

VOICE-CONTROLLED HYBRID RADIO: DAB+FM+IP+VOICE

A broadcast-capable Smart Speaker

The goal of this project is to demonstrate how a voice-controlled device can receive broadcast services. Using voice recognition to access a broadcast signal for audio will enable radio services to better scale onto these new platforms.

“Alexa,
play Radio
Pop...”



Current smart speakers rely on an IP connection to deliver radio services. Each additional listener adds to the cost of distribution: to the listener, the broadcaster, or both.

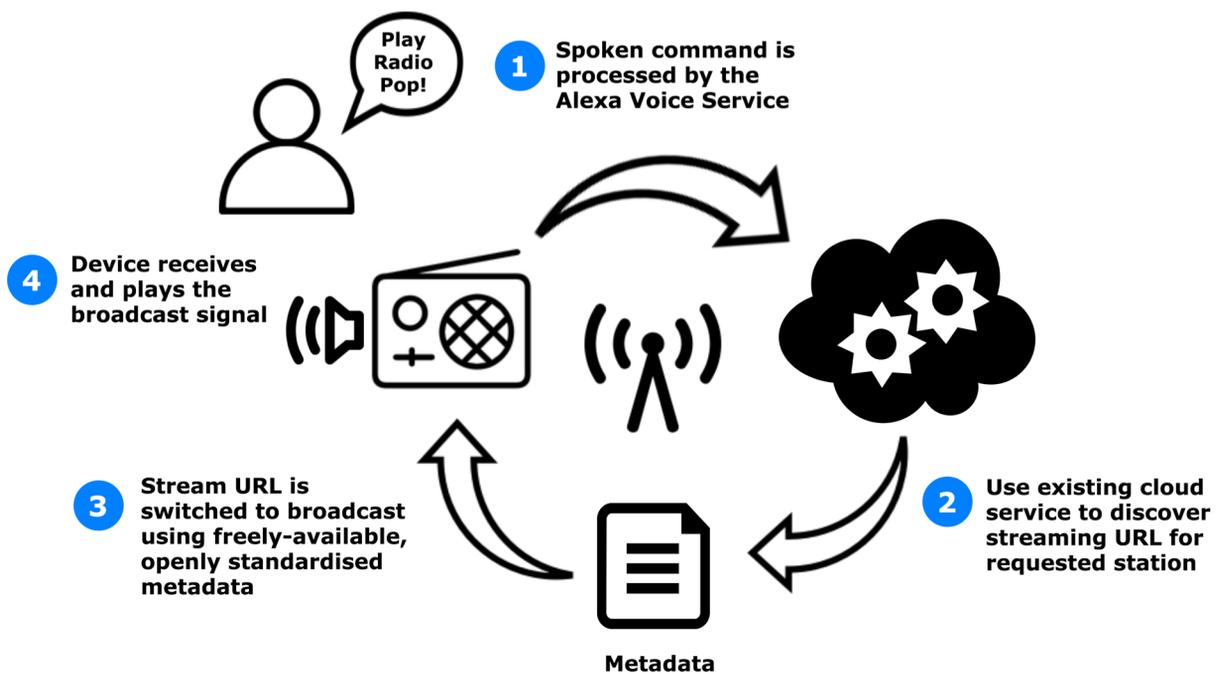
Broadcast is a resilient, free-to-air means of distribution for mass audiences, something that is vital for Public Service Media and others.

How it works

When a user asks for a radio service, the device will attempt to fetch the audio over an IP connection by obtaining its stream address, as normal.

To enable the use of broadcast instead of IP, the device knows about all of the available local services on FM and DAB+. By performing a Hybrid Radio Lookup (using RadioDNS) it locates additional openly-standardized metadata from the broadcaster, including all the different ways to listen to their services.

By linking the fetched stream address to available broadcast services, it is then able to activate its broadcast hardware to receive the service, instead of needing to open an IP connection.



This project is funded jointly by the EBU and PILOT



PILOT is a coalition of innovators, educators and advocates, established by the US National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), dedicated to advancing broadcast technology and cultivating new media opportunities.



Frontier Smart Technologies is a pioneer in technologies for Digital Radio and voice-enabled Smart Audio devices. As part of this project, Frontier has supplied its Verona 2 DAB/FM module and worked with the EBU on integrating it with the Alexa Voice Service.

This project is also made possible thanks to the work of both Radiate Ideas and Togglebit.

