Alexa the VRT2021

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This outline is also available on [lowvisiontech.com](http://www.lowvisiontech.com/alexa-the-vrt/)

## Introduction NE\AER Conference Handout 2021

Introductory Video: Amazon Echo Silver from SNL: <https://youtu.be/YvT_gqs5ETk>

Two Goals for this presentation:

1. Using the Amazon Echo with consumers for daily living activities.
2. How can we as vision rehab professionals create our own content for consumers on the Amazon Echo?

Survey Question: Are you using the Amazon Echo with consumers and for what?

## Amazon Echo basics:

* Wi-Fi required in the home
* Free Amazon account
* Initial setup from smartphone, tablet or computer at alexa.amazon.com
* Inexpensive models like the Amazon Dot, less than $25 4th generation Echo is $99 and Echo Studio $199

## Daily Activities

Dictionary, recipes, timers, controlling appliances in what’s called a Smart Home, calculator, watch calendar, information, making phone calls, telephone directory, and more.

### Reading the Newspaper

#### NFB Newsline

Alexa Open National Federation

[Instructions for using Alexa with NFB Newsline](https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline/alexa-instructions)

#### Radio Reading Services

TuneIn is one of the services that aggregates radio stations and podcasts

[Radio Reading Services on Smart Speakers](https://www.lowvisiontech.com/echo-radio-reading-service/) on Low Vision Tech

Examples:

“Alexa, play Down East Radio Reading Services on TuneIn”

“Alexa, play OWL Radio Reading Service on TuneIn”

“Alexa, enable Cincinnati Radio Reading Service Skill”

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### Listening to Podcasts

[Podcasts on blindness and low vision available on Amazon Echo](http://www.lowvisiontech.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Amazon_echo_podcasts.docx)

Examples:

Hadley Presents, “Alexa, play Hadley Presents on TuneIn.”

Vision Rehab Podcast, Alexa. Vision Rehab Podcast on TuneIn.”

### News and Entertainment

* Flash Briefing setup in the Alexa App with personalized news sources
* Audible and some Kindle books
* Games, “Alexa, play a game,” and follow the prompts. One example is “Magic Door.” “Alexa, play Magic Door.”

Hadley.edu: Workshop Series on Amazon Echo <https://hadley.edu/workshops/alexa-series> is also available on NLS cartridge for registered users call 800-3234238.

## Professional Involvement

The Amazon Echo as a tool to create content for consumers and to promote the field of vision professionals

### Podcast to air on Amazon Echo

#### Creating a podcast the hard way for the Amazon Echo

* Record and upload audio
* Create RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feed
* Post RSS feed to TuneIn

#### Creating a podcast the easy way with

[Amazon Blueprints](https://blueprints.amazon.com)

1. Vision Rehab News
* Create a simple news feed that can be added from the list of news skills on the Alexa app. Once added, each time a person listens to their Flash Briefing, they hear this news.
* Easy to set up. Record directly, upload an audio file, or create with text that Alexa reads.
* Plays only the current weekly or daily feed, no archives

.

Example: Vision Rehab News “Alexa, Play my Flash Briefing”

Another type of Blueprint, just as easy to create is a little more interactive. An example is Vision Rehab Facts.

#### [Anchor Podcast App](https://anchor.fm) for Android or iOS

* Free
* Record with phone or upload audio file
* Add effects

Example: [Vision Rehab Podcast](https://anchor.fm/visionrehab)

Hosted on Anchor and submitted to TuneIn, Spotify, Apple, etc.

 “Alexa, Vision Rehab Podcast on TuneIn”

## Wrap Up

* Survey Question: How can we use the Amazon Echo to promote vision rehab professionals?
* A note about privacy: Mozilla [Privacy Not Included Guide](https://foundation.mozilla.org/en/privacynotincluded/about/) addresses privacy issues with smart speakers including Amazon Echo.