

AUTOMOTIVE

BMW integrates voice control through Alexa connectivity

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BMW Connected will soon integrate with Alexa

By STAFF REPORTS

German automaker BMW is enabling owners to operate functions of their vehicles from inside their homes by integrating Amazon's Alexa voice service.

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An extension of the BMW Connected application launched earlier this year that allows for remote control of functions and journey management, this latest development adds voice commands. BMW is the first automaker to announce Alexa compatibility within the United Kingdom and Germany, with this new integration available as early as late September.

Connected car

With vehicles becoming versatile smart devices in addition to modes of transportation, BMW launched BMW Connected to exemplify these changes. The digital concept will improve the convenience of contemporary mobility challenges, integrating the brand more fully into the consumers' lives.

BMW Connected works with a platform called the Open Mobility Cloud on Microsoft Azure and currently syncs with users' iPhones, Apple Watches and Android devices ([see story](#)).



BMW Connected

The Alexa-integrated version of BMW Connected was unveiled at the Consumer Electronics Show earlier this year.

Alexa is the virtual brains behind Amazon's Echo speaker. Consumers can give vocal commands to Alexa or ask it questions.

For BMW owners, the Alexa integration will allow for tasks to be completed, such as locking the vehicle remotely or sending an itinerary to the car. Alexa can also share information such as the battery charge or fuel level on the car.

After launching in the U.S. later this month, this new service will roll out to the U.K. in the following weeks, with an invitation-only German launch in October.

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