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Can the Amazon Echo turn your living room into an escape room? Ian Lyton/CNET Amazon digital assistant Alexa can play a lot of games at the moment. Most offer some changes to party games and trivia, but some promise more in-depth experiences. The one that intrigued me the most is designed to play one of my favorite group game activities - evacuation rooms. These puzzle-solving diversions are on the rise in a number of cities. You are locked in a real physical room and then have an hour to find clues and escape. They're awesome, and a free game called Escape Room is trying to replicate the experience on Alexa with support for smart speakers like the Amazon Echo. I was highly skeptical at first glance. I've done a number of real escape rooms, and don't think talking to a speaker can come anywhere close to the real experience. While you should allow the occasional frustration from the game without realizing what you want to do, Escape Room does a surprisingly good job of replicating the atmosphere and basic mechanics of real rooms - you just need to have pen and paper ready, along with some patience and a large dose of imagination. The room you wake up stuck in the office, or in the car. Alexa's free escape number skill actually offers a few scenarios that you can play, but these were the two I tried. You activate the skill by talking to any Alexa speaker and saying: Alexa, open Escape the Room. At this point, the game kicks in action, and Alexa briefs you on what you can say to control the game. Alexa also warns you that you can find puzzles hard, and offers you a list of different scenarios to choose from. I chose the office and the car as they were the first two options on this list. Alexa then briefly describes the scene, tells you that you are trapped and then encourages you to start taking steps to avoid. Aside from I'm in this car and I'm stuck for some reason, there's not much history. Don't expect to know who kidnapped you and why. But it didn't bother me much. Real escape numbers don't have much in the way of history either. Each scenario offers a bit of extra context - you've been kidnapped by a serial killer or you're a team of spies, and you need to figure out where the Willians are going - but you're always essentially just looking for a number of codes, clues and puzzles to get to the next clue. Actual answers don't have much to do with history. The story is just there to help set the mood. In this sense, Escape The Room has scripts that serve the same purpose. Physical escape rooms traditionally involve some stakes in their story - the reason you have exactly an hour to get out is because the killer is on his way to get you! Escape from the room doesn't have that. It's not even clear if you're limited an hour - and there's nothing as bright as the actual clock ticking traditionally present in most Escape rooms. See all the photos of no 11 More puzzlesPart for the reason I I am I clear on time with escape number no puzzle took me anywhere close to an hour to solve. Both times it took me 20 to 30 minutes, although I had a few colleagues who helped a second time - partly because it's amazingly fun and they wanted to join, and partly because I wanted to see how the game is handled by multiple voices. The fact that the puzzles are shorter is a bit disappointing. The more elaborate escape rooms took eight of us 50 to 55 minutes to decide. However, Escape Room gets the feeling of the actual escape room puzzle correctly. In the game you can look up, down, forward, left or right. The game tells you what you see in any direction. Examine everything you find and you will collect clues to help you unlock and discover items in other parts of the room. Some puzzles are pleasantly intuitive - you need to find a screwdriver if you want to get behind the panel that is screwed against the wall. Some are confusingly confusing - without spoiling anything, the discerning proper combination of colors for the puzzle was tricky in both scenarios I played. However, this confusion reflects my experience with actual escape numbers. The logic of many of these puzzles doesn't hold up much attention either. With both, you just need to keep checking what you see and putting pieces of individual puzzles together without worrying about how much sense any of it makes to the bigger picture. Also, as the real thing, once you've solved the puzzle, there's little reason to go back. Developers have just launched a new script - Escape the Airplane - with a total of five scenarios after running with three, so hopefully they keep adding more. As it stands, five adventures of 30 minutes each is not bad, given it's free. Real escape numbers take a similar replacement approach in new themed rooms for old ones to give returning players reasons to keep coming back. If you're stuck, real escape numbers have a guide to watch that can give you a contextual hint. Escape the Room offers one general hint for free, but makes you pay for further contextual hints - \$3 for all the hints for a \$0.50 script for Prime members (the hint price is converted to about 2 euros and AU\$4). I don't mind the idea of paying for tips too much, since the skill itself is free and real escape rooms cost between \$20 and \$30 per person (Converted, it's about 15 to 20 pounds and AU\$27 to AU\$40). Now Playing: Watch This: We're trying Westworld games for Amazon's Alexa and iOS/Android ExecutionThis is obviously more appealing to look around the physical room in search of clues. The few escape rooms I tried were particularly good at hiding clues in a simple site. If Escape Room mentions something, you should probably check it out. Instead of deciding that In a room with dozens of things to watch, you just have to tell Alexa to check 8 to 10 interacting objects, then figure out how they fit together. In addition to restrictions Escape Room suffers from several performance problems as well. Some phrases that need to be used are not intuitive and you have to be very careful with your language when you give command. For example, if Alexa reads out a long key or crosses through a series of objects, you can't just say repeat it. You have to explore the area again. Alexa also didn't understand when I called the trash can a trash can. And a couple of times I got stuck, even though I knew what to do, mainly because I couldn't figure out which team was needed to do it. It's aggravating to try to interact with the lock or seat belt that Alexa just mentioned, only for it to be said: No seat belts to interact with just because you missed one step in your wording. Editor's note: This is Andrew's editor, Rich, an old man. The game Andrew describes here sounds a bit like zork to me. Andrew says he's heard of zork, but he doesn't know him. Perhaps, if you're an old man too, you've heard of zork, and you'll find my comparison appropriate. You probably also need to make a mortgage payment, or lie down on the ground to relieve back pain. You can play Escape the Room for free on any Alexa-enabled smart speaker. Ian Lyton/CNET As you might expect with a smart speaker, playing a game with multiple people can be difficult. You want to make sure your group is coordinated when it's time to give Alexa commands. If a few people say at once, Alexa won't understand and you won't get anywhere. In real escape rooms, having multiple groups working on different puzzles and looking at different places is almost a necessity. That's a hindrance. So Escape Room certainly doesn't capture all the cooperative magic of real escape rooms. I fondly remember a lot of narrow shoots, and getting a beer afterwards with my cohort to summarize our puzzle-solving feats and near misses is part of the fun. But Escape the Room is free, you can do it on the couch and it doesn't spoil anything for real escape rooms. In fact, Escape Room does a surprisingly good job of replicating the character experience as long as you are ready to meet it halfway with your imagination and patience. For me, I plan to use this game as a great way to tide myself out, while my friends can work the time to solve the next real puzzle set together. 25 games you and Alexa can play together: If you thought Alexa was all the work and didn't play, you are very wrong. Westworld Amazon Alexa game brings you back online as host: The game is a reward for fans - if you can stay alive. Alive, alexa escape room garage. alexa escape room office. alexa escape room jail. alexa escape room car. alexa escape room cheats. alexa escape room spaceship. alexa escape room spaceship safe code. alexa escape room games

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