



HCA Tech Note

Alexa changes for program support (updated 3-Jan-17)

Alexa support has been improved for programs. To start a program, you can say to Alexa:

Alexa, turn on <program name>

or

Alexa, turn off <program name>

In both cases the program is started. In the first case, it is started by an ON trigger and the second case by an OFF trigger. Within the program you can test for the string trigger using the Test element.

The new support is to allow the use of the Alexa Dim and Bright actions with programs like this:

Alexa, increase <program name> by <percent>

Alexa, decrease <program name> by <percent>

Alexa, dim <program name>

Alexa, brighten <program name>

Alexa, set <program name> to <percent>

With the change in Alexa support, the program is started and arguments made available to the program with the action and percent from the phrase. These values can be tested in the program to perform different actions based upon that test.

To use this new support, first enable parameters in the program. This is done on the “Advanced tab”.

Parameterized Program

This program supports parameters

Parameters are defined in the Begin-Here element. When started from another program using Start-Program, the actual objects are selected to use when elements of this program operate upon one of its parameters.

This allows you to have sections of your design defined by programs that are used to implement complex actions on different objects without duplicating the program elements.

Next, in the program itself open the properties of the Start-Here element and define two parameters. The names are up to you but they must be value parameters.



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Begin Here Properties

When the Start-Program element is used to start this program it provides the actual data for these parameters. The data can either be an object - a selected device, program, group, or room - or a simple value - a number or string.

In the elements of this program you refer to the parameters by their name and when the element is executed the actual values supplied by the starting program are used.

Provide each parameter a unique name and specify if it is used for an object or value.

Parameter count: 2

Parameter 1 name: action Value

Parameter 2 name: level Value

OK Cancel

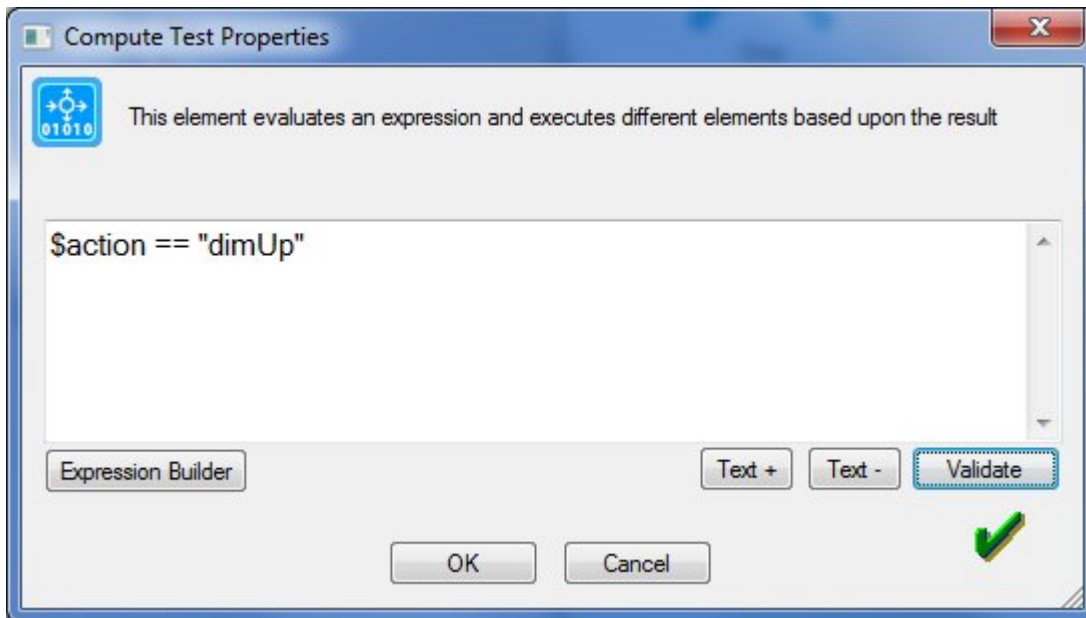
When the program is run, Alexa will take what you say and make available the parts of the phrase as arguments to the program as follows:

What you say	Parameter 1	parameter 2
Alexa, increase <program name> by <percent>	dimup	percent value
Alexa, decrease <program name> by <percent>	dimdown	percent value
Alexa, dim <program name>	dimdown	always 25
Alexa, brighten <program name>	dimup	always 25
Alexa, set <program name> to <percent>	dim	percent value

You can test the parameter value using the Compute-Test element within the program. For example:



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For more information about using Parameters in programs review the user guide programs chapter in the section titled *Parameterized Programs*.

Very important Note: If you want to use this new “dimable programs” feature you must forget all your devices in the Alexa app and then rediscover.

##end##