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Outbound (CX Contact) CX Contact Help

[Create an SMS Template](#)

Contents

- 1 Create SMS Content
 - 1.1 Create an Alert SMS Template
 - 1.2 Create a Variable SMS Template
 - 1.3 Add Message Content
 - 1.4 Supported Keywords
 - 1.5 Character Length in Message Bodies
- 2 Personalized Content



- Administrator

Learn how to build and modify SMS templates if you plan to run a campaign using the SMS channel.

Related documentation:

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Create SMS Content

To get started, you need to create an SMS dialing profile

When you set up your SMS profile, you'll see a tab named **Content**. This is where you'll create a template for an SMS message and one for responses to Help and Opt-out requests from customers.

New SMS Dialing Profile

* **General** Dialing Treatments * **Content** Advanced

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

SMS Alert Template

Alert script with support for HELP and opt-out

* **Type**

Variable Alert 

Alert

Variable Alert

Use "Smart Filter" 

On 

* **Default**

To begin, specify the following:

- Type - Select **Alert** or **Variable Alert**. When you select **Variable Alert**, you can create additional SMS templates by clicking the plus button. The templates can have different Sender IDs and messages.
- Labels - If you plan to personalize messages using fields you defined in a labeling schema, select the labeling schema here. Otherwise, the Personalization menu will populate the default CX Contact list fields. See the Personalized Content section below for more information.
- Use Smart Filter - When enabled (default), CX Contact removes unnecessary symbols, spaces, and line breaks before sending the text message.

Important

The type of template cannot be changed after a dialing profile is created.

Create an Alert SMS Template

Watch this video to learn how to create a general SMS template.

[Link to video](#)

Create a Variable SMS Template

For variable alerts, the first template you create is the default template. For subsequent templates you can add a custom JavaScript expression in the **Selection Expression** field, which evaluates the conditions for a True or False outcome. True allows for that template to be used. If the conditions specified in all such expression fields fail, the default template is used.

Watch this video to learn how to create a variable SMS template.

[Link to video](#)

Add Message Content

Now, insert the text into the message body for each type of alert message:

- Initial Message - The initial outbound message, also known as the Message Termination (MT).
- Help Response - The response used when a customer texts the Help or Info keyword. See the Supported Keywords section for a list of supported keywords.
- Opt-out/Stop Response - The response used when a customer texts the **Stop** keyword. Those customers are automatically added to the suppression list. Additional Supported Keywords such as, **Unsubscribe**, **Cancel**, **Quit**, and **End** will also automatically add the customers device/mobile number to the suppression list.

Important

ARRET and UNSUB are supported Opt-Out/Stop responses for Canada.

The screenshot displays three message templates in a messaging interface. Each template has a title, a 'Personalization' section with an 'Add personalization' button, a text area, a character count, and a mobile phone icon with a right-pointing arrow.

- Initial Message:** The text area contains "Hi first_name Last Name x your balance x for account x is above your limit. Please make payment immediately." The character count is 109/160 Characters.
- Help Response:** The text area contains "This is a message from company_name. More info call...". The character count is 54/160 Characters.
- Stop Response:** The text area contains "You have been removed from future communications." The character count is 49/160 Characters.

A blue button labeled "Send Test SMS" is located at the bottom right of the interface.

Supported Keywords

The following is a list of supported keywords. These are not case sensitive.

- Help
- Info
- Stop
- Unsubscribe
- Cancel
- Quit
- Aide
- Arret
- Unsub
- Unstop
- Start
- Subscribe
- Resume

Tip

Alpha or alphanumeric Sender IDs cannot receive mobile-originated (MO) SMS responses. Therefore, CX Contact disables **Edit** dialogs in the UI for the **Stop** and **Help** keywords if the Sender ID's are configured for an SMS Campaign Group.

Custom keywords

You can override the default keywords for the options Help and Stop/Opt out and specify custom ones. When you add a personalized response for the Stop or Help options, click the **Override Stop Keywords** or **Override Help Keywords** buttons to set custom keywords. You can specify multiple custom keywords and delete the ones that you don't want. Keywords can include both alphabets and digits. If required, you can also use GUIDs in keywords.

The image shows two screenshots of the CX Contact user interface. The top screenshot is for the 'Help Response' configuration. It features a text input field with the placeholder text 'Required' and a character count of '0/160 Characters'. Below the input field, there is a 'Personalization' section with an 'Add personalization' button and a checked 'Override Help Keywords' button, which is circled in red. The bottom screenshot is for the 'Stop Response' configuration. It features a similar text input field with the placeholder text 'Required' and a character count of '0/160 Characters'. Below the input field, there is a 'Personalization' section with an 'Add personalization' button and an 'Override Stop Keywords' button, which is circled in red. A 'Send Test SMS' button is located at the bottom right of the second screenshot.

Character Length in Message Bodies

There is no limit to the amount of characters in the message body text, but sending an SMS with more than 160 characters is enabled with SMS Concatenation. Also, when using Personalized content, those field values count toward the maximum field length. Every tag counts as 10 characters.

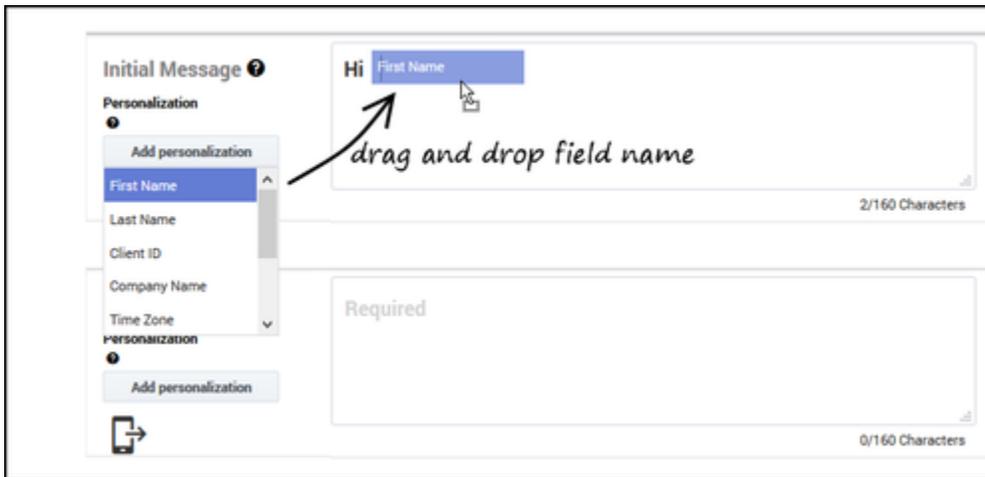
Important

Delivering content with more than 160 characters requires the system to send multiple SMS messages. Since each SMS incurs costs, please consider this when creating content over 160 characters.

Personalized Content

To personalize a message (for example, greet the customer by name):

1. Select the labeling schema from the Labels menu
2. From the personalization menu, drag the contact list field name to the body of the message.



Important

When you use the personalization feature, we recommend you always use the **Send SMS Test** option to ensure the template populates as expected.

Scenario

Action: You write: *Hi* followed by the *First Name* tag:

Hi **First Name x**

Result: The system scans the contact's information and finds that the *First Name* value for this contact is John. The customer receives the following text message: *Hi John*.