Setting up Amazon Alexa skill

Setting up the Gira Smart Home skill

This document describes how to set up the Gira Smart Home skill for Amazon Alexa. With the Gira Smart Home skill, building functions can be controlled via the Gira X1 or the Gira HomeServer.
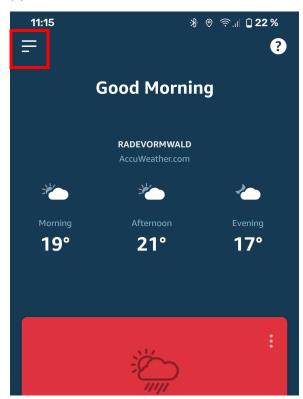
Requirements

To set up the Gira Smart Home skill successfully, the following requirements must be met:

- A Gira S1 and a Gira X1 (version 2.4 or higher) or a Gira HomeServer (version 4.10 or higher) is installed in the system.
- The Gira X1 or Gira HomeServer is fully configured and has been put into operation.
  We recommend creating your own user (Gira X1) or profile (Gira HomeServer) for the skill. On the Gira HomeServer, the "Make available for IoT service" option must be enabled in the profile that is to be used for the skill.
- The Gira S1 is logged into the Gira device portal and fully configured, and device ownership has been transferred to the end customer.
- The Gira S1 and Gira X1 or Gira HomeServer are installed on the same network and connected to the internet.
- An Alexa device (e.g. Amazon Echo) is available and has been set up.
- The following access data or passwords must be available:
  - Amazon account (e-mail address + password)
  - Access data for the Gira device portal (e-mail address + password)
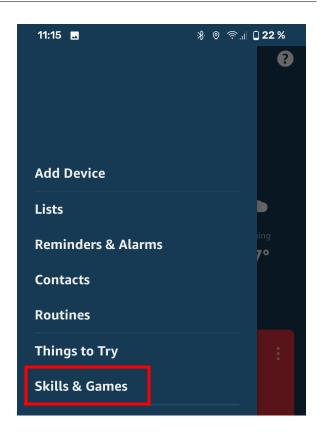 - User data from the Gira server (user name + password, determined during project planning)

Amazon Alexa portal

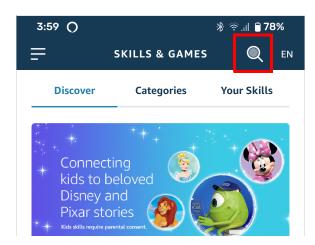The Gira Smart Home skill is set up in the Amazon Alexa App.

1. Open the Amazon Alexa App and tap the menu symbol in the top left corner.

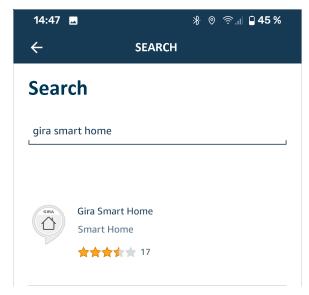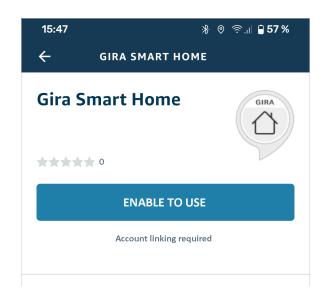2. Click "Skills & Games" in the column on the left.

3. Tap the magnifying glass symbol and enter "Gira Smart Home" in the search field.

4. Tap the "Gira Smart Home" entry found.
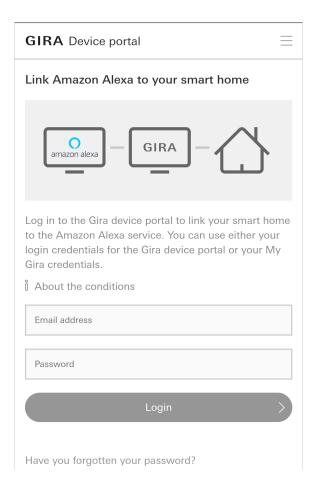
5. When the skill is displayed, click "Enable for Use".

By enabling the skill, you are redirected automatically to the Gira device portal:

Gira device portal
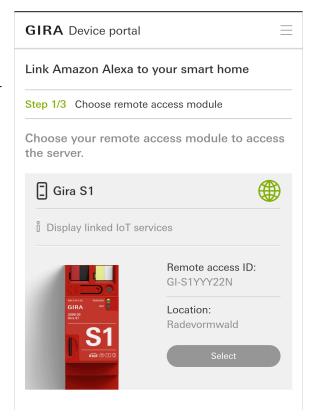
6. Enter your access data to log into the Gira device portal.

GIRA

setting up the Gira Smart Home skill

7. Select the remote access module that the skill should use for accessing the Gira server.
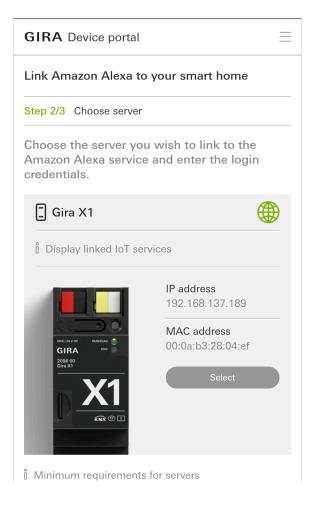Note:
If you have registered several remote access modules in the Gira device portal, these are provided for selection.

GIRA Device portal ≡

Link Amazon Alexa to your smart home

Step 1/3 Choose remote access module

Choose your remote access module to access the server.

📱 Gira S1 🌐

ℹ Display linked IoT services

Remote access ID:
GI-S1YYY22N

Location:
Radevormwald

Select

8. Select the Gira server (Gira X1 or Gira HomeServer) that the skill should use for controlling the building functions.
We recommend creating your own user (Gira X1) or profile (Gira HomeServer) for the skill. For the Gira HomeServer, the "Make available for IoT service" option must be activated on this user profile.

GIRA Device portal ≡

Link Amazon Alexa to your smart home

Step 2/3 Choose server

Choose the server you wish to link to the Amazon Alexa service and enter the login credentials.

📱 Gira X1 🌐

ℹ Display linked IoT services

IP address
192.168.137.189

MAC address
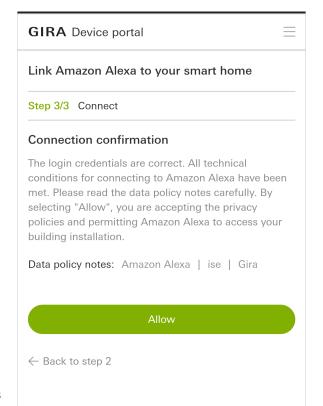00:0a:b3:28:04:ef

Select

ℹ Minimum requirements for servers

9. Enter the access data that was created for the skill when the Gira server was configured.

10. Click on "Login".
    If the password entered is correct, the "Connection confirmation" area is displayed.

Choose the server you wish to link to the Amazon Alexa service and enter the login credentials.

Gira X1

IP address
192.168.137.189

MAC address
00:0a:b3:28:04:ef

Gira X1 access credentials: (i)   ×

User name

Password

Login

11. Click "Allow" to create the link to the Amazon account.

GIRA Device portal

Link Amazon Alexa to your smart home

Step 3/3 Connect

Connection confirmation

The login credentials are correct. All technical conditions for connecting to Amazon Alexa have been met. Please read the data policy notes carefully. By selecting "Allow", you are accepting the privacy policies and permitting Amazon Alexa to access your building installation.

Data policy notes: Amazon Alexa | ise | Gira

Allow

← Back to step 2

12. Once "Allow" has been clicked, the link to Amazon is established.
    Close the window to return to the Amazon Alexa App.

GIRA

Amazon Alexa App

13. After successful connection, tap "Detect devices" in the Amazon Alexa App.
14. After a short time, all functions that have been created in the Gira project and are supported by Amazon (currently lighting, heating and shading functions, status queries and scenes) will be displayed as "Devices".
    In the app, you can permanently disable devices that are no longer required.
    Devices can also be renamed for Amazon Alexa.

Note

Please note that if devices are renamed in the Alexa App, the names assigned for Alexa in the GPA no longer apply but can still be used in the Gira Smart Home App.

Note:
Updating devices after changes in the project

After changing the Gira project in the GPA or the HomeServer Expert and restarting, the changes may not be displayed correctly in the Alexa App (especially when deleting functions).

In this case you should discard the "devices" (functions) found so far in the Amazon Alexa App.
You must then search for the devices for the Gira Smart Home skill again.

Examples for using the Gira Smart Home skill

After successfully setting up the Gira Smart Home skill, you can control your building functions using your voice. The following examples merely serve as suggestions.

Switching lights (switch on/off)

"Alexa, turn the [light name] on/off."

Dimming lights (absolute/relative dimming)

"Alexa, set the [light name] to 70%."
"Alexa, dim the [light name] by 70%."
"Alexa, make the [light name] brighter/darker."

Setting the light colour (RGB)

"Alexa, set the [light name] to blue."

Setting the light white percentage (Tunable White)

"Alexa, set the [light name] to warm/cool white."
"Alexa, make the [light name] warmer/cooler."

Scenes

"Alexa, start scene [name of scene]."
"Alexa, start [scene name]."

Heating control

"Alexa, turn [name of heating] on/off."
"Alexa, switch [name of heating] to Comfort (or Normal, Standard)."
"Alexa, switch [name of heating] to standby (or away, save, economy mode, energy saving)."
"Alexa, switch [name of heating] to night (or save)."
"Alexa, switch [name of heating] to frost protection (or heat protection, building protection)."
"Alexa, set [name of heating] to [X] degrees."
"Alexa, increase (or decrease, lower) temperature of [name of heating]."
(Regulation takes place in 2° steps)

Opening and closing the blinds and shutters

Note:
If you want to use the blind/shutter functions, the position data points with the data point type "percent" must be used when configuring the functions in the GPA.

"Alexa, set/move the [name of blinds] to 50%."
Raises/lowers blinds.
"Alexa, raise/lower [name of blinds]."
Raises/lowers the blinds.
"Alexa, open/close [name of blinds]."

"Alexa, move the [name of blind] up/down (or lower, raise)."
Moves the blinds up or down in steps of 10%. The increment cannot be changed as it is predefined by Amazon.
If you have created devices with the same name in several rooms in the GPA (e.g. if the blinds in every room are called "Blinds"), you must say the room name before or after the voice command. Like this, for example:
"Alexa, set/move the living room blinds to 50%."

Status queries

Setpoint temperature: "Alexa, how is [name of heating] set?"
Actual temperature: "Alexa, what's the temperature of [name of heating]?"
Mode: "Alexa, what's the mode of [name of heating]?"
Shutters/blinds: "Alexa, is [name of blinds] up/down (open/closed)?"
Shutters/blinds: "Alexa, how is [name of blinds] set?"

Known limitations

With the command "Alexa, blinds up" the blinds are moved further down.
If you say "Alexa, raise the blinds" instead, the blinds are raised correctly.

Voice control of air conditioning systems via the Gira Smart Home skill is currently not supported by Amazon Alexa. Even if the air conditioning function is displayed by Amazon Alexa as a found device, it cannot be operated by voice command.

FAQs

Why is my remote access module not displayed in the Gira device portal's selection list?

• Check the internet connection and power supply to the device.

• Make sure that your remote access module (e.g. Gira S1) is registered in the Gira device portal. Further information on registering and transferring ownership of the Gira S1 in the Gira device portal can be found in the technical documentation for the Gira S1. You can download this at: download.gira.de.

Why is my Gira Server not displayed in the Gira device portal's selection list?

Please check the following:

• Check the internet connection and power supply of the desired device.

• Make sure that your server (e.g. Gira X1) has the latest firmware.

• Then, start a new search.

What internet bandwidth is required for Amazon Alexa?

To use IoT services such as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant, your DSL speed should be at least 6 Mbps.

Which languages are supported by Amazon Alexa?

Currently (May 2020), Amazon Alexa supports the following languages:
English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese.

I have two remote access modules for two separate apartments (second residence/holiday home). How can I set up Amazon Alexa for both?

For each of the apartments, you will need a separate account on the Gira device portal and with Amazon Alexa. First, set up the corresponding accounts for your second home. Then add the new device portal account in the user management section of the remote access module.

In my apartment building, I have several remote access modules that can be used by different families. How can we use Amazon Alexa?

Each family will need a separate account on the Gira device portal and with Amazon Alexa. After setting up the accounts, you can activate the desired remote access module for each family.

In a two-party house (semi-detached house/self-contained flat) Amazon Alexa should be implemented via a Gira S1 and a Gira X1.

Each party needs a separate account on the Gira device portal and with Amazon Alexa. In the GPA project, the functions of the Gira X1 must be assigned to party A or B via the user administration function. When linking the Amazon account with the Gira X1, the respective user data of the Gira X1 for party A or B must then be entered in order to operate the correct functions/devices via voice command.

I'm an electrician. How can I set up Amazon Alexa for my client?

Your client must set up Amazon Alexa him/herself. Your client will need a separate account with Amazon Alexa and on the Gira device portal.

I share a remote access module with other families in an apartment building. Every family uses its own Gira server. How can we use Amazon Alexa?
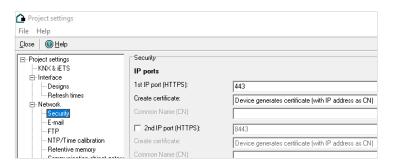
Each family will need a separate account on the Gira device portal and with Amazon Alexa. After setting up the accounts, you can activate the remote access module for each family.

I have several Gira servers and would like to use several IoT services such as IFTTT, Alexa, and Google Assistant. How can I do this?

You can create links with several IoT services by selecting the same Gira server for each IoT service during set-up. The use of different services via several Gira servers and one account on the Gira device portal is not supported.

Which settings do I need to make on the Gira HomeServer?

- In the project settings, the HTTPS port must be set to 443.

- In QuadConfig, the "Make available for IoT service" option must be enabled in the user profile for the skill.