

[Recording]

Very often you might need to record a simple prompt for use in your Asterisk system. The following dialplan context works for most test cases.

What this is doing is allowing you to create up to ten prompts that will be called prompt666X.gsm (or wav). (X is number from 0 to 9)

This is how it works. Let's say you dial 6661. It will playback the prompt used to record prompts for voicemail. This is not an exact match for our application but it serves the purpose.

Once the message stops playing, it goes into the recording mode and anything you say will be recorded in the **/tmp** folder with a name of prompt6661.gsm in this example.

It will wait 2 seconds after you hit the # key and play the message back to you then say goodbye.

Once you are satisfied with your prompt, you need to rename it to something meaningful and move it to the **/usr/share/asterisk/sounds/en/** folder in the case of Asterisk installed in Debian Linux.

You might have to chmod the file to 644 to allow it to be played. By default it will be 660 as recorded.

[recording]

```
exten => _666X,1,Playback(vm-intro)
```

```
exten => _666X,n,Record(/tmp/prompt${EXTEN:1}:gsm) ; specify format wav or gsm
```

```
exten => _666X,n,Wait(2)
```

```
exten => _666X,n,Playback(/tmp/prompt${EXTEN:1})
```

```
exten => _666X,n,Playback(vm-goodbye)
```

For a production Asterisk server for use in the real world, you might want to consider having your custom prompts done by Allison Smith who is the English voice on all of the normal prompts. This allows it to sound more professional.

<http://www.digium.com/en/products/ivr/allisonsmith/> That page will lead you to another page which has prices: Typically you fill in the form with the phrase and the web site calculates the price.

As of 1/4/2014 prompts are available in English by Allison and another female voice can do them in French. Also check the Internet as there are various companies that also offer packages or pre-recorded prompts.

A bit of history is in order as well. For many years, Jane Barbe, also known as the "time lady" recorded voice prompts for the Bell Telephone System and other voice prompt devices. Another lady that did voice prompts for the Bell System as well as many other devices was Jane Fleet. A short news video with Ted Koppel showing them is available on youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAjb-DpBBhM>