Making Virtual Assistants Accessible
3. Using Ring Doorbell

deafscotland is the user led, membership organisation for the deaf sector in Scotland. For more information, visit the deafscotland website by clicking here: https://deafscotland.org/.

The current UK-wide COVID-19 pandemic has brought the impact and understanding of social isolation into the mainstream and raised awareness of the devastating effects isolation can have. We have seen a recent increase in the use of virtual communication technology which allows people to stay connected. Virtual Assistant devices are being used more regularly to bridge this communication gap.

1. How to use Ring doorbell:
Ring video doorbell alerts you when someone rings your doorbell or if movement is detected at your property. Announcements are sent to your phone, tablet or PC with you being able to see, hear and speak to visitors when this happens no matter where you are. Ring is available in a range of products and can be linked to Amazon Alexa-enabled devices. See Factsheet VA.2 'How to use the Amazon Echo'.

Any Ring doorbell or security camera can be set up for two way communication. This two way audio/video communication can be supported on Amazon Echo Dot, Echo Spot and Echo Show. When linked, announcements will be heard through the Echo when anyone presses the doorbell or something triggers the motion sensors.

2. How to connect Ring to Alexa supported devices:
Connecting Ring devices to an Echo is a simple process. To do this, download the Alexa app and add Ring as a skill in your Alexa app.

Once done, you will then be able to direct your Ring device with voice commands, as well as watch live videos from them if you have an Echo Show or Echo Spot.

To connect your Ring device

Open Alexa.

Tap Menu.

Tap Skills & Games.

On the next screen, search for Ring in the search box.

Tap Enable.

Next, Alexa will ask you to sign in to your Ring account.

Doing so will link your Ring account to your Alexa account.

After signing in, tap Discover Devices.

All of your Ring devices should appear and be connected to Alexa automatically.

If you don't want Alexa to connect with a particular Ring device Tap Forget on the right side.

When movement triggers the alert on your Ring device, your Amazon Echo will flash yellow, send an audible chime and announce that someone is at the door.

Live View allows you to access live video from your Ring doorbell and see, hear and speak to whoever is at your front door from wherever you are. Live View can be controlled by the Ring app. By saying: "Alexa, show my front door," you will instantly get a live video of your front door on an Echo Show. If you want to speak, you can un-mute the microphone and begin a conversation with whoever is at your front door. This means if you are not home or unable to answer the door you can still communicate with the person who is at the front door. To stop seeing the video, simply say: "Alexa, hide my front door."

3. Security:
Ring makes it look like you are at home even when you are not. Ring has been upgraded with additional security features for the home including improved motion detection. Motion detection can be adapted to focus on specific areas around your home. For example, if lots of people come to your kitchen door or your cat comes and goes through a cat flap on your garage door, you can use the Adjustable Motion Zones as well as the Near Motion Zone and decide what announcements you want.

Ring can also be used with Echos and linked to any Smart lighting, heating, white goods.

You can set your lights to come on for when you get home or when you would normally go to bed, if you are away.

To create a Routine in the Alexa app on your mobile phone or tablet:

Go to Menu.

Tap Routines.

Select the + icon in the top right corner.

Select When This Happens and then choose Device option to create a Routine triggered by Ring devices.

Many Ring devices come with a free trial period of Ring Protect. You can then choose to subscribe at any time to Ring Protect to share your videos and photos captured by your video doorbell with anyone, including neighbours, friends and family.

Ring devices can be connected together in the Ring app creating a simple complete Ring of Security for your home.

Ring app, creating one, simple complete Ring of Security for your home. This feature, Linked Devices, connects your Ring devices including video doorbells and security cameras together and provides instructions for a group of devices to begin functioning whenever any of them are activated. If a movement triggers your Ring video doorbell and recording begins, if enabled, Linked Devices takes over and other devices such as Ring Floodlight Cam and Spotlight Cam will immediately turn on their lights and begin recording as well, this way, your Ring devices are able to react and protect you as a team.

We welcome your feedback

To make sure that this factsheet always has best practice and shows the best use of Virtual Assistants and related technology, we invite you to share your experiences both positive and negative. Please contact us at admin@deafscotland.org.