Smarthome Manager
Essential Timer

Device/Timer Management Software for use with
INSTEON PowerLinc V2 Controller USB

For use with models:
#2414U/2814UB   PowerLinc V2 Controller USB
# Smarthome Manager Essential Timer User’s Guide

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ABOUT SMARTHOME MANAGER ESSENTIAL TIMER

Congratulations on your decision to use Smarthome Manager Essential Timer, in conjunction with the PowerLinc V2 Controller, to create or expand your automated home. With its simple and intuitive user interface, Smarthome Manager Essential Timer allows you to create timed events for all of your INSTEON and X10 devices. Programming devices and timers is truly point-and-click, and once programmed, simply unplug the programming cable from PowerLinc V2 Controller, and it will carry out your schedule of device control without the need of a PC constantly running.

What is INSTEON?

INSTEON is a simple, reliable, and affordable breakthrough in home control. Simple, because Plug-n-Tap™ setup is a breeze, and there are no wires to add – INSTEON uses existing powerline wiring as well as radio-frequency for communication. Reliable, because every INSTEON device is a two-way repeater. And affordable, not just because of low cost, but because INSTEON also works with legacy X10 devices. An INSTEON home grows in value with every INSTEON device you add, making life more convenient, safe and fun.

Key Smarthome Manager Essential Timer / PowerLinc V2 Controller Features

- After installation, PowerLinc V2 Controller autonomously executes scheduled INSTEON and X10 commands
- Programming of devices and scheduled events is achieved by connecting Windows PC to PowerLinc V2 Controller via USB, and configuring via intuitive point-and-click Smarthome Manager Essential Timer software (Windows 98SE or higher, Windows XP recommended)
- PowerLinc V2 Controller includes integrated real time clock with battery backup, 10 year battery life
- PowerLinc V2 Controller clock is synchronized with PC clock every time PC is connected and Smarthome Manager Essential Timer is run
- 32KB of on-board memory can store over 1000 commands
- Timed events can be based on sunrise/sunset (user selectable geographic location)
- Security option allows timed events to occur randomly within 15 minutes before/after specified time, providing a “lived in” appearance
- Clock automatically adjusts for daylight savings time where applicable
- Assign recognizable names to devices and timer events to simplify programming
- Smarthome Manager Essential Timer automatically checks for latest software updates (broadband internet connection required)
- Capable of operating in X10 or INSTEON mode only, or hybrid mode which sends both X10 and INSTEON signals
- #2414U is warranted for two years, #2814UB is warranted for one year
HOW TO INSTALL SMARTHOME MANAGER ESSENTIAL TIMER

Caution

Read and understand these instructions before installing, and retain them for future reference.

PowerLinc V2 Controller is intended for installation in accordance with the National Electric Code and local regulations in the United States, or the Canadian Electrical Code and local regulations in Canada. Use indoors only. PowerLinc V2 Controller is not designed nor approved for use on power lines other than 120V 60Hz, single phase. Attempting to use PowerLinc Controller V2 on non-approved powerlines may have hazardous consequences.

Do not plug PowerLinc V2 Controller into an outlet controlled by a switch. While the integrated backup battery will preserve programming and timekeeping if power is removed, it cannot execute commands and send signals if it's not connected to an energized circuit.

PowerLinc V2 Controller should not be used to control life/safety devices or any application where the unattended control of a device could be a hazard to life or property.

Proper installation of at least two SignaLinc™ RF Signal Enhancers is required prior to installing and using other INSTEON devices.

Minimum PC specifications

- Windows 98SE
- Pentium III 333Mhz
- Available USB 1.1 connection
- 128MB system RAM

Recommended PC specifications

- Windows XP
- Pentium IV
- Available USB 1.1 connection (will also work with USB 2.0 connection, but at USB 1.1 speed)
- 256MB system RAM
Install Smarthome Manager Essential Timer

To ensure access to the latest version of Smarthome Manager Essential Timer, the software application is distributed via download from the Smarthome website. Due to its approximate 3MB size, a broadband internet connection is highly recommended. Point your browser to the following URL to download the latest version of Smarthome Manager Essential Timer:

http://www.smarthome.com/files/2814ub.exe

Once download is complete, navigate to the folder containing the file, and double-click 2814ub.exe. Follow the on-screen windows and prompts to install Smarthome Manager Essential Timer on your PC.
LAUNCHING SMARTHOME MANAGER ESSENTIAL TIMER

Connect USB Cable
Before launching Smarthome Manager Essential Timer, connect your PC to the PowerLinc V2 Controller using the included USB cable. USB connectors are shaped such that they fit into sockets in only one orientation. If you encounter resistance when plugging in the cable, check the orientation of the socket and connector and adjust accordingly.

Once the cable is connecting the PC to an energized PowerLinc V2 Controller, the PC will begin detection and installation of a new USB device. PowerLinc V2 Controller uses Microsoft’s USB Human Interface Device (HID) specification, meaning no additional software drivers are required.

Launch Software
Double-click the “Smarthome Timer Software” icon located on your desktop. As the software launches, it will check for an updated version (if there is an active connection to the internet). During this process, you may see a small window quickly appear and close on your desktop.
If an update is available, the program will ask if you’d like to download it. It’s recommended that you click on yes, and the update will automatically download and install itself. If you decline to download the update, you will be prompted the next time you launch Smarthome Manager Essential Timer.
Clock Synchronization

After the software has checked for updates, the clock integrated into the PowerLinc V2 Controller will be synchronized with the PC's clock. To ensure timers behave properly, verify your PC’s clock is accurate prior to this step. If your PC has an active connection to the internet, the easiest way to maintain an accurate PC clock is to utilize the Windows XP clock synchronization feature. For more details, search Window's Help & Support Center for the article titled “Synchronizing your computer clock.”
CONFIGURING DEVICES

Main Menu

After PowerLinc V2 Controller’s clock has been synchronized, Smarthome Manager Essential Timer will be displaying its Main Menu. From Main Menu the user can quickly navigate to any of the program’s functions.

![Main Menu Screenshot]

**NOTE**

Note: Main Menu is the central “home page” in Smarthome Manager Essential Timer’s user interface; the easiest way to navigate through the program is via the Main Menu. In this manual, there may be references to menus that don’t have corresponding screen captures. If navigation to a certain menu is described as A > B > C, the user should return to the Main Menu, click on A, click on B in the next menu, then finally click on C.
Setup an INSTEON device

To setup an INSTEON device, click on “Setup” from the Main Menu. From the Setup Menu, click on “Devices”

Then, click on "Add an INSTEON device"
Step 1- Follow the on-screen prompts. The first step is to place PowerLinc V2 Controller in device discovery mode, as shown below.

![Image of PowerLinc V2 Controller in discovery mode]

Step 2- Place the desired INSTEON device into linking mode. Common methods for initiating linking mode are shown below. Smarthome Manager Essential Timer will wait 4 minutes to detect an INSTEON device, counting down the 4 minutes at the bottom of the screen. If you are unable to link the device before the timer runs out, repeat step 1 above to reinitiate device discovery mode.

![Image of INSTEON device linking mode]

ADD AN INSTEON DEVICE STEP 2 OF 7

Put the device to be controlled into linking mode. To do this, press the Set button of any plug-in module for 10 seconds or hold an INSTEON Switch in the On position for 10 seconds or until recognized by the software.

Cancel

Main Menu
Step 3- Once PowerLinc V2 Controller detects the INSTEON device, its features will be displayed on-screen. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.

Step 4- Assign a name to the device currently being added. Click once in the “Edit Name” field, then type the desired device name. The device name can be 16 digits maximum, and can be comprised of letters (capitals only), numbers, spaces and standard punctuation. When finished entering device name, click “Continue to next step”
Steps 5 & 6 are informational only. Smarthome Manager Essential Timer is aware of the capabilities of most INSTEON devices, and will automatically provide the option for dimming if the device supports it. Ramp rates cannot be controlled or configured via Smarthome Manager Essential. Refer to the device’s documentation for instructions regarding ramp rates.
Step 7- Confirms all the information that has been collected and detected for the device. Click “Finish” to save the device configuration to PowerLinc V2 Controller.
Setup an X10 device

Setup of X10 devices is similar to setup of INSTEON devices. From the “Setup > Devices” menu, click on “Add an X10 device”. Scroll through the list of X10 devices using the up/down arrow keys, and click on the device being added; if your exact device is not listed, select one that most closely matches the features of the device being added.

Step 2- After confirming device type, click “Continue to next step” to proceed.
Step 3- Assign a name to the device currently being added. Click once in the “Edit Name” field, then type the desired device name. The device name can be 16 digits maximum, and can be comprised of letters (capitals only), numbers, spaces and standard punctuation. When finished entering device name, click “Continue to next step” to proceed.

Step 4- Click on the device house code field, then use the left/right arrow buttons to toggle to the device’s house code. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.
Step 5- Click on the device unit code field, and then use the left/right arrow buttons to toggle to the device’s unit code. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.

Step 6- Review the X10 device configuration, then click on “Finish” to save the configuration to the PowerLinc V2 Controller.
CONFIGURING TIMERS

Timers are programmed events that turn on, turn off, dim and/or brighten any properly configured INSTEON or X10 device, or any group of INSTEON and/or X10 devices. Timers contain a single command for each associated device, instead of pairs of on/off commands commonly found in basic timer devices. This design allows for more flexible scheduling; one timer can turn a device off at the same time every day, while multiple timers can turn the same device on at different times each day. Or a standalone “off” timer can be created to turn lights off at a late time, just in case someone in the family constantly forgets to turn off the kitchen lights before they go to bed. Timers can be based on specific time-of-day, or sunrise and/or sunset automatically calculated for your geographic location and current date. Additionally, a security option can randomize the event to occur within 15 minutes before or after a specific time or sunrise/sunset, giving the home a lived-in look.

Ideally, INSTEON and X10 devices to be controlled by timers should already be configured in Smarthome Manager Essential Timer BEFORE creating timers. For instructions on setting up devices, see Setup an INSTEON device or Setup an X10 device.

To setup a timer, navigate the following links from the Main Menu: Setup > Timers > Add A Timer. At step 1, click on the “Name the timer” field, and then type in a name for the timer. The timer name can contain up to 16 characters, comprised of capital letters, numerals, spaces and standard punctuation. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.
Step 2- Click on “Choose timer type” field, and use left/right arrow buttons to select timer type: specific
time, sunrise or sunset. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.

Step 3 (for specific time timers)- Click on each field, and use arrow keys to toggle to desired values. Click
on “Continue to next step” to proceed.
Step 3 (for sunrise/sunset timers)- Click on minutes field, and use arrow keys to toggle to desired value, indicating minutes before/after sunrise or sunset time. Click on "Continue to next step" to proceed.

Step 4- Select days of week that timer should be active. If "Y" is selected, device commands will be executed at specified time on that day of week. Click on each field, and toggle to desired values with arrow buttons for each day of week. Click on "Continue to next step" to proceed.
Step 5- Click on “Enable security mode” field, and use arrow buttons to toggle value. An “N” value will trigger timer at specified time, or at sunrise/sunset as calculated by Smarthome Manager Essential Timer. A “Y” value will vary execution time within 15 minutes before and after specified time, or 15 minutes before and after sunrise/sunset as calculated by Smarthome Manager Essential Timer. Click on “Continue to next step” to proceed.

Step 6- Click on “Devices” field, and use arrow keys to toggle to device that's to be controlled by timer. Click “Continue to next step” to proceed.
Step 7- Click on “Level” field, and use arrow keys to toggle to desired device state: on or off. If the device has dimming capabilities, the “level” field will also feature percentages, which represent dimming levels. If multiple devices will be controlled by the timer, click on “Add another device”. Step 6 will be presented again, allowing you to add the next device. NOTE: Each device in a given timer has its own “level”, meaning in one timer one device may turn off, the second may turn on, the third might go to 70% brightness, etc. Repeat steps 7 and 8 as many times as necessary to add all desired devices to timer, then click on “Continue to last step” to proceed.

Step 8- Review timer details. Use arrow buttons to scroll through all devices assigned to timer. Click on “Finished” to download timer configuration to PowerLinc V2 Controller.
OTHER TASKS

Control Devices

If the PC is connected to the PowerLinc V2 Controller via the USB cable, Smarthome Manager Essential Timer is running on the PC, and PowerLinc V2 Controller is plugged into an energized outlet, the user can send INSTEON and X10 commands on demand to configured devices, without needing to setup a timer. From Main Menu, navigate to Control Devices > Choose A Device To Control. Use the arrow button to scroll through the configured devices, and click on the desired device. Click and/or scroll to execute the desired command. If the device supports two-way communications, device state can also be queried.

Review Timers

To review active timers, navigate to Main Menu. From Main Menu, click on All Timers. Use arrow buttons to scroll through timers, and click on desired timer to view its details.

Review Devices

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Devices > View All Devices. Use arrow keys to scroll through configured devices, and click on any device to view details.

Configure Sunrise/Sunset

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Options > Set Location for sunrise/sunset. Using arrow keys, scroll through list of cities, and select city closest to current location. Click on selected city to set geographic location used for sunrise/sunset calculations.

Delete Timers

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Timers > Delete a Timer. Use arrow keys to scroll through timer list, and click on desired timer.
Edit Timers

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Timers > Edit a Timer. Use arrow keys to scroll through timer list. Click on desired timer. Review timer details, and change desired parameters.

Delete Devices

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Devices > Delete a Device. Use arrow keys to scroll through device list, and click on desired device.

Edit Devices

From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Devices > Edit a Device. Use arrow keys to scroll through device list. Click on desired device. Review device details, and change desired parameters.

Reset PowerLinc V2 Controller

If PowerLinc V2 Controller exhibits erratic behavior, and you are unable to resolve by other means, the module can be reset via Smarthome Manager Essential Timer. From Main Menu, navigate to Setup > Options > Reset Timer Application. Reset may take several minutes.

Download to PowerLinc V2 Controller

Under normal circumstances, device and timer programming is automatically downloaded to PowerLinc V2 Controller immediately after saving the timer/device in Smarthome Manager Essential Timer. If a manual download is needed, such as after a PowerLinc V2 Controller reset, proceed to Main Menu. Navigate to Setup > Options > Download Timers.
ABOUT INSTEON

Understanding Why an INSTEON Network Is Reliable

INSTEON messages travel throughout the home via Powerline Carrier (PLC) signals on the existing house wiring, and also via wireless Radio Frequency (RF). As the messages make their way to INSTEON devices being controlled, they are picked up and retransmitted by all other INSTEON devices along the way. This method of communicating, called a mesh network, is very reliable because each additional INSTEON device helps to support the overall network.

To further ensure reliability, every INSTEON device confirms that it has received a command. If an INSTEON Controller does not receive this confirmation, it will automatically retransmit the command up to five times.

Further Enhancing Reliability

As signals travel via the powerline or RF throughout the home, they naturally become weaker the farther they travel. The best way to overcome signals getting weaker is to increase the coverage of the mesh network by introducing more INSTEON devices.

It is possible that some audio-video products, computers, power strips or other electrical equipment may attenuate INSTEON signals on the powerline. You can temporarily unplug suspected devices to test whether the INSTEON signal improves. If it does, then you can plug in filters available from Smarthome that will permanently fix the problem.

Using Smarthome's SignaLinc RF to Upgrade Your INSTEON Network

SignaLinc™ RF Signal Enhancers are ideal for improving signal strength and network coverage throughout your home. SignaLinc RF acts like another member of the dual-band mesh network, tying it together by simultaneously retransmitting INSTEON signals across both radio-frequency and the powerline. It also provides an access point for RF-only INSTEON devices, such as handheld controllers.

In addition, two SignaLinc RFs provide a wireless path for INSTEON signals to travel between the two separate electrical circuits, called powerline phases, found in most homes. Without a reliable method for coupling opposite powerline phases, some parts of your home may receive INSTEON signals intermittently. With at least one SignaLinc RF plugged into one of the powerline phases, and at least one more plugged into the opposite powerline phase, INSTEON powerline signals will be strong everywhere in your home.
About INSTEON and X10

Possible BoosterLinc Interference with INSTEON

If you have installed older Smarthome Plug-In BoosterLinc™ X10 Signal Boosters or certain other BoosterLinc-enabled products, the older BoosterLinc technology may interfere with INSTEON communications.

Plug-In BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters, Smarthome #4827, shipped after February 1, 2005, with V3.0 or later firmware, are fully compatible with INSTEON.

The following Plug-In BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters use older firmware that may cause interference with INSTEON:

- White BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters, #4827, shipped before February 1, 2005, with V2.5 or earlier firmware
- All Gray BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters, #4827

Try unplugging the older BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters to see if this helps with INSTEON interference. If it does, please call 800-SMARTHOME (800-762-7846) for help with replacing your older BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters with newer INSTEON-compatible ones.

The following pre-INSTEON SmartHome products have BoosterLinc technology that you can turn on or turn off when you set the X10 Address for the product. If turned on, the BoosterLinc technology may interfere with INSTEON.

NOTE
To disable BoosterLinc X10 Signal Amplification on these products:

1. Press and hold the SET Button.
2. Send the X10 Primary Address.
3. Send an X10 OFF command.

You can send an X10 ON command in Step 3 to re-enable the BoosterLinc feature.

- KeypadLinc™ 6 with Integrated Dimmer, #12073W, #12073WB and #12073WW
- KeypadLinc™ Relay 2-Way, #23883 and #23883T
- ToggleLinc™ 2-Way Dimmer, #23890, and Switch, #23893

If you have any of these products and the BoosterLinc feature is turned on, please consult your User's Guide or call 800-SMARTHOME (800-762-7846) for help with turning it off. You may then wish to install newer INSTEON BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters, which Smarthome can help you with.

INSTEON's Effect on X10

If your existing X10 devices seem to be working less reliably after installing INSTEON devices, remember that INSTEON devices can absorb X10 signals just as X10 devices do, and that INSTEON devices do not repeat X10 signals. Installing INSTEON-compatible BoosterLinc X10 Signal Boosters, Smarthome #4827, or a SignaLinc Plug-In Coupler-Repeater, #4826, can increase X10 signal levels.

Please call 800-SMARTHOME (800-762-7846) if you have any questions or would like more help.
## TROUBLESHOOTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The LED on the PowerLinc V2 Controller blinks constantly</td>
<td>PowerLinc V2 Controller encountered an internal programming error</td>
<td>See <em>Reset PowerLinc V2 Controller</em> for instructions on resetting the module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication between PowerLinc V2 Controller and controlled devices fail</td>
<td>PowerLinc V2 Controller is plugged into surge suppressor</td>
<td>Plug PowerLinc V2 Controller directly into an unswitched, unfiltered outlet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PowerLinc V2 Controller Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>2414U/2814UB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
<td>2 years (2414U) or 1 year (2814UB)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>3.875&quot; H x 2.5&quot; W x 1.5&quot; D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Interface</td>
<td>USB 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LED</td>
<td>Single LED on side of unit, indicates supplied power and signals programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device Communications Protocols</td>
<td>INSTEON and X10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Non-volatile, 32KB, capacity for approximately 1000 commands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electrical</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plug</td>
<td>Type B, NEMA 5-15 (three prong, polarized with ground pin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical requirements</td>
<td>Unswitched, unfiltered 120VAC 60Hz circuit, draws &lt; 2 watts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass-thru receptacle</td>
<td>Available on 2414U only, Type B NEMA 5-15, 120VAC 15A max, not controlled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Certification

PowerLinc V2 Controller has been thoroughly tested by ITS ETL SEMKO, a nationally recognized independent third-party testing laboratory. The North American ETL Listed mark signifies that the product has been tested to and has met the requirements of a widely recognized consensus of U.S and Canadian product safety standards, that the manufacturing site has been audited, and that the manufacturer has agreed to a program of quarterly factory follow-up inspections to verify continued conformance.

Limited Warranty

Seller warrants to the original consumer purchaser of this product that, for a period of one year (2814UB) or two years (2414U) from the date of purchase, this product will be free from defects in material and workmanship and will perform in substantial conformity to the description of the product in this User’s Guide. This warranty shall not apply to defects or errors caused by misuse or neglect. If the product is found to be defective in material or workmanship, or if the product does not perform as warranted above during the warranty period, Seller will either repair it, replace it or refund the purchase price, at its option, upon receipt of the product at the address below, postage prepaid, with proof of the date of purchase and an explanation of the defect or error. The repair, replacement, or refund that is provided for above shall be the full extent of Seller’s liability with respect to this product. For repair or replacement during the warranty period, call Smarthome customer service to receive an RA# (return authorization number), properly package the product (with the RA# clearly printed on the outside of the package) and send the product, along with all other required materials, to:

Smarthome, Inc.
ATTN: Receiving Dept.
16542 Millikan Ave.
Irvine, CA 92606-5027

Limitations

The above warranty is in lieu of and seller disclaims all other warranties, whether oral or written, express or implied, including and warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Any implied warranty, including any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, which may not be disclaimed or supplanted as provided above shall be limited to the one-year period of the express warranty above. No other representation or claim of any nature by any person shall be binding upon seller or modify the terms of the above warranty and disclaimer. In no event shall seller be liable for special, incidental, consequential, or other damages resulting from the possession or use of this product, including without limitation damage to property and, to the extent permitted by law, personal injury, even if seller knew or should have known of the possibility of such damages. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or the exclusion or limitation of damages, in which case the above limitations and/or exclusions may not apply to you. You may also have other legal rights that may vary from state to state.