Bond Home Driver Installation and Usage Guide

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Bond Bridge lets you connect your existing remote controlled ceiling fans, fireplaces or blinds to your smart devices.

This Wifi based device can be placed anywhere there is WiFi coverage making it easy to control IR/RF devices that are in locations that are hard to run cable.

Integration into Nice Home Management / ELAN allows you to activate, control fan speeds, open/close shades, turn on lights and more all from a single point using Nice Home Management touchscreens, mobile applications, keypads, handheld remote controls and more.

Bond can be purchased directly from Bond Home, through Home Depot, Best Buy or via Amazon and is easily the cheapest and easiest way to integrate Somfy RTS Shades, Nice Shades and other RF based products.

There are also certain fans with 'smart by bond' technology built in. These fans can be controlled by the driver without any additional hardware. If you encounter a fan that has no IR, no IR nor has 'smart by bond' built in you can retrofit 'smart by bond' by using the universal smart wi-fi 4 speed ceiling fan remote controller.

On top of 3rd party device control you can now also integrate the Bond Sidekick Keypad. This battery operated 8 button keypad is designed to be easily retrofit. Paired with a Bond Bridge Pro it allows integration to Nice Home Management / ELAN to press and release functionality. Battery on the Sidekick product will last you for 10 years on moderate usage (2-3 times a day).

Features

Supported Devices

- Smart by Bond fans (mapped to dimmer device)
    - Fan On/Off
    - Fan Speeds
    - Light On/Off
    - Light Level
- Fan Speed Controller (mapped to dimmer device)
    - Fan On/Off
    - Fan Speeds
    - Light On/Off
    - Light Level
- Bond Bridge
    - Ceiling Fans
        - Fan Speeds
        - On
        - Off
    - Lights
        - Level
        - On
        - Off
    - Shades
        - Position
        - Open
        - Close
        - Stop
    - Fireplaces
        - Mapped all commands as one-way scenes
        - Eg
            - On
            - Off
            - Fan Speed
            - Fan Speed Up
            - Fan Speed Down
            - Flame Up
            - Flame Down
            - Flame Level
- Bond Sidekick

- Battery Operated (lasts for upto 10 years) Retrofit Keypad
- 8 Buttons
- Event Maps (per button)
    - Activate Scene
    - Deactivate Scene

FAQ

Why is this product so exciting?

- Bond Sidekick Scene Keypad
    - Battery operated
    - 10 year battery life
    - Easily retrofit
    - 8 Buttons (Event Mappable)
        - Activate Scene
        - Deactivate Scene
    - Note requires Bond Bridge Pro
- Smart By Bond Fans
    - There are fans with 'smart by bond' functionality. These fans are supported by the driver and contain full bidirectional control / feedback.
    - No additional hardware required just buy the fan.
    - Smart by fans include (but not limited to)
        - Minka F870L Windmolen Smart Ceiling Fan
        - Minka F864L “Barn” Smart Ceiling Fan
        - Minka F747L “Timber” Smart Ceiling Fan
        - Minka F868L “Sleek” Smart Ceiling Fan
    - Fan Speed Controller
        - If you find a fan that has no IR, RF or smart by bond functionality you can also utilise the [Bond Fan Speed Controller]() to add smarts to it.
        - The controller can be purchased through the following retailers
            - Home Depot
    - Bond Bridge / Bond Bridge Pro
        - The bond bridge can control a vast number of RF based devices including shades, fans, fireplaces, lights and more
        - This bond bridge provides the easiest and cheapest way of integrating Somfy RTS shades into ELAN! Since it is wifi based you can place the Bond Bridge device anywhere meaning better coverage (unlike the Somfy RTS transmitter or URTS transmitters which require cabling).
        - The bond bridge is easily accessible and can be purchased through the following retailers
            - Bond Home
            - Amazon
            - Home Depot
            - Best Buy
        - The bond bridge can also be purchased internationally from the following distributors
            - Australia - Convergent Technologies
            - Australia - Entertaining Environment

    - Australia - Oz Smart Things
    - Canada - Product Solutions Group
    - New Zealand - Sound Group
    - Nigeria - V2D
    - South Africa - Elan Systems
    - United Kingdom - Indigo Distribution
- The bond bridge is extremely inexpensive with MSRP pricing at $99.99 USD. Though some retailers have them on sale for $69.99 at the moment.
- This bond bridge can control over 700 devices including virtaully all remote controlled ceiling fans, fireplaces, shades and more!
- You can learn in your own RF codes using the Bond app for devices that are not in the database!
- The database is always growing!
- Bond Bridge Pro position functionality for shades

Can you give us some examples of how we could use this driver?

- Turning off your fireplaces, fans and lights when you arm your security system along with closing your shades.
- Automatically turning devices on when Nice Home Management detects you are at home
- Integrate Nice Uni Directional battery operated shades with positional based control.
- With Bond's recent integration of Somfy RTS blinds this makes an easy and affordable retro solution to control somfy blinds so now you can automate somfy shades to open in the morning, close at night or to block out sun on hot days to reduce energy in your home.
- Retrofit existing chain blinds to using the OZ Smart Things Zigbee Smart Blind Motor. Note that Bond will control the motor via RF not Zigbee by replicatin the remote control commands for up, down, stop and preset.

How does this driver work?

The driver will import in all known device types as a dimmer (fan, light), a shade (shade), a fireplace (scenes) or generic device (switch).

For the fireplace this driver adds in every command for each fireplace device learned as a scene. Just tie in the scene to a Light Toggle button or send the scene on command via an event map.

Do you offer showroom discounts?

We offer dealers a free showroom licence for demonstration and educational purposes. More information is available from the Chowmain Website

Setup

Requirements

- Nice Home Management Core 8.8.600 or later is required
- This driver requires a valid licence for use. More information is available on the Chowmain Website.Customers can also trial the driver for 90 days prior to licence purchase. Dealers who have showrooms can demonstrate the driver for free via the Chowmain Dealer Showroom Licence. You can apply for a showroom licence via the Chowmain website.
- Bond Firmware 2.8.0 or later is required

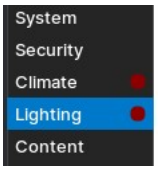
Bond Configuration

- Each Bond bridge must be installed and connected to the wifi / ethernet network first prior to driver setup via the iOS or Android Bond application. Ethernet is recommended
- IR/RF devices controlled by the bridge must be set up and tested first via the Bond application.
- IP reservations are recommended however the driver can also discover bridges.
- If you are using multiple bond units on your network, you must turn off Auto-Discovery, or set the Bond ID string

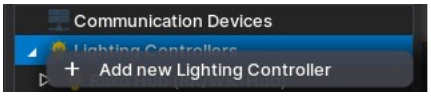
Installation Process

Once you have installed your Bond Bridge and connected devices to the bridge please follow the steps below.

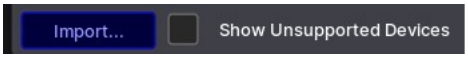
1. Download the latest version of the driver
2. Extract the file to your preferred driver storage location.
3. In configurator click on the Lighting tab



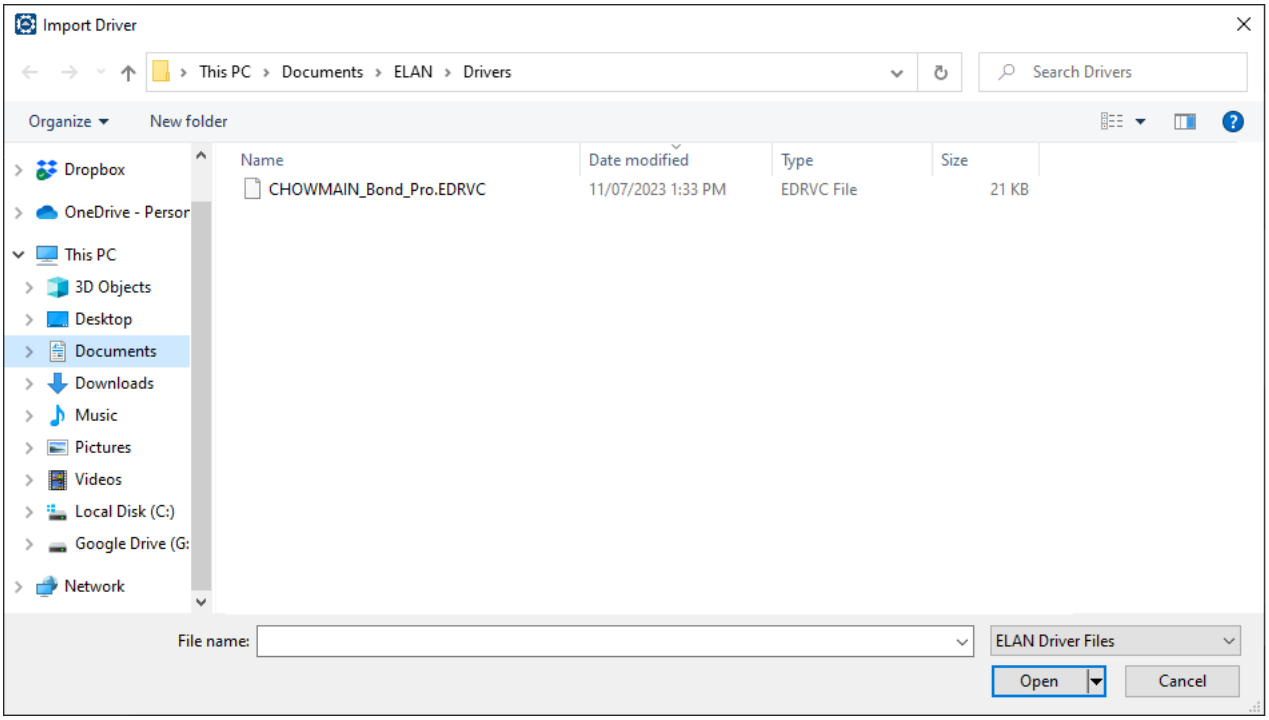
4. Click on the arrow next to Lighting Interfaces
5. Click on Add New Lighting Interface



6. Click on the Import button



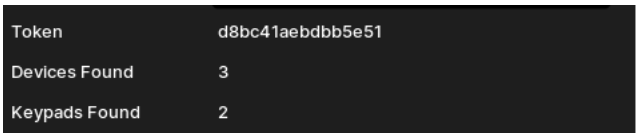
7. Select your driver and press Open



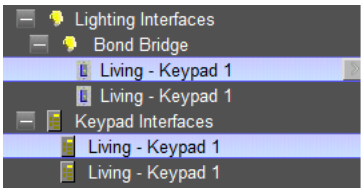
8. Select the Bond Bridge Pro driver and press install (Note the Bond Bridge driver is an old driver utilised for older installations. That driver is a one-way driver only. Utilise the newer Bond Bridge Pro driver unless you need the original Bond Bridge driver)

9. The driver will advise you that you have 90 days to test the driver out. Ensure that the driver is purchased before the expiration of the trial
10. **IMPORTANT. The Bond Bridge needs an authentication token for communications. This can only be obtained within 10 minutes of Bond Bridge boot time. At this stage power cycle the bond bridge and wait a few minutes for it to connect to the network before continuing.**
11. The driver will automatically discover the Bond Bridge by default. If however it does not discover then you can type in the IP Address of your Bond device and press the Apply button. Note if you you discovery issues then please disable auto discovery.

12. The driver will now attempt to get the Token. If it fails to obtain the Token then you have you have either tried to obtain a token too early (device is still booting / joining the network) or you have waited too long (device has been online for more than 10 minutes). You can press the 'Get token' button to attempt to get a token again.

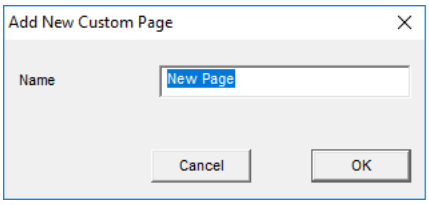


13. Once you have obtained a token the driver will import all devices
14. If you have Sidekick keypads it will also import all Sidekicks as Keypads.

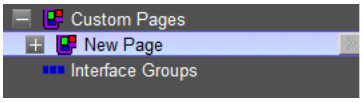


15. Now we have to create a custom page to display the devices.
16. Click on the arrow next to Custom Pages

17. Click on Add New Custom Page
18. Type a name for the page



19. Click on the + symbol next to your new custom page to expand it

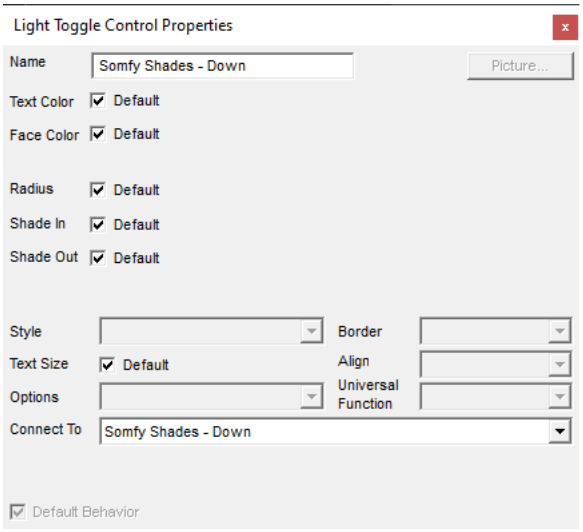


20. Select the format you want to create your page for (you may need to create for all 3 formats).
21. Right click on the page and 'Add New Control'

22. It will now prompt you for the control type
23. The following control types are recommended for the following device types
    1. **Light** - If it is a dimmer based device please utilise Light Dimmer otherwise if it is on/off based then please utilise Light Rocker, Light Switch or Light Toggle based controls. Note this driver does not support devices that only have a light toggle based command.
    2. **Fan** - Please utilise Light Dimmer. The driver will ramp speeds 0-4 depending on the position of the slider.
    3. **Shade** - If it is a positional based shade please utilise Light Dimmer otherwise please utilise Shade Control (Latching). It will also work with Shade Control (Momentary) however it is not recommended.

4. **Fireplace** - Please utilise a Light Toggle Control. Note that each command is mapped to an individual scene for one-way control.
5. **Generic** - Please utilise a Light Toggle, Light Switch or Light Rocker Control.

24. Right click on the control and click on Show properties
25. Click on the Connect to drop down box and select the device you want to tie in.

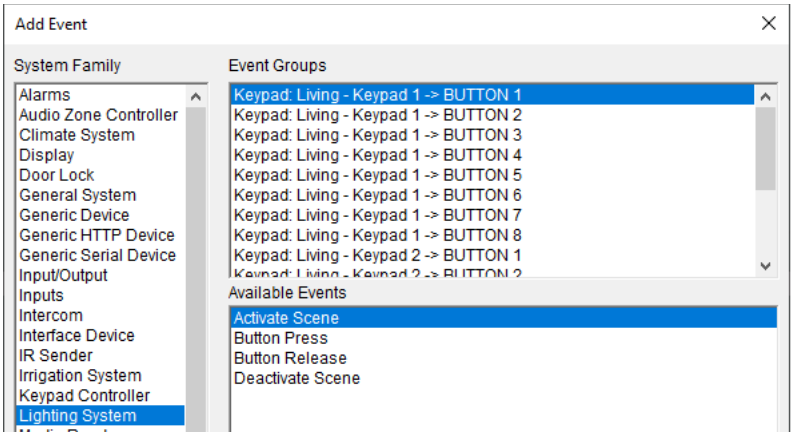


26. Lastly if you have sidekick devices we must create Event Maps for them. This can be done through the Event Mapper tab

Event Mapper

27. Create a new Event Map by clicking on the " button next to Event Maps.

28. Add an event for Activate Scene (This will fire on tap, double tap or hold from Bond Sidekick)



29. Add in commands.
30. Repeat steps 29 to 31 for the Deactivate Scene event (this will fire on hold release from Bond Sidekick).
31. Congratulations you have successfully setup the Bond driver for ELAN. Please note, a licence purchase will be required to use this driver outside of the initial trial period

Nice Home Management Configuration

The following table provides settings used in Configurator when connecting to Bond Bridge devices. Please refer to the Configurator Reference Guide for more details. In the table below:

- "User Defined", etc. Type in the desired name for the item.
- "Auto Detect", etc. The system will auto detect this variable.

Devices	Variable Name	Setting	Comments
Lighting Interface (Bond Bridge)	Name	"User Defined"	
	Activation Status	"Auto Detect" This provides the licence status feedback	See Note 1
	Bond ID	"User Defined". This is the ID of the Bond Bridge. Optional	See Note 2
	Token	"Auto Detect"	See Note 3
	Firmware Version	"Auto Detect"	See Note 4
	Devices Found	"Auto Detect"	See Note 5
	Keypads Found	"Auto Detect"	See Note 6
	Auto Discovery Enabled	"User Defined". This enables automatic discovery of the Bond Bridge on your network	See Note 7
	IP Address	"User Defined"	See Note 8
	Port	"Auto Detect"	

Notes

1. The driver requires a valid licence for use. All of the licences are site licences. This means that you can use as many instances of the driver as you want in a single system with the one licence. The driver also comes with a built in 90 day trial. The driver will provide feedback as to the state of the licence in the Activation Status field.
2. This is the ID of the Bond Bridge. Use this if you have multiple Bond Bridge devices on your network. This is used in conjunction with Auto Discovery Enabled to automatically update the IP Address of the Bond Bridge should the IP address change.
3. This is the authentication token to communicate to Bond Bridge. If this is empty then it will not work. Please obtain a token within 10 minutes of Bond Bridge boot up.
4. This is the firmware version of the bridge. This has to be a minimum of v2.8.0
5. This displays how many devices the driver has found on the bridge.
6. This displays how many keypads the driver has found on the bridge.

7. This will automatically discover Bond Bridge devices on the network and update the IP address of the driver to match. If you have more than 1 on the network please set the Bond ID to the bridge you want associated with the driver.
8. This is the IP address of the Bond Bridge. If discovery is enabled this will automatically update. If disabled please set a static IP address or IP reservation.

Common Mistakes

1. The token was not obtained within 10 minutes of Bond Bridge boot.
2. Sidekick keypads are only compatible with Bond Bridge Pro.
3. Instant feedback, Sidekick keypad button press/release, Bond Bridge discovery utilises UDP broadcasts. Certain network configurations will block this traffic. Please make sure that your network is setup for UDP broadcast.

Licensing

Marketplace

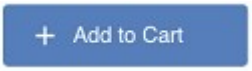
To Purchase drivers

Chowmain Drivers are only available to authorized dealers. Integrators can sign up to a Chowmain account via the Chowmain Website. Authorization of dealers can take up to 48 hours; however, you can trial the drivers without an account.

1. Navigate to the login page of Chowmain website: Chowmain - Login
2. Sign in using credentials provided after sign up request approval
3. Ensure you are logged into the website using website's header: registration and sign up buttons are replaced with cart icon and user icon

4. Navigate to the drivers page: Chowmain - Drivers
5. Alternatively, you can use the global search input in the header to find the driver

6. Search for and locate the driver you are interested. Click *Add To Cart*



7. Once you have added all drivers to your cart, navigate to the shopping cart: Chowmain - Cart
8. Click *Checkout & Pay*. Follow the directions

9. Purchase confirmation will be sent to your email, all orders can be viewed in the Chowmain - Orders
10. Once the payment is processed, the driver will be available in your account: Chowmain - My Drivers

Create Chowmain Project and obtain Project Code

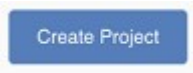
Note:

- Showroom Projects contain all drivers of its Control System
- Paid licenses cannot be assigned to Showroom Projects
- Only 1 Project is required per home
- If the Project has already been created, do not create a second one
- If controller already has a Project code created by another installer, please contact the original installer for access. If the original installer is unavailable, contact Chowmain - Support

- If the controller has been replaced and the license needs to be transferred to a new controller you can do so yourself via the website

1. Ensure you are signed into the Chowmain Website
2. Navigate to Dashboard => Projects

3. Click *Create Project*:

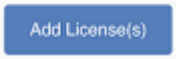


4. Complete the details for the Project (*Project Name*, *Customer Name*, *Control System*)
5. Upon completion, take note of the **Project Code**. This is required to link the Control System to the newly created project

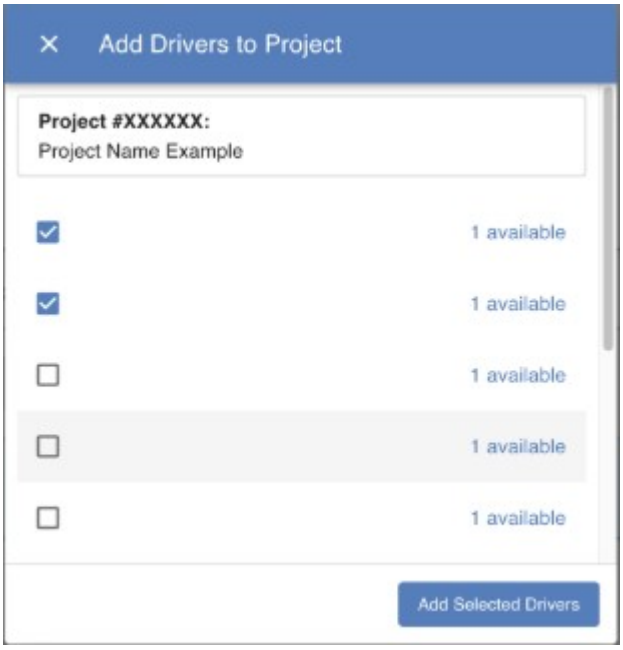
To Assign purchased drivers to Project

NOTE: Driver must already be purchased and a Project Code must be created as per above 'Create Chowmain Project and obtain Project Code' section

1. Navigate to Chowmain Software - Projects. Click the *Project Name* you wish to assign the driver to

2. Click the *Add License(s)*: 

3. Select Drivers you wish to assign to the project, and click *Add Selected Drivers*:



4. Alternatively you can add in drivers via the [Chowmain - Drivers]

5. The driver will be added to the project with the license status *Licensed*

Nice Home Management

To Download and install Chowmain drivers:

NOTE: Licensed Chowmain drivers come with a complimentary 90-day trial period. To license the driver, installation of the Chowmain Project Agent is required. The Project Agent is also required for automatic driver updates. Throughout the 90-day trial period, Chowmain Drivers operate without any limitations. After this period, the driver will be disabled unless properly licensed.

All Chowmain Licensed drivers require a minimum of Core 8.8.604 to operate correctly unless specified

The Nice Home Management Controller must be online on the internet for trial activation and purchase. After purchase, internet may be disconnected. However, it is recommended to maintain a connection to maximize support.

1. Visit: https://chowmain.software
2. Search and locate your driver, and click into the details by clicking the picture or heading.
3. Select Download. And extract the contents of the downloaded Zip file to a temporary directory

4. Connect to the target system via Management Cloud
5. Install driver as per included driver documentation.

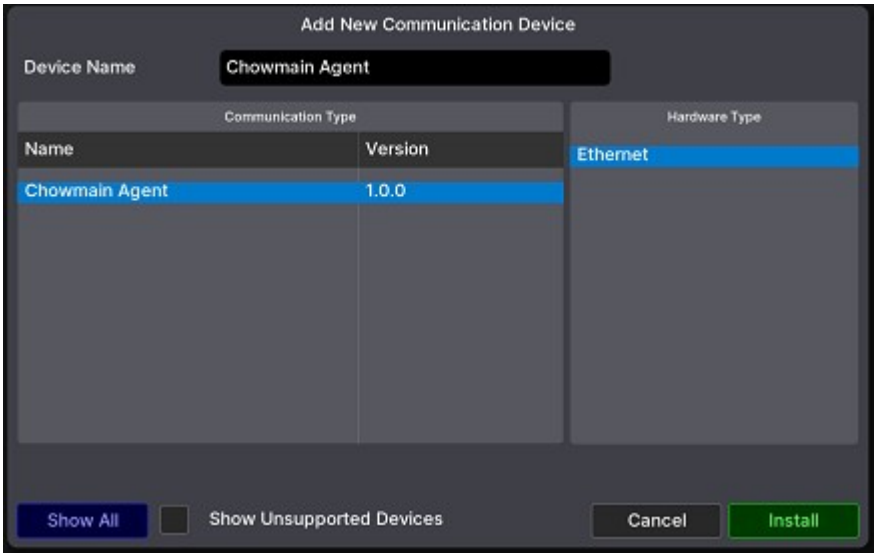
Install Chowmain Agent

Installation of the Chowmain Agent is required to licence drivers. Chowmain Project Agent is a Generic Communication Device which can be located under Communication Devices in Climate, Lighting and Input/Output. Only a single instance of Chowmain Agent should be installed.

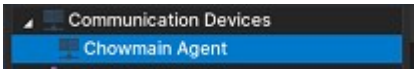
1. Download Chowmain Project Agent From the Chowmain Project Agent Page
2. Nice Home Management Core 8.8.604 or later is required for Chowmain Licenced Drivers. Upgrade Controller if required
3. Connect to the target system via Management Cloud
4. Navigate to *Input=>Output*, *Communication Devices*. Press *+ Communication Device*

5. Select the Import Driver Button

6. Navigate to the *CHOWMAIN_AGENT.EDRVC* File and *Install*

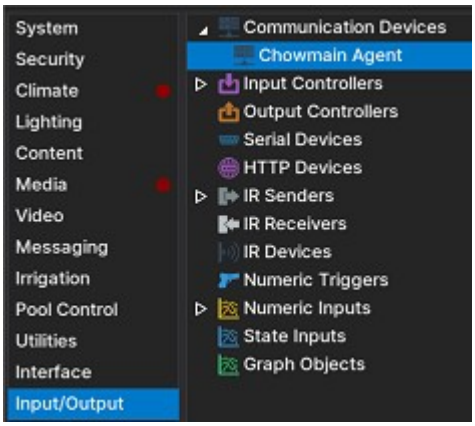


7. Chowmain Agent is successfully installed and listed in the project



Link Project Code to Nice Home Management Project

1. Ensure Chowmain Agent is installed on primary Nice Home Management Controller. If not, follow the previous information
2. Navigate to the Chowmain Agent Communication Device (it can be found under Imput/Output, Climate or Lighting ==> Communication devices)



3. Enter the Project Code obtained from the Chowmain website into the Project Code Property. If the Project Code has been created but is unknown, it can be found on the [Chowmainsoft Website - Projects] website

4. The status property will provide feedback on driver licencing status

5. **Please note:** If project code has been used previously on another controller, you will need to contact [Chowmain Support] to transfer the licence to the new controller

LICENCING FAQ

What are the Requirements for Chowmain licencing?

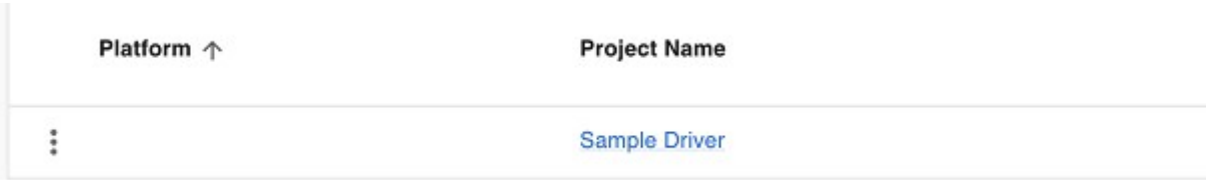
- Driver trials do not require Agent to be installed.
- To activate licenced drivers, *Chowmain Project Agent* must be installed.
- Nice Home Management Core 8.8.604 or later is required to install and configure *Chowmain Project Agent*
- Internet is required during the licence registration process.
- If Internet is lost then the licence will persist the last state.
- If the Chowmain Project Agent is removed then licencing will be invalidated. Do not remove the Chowmain Project Agent once installed.

How do I know if the deployed driver is using Chowmain Licensing?

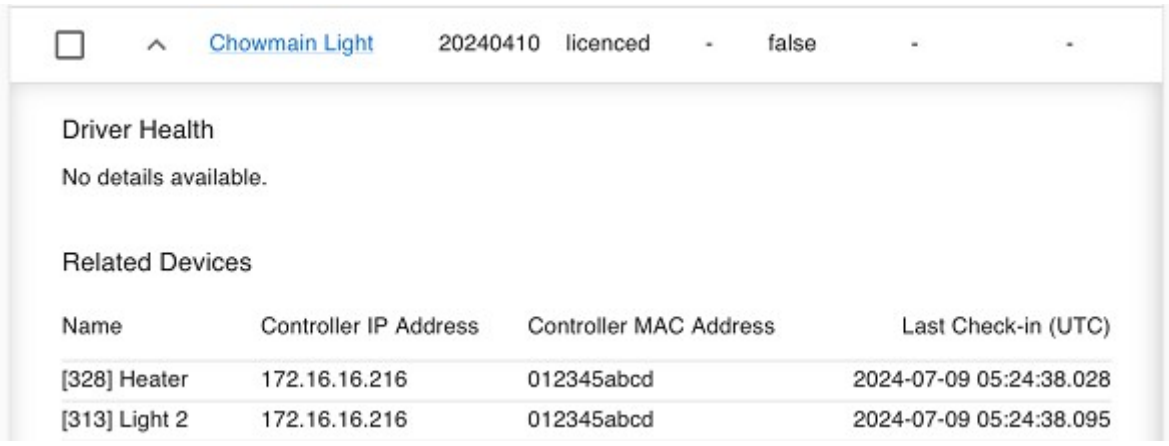
- There are multiple ways:
    1. Chowmain licensed drivers have *CM:* in their activation status configuration string

    2. Chowmain licenced drivers do not show a Activation Key Configuration string

    3. If the *Project Code* has been correctly entered in Chowmain Project Agent and the project is registered, you can find the list of Chowmain-licensed drivers deployed on your controller using the Chowmain website.
        1. Navigate to [Chowmainsoft Website - Projects]
        2. Select your Project Code



        3. Known Chowmain Drivers will be listed, and if you select the driver, it will list which drivers in the project are known to be CM Licenced. Please note, this list may not update immediately



How does the trial period work?

- All Chowmain drivers are free to use for 90 days. When the trial expires the driver will cease to function until you purchase a licence and apply it to the project.

Where do I buy a Licence from?

- Chowmain Nice Home Management Drivers are only available to Nice Home Management installers. Installers can sign up to a Chowmain account using: https://chowmain.software/signup. If you are a home owner you should contact your automation installer for support, purchase and installation of drivers
- This driver is developed by Chowmainsoft and can be purchased from the Chowmainsoft Website.
- All licences are site licences. This means the one licence can be used to unlock as many instances of the same driver in the same project.

Can I upgrade old versions of drivers from other marketplaces to Chowmain?

- This process is mostly automated.
    1. Install Chowmain Project Agent, and assign a Project Agent as required
    2. Ensure all drivers are up to date, and replace obsolete drivers with updated builds.
    3. Wait 10 mins.

Developer Information

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Information stated in this document is current as of January 2025 and may change. For latest information please visit http://www.chowmainsoft.com

Support

Ticket / Live Chat Support

We provide ticket based support and live chat support for those who can't contact us via phone. Click the button below to visit our online helpdesk.

Support Centre	Hours of Operation	URL
Australia / New Zealand / United Kingdom	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	https://chowmain.software/for-integrators/technical-support

Phone Support

Region	Hours of Operation	Phone Number
Australia	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+61 3 9028 6999](tel:+61 3 9028 6999)
United Kingdom	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+44 29 2000 5551](tel:+44 29 2000 5551)
United States	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+1 206 944 5444](tel:+1 206 944 5444)

Driver Documentation

All of our drivers come with detailed instructions on how to install and configure the driver for use in different projects. Please refer to the documentation included with the driver you downloaded, or contact us if you are unable to locate the documentation for your driver.

CHANGELOG

Version 2025.12.5 - 5-DEC-2025

- Improve Diagnostics
- Better Feedback handling

Version 2025.2.27 - 27-FEB-2025

- Customisable Poll time. New Default is 120s, from 10s

Version 2024.11.7 - 7-NOV-2024

- Improve Feedback for failed commands
- Correct Feedback for certain feedback. Some feedback was OK, but was incorrectly marked as invalid

Version 2024.10.9 - 9-OCT-2024

- Fix Broken Token after driver restart

Version 2024.8.27 - 27-AUG-2024

- Improve Chowmain Licencing

Version 2024.8.7 - 07-AUG-2024

SmartByBond and Bond_Smart drivers are deprecated. Upgrade to BondPro driver

- Modernise Backend
- Add Improved Troubleshooting and Submit Diagnostics support
- Upgrade Communication Stack
- Fix minor Fan Turn On bug. In practice, this shouldn't have impacted users (Bond_Pro)
- Support Chowmain Licencing

Version 1.1.0 - 11-JUL-2023

- Created Bond Bridge Pro driver. This driver provides native integration to ELAN device types to Bond Device types. This is useful for positional shades, dimmable lights, etc.
- Old Bond Bridge driver and Smart By Bond driver is included still for legacy systems and for people who want to program the Bond Bridge in as bond commands rather than bond actions.

Version 1.0.8 - 19-SEP-2022

- Added support for Bond Sidekick Keypads

Version 1.0.7 - 24-JUN-2021

- Increased message queue size by 10x. This resolves issues with importing large number of commands.

Version 1.0.6 - 26-APR-2021

- Added queue to fix issue caused by too many concurrent connections to Bond Bridge on importing device commands.
- Fixed issues with trial licencing

Version 1.0.5 - 07-JAN-2020

- Fixed issue affecting devices with IP addresses ending with 0

Version 1.0.3 - 02-OCT-2020

- Added support for LT device types. EG Dekor Konnect lighting.

Version 1.0.2 - 25-FEB-2020

- Resolved issue with stratus feedback by periodically polling device.

Version 1.0.1 - 15-OCT-2019

- Added bi-directional support for Smart By Bond devices including fan speed controller and fans. This appears as dimmers for lights and dimmers for fan speeds. Polling interval at 10 secondsd for feedback

Version 1.0.0 - 30-SEP-2019

- Initial Release