location 2} {Location 1} {Device Name}"

Controlling HomeSeer Devices

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Turn on the} {Light}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Turn on the} {Bathroom} {Light}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Turn on the} {First Floor} {Bathroom} {Light}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Unlock the} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Unlock the} {Kitchen} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Unlock the} {First Floor} {Kitchen} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Set the} {Outside Lights} {to 50%}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Set the} {Kitchen} {Outside Lights} {to 50%}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Set the} {First Floor} {Kitchen} {Outside Lights} {to 50%}"

Controlling "All" HomeSeer Devices

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Turn on all the} {Living Room} {Lights}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Set all} {Living Room} {Lights} {to 50%}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Turn off all the} {First Floor} {Lights}"

Obtaining Status From HomeSeer Devices

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Get the status of the} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Get the status of the} {Kitchen} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Get the status of the} {First Floor} {Kitchen} {Door Lock}"

Controlling HomeSeer Devices with Time Delay

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {in 30 minutes, lock the} {Door Lock}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {in 1 hour, unlock the} {Door Lock} {for 15 minutes}"

Testing Control of Events

Use the syntax and examples below to construct phrases that will launch HomeSeer events.
Tip: Consider changing your **Event Names** if the phrases you're required to use sound unnatural in any way.

Syntax Template

- "{Attention Phrase} {Command} {Event Name} {Command}"

Launching HomeSeer Events

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Run the Event} {Turn all lights off}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {Run the} {Turn all lights off} {Event}"

Launching HomeSeer Events with Time Delay

- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {in 30 minutes, run the Event} {Turn all lights off}"
- "{Alexa, Tell HomeSeer to} {in 1 hour, run the} {Turn all lights off} {Event}"

Troubleshooting

If for any reason, you can't control your devices after discovery, here are a few things to check:

- Make sure MyHS is connected to your system. Navigate to myhs.homeseer.com and log into your account. Access your system.
- Make sure Alexa is working. Talk to your Alexa device to ensure the service is working.
- Check your Internet connection.
- Make sure that your controllable devices

If everything is working but you still can't control devices, open a [service desk ticket](#) for help.

Glossary of Terms

- **Device** - Refers to a HomeSeer entity that represents either a physical product (like a smart switch) or a non-physical product or status (ie "virtual device"). Devices normally contain settings for a product so can usually be identified with the settings icon. In the example below, the **Floodlight Sensor** is the device.
- **Feature** - Refers to a HomeSeer entity that represents an attribute of a device. In the example below, **Motion Sensor**, **Switch**, **Temperature** and **Luminance** entities are all features.
- **Controllable Feature** - Refers to a feature that can be controlled by HomeSeer. Controllable features typically include buttons, drop down menus, sliders or some other type of control. In the example below, **Switch** is a controllable feature.

The screenshot shows a user interface for a HomeSeer system. At the top, it says "Outside | Garage". Below this, there are five rows of device information, each with an icon, a name, and a status. The first row is "Floodlight Sensor" with a gear icon and "No Status". The second row is "Motion Sensor" with a person icon and "No Event". The third row is "Switch" with a power icon and "Off", and it includes two blue buttons labeled "OFF" and "ON". The fourth row is "Temperature" with a thermometer icon and "63.4 F". The fifth row is "Luminance" with a sun icon and "900 Lux".

Device Name	Status
Floodlight Sensor	No Status
Motion Sensor	No Event
Switch	Off
Temperature	63.4 F
Luminance	900 Lux