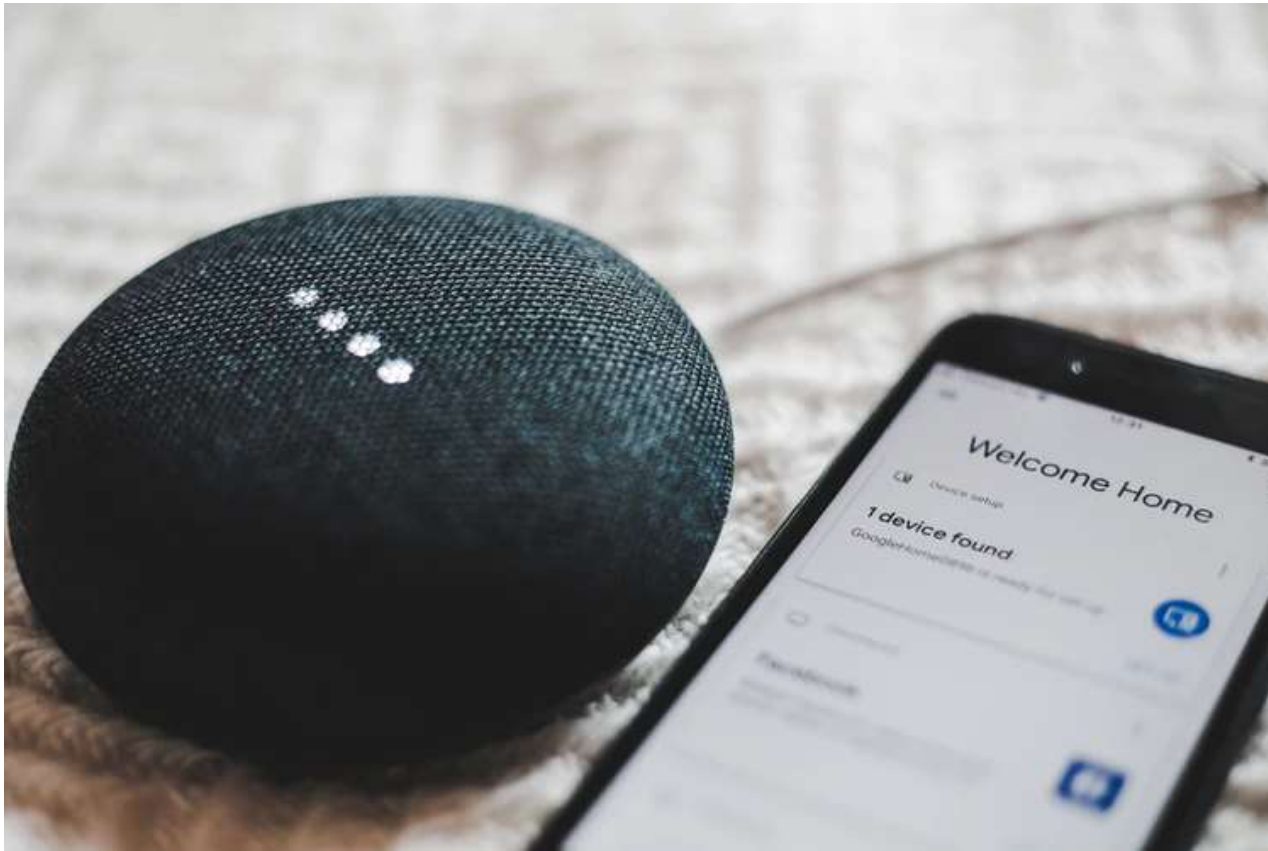


Welcome

Getting the
Most of Virtual
Assistants like
Google, Siri &
Alexa





Don Frederiksen

SeniorTechClub.com

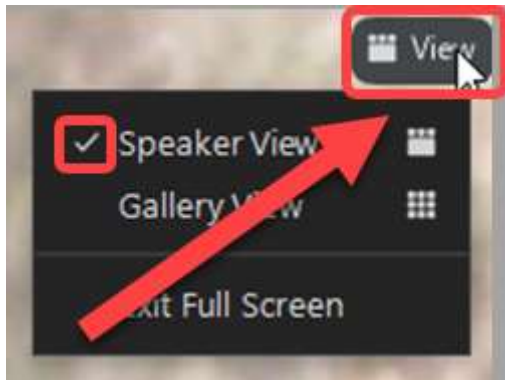
Getting the Most from Your Personal Assistants

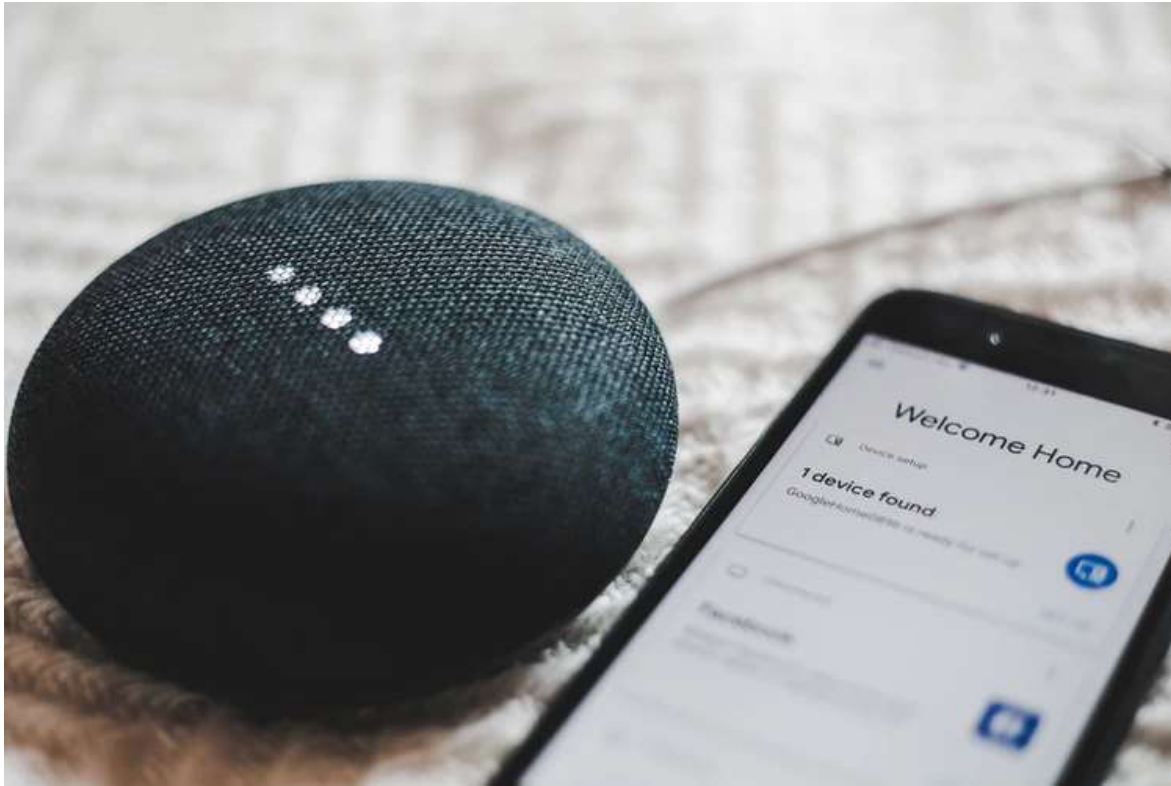
Zoom Setup – GO BIG!

Use Zoom **Speaker View**

Computer
or laptop

iPad





Wake Words

I can't avoid using wake words like Alexa or Hey Google. Sorry 😞

I will avoid using Hey Siri

I will not say “ Alexa Order Bisquick”



Jimmy Kimmel Live ✓
@JimmyKimmelLive



Jimmy is **really** sorry for setting off your Alexa. What do you say we do it again? (Upload your video and tag us!)



Our Learning Tools

- Zoom Video Platform
- Slides – Downloadable from class page or chat
- Demonstrations
- Your Questions
 - “Hey Don” or Chat
 - Email: don@SeniorTechClub.com
- Online Class Page at:
Links.SeniorTechClub.com/SHIFT11



Our Learning Plan

Getting the Most from your Virtual Assistants:

- The Who, What, Where of Virtual Assistants
- Language Lessons
- Top Six Commands
- Home Automation – the next frontier
- What about privacy



What are Virtual Assistants?

A software agent that can perform tasks or services for an individual based on voice commands or verbal questions.

Common examples:

- How old is Betty White?
- Set a timer for 3 minutes.



Importance

“Virtual assistants have become a key component of the smart device industry, being absolutely integral to the way that consumers interact with their devices.”

...Statista Research

Remember: [2001 Space Odyssey – “Hal”](#)



Voice is the Future

“Now’s the time to learn it. Now is the time to experiment with it. Now is the time to start using it... There's no future that doesn't have ambient computing or voice activation.”

.. Mark Cuban



Commonplace & Pervasive

In 2021, it is projected that 132 million people will use digital voice assistant at least once a month in the United States.

..Statista Research



Who are the Headliners?





Poll- What
Virtual
Assistants Do
you have or
use?

Who are the Headliners?

Three leaders in this space and their revenue:

- Apple Siri \$274 billion
- Amazon Alexa \$386 billion
- Google Assistant \$182 billion



Apple Siri

Siri – Speech Interpretation and Recognition Interface

First VA released an app in February 2010

Acquired by Apple in April 2010

Integrated into iPhone 4S in October 2011

Today, Found in all Apple devices:

iPhones, iPad, Apple Watch, Apple TV, Mac Computer,
AirPods, HomePod

Cars via Apple Car Play



Amazon Alexa

Name chosen by developers with a hard consonant for recognition

Released with Amazon Echo smart speaker in November 2014

Today Alexa is available on 20,000 devices including:

- Smart Speakers
- TVs
- SmartPhones and Tablets (Devices and Apps)
- Computers
- SmartHome
- Wearables
- Cars – Buick TV Ads



Amazon Alexa

Amazon Wants Alexa Everywhere – The Ultimate Looking Smart



Google Assistant

Released in May 2016 with smart speaker Google Home and app Allo

Pixel SmartPhones October 2016

Expansion to Android Feb 2017

- Smart Speakers
- TVs
- SmartPhones and Tablets (Devices and Apps)
- Computers
- Home/Nest
- Appliances
- Cars via Android Auto & Native in Audi and Volvos



Where? A Summary

Smartphones

- Native
 - iPhone – Siri
 - Android – Google Assistant
- App (Except Siri)

Smart Speakers

- Apple HomePod
- Amazon Echo
- Google Home/Nest





Virtual Assistant Language Lessons

Understanding the Syntax

Three Steps:

1. Invoke/Summon

2. Question or Command

3. Response or Follow Up



Invoke or Summon

Two General approaches

1. Smartphone Button or action
 - Siri – press & hold Home or Side Button
 - Google – Press and hold Home
 - Alexa – Only in the App
2. Wake word or Phrase
 - Alexa (can be changed in Settings)
 - Hey Siri (requires setup in Settings)
 - OK or Hey Google

Recommendation – Pause to confirm response



Understanding the Syntax

Three Steps:

1. Invoke/Summon

2. Question or Command

3. Response or Follow Up



Question or Command

Who, What, When, How

What's the weather/time/date

How old is Betty White?

Who is married to Paul McCartney?

When is Easter/summer/Labor Day/Halloween?



Question or Command

Know your essential
command words

Set a timer/alarm/reminder

Play music/podcast/sound

Turn on/off light/device



Understanding the Syntax

Three Steps:

1. Invoke/Summon

2. Question or Command

3. Response or Follow Up



Response or Follow Up

This is the Benefit of VA's

Listen for the Response or Confirmation

Sometimes Follow Up



Tips

Pause after invoke

Ask directly – be concise, not

- “can you tell me” or “do you know”

Minnesota Nice doesn't add to clarity –Please and Thank you not required but

- There is research that proposes that children exposed to VA environments are less polite. Modeling for children might be appropriate.

Ask only one question or command.

- How old is Paul McCartney and how tall is he? (Only Google Completes)

Ability to remember context is increasing. But don't count on it.

- Alexa and Google are better. Siri not so much
- How old is Paul McCartney. Second request: How tall is “he. “



Poll – Which VA is the Most Creative





Top Six Commands or Actions

Let's look at some of the top useful
commands from your VA

VA Commands you should know and use

My Six Recommendations:

1. Timers & Alarms
2. News & Weather
3. Radio & Podcasts
4. Questions, Facts & Trivia
5. Music
6. Fun



Timers & Alarms

Set Timer for x time

- Set Timer for 5 minutes

Set Alarm for time

- Set Alarm for 7 AM



News & Weather

Give me the News

What's the weather/temperature?



Radio & Podcasts

Play radio (stations by name, call sign, frequency, and nickname)

- Some variation between VAs
- Not all stations are available
- Be more specific in the request if you have a favorite station
- Many radio broadcasts & shows are available as episodes

Play podcast (name)



Radio & Podcasts

Play podcast (name)

- Apple – leading podcast provider
- Alexa – Select Podcast source from Apple, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio (settings)
- Google – Limited to Google Podcasts & Spotify (settings)



Questions, Facts & Trivia

All VAs are a great source of facts and information.

Just ask the question – be concise

- How old is Betty White?
- What is the capital of FL?
- When was Albert Einstein born?
- Is SHIFT any good?



Music in the Home

All VAs are a great way to bring music to your home.

Most music streaming services can be played in most VAs. Research before subscribing.

- Spotify (limited free)
- Apple Music
- Amazon (Prime) Music (limited free)
- Pandora (limited free)
- iHeartRadio (limited free)
- YouTube Music (limited free)



Music in the Home - options

You can play music on your device and use the VA speaker as a Bluetooth speaker.

Multi-Room Groups for whole home music

Integrate VA speaker with home stereo



Fun

Jokes

Profound questions

- Do you know the muffin man?
- Personal questions
- What is the meaning of life?

Ask the VA to perform

- Sing
- Beat box

Search by hum (Google only)



Last VA Standing

Which VA is the Funniest?





Home Automation

The next frontier

Home Automation

Use your VA with Support devices and accessories to:

Turn on/off lights

Manage security systems & camera

Adjust Thermostats

Manage garage door

Lock doors

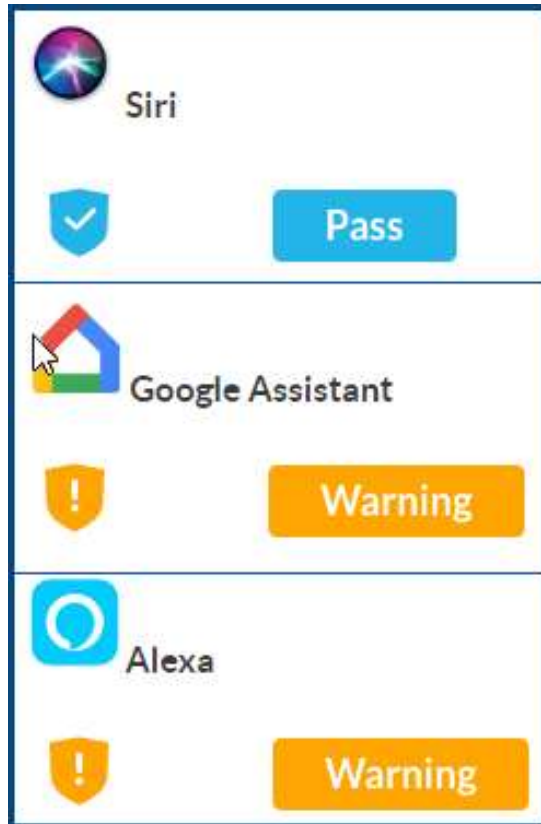
Lennar Homes and Amazon have team up to build smart homes





Privacy

Privacy & Security Assessments



Source: [Commonsense.org](https://www.commonsense.org)

Privacy Tips from the Experts

Know when it's listening – mute the mic when not in use

Check your settings – Smartphone App

- History

Lock down your login

Know what's connected

Secure your router/WiFi





Follow-up Questions?

don@SeniorTechClub.com

More Information & Download

links.SeniorTechClub.com/SHIFT11

Upcoming SHIFT Tech Workshops

April 12 – 6:30 PM – Use Libby to Read or Listen to Books from your Local Library

May 10 – 6:30 PM - Google Services Beyond Search & Email





Thank You!

Stay Well

Watch your Distance

Wash Your Hands

Keep Learning