



Autoplay continuous play v2

Alexa Music Skills Kit Developer Documentation

Version 1.7

Document version control

#	Documentation updates	Version number	Date
1	Initial document creation	1	2/3/2022
2	Adding new SPI	1.1	3/8/2022
3	Removing Loop value from PlaybackContinuation enum	1.2	3/30/2022
4	Autoplay CX updates and Alexa App reference additions	1.3	7/1/2022
5	Minor update in SPI attribute description	1.4	7/21/2022
6	Added Appendix section with a matrix to explain the API call pattern for GUI/VUI scenarios	1.5	7/26/2022
7	Added onto section 1 of the appendix to explain the differences in outcomes between turning autoplay on via voice when listening to the last track and when not listening to the last track in the play-queue	1.6	8/10/2022
8	Edited some of the response prompts to account for latest simplified CX.	1.7	8/10/2022
9	Adding changes for default-on change (ETA H2-2023).	1.8	4/10/2023

OVERVIEW:

Autoplay enables music providers on Alexa to continue playing similar songs based on what customers requested to listening to. Enabling Autoplay on Alexa takes only an ask: *Alexa turn on autoplay*. And when you hit the end of a song or playlist, similar music will continue to play (please reference section 1 of the appendix to see detailed scenarios and their outcomes with Autoplay enabled). Customers don't have to think what to play next, and they may discover some interesting new music along the way. We expect this feature to drive increased listening minutes engagement.

In H2-2023, we are planning to default Alexa Music Autoplay to on for supported music providers. Prior to this launch, Autoplay will remain an opt-in experience. Please contact your Alexa tech PoC to understand which elements of the interface are required to be implemented in preparation for this change.

CUSTOMER VUI EXPERIENCE:



A. Customer Autoplay utterances:

1. Enabling Autoplay: “**Alexa, [Turn on/Enable] [Autoplay/Continuous Play]**”
2. Disabling Autoplay: “**Alexa, [Turn off/Disable] [Autoplay/Continuous Play]**”

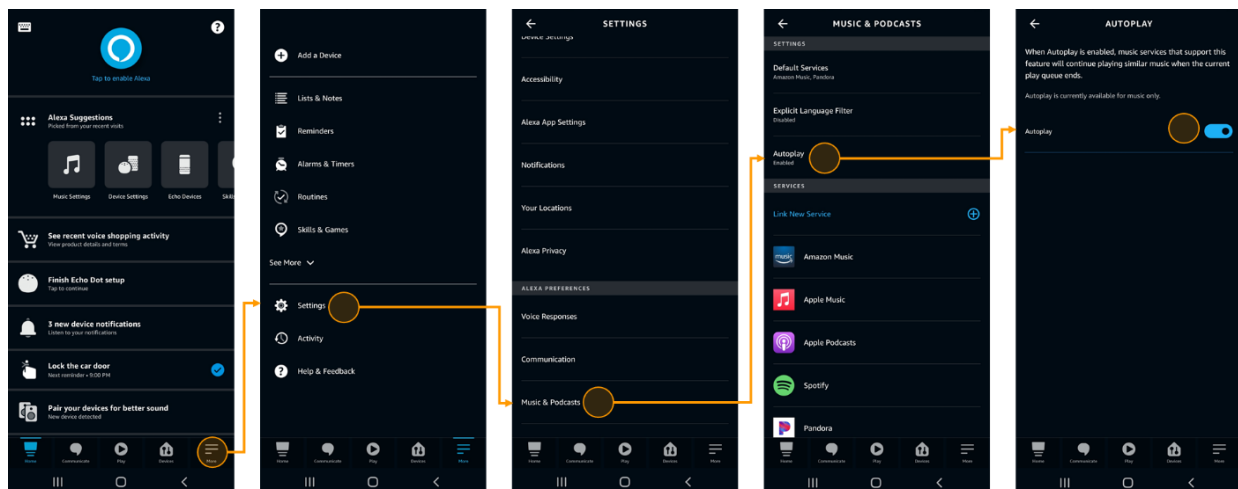
B. Alexa response prompts:

3. Enabling Autoplay: “**Autoplay is turned on for supported music providers.**”
4. Disabling Autoplay: “**Autoplay is turned off for supported music providers.**”

Note: in H2-2023, associated with the update to default Autoplay to on, we will be using Alexa to inform a customer 1-time (1) that Autoplay has been enabled, and (2) how to update their Autoplay setting. Tentatively, Alexa will say: “*Autoplaying similar music is now enabled; to update this setting, just ask to turn on or off Autoplay.*”

CUSTOMER GUI EXPERIENCE:

The Alexa App setting to enable and disable Autoplay can be found in the app under *More/Settings/Music & Podcasts*



IMPLEMENTATION

There are 2 APIs that the provider skill will update or implement if the provider supports autoplay:

1. Initiate (updated)
2. SetPlaybackContinuation (new API to implement)
3. GetNextItem/GetPreviousItem (updated)

Initiate

As noted above, a new `playbackContinuation` attribute will be added to the `playbackModes` field in the existing Initiate request.

A provider that supports Autoplay should update their skill to deserialize this field from the request, and use it for that customer's queue. Each queue will be started with a new Initiate request, so the value of this attribute does not apply to future queues created for the customer.

	Attribute	Description	Required?	Type
1	<code>requestContext</code>	Context information about the request.	Yes	A RequestContext object.
2	<code>filters</code>	Filters to apply during content resolution.	Yes	A Filter object.
3	<code>contentId</code>	The content to use for creating a playback queue.	Yes	String
4	<code>currentItemReference</code>	The item that is currently playing (active) on the target endpoint, if any. This property is absent when nothing is playing. Use this property to determine whether the playback session starts on an endpoint where no stream is playing, or it replaces an existing stream on an endpoint.	Yes	A MediaReference object.
5	<code>playbackModes</code>	The playback modes requested by the user, as described following.	Yes	Object
6	<code>playbackModes.shuffle</code>	True to shuffle the queue, false to play the queue in order.	Yes	Boolean
7	<code>playbackModes.loop</code>	True to start playing the queue again after it finishes, false to end.	Yes	Boolean
8	<code>playbackModes.playbackContinuation</code>	Determines what playback continuation to use for the playqueue: None, <code>Provider_Preference</code> or <code>Autoplay</code> . None ends playback after the initial queue ends. Provider_Preference defers to the user's provider specific settings. Autoplay keeps providing similar music after the initial request completes.	Yes	["NONE", "PROVIDER_PREFERENCE", "AUTOPLAY"]

```
{
  "header": {
    "namespace": "Alexa.Media.Playback",
    "name": "Initiate",
    "messageId": "",
    "payloadVersion": "1.0"
  },
  "payload": {
    "requestContext": {
      "user": {
        "id": "amzn1.ask.account.AGF3NETIE4MNXNG2Z64Z27RXB6JCK2R62BCPYUZI",
        "accessToken": "e72e16c7e42f292c6912e7710c838347ae178b4a"
      },
      "location": {
        "originatingLocale": "en-US"
      }
    },
    "filters": {
      "explicitLanguageAllowed": true
    },
    "contentId": "1021012f-12bb-4938-9723-067a4338b6d0",
    "playbackModes": {
      "shuffle": false,
      "loop": true,
      "playbackContinuation": "AUTOPLAY"
    }
  }
}
```

```

    }
  }
}

```

Note: If none - don't alter behavior of the queue

SetPlaybackContinuation

SetPlaybackContinuation is a new API. This API will be used when the customer changes the autoplay setting while a queue is currently being played. Providers that support autoplay will need to implement this new API.

If a queue is created with autoplay enabled, and the customer disables autoplay, this API will be called with a request that indicates autoplay is now disabled for the queue. The provider should end the queue as appropriate. For example, if the queue is for an album with multiple tracks, playback would end when the album is complete, or If the album tracks have been played and the queue is in the continuation portion of the queue then the queue can end when the next GetNextItem request is received.

Similarly, if the queue was created with autoplay disabled, and the customer enabled autoplay, this API will be called with a request that indicates that autoplay is now enabled for the queue. The provider should enable autoplay for the queue and continue to provide items for playback indefinitely when the next GetNextItem request is received.

For single tracks or albums with single tracks, the GetNextItem request might be sent prior to SetPlaybackContinuation, which means continuous playback cannot resume immediately and would have to be from the subsequent music request. This would apply when we are on the last track in a given collection of tracks as well.

	Attribute	Description	Required?	Type
1	requestContext	Context information about the request.	Yes	A RequestContext object.
2	currentItemReference	The item that is currently playing (active) on the target endpoint, if any. This property is absent when nothing is playing. Use this property to determine whether the playback session starts on an endpoint where no stream is playing, or it replaces an existing stream on an endpoint.	Yes	A MediaReference object.
3	playbackContinuation	Determines what playback continuation to use for the playqueue: None, Provider_Preference or Autoplay. None ends playback after the initial queue ends. Provider_Preference defers to the user's provider specific settings. Autoplay keeps providing similar music after the initial request completes.	Yes	["NONE", "PROVIDER_PREFERENCE", "AUTOPLAY"]

```

{
  "header": {
    "namespace": "Alexa.Media.PlayQueue",
    "name": "SetPlaybackContinuation",
    "messageId": "message id, a 25-character random alphanumeric string",
    "payloadVersion": "1.0"
  },
  "payload": {
    "requestContext": {
      "user": {
        "id": "ID"
      },
      "location": {
        "originatingLocale": "en-US",
        "countryCode": "US"
      }
    }
  }
}

```

```

    },
    "endpoint": null
  },
  "currentItemReference": {
    "namespace": "Alexa.Audio.PlayQueue",
    "name": "item",
    "value": {
      "id": "item ID",
      "queueId": "queue ID",
      "contentId": "content ID"
    }
  },
  "autoplayContinuation": "AUTOPLAY"
}

```

GetNextItem/GetPreviousItem

A new `selectionReason` attribute will be added to the `Item` returned in the `GetNextItem/GetPreviousItem` response. This attribute will be used as a signal to Alexa to let the customer know if content returned is due to autoplay feature such as multimodal badging, or a 1 time prompt to notify customer autoplay has been turned on.

A provider that supports Autoplay should return `Items` with the value corresponding to the reason the `Item` was selected. For example, if Alexa asks a given piece of content to be Initiated with autoplay, Alexa will expect `Items` that belong to the content to have the value `ORIGINAL`. `Items` that do not belong but are included due to autoplay should have the value `AUTOPLAY`.

	Attribute	Description	Required?	Type
1	Item	An (audio) item that contains within it an identifier and metadata (for example, art URLs, author name, title, etc.), and a Stream containing the playback URL	Yes	A Item object.
2	Item.PlaybackInfo	An object that describes which business rules Alexa should run when playing an item	Yes	A PlaybackInfo object.
3	Item.PlaybackInfo.Type	The type of playback info	Yes	String
4	Item.PlaybackInfo.SelectionReason	This defines a reason, if any that an item was selected to be enqueued. ORIGINAL or AUTOPLAY. ORIGINAL item retrieved due to customer's original request AUTOPLAY item retrieved due to autoplay	Yes, for Autoplay Default-On in H2-2023	["ORIGINAL", "AUTOPLAY"]

```

{
  "header": {
    "messageId": "",
    "namespace": "Alexa.Audio.PlayQueue",
    "name": "GetNextItem.Response",
    "payloadVersion": "1.0"
  },
  "payload": {
    "item": {
      "id": "ITEM_ID|2",
      "playbackInfo": {
        "type": "DEFAULT",
        "selectionReason": "AUTOPLAY"
      }
    }
  }
}

```

```

        "metadata": {...},
        "durationInMilliseconds": 180000,
        "controls": [{
            "enabled": true,
            "type": "COMMAND",
            "name": "NEXT"
        }],
        "rules": {
            "feedbackEnabled": true,
            "feedback": null,
            "recommendation": null
        },
        "stream": {...},
        "feedback": {
            "type": "PREFERENCE",
            "value": "POSITIVE"
        }
    },
    "isQueueFinished": false
}

```

APPENDIX :

1. API invocation and Autoplay behavior in various scenarios :

	When Music IS NOT streaming	When Music IS streaming, but for the last item in the queue	When Music IS streaming, but NOT for the last item in the queue
GUI (Toggle Autoplay setting via app)	- No API requests triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay	- No API requests triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay	- No API requests triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay
VUI (Asking Alexa to "Enable/Disable Autoplay")	- No API requests triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay	- SetPlaybackContinuation API request is triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay	- SetPlaybackContinuation API request is triggered. - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for current music request via SetPlaybackContinuation API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay - Autoplay will be enabled/disabled for subsequent music requests as well via Initiate API request having playbackContinuation: Autoplay