

Home center 2.2

User guide



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Revision history

November 15 th 2010	Initial version
January 5 th 2011	Added paragraph about Trikker import: 4.4.2 Importing Trikker file
January 25 th 2011	Added paragraph about screensaver settings 4.13 Screensaver
February 2 nd 2011	Added camera extensions requirements, remark on Trikker import, remark on connection with USB cable, camera Error: Reference source not found Error: Reference source not found
November 6 th 2011	

1. About Home center

Home center is software by Stijnen Solutions to operate Velbus¹. Velbus is home automation by Velleman.



The most recent information can be found at www.homecenter.be
 Velbus: www.velbus.eu



	Home center server
	Home center client Windows iPhone iPad
	VelbusLink



1 Other supported system: Qbus domotica. To keep things straight forward, this document is written for a Velbus system. But the documentation also applies for Qbus domotica, unless stated otherwise. If specific aspects are mentioned for Velbus and there is a parallel with Qbus, you will find a note on this.

2. Home center requirements

This is a short overview of the software and hardware related aspects that you need to be aware of before you further dive into Home center.

Home center server and client run on a windows PC.

Home center for iPhone/iPad runs on iOSx and must be acquired separately from the Apple App store.

Supported operating system

Windows XP, Windows 7 or Windows Vista.

Home center has been successfully tested on some of the embedded versions. However we are not able to provide support for these.

Required software

Microsoft .Net Framework 2.0 or higher.

PC hardware requirements

Home center is a very light weight software and does not require a very extensive hardware setup.

Our advice

VMBTP8 - Panel-Touch PC for Home Center from Velbus.²

Home center is pre-installed. Both the Home center server and client run on this device. The VMBTP8 must be connected to Velbus.

Check www.velbus.eu for details and pricing.

If you decide to set up your own system, any PC purchased from your PC dealer should do. We do recommend to choose a PC with low power consumption. You might want to keep this PC running continuously to get fast access and receive all the updates from the bus.

Other required hardware

To use Home center you need an operating Velbus home automation system³!

You need an USB or RS232 interface (VMBRSUSB) with a cable to connect.

Home center for iPhone/iPad requirements

iPhone, iPod touch or iPad with access to the App store to download the app.

Wifi or GPRS⁴ connectivity.

Home center server (windows) is required to connect to the system!

Camera connectivity

Windows 32-bit or 64-bit OS

Camera converter from Stijnen Solutions

2 The Panel-touch PC from Velbus can also be used for Qbus domotica!

3 Or Qbus domotica system: with SER02 (2nd generation controller) or CTD (3th generation controller). Home center doesn't support the ETH interface for 2nd generation controllers.

4 Port forwarding on the internet router needs to be setup, this is not a part of this manual.

3. Home center quick overview

This chapter gives an overview on how to set up your initial configuration and gives an insight on all aspects you need to know about to get a quick start.

The concept of Home center is set up to be as easy as possible to configure and operate. This is achieved by letting the software do the configuration for you and be plug and play.

The software consist out of two parts

1. Home center server
2. Home center client (s) (user interface)

Home center server and client can run on the same computer!

3.1. The Home center server



The Home center server must get up and running first before you can start monitoring and controlling your system!

The Home center server is actually a small program that communicates with the bus. On an operational system this runs in the background. Home center clients connect to this server to operate and monitor Velbus.

With a basic license the server can accept up to 4 simultaneous client connections. This is: Home center windows clients or Home center for iPhone/iPad clients.

3.1.1. Connecting with the bus

When getting started, make sure the bus is connected to the computer.

The Home center server connects with the bus through USB or RS232. As mentioned in the requirements chapter, this requires that you have the USB or RS232 interface included in your Velbus installation.⁵

When making a connection with Home center to the bus, make sure no other software is blocking the communication interface. (for instance VelbusLink ⁶)

⁵ The same applies for Qbus: for 2nd generation controller, the SER02 needs to be in place; for 3th generation the USB or ETH interface should be connected.

⁶ For Qbus: Qbus system manager can also block the communication interface!

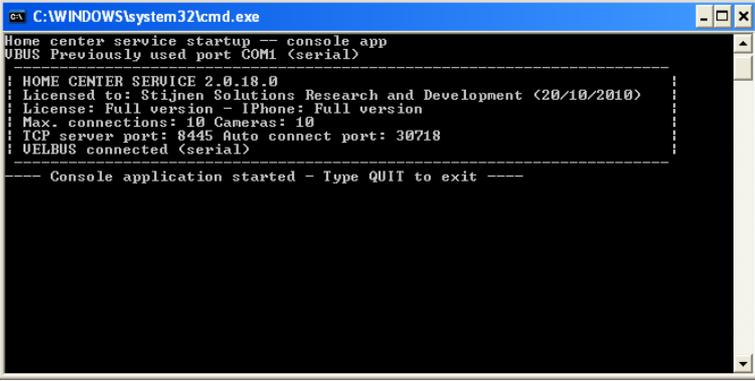
3.1.2. Running and controlling the home center server

Home center server can run as a windows service (Home center service) or as console application.

Console application

At first start of a manual installation, we advise you to start as console application to verify if the system is getting up and running. If verified that the connection with the bus is setup correctly, you can start using the windows service.

The panel-touch PC from Velbus has been prepared well and doesn't require the console application to be run! You just need to make sure the bus is connected to the device.



```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
Home center service startup -- console app
UBUS Previously used port COM1 (serial)

HOME CENTER SERVICE 2.0.18.0
: Licensed to: Stijnen Solutions Research and Development (20/10/2010)
: License: Full version - iPhone: Full version
: Max. connections: 10 Cameras: 10
: ICP server port: 8445 Auto connect port: 30718
: VELBUS connected (serial)

--- Console application started - Type QUIT to exit ---

```

Windows service

For a verified system, the panel-touch PC from Velbus, or after doing verification on a manual installation, the windows service should be used. This windows service is configured to start automatically when booting windows and doesn't require any further user action.

After the installation of Home center, the windows service is NOT automatically started. The first time you must do this manually with the Home center service controller.

Home center service controller

The Home center service controller is a small application to control the home center windows service. Start this application from the start menu / Programs / Home center/ Homes center (service controller). It runs in the tray of your windows bar. With this application you can start or stop the Home center windows service. Right click on the icon to open the menu.



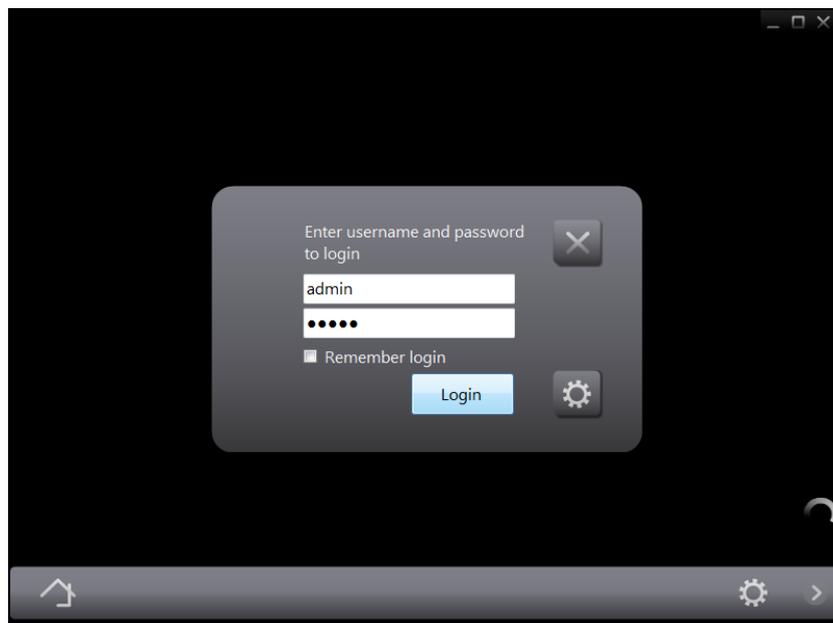
Clicking 'Hide icon' will remove the icon from the task bar, but will not stop the Home center service!

3.1.3. Connections from home center clients

Home center clients connect to the Home center server through the IP network (wired or wifi). This way clients are able to operate Velbus and receive live status updates.

3.1.4. Login

If you start the Home center client, you will be prompted to login. The default user name and password are filled in for you (admin – admin) so you don't have to type anything. Just click 'Login'.



More about login and user management in chapter 4.9 User management.

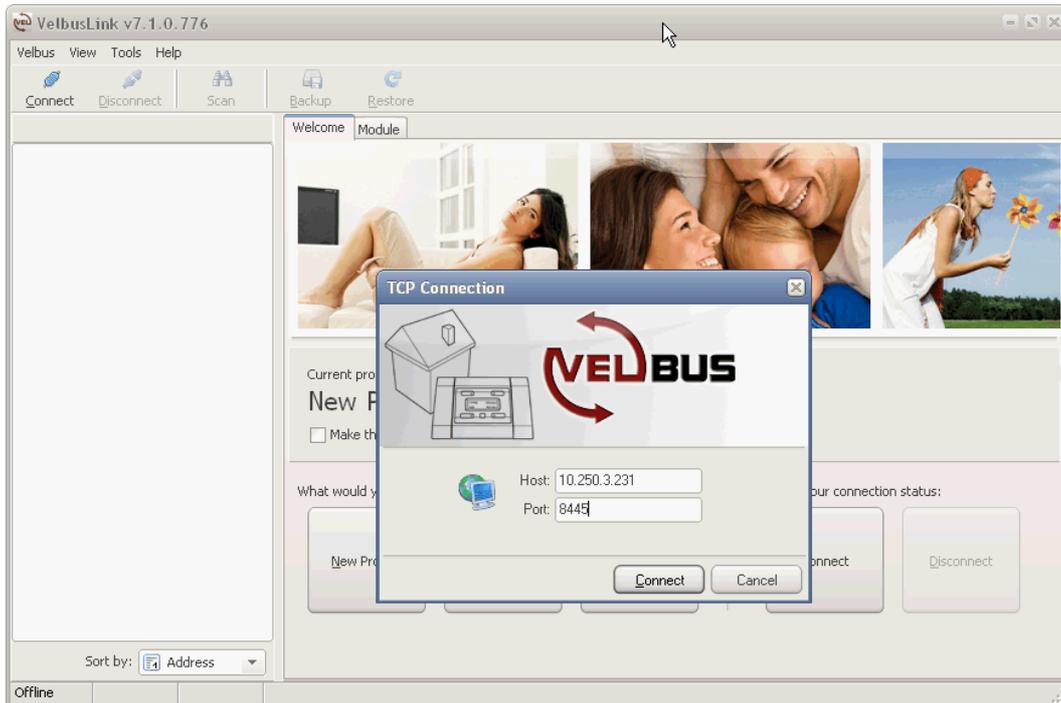
3.1.5. Connections from VelbusLink⁷

VelbusLink can connect through the Home center server to configure the modules in the bus. Home center server then operates as a pass through gateway (Ethernet interface). This is useful because the connection to the bus cannot be shared with other applications. This means that the Home center server doesn't need to be stopped and restarted to do some configuration to the modules in the home automation system.

To do this, open the VelbusLink application. Load your project. Then select in 'Remote connect' from the menu. You will be prompted for an IP and port. Enter the IP address from the computer on which the Home center server is running. The default port for Home center is 8445. Click the 'Connect' button. Velbus will set up the connection and start downloading info from the modules in the system. In the new VelbusLink software the IP address and port number will be filled in automatically in a Local

⁷ The pass through function also applies for the Qbus system manager!

Area Network (LAN) if the Home center server is active.



3.1.6. Scanning and downloading configuration

When starting the home center server for the first time, the server will scan automatically for any available and supported home automation systems that are connected to the computer. It will scan USB or RS232 devices⁸. When a home automation system is found, it sets up a connection and starts downloading the configuration. Scanning and downloading can take a few minutes.

You can activate a rescan and re-download from the Home center client for Windows! More in chapter 4.7 What if you make changes in your home automation system?

3.2. Home center clients

There are currently 2 clients available to control and monitor the home automation system.

1. Home center client for Windows
2. Home center for iPhone / iPad

⁸ And Ethernet interfaces for Qbus.

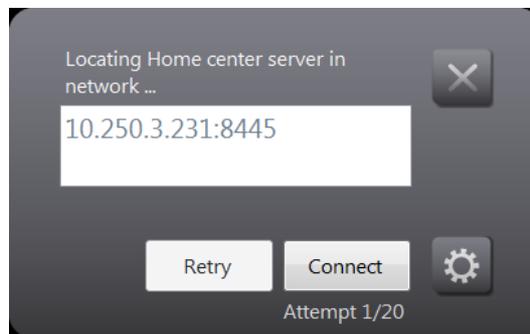
3.2.1. Home center client for Windows



The Home center client is included in the setup of Home center. This can be installed separately on any PC. The PC should be located in the network, so the Home center client is able to reach the Home center server.

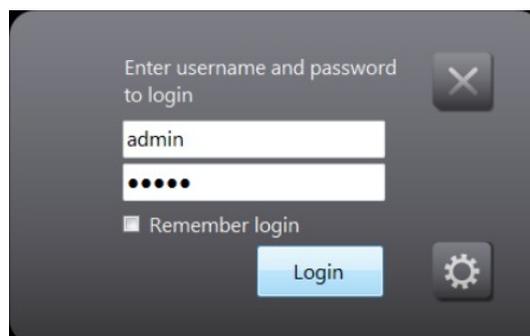
Auto connect to Home center server

At first start up of the Home center client, the client will try to detect the Home center server located in your home network.



When the Home center server is running and discovered, the IP address of the computer on which it is running will be added in the list (image). The Home center client will automatically make a connection and prompt to login.

The default user name and password are filled in for you (admin – admin) so you don't have to type anything. Just click 'Login'.



Home center automatically loads the client configuration from the server.

When closing the Home center client, the address will be stored in the local settings, so the next time you start the client, it will immediately reconnect to the server.

If the auto detection should fail...

Make sure the Home center server is up and running in your local network. If the PC with Home center server is still booting, the client will retry a few times to set up the connection.

You can always click the 'Setup' button to enter the IP address of the server manually and press 'Connect'. More details about this in one of the next chapters.

If the client is still unable to connect...

Possible causes:

- The network cable may be disconnected
- The network is unavailable on the client computer
- A firewall might be blocking the access
- The Home center server is not started or was stopped

Solutions:

- Verify the network
- Check the firewall
- Verify that the Home center server is active

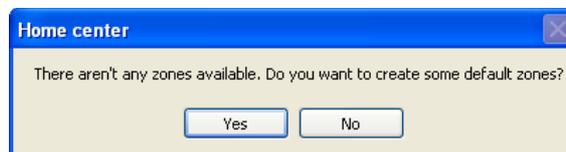
When the server is still starting, for instance on first start, the server downloads the configuration from the bus, this may take a while. The client will wait until the server is ready.

Connection stability

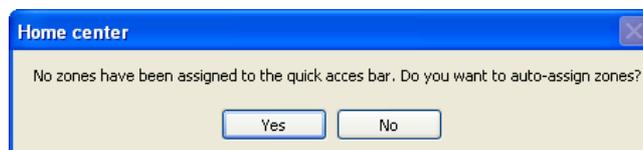
If for some reason the connection to the Home center server is lost, the client will try to re-establish the connection when you operate a button. You don't need to manually reconnect to the server.

Auto configuration

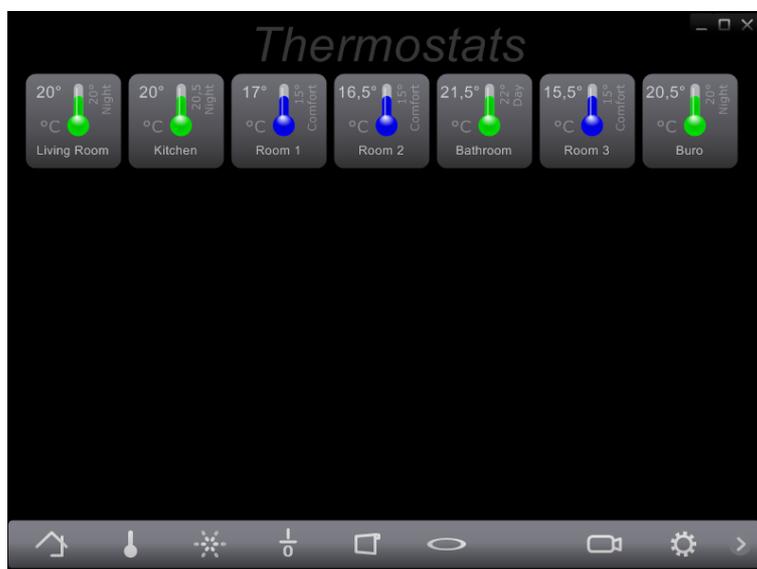
When a client connects for the first time, Home center asks you if you want to make a default configuration. Selecting 'yes' will let you choose to create zones for all thermostats, dimmers, toggles, shades and macro's.



Next, Home center will ask you if you want to make a default assignment to the operation bar. By selecting 'yes' the zones you just created will be assigned to buttons in the operation bar.



This auto configuration gets you ready to operate the Velbus in just a few clicks!



More details on how to configure and personalize the user interface will follow in one of the next chapters

3.2.2. Home center for iPhone/iPad



Home center for iPhone/iPad is a native iPhone/iPad application, not a web client. The advantage is that this works much faster and offers a very reliable and enhanced interface.

Install the home center for iPhone/iPad from the Apple app store.

The connection is verified with an username and password. Provide the username and password through the iPhone/iPad settings!

When starting Home center for iPhone/iPad, the app will try to detect the Home center server located in your home network through wifi. If found, the connection will automatically be established.

More details on how to use and configure Home center for iPhone: 6. Home center for iPhone/iPad

4. Home center for Windows

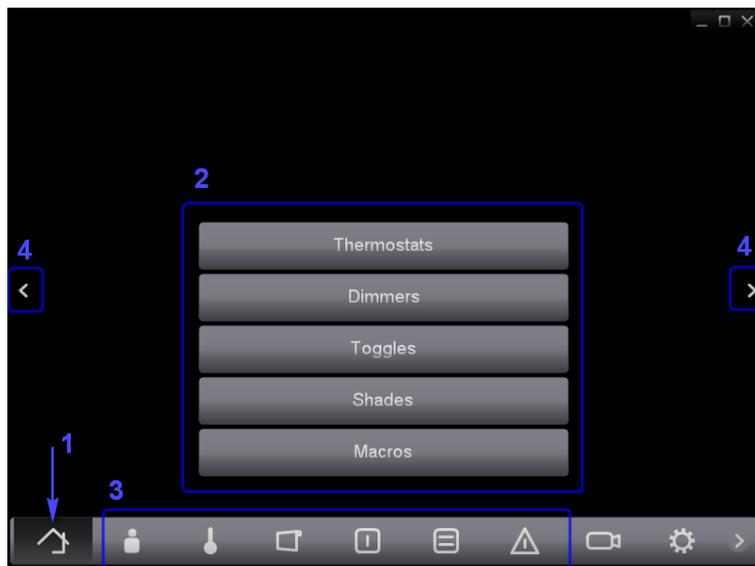
This chapter will show in detail how to operate and read control statuses in Home center for Windows. If you already tested the software, you may have experienced that most aspects are self explaining and very obvious. In this case you will run through the first part of this chapter like a high speed train!

This chapter also explains how to customize your configuration. Let's get creative!

4.1. Navigating through the screens

If you let Home center create an auto configuration for you. You can start operating your Home automation system right away.

Start by clicking the *Home button* **(1)** on the bottom left of the screen. You now see a list of the views or *zones* Home center created.



To open a zone and to start controlling your home automation system, click a button on the center of the screen **(2)**. To go to another zone, you can click again on the *Home button* and select another zone.

But you can get there faster! Select a button from the quick access bar on the bottom of the screen **(3)**. This will immediately open the zone that is connected to the clicked button.

You can also scroll through the zones by clicking the small icons on the center left and right of the screen **(4)**.



Now you can immediately start operating your Home automation system.

4.2. Operating controls and reading live statuses

In Home center controls are divided in separate types corresponding there function.

- Toggles: light switches, controlled outlets, ... anything that can be switched ON or OFF⁹
- Dimmers: dimmable lights, engine, ...
- Shades: sunshades, shutters, ... anything that can go UP and DOWN (and STOP somewhere in between)
- Thermostats: read current temperature and control the desired temperature
- Macro's: combined functions that you have provided in your home automation configuration, they are activated with one click.

4.2.1. Toggles

Reading the status

	
The toggle is OFF when the icon is gray.	The toggle is ON when the icon is colored.

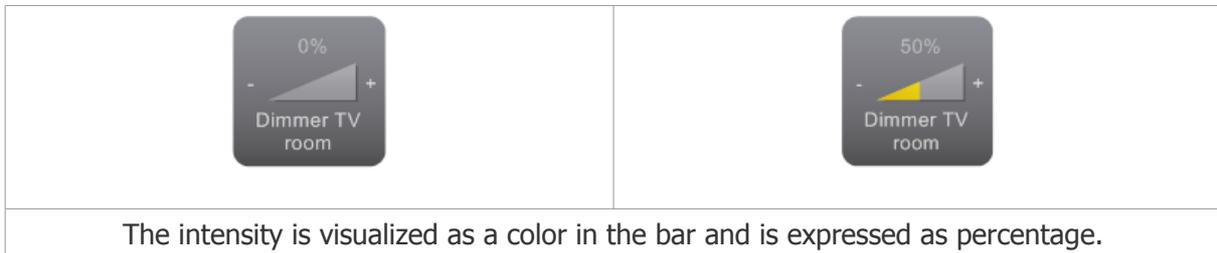
Operating the toggle

Just click once to toggle!

⁹ For Qbus: Timers are also available: these resemble toggles, but can only be set to ON

4.2.2. Dimmers

Reading the status



Operating the dimmer

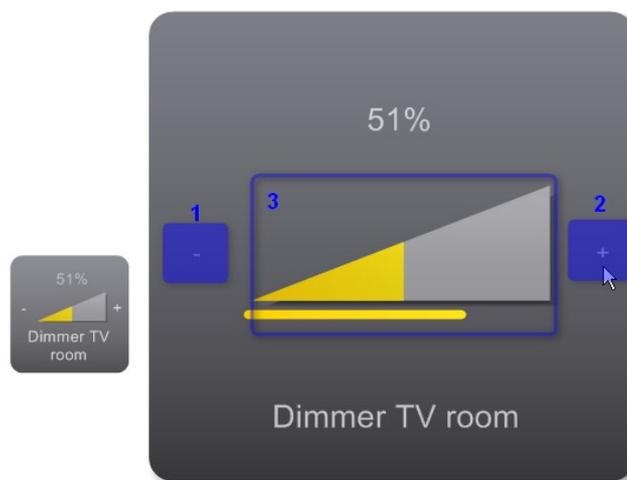
One click access



- Click – **(1)** or + **(2)** shortly: the dimmer is reduced to zero or is activated to the default ON value.
- Click – **(1)** or + **(2)** and holding for a long time, the dimmer will reduce or increase gradually.

Detailed access

Click the center of the button to open a large view of the dimmer. **(3)**



The – **(1)** or + **(2)** can be operated the same way as on the small button:

- Click – **(1)** or + **(2)** shortly, the dimmer is reduced to zero respectively the default on value.
- Click – (1) or + (2) and holding for a long time, the dimmer will reduce or increase

gradually. A progress bar will appear and show the estimated value.
You can also click somewhere on the bar to choose an intensity. **(3)**

4.2.3. Shades

Reading the status

If a shade is going up or down the corresponding arrow will be colored red. When a shade is not in motion, no arrow is lit.

Home center also remembers the last movement of the shade and thus shows the current state of the shade: OPEN or CLOSED.

		
Shade is OPEN and not in motion (STOPPED)	Shade is OPEN and is now going DOWN	Shade is CLOSED and is now going UP

Operating the shade

	Click the UP arrow to make the shade go up (or open). Click again to STOP the shade.
	Click the DOWN arrow to make the shade go down (or close). Click again to STOP the shade.

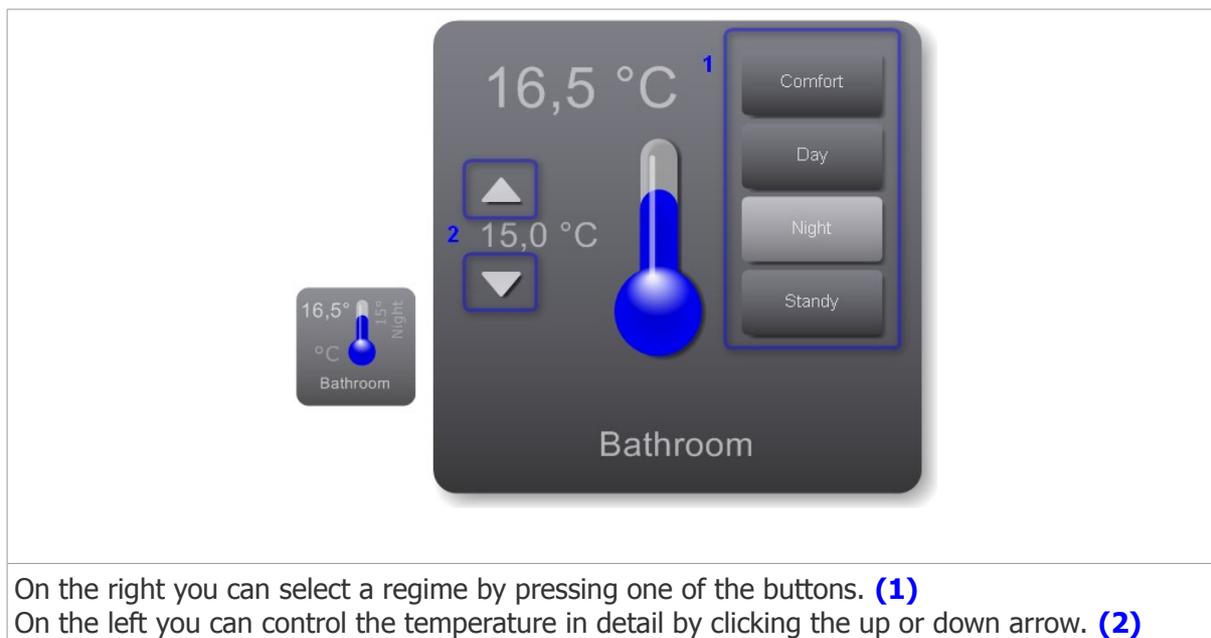
4.2.4. Thermostats

Reading the status

	The current temperature is displayed in the upper left corner. On the right you can read the active regime and temperature that is set.
---	--

Operating the thermostat

Click the thermostat to open a detailed screen.



4.2.5. Macro's

Reading the status

Does not apply here

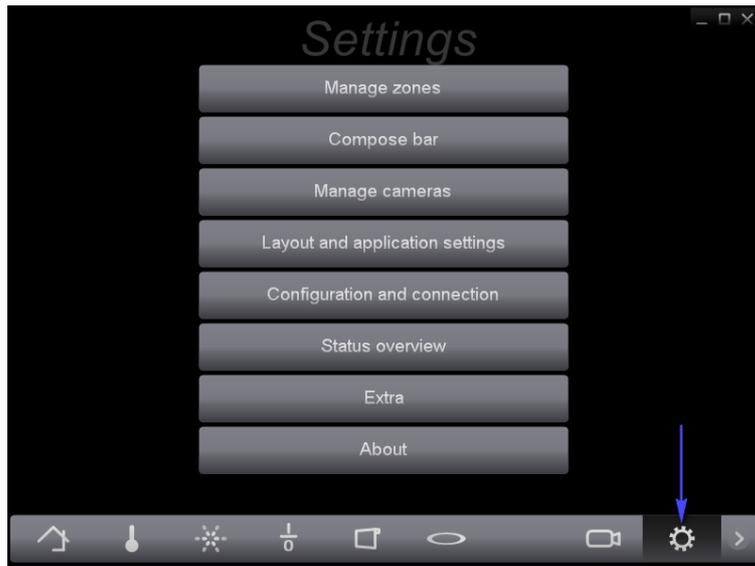
Operating the macro

	<p>Just click it!</p> <p>The resulting actions will be visible your house and on the affected controls in Home center.</p>
---	--

4.3. Changing the layout of the controls

The layout of the controls can be changed for each control individually or for all controls, which have the default layout applied, in one operation. The customization is done through the *Settings*. Open the *Settings* by clicking on the gear icon on the bottom left of the screen.¹⁰

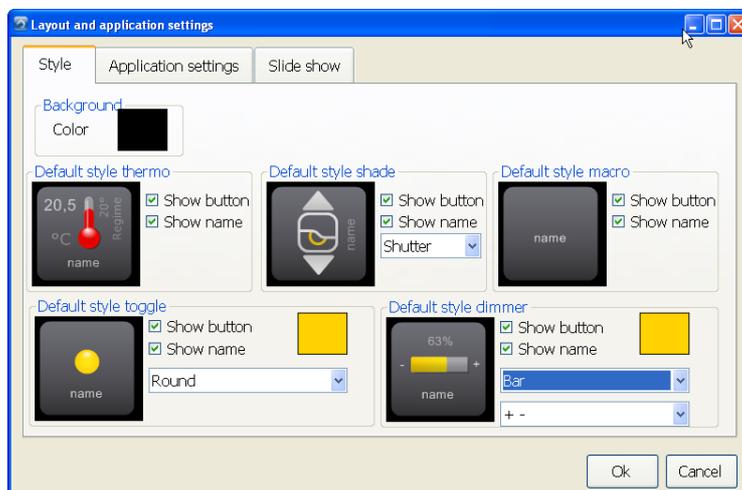
¹⁰ The *manage cameras* option is only available if you have camera enabled in your license.



4.3.1. Default control layout

Changing the default layout for the controls affects all the controls which still have the default layout applied. If you are still working on the automatically created configuration, all controls will have the default layout.

To change the default layout of the controls open the *Layout and application settings*. First, click the *Settings* button on the left bottom of the screen and then click *Layout and application settings*.



On the *Style* tab, you can see the default layout style for each type of controls. Changing the style for, for instance, a toggle will affect all toggles which didn't get an individual style.

For each type of control you can hide the gray button and name. This might be useful if you like a sleek style or you want to fit many controls on one screen.

For toggles, dimmers and shades you can change the default icon.

For toggles and dimmers you can change the default color of the ON value.

4.3.2. Changing the layout for each control individually

You can also set the style for each control separately. This is done through the management of the zones. When editing a zone you can set the style for each control on that zone. This will be explained in the next paragraph.(4.4.5 Editing a zone)

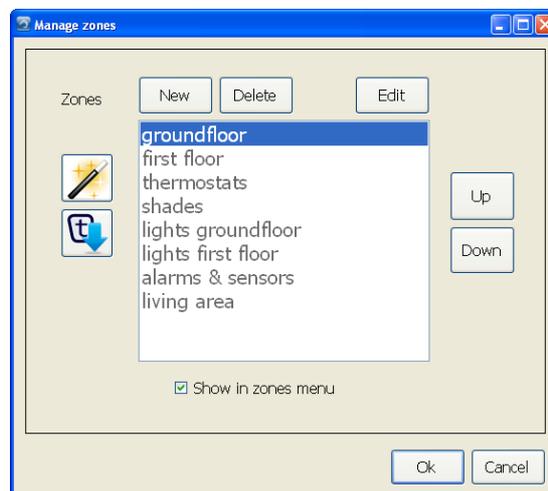
4.4. Arranging the controls in views or zones

To manage your home automation system, you need a quick access to all the available controls. Home center lets you arrange these controls in views, we call them '*Zones*'. Some tips on which kind of zones you can make:

- Create zones for controls with similar functionality. For instance, all the thermostats of your house.
- Create zones for controls which belong together. For instance, all the controls of one room or floor. You might want to add a floor plan or a photo of that room on the background.
- Create zones for controls with complementary functionality. Put together an alarm sensor connected to an automatic door and the button to open and close that door.

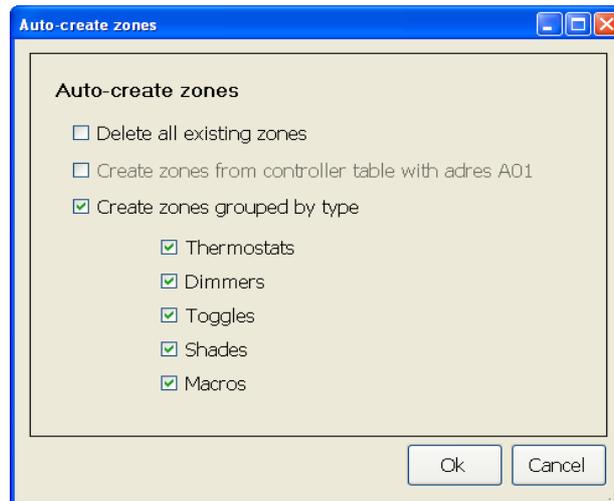
You can also put the same control multiple times on one zone for a better effect. You can also repeat the same control on different zones.

To create and edit these zones, go to *Settings* and select *Manage zones*. This will open the screen to manage the zones. The names of the zones that already have been created are listed here.



4.4.1. Auto create zones

To help you to take a quick start you can make an auto configuration. (The first time you started Home center, the program already suggested this option to you without having to open the *Manage zones* screen.) On the *Manage zones* screen, click the button on the left with a magic wand. You will see a screen that prompts you which actions to take.



Delete all existing zones

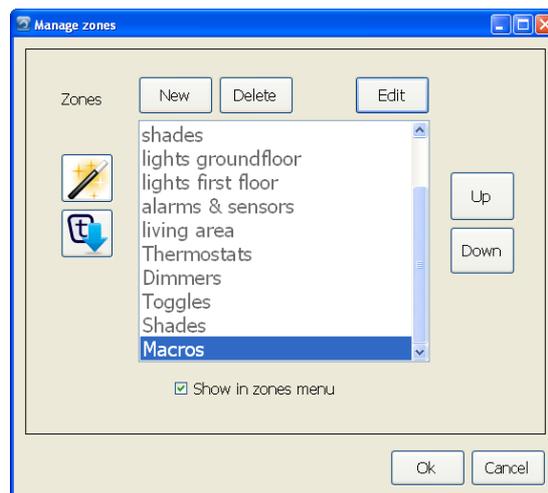
If you already created zones and want to delete them to start over, put a check mark with this option. If you want to keep the existing zones, don't select this!

Create zones grouped by type

This will create a zone for each type of control. You can select each type individually. For instance you just want to create a zone with all thermostats: remove all the check marks for the other types, and just keep the check mark for *Thermostats*.

If you have many controls of one type so they don't fit on one screen, the wizard will split them up in separate screens.

Click OK to create the zones!



In the example the wizard has added the zones to the bottom of the list.

4.4.2. Importing Trikker file



In version 2.0.23 the option to import scheme's from Trikker is added. Trikker, a product by Bluebits¹¹, is a drawing program to quickly and easily draw single wire scheme's and situation sketches of electrical installations. Also Velbus installations can perfectly be drawn with Trikker. The address of each component can be assigned in Trikker.

The scheme's drawn with Trikker can directly be imported in Home center. On the touch screen the floor-plan and the buttons of all devices appear. This way the entire Velbus system is shown and is ready to be operated.

How to create an export file in Trikker en how to import it in Home center is described in a separate manual.

Please note

The addresses provided in Trikker should be identical to the addresses you see in the VelbusLink! These are hexadecimal values!

4.4.3. Controlling the order of the zones

When you click the *Home button* in Home center, this list of zones is displayed in the same order as you see here.

To rearrange this list, select the zone you want to move. On the right of the list there is a button to move it *Up* or *Down*.

4.4.4. Adding and removing zones

To add a new zone, click the *New* button above the list. This will add a new (empty) zone on the bottom off the list.

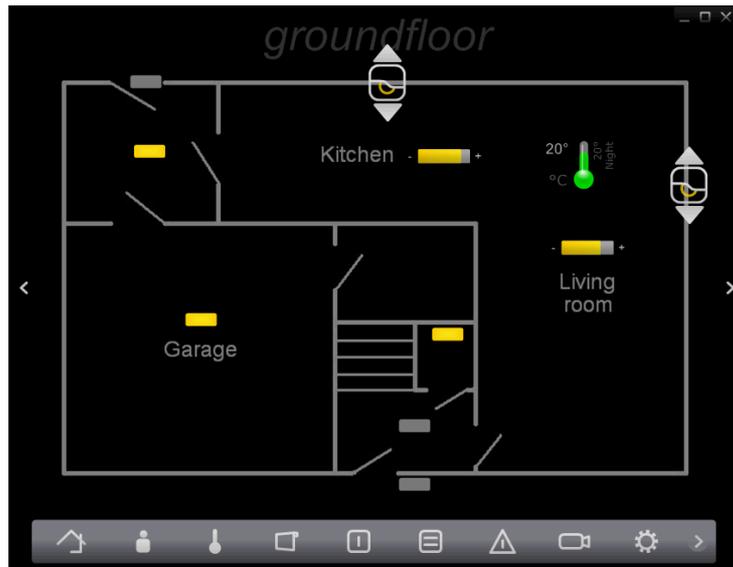
To remove a zone select the zone in the list and click the *Delete* button.

In some cases you might want to hide a zone from the list displayed when clicking the *Home button*. This could be a zone you are working on or one you are not using but you just don't want to throw it away. Select the zone in the list and remove the check mark *Show in zones menu* just beneath the list. This way you can make as many zones as you want and not disturb your regular use of Home center.

4.4.5. Editing a zone

Now it is time to do some real work. Let's start composing our own zone! As an example we will make a zone for the ground floor of our house. We will put a floor plan up and add all lights, thermostats, shades on it. The result might look something like this:

¹¹ <http://www.bluebits.be/>

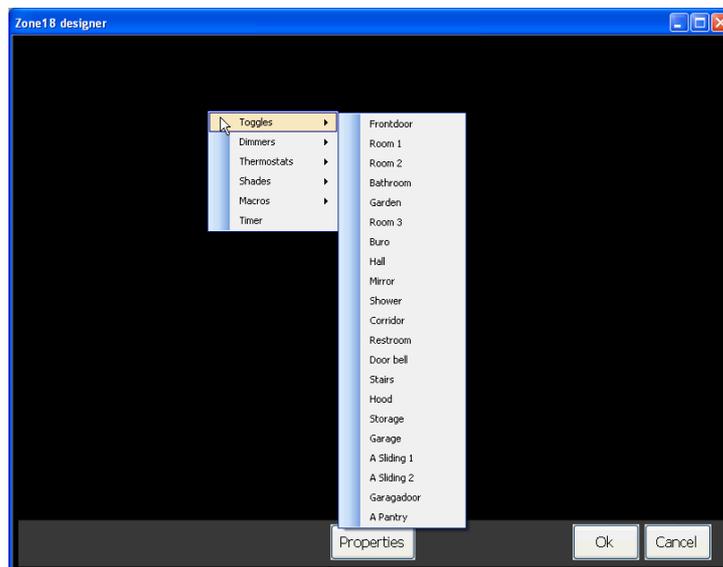


Open the *Manage zones* screen. Select *New*. This will add a new zone to the bottom of our list. Now click the *Edit* button on the right above the list.

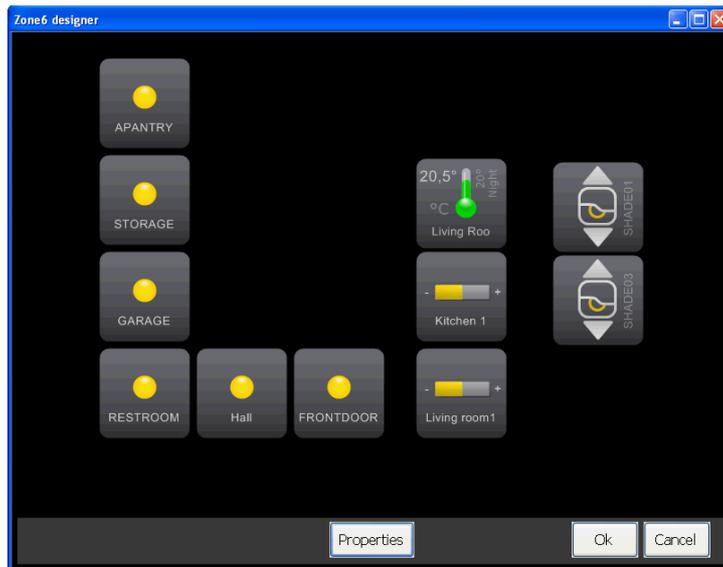
You will start with an empty edit screen.

Adding a control on the zone

To put in some controls, right click somewhere on the screen. A menu pops up with all available controls, separated per type. Select a control. This control will be added on the spot you first clicked.



Repeat this action to add more controls to the screen.

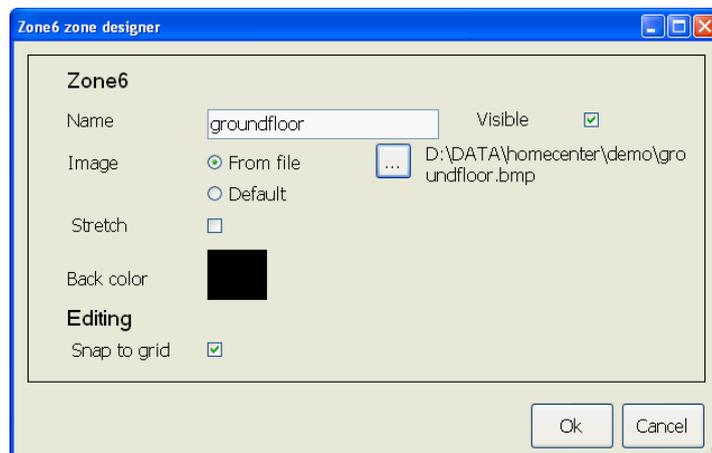


Moving a control on the zone

Moving a control is done by 'dragging it around': click on it with the left mouse button, hold it down and move the mouse. The control will follow the movement of the mouse. Release the mouse button to stop dragging.

Naming the zone

Select the *Properties* button on the bottom of the screen to edit the properties of the zone.



Here you can change the title of the zone. This title will appear on top of the screen when you are viewing a zone. If you don't want to see the title. Remove the *Visible* check mark, next to the title.

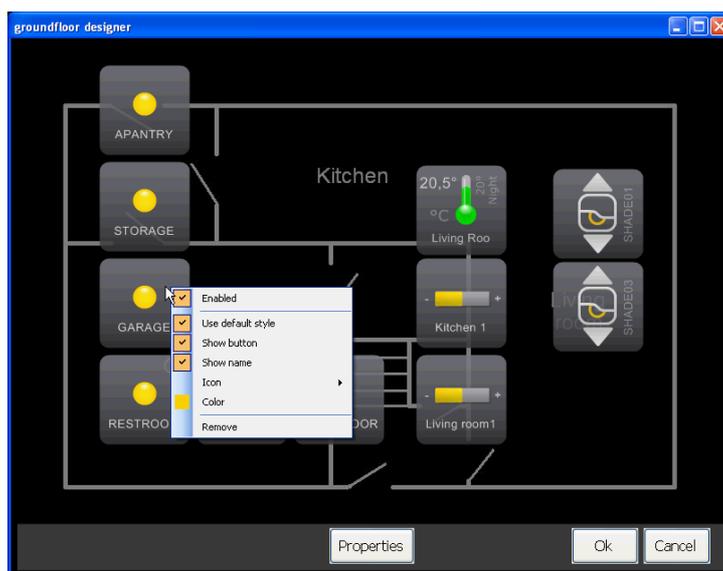
Setting a background image on the zone

On the properties screen you can set the background of the zone. Choose a background color (The default background color is black), or select an image file from your computer system. The accepted

types are BMP, JPG, GIF and PNG. The size of the image is limited to 4 MB. You can also choose to stretch the image to fill the entire screen.

Changing the control layout

For each control placed on the zone, the layout can be customized. To do this, make sure you are on the designer of the zone. Right click on the control to open a menu with options you can set for the button. This menu is different for each type of controls.



Properties available to all type of controls

Default style

For each newly added control, the option *Use default style* is selected. This means the control is displayed as set in 4.3.1. Default control layout, When you have changed the properties, you can always return to the default layout by selecting *Use default style*.

Show button

For each type of control the gray button can be shown or hidden.

Show name

For each type of control the name can be shown or hidden.

Enabled

A control can be disabled, the control will get a 'read only' state. This means you will not be able to operate the control by clicking it in Home center. This is useful for instance alarm sensors. Newly added controls are always enabled.

Specific properties for each type of control

Toggle control options

Icon: a different icon can be chosen

Color: the color of the control icon when enabled.

Dimmer control options

Icon: a different icon can be chosen

Color: the color of the control icon when enabled.

Alternative presentation: show or don't show the percentage value

Thermostat control options

Alternative presentation: switch to a presentation where only the temperature and the icon are shown

Shade control options

Icon: a different icon can be chosen

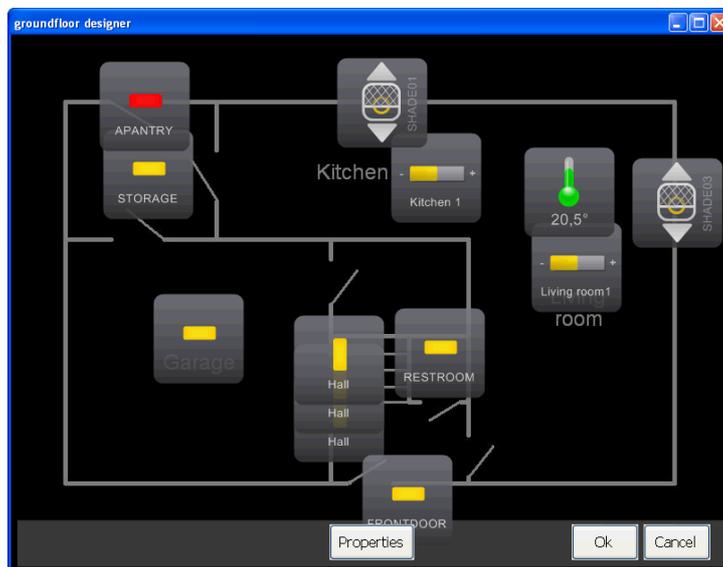
Removing controls

Right click the control that you want to remove. Select *Remove*.

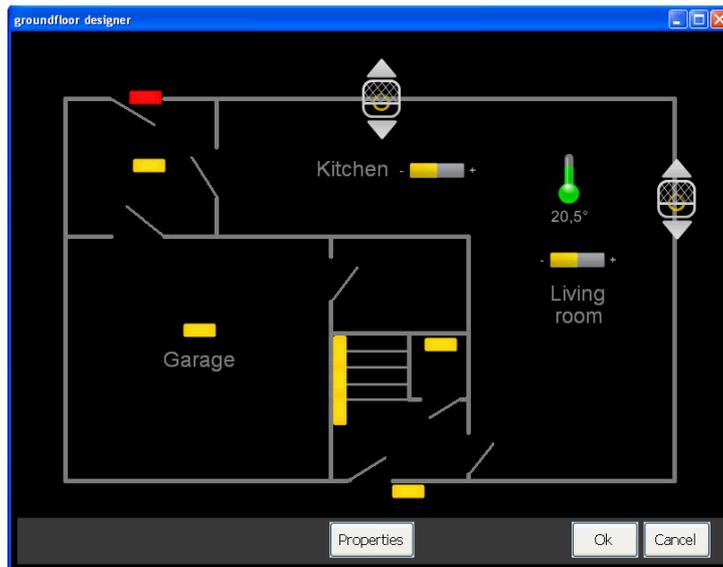
Returning to our example

In the example, I have:

- Moved the controls on the floor plan to right spot.
- Added the 'Hall' light 2 more times. (The light in the hall is a led strip stretching over the stairs)
- Changed the icons for the hall light controls to vertical strips
- Change the icons for all other toggles to a horizontal strip.
- For the alarm sensor, change the color of the 'enabled' state to RED.
- Changed the icon for the sunshades in the kitchen and living room.
- Selected Alternative presentation for the thermostat in the living room



To finish up, I removed all the gray buttons and names. This is the final result:

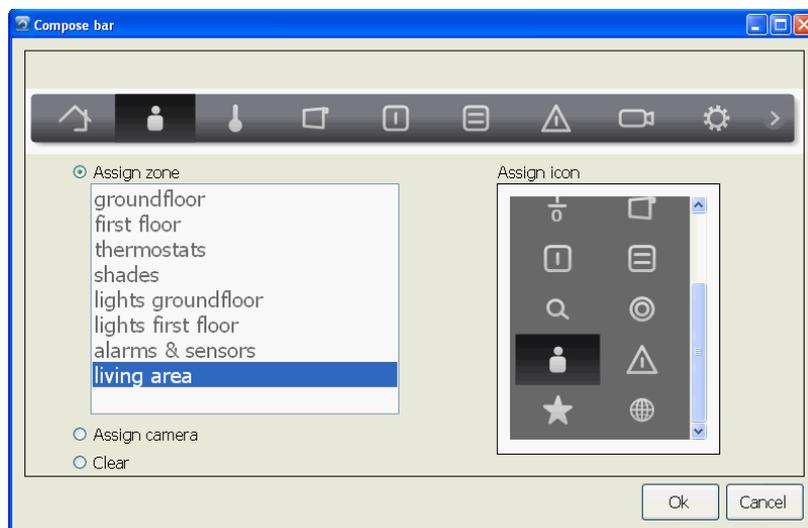


This gives you an idea of the possibilities Home center offers to create good looking and handy views.

4.5. Configuring the quick access bar

The quick access bar is a very handy tool which lets you switch very quickly between important zones. The bar has seven buttons where you can assign your favorite zones.

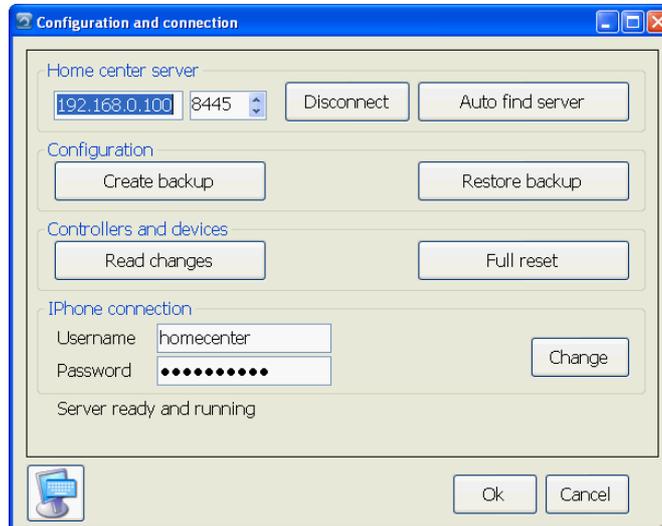
Go to *Settings* and select *Manage bar*.



For example, we might want to assign the 'living area' zone to the first button (next to the *Home button*). First select the spot in the quick access bar where you want to put zone. Then select the 'living area' from the list of zones. Finally select an icon from list of icons on the right. Continue to do this for each zone you want a quick link for. You can leave a spot blank by not selecting a zone but choosing the radio button *Clear*. The *Assign camera* option is only available if you have cameras enabled in your license.

4.6. Making a backup of your configuration

At some point you might want to save the configuration you made for safeguard or because you want to experiment a bit and don't want to lose all the work you have done. To do this, go to the *Settings* and select *Configuration and connection*.



Under *Configuration* there are 2 buttons

- *Create backup*: this will create a backup from your configuration. You can assign a folder location where the backup should be stored.
- *Restore backup*: this replaces the current configuration with the one you stored earlier. You will be prompted for a backup file.

The backup file contains all the client settings:

- default button layout
- layouts of the zones, including button styles and background images
- the configuration from the bus.

4.7. What if you make changes in your home automation system?

When Home center was loaded the first time, the entire bus was scanned to find all available modules and read all their properties, including names, macro's, etc. You can change these settings through VelbusLink.¹² You can replace modules or even add new ones. Home center isn't automatically aware of these changes. To get all this new information in Home center, the changes have to be read from the bus. To do this, go to the *Settings* and select *Configuration and connection*.

Under *Controllers and devices* there are 2 buttons:

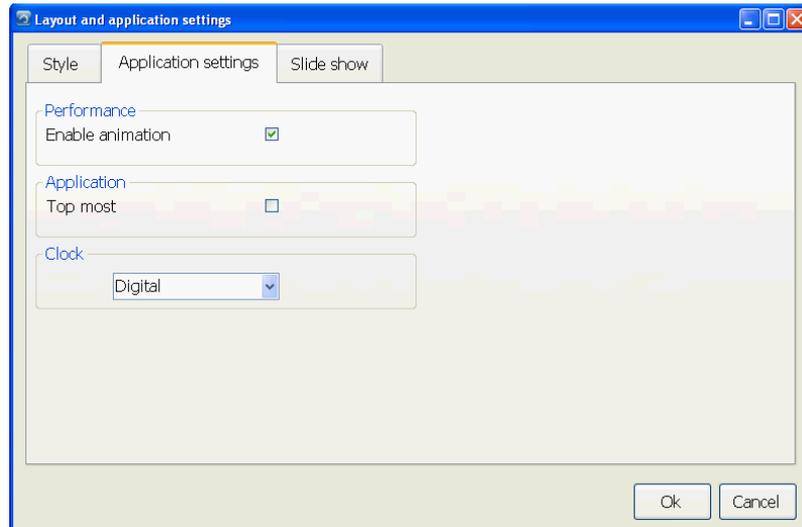
- *Read changes*: this will read all the changes you made in the bus: changed names, new macro's, new modules, ...
- *Full reset*: this will throw away all currently collected information from the bus and do a full rescan. It is very likely that the controls that you have put in zones do not work anymore! If you are still in an early stage of configuring your home automation system and home center, this can be useful, because some drastic changes may not be loaded correctly. Before pressing

¹² Or the Qbus Serial Manager

this button, be sure to do a backup of your current configuration. You can always restore your backup.

4.8. Disable animations on slower systems

If you have installed Home center for Windows on a computer with a somewhat lighter graphics card. The animations might not be very fluent. You can disable the animations from the *Layout and applications settings*. Select the tab *Application settings*.



Under performance, remove the check mark for *Enable animations*.

4.9. User management

When Home center connects to the Home center server, a login is required. The system has automatically 2 default users:

- Administrator: username: *admin* password: *admin*
This user has full control over the system. This means this user can create, edit and delete zones in the 'Manage zones' and is able to configure the quick access bar, etc.
- Minimal user: username: *homecenter* password: *homecenter*
This user has limited access. This user can operate the buttons on the zones, but is unable to create, edit and delete zones. This user is also not allowed to configure the quick access bar.

It is advised to change these to default users. This can be done with the Home center management module, available from the Windows start menu.

You can add and delete users.

4.10. Problem solving

4.10.1. the status screen

The status screen automatically pops up when something is wrong with the connection to the bus or the license. This helps you to identify any problems. You can also load this screen from the *Settings*. Select *Status overview*.

If one of the components doesn't have a green status. The home automation system cannot be operated with the Home Center software.



Connection to the server

This shows the status of the connection of the Home center Client to the Home center Server over TCP network. If this status displays a red sign, the client is not connected to the server.

Note: if the connection to the server is broken, checking the other statuses will fail!

Possible causes:

- The network cable may be disconnected
- The network is unavailable on the client computer
- A firewall might be blocking the access
- The Home Center Server is not started or was stopped

Solutions:

- Verify the network
- Check the firewall
- Verify that the Home Center Server is active

Connection to the bus

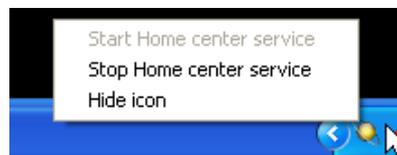
This shows the status of the connection of the Home center Server to the home automation bus over the serial/USB/ethernet interface. If this status is a red sign, the server is not connected to the home automation system.

Possible causes:

- The USB/Serial/Ethernet cable may be disconnected from the computer or from the usb/serial/ethernet interface of the home automation system
- For Qbus SER02: Check if the version of the serial interface is up to date
- If the license is invalid, the server automatically closes the connection to the USB/Serial/Ethernet interface
- The license might be expired, then the server also closes the connection to the USB/Serial/Ethernet interface
- The license file might be corrupted
- The USB/Serial/Ethernet port/interface might be in use by another program (for instance VelbusLink or Qbus Serial Manager). In this case the interface is blocked, only one program at the time can connect to the port/interface

Solutions:

- Verify if the cable is correctly connected
- For Qbus SER02: Check the version of the serial interface. Events must be supported.
- Verify the license:
 - it might be expired in case of a trail version
 - it might be of a previous version of Home center: install the new license you received. If you didn't receive a new license, please contact your dealer.
 - if the license file is corrupted, reinstall the original file
- Close any other program that might occupy the USB/Serial/Ethernet port
- Finally restart the Home center service. Start the Home center controller from the Windows start menu. Right click the icon in the task bar. Stop the Home center server by clicking *Stop Home center service* and then restart by selecting *Start Home center service*.

**Please note**

If the bus is connected with an USB cable, **do not pull the cable** while Home center server or service is running! This will corrupt the connection from the bus in the Windows environment. To recover from this, a full reboot of the system is required!

License

If there is a problem with the license the status of the license displays a red sign.

Causes:

- If you have a trail license, the license might be expired
- The license file might be from a previous version of Home center
- The license file might be corrupted: you cannot manually alter the content of the license file
- The license verification failed:
 - you installed a new computer

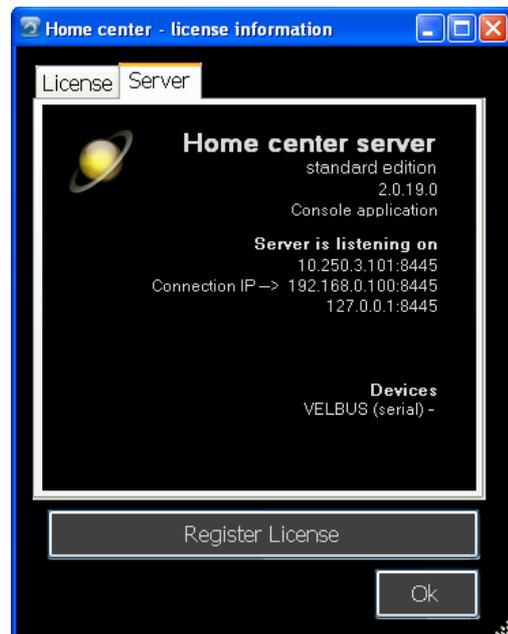
Solutions

- If you have a valid, up to date license, make sure the license is correctly installed
- If you have a license of a previous version of Home center: install the new license you received. If you didn't receive a new license, please contact your dealer.
- If the license file is corrupt, reinstall the original license file
- In case the license verification failed
 - if you installed a new computer or a computer part was replaced. Re-run the Home center Agent on the computer, contact your dealer to update your license.
 - the license was not intended for your home automation installation. Contact your dealer to acquire a valid license

4.10.2. The 'About' screen

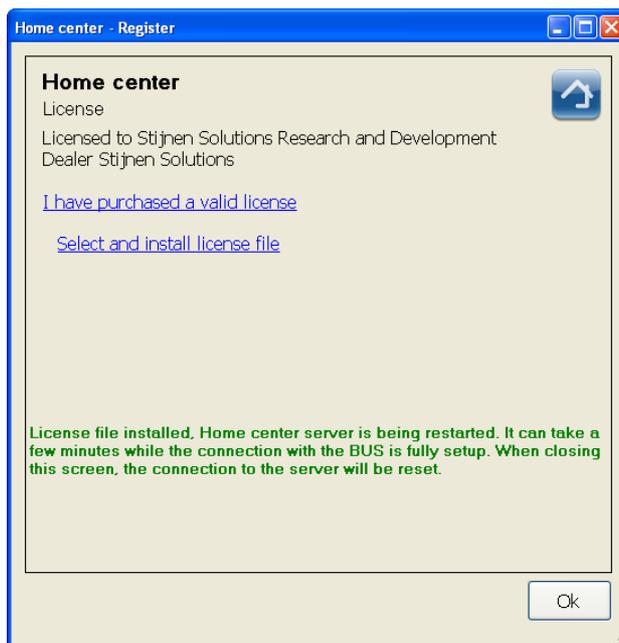
To open the *About* screen, go to *Settings*, click *About*.

The about screens displays a lot of useful information about the Home center you are running. You will find information about the installed version of Home center, the license and about the Home center server: IP's and the connected Home automation bus.



4.11. Installing a license

Installing a new license is done through the About screen. Select *Register license*. There you can load a license file you have received from your dealer into Home center. After installing a license, the Home center server will restart and might rescan the bus of your home automation system. Close en restart all the connected Home center clients.



4.12. Extras

There are some extra features for you to play with. To go to them go to *Settings* and select *Extra*.

4.12.1. Clock

Included in the extras is an analog or digital clock. To choose between a digital or analog clock go to the *Settings* and select *Layout and applications settings*. Select the tab *Application settings*. There you can choose the type of clock.

Load the clock from *Settings* and select *Extra*.

- The clock can be dragged to the desired location on the screen.
- It can be resized by clicking and holding the lower right corner and then moving the mouse pointer.
- To clock always stays on top of Home center.
- To close the clock: double click it.
- If you keep the clock visible when you close home center, next time you start Home center the clock will also be loaded.



4.12.2. Egg timers

There is also an egg timer, which can be loaded multiple times. (Cooking eggs in a pot, potatoes in another pot and a cake in the oven.)



- Drag it around on the screen by clicking and holding the upper right corner.
- To increase the time, click and hold the +.
- To reduce the time, click and hold the -
- Start the timer by clicking once in the middle of the timer.
- Click again to stop the timer. To make the timer continue, click again...
- When the timer is done, the timer screen flashes RED. Click it to stop the flashing.
- Click the small cross in the upper right corner to close the timer.

4.13. Screensaver

To lower power consumption, you might want to turn off the monitor of your touchscreen when it is left idle for some time. When you touch the screen, it 's turned on and you can start operating Home center again.

In Windows, when you click (or touch) the screen when it is turned off, you might accidentally operate a button right on the spot you clicked (or touched). To prevent this from happening, Home center activates an overlay to protect the underlying buttons. Because of some limitations in Windows we can not detect with 100% certainty that the monitor is turned off (it depends on the hardware and driver), but detecting that the screensaver is active, does work.

Therefore the overlay is activated when it is detected that the screensaver is active. So it is best to configure your touchpc to first start a screensaver after, for example, 10 minutes, and then turn off the monitor after 15 minutes.

Our advice

Configure your system to first start a screensaver and some time later to turn off the screen. This, to prevent from accidentally activating a button in Home center when you touch the screen when the monitor is turned off.

5. Home center camera extensions

An available extension for Home center are cameras. They are available through a license extension.

Currently only camera converters provided by Stijnen Solution are supported. The converter translates an analog signal (composite video) from a camera (PAL or NTSC) to digital (TCP-IP). This means any analog camera with composite video can be connected!

The modules are automatically recognized, installed and integrated in Home center. This way you don't

need any special knowledge about networking.

The camera can be activated from Home center through a button or automatically by installable triggers on the controls (detector, bell, ... connected to the home automation system). With the image in Home center you can add controls to for instance open the door, turn on the light, ...

There is no guarding function included in Home center. But the *SecureView image management software* which is included with the camera allows you to record images.

5.1. Camera converter specifications



Video recording at the edge - acts as a remote server or DVR.

No data loss via ERS¹³

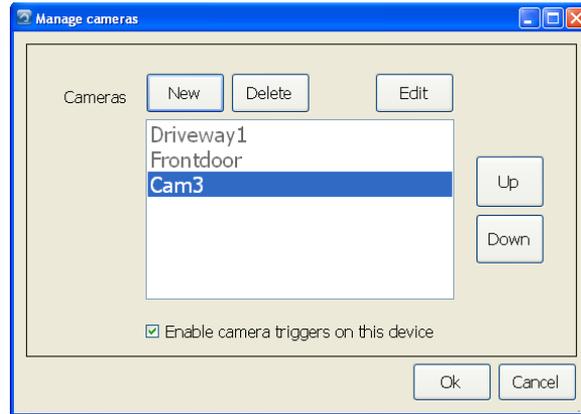
- SD files are guaranteed NO DATA LOSS when continuously overwritten with ERS firmware
- Converts analog cameras to IP addressability
- Supports MJPEG/MPEG 4 streaming with audio
- 10/100 baseT Ethernet
- Adjustable image Size, bit-rate & quality
- Time stamp & text overlay
- Pan tilt zoom control, RS485
- I/O supports advanced motion detection in independent zones with 5 sensitivity levels
- Supports encryption
- Supports 10 users with 3 levels of authority
- Compact metal box size fits easily in remote areas

5.2. Connecting to the camera

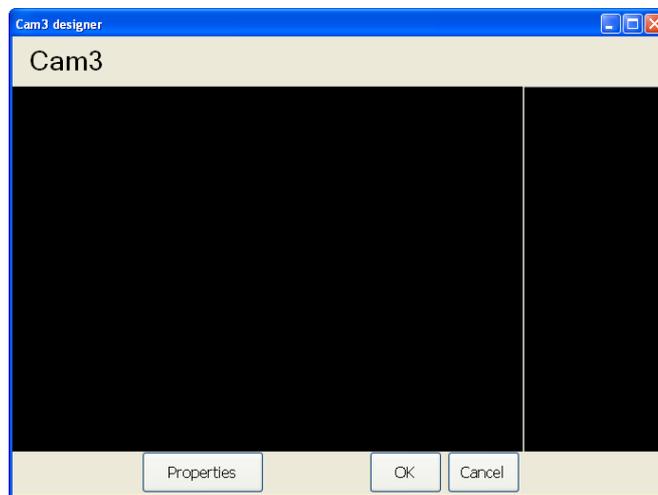
Go to *Settings* and select *Manage cameras*. This will open a view where you can add and control your cameras.

Click *New* to add a new camera. Click *Edit* to configure.

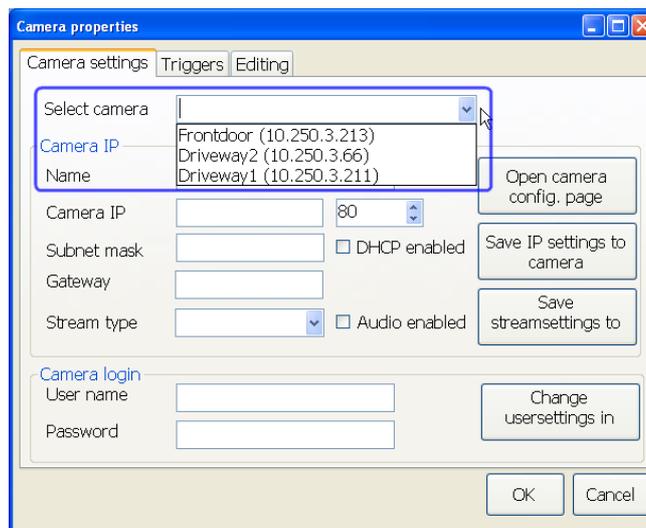
¹³ The Extended Recording System allows continuous, uninterrupted, real time video recording to an internal SD card. (The SD slot is included in the converter, the SD card is optional)

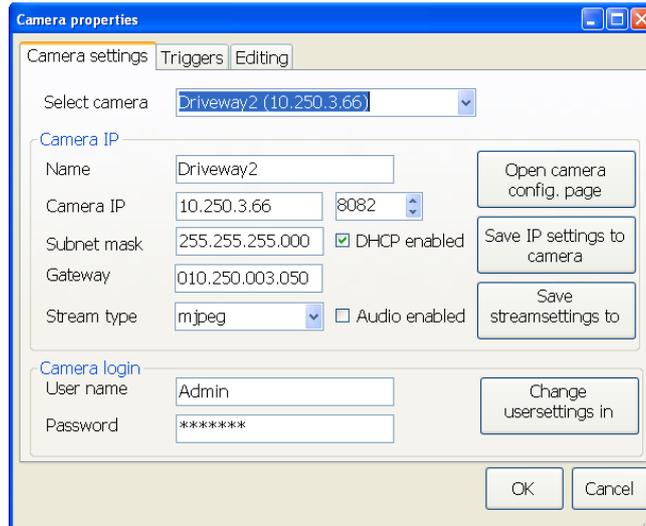


You will see a blank camera view. Select *Properties* to connect to a camera.

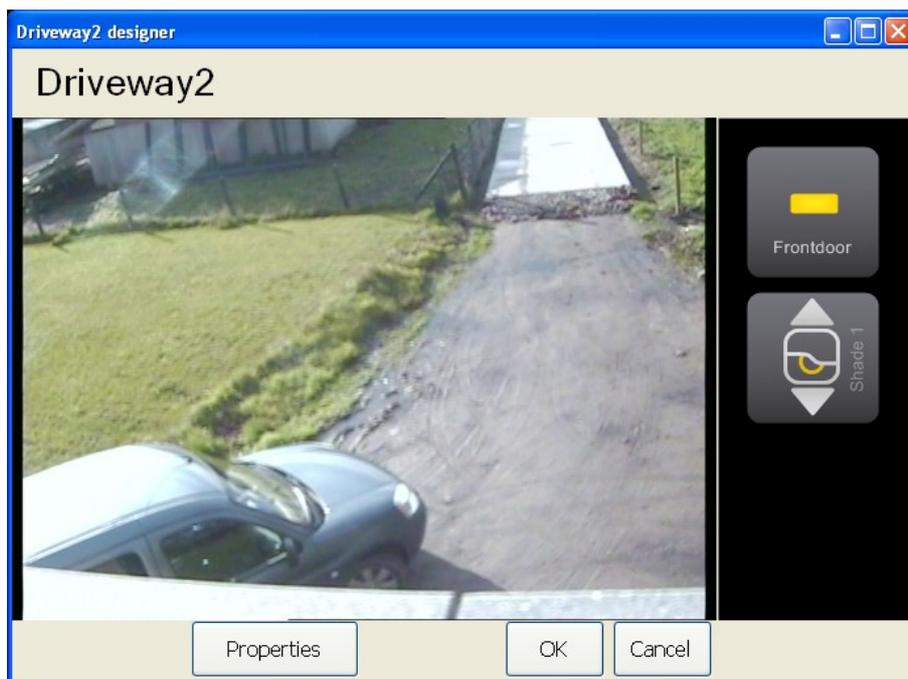


On the *Camera settings* tab, open the dropdown list for *Select camera*. If your converter is correctly connected to you home network. It should appear in the list. Select the camera to activate it. The properties of the camera will automatically be filled in. Click Ok to confirm.





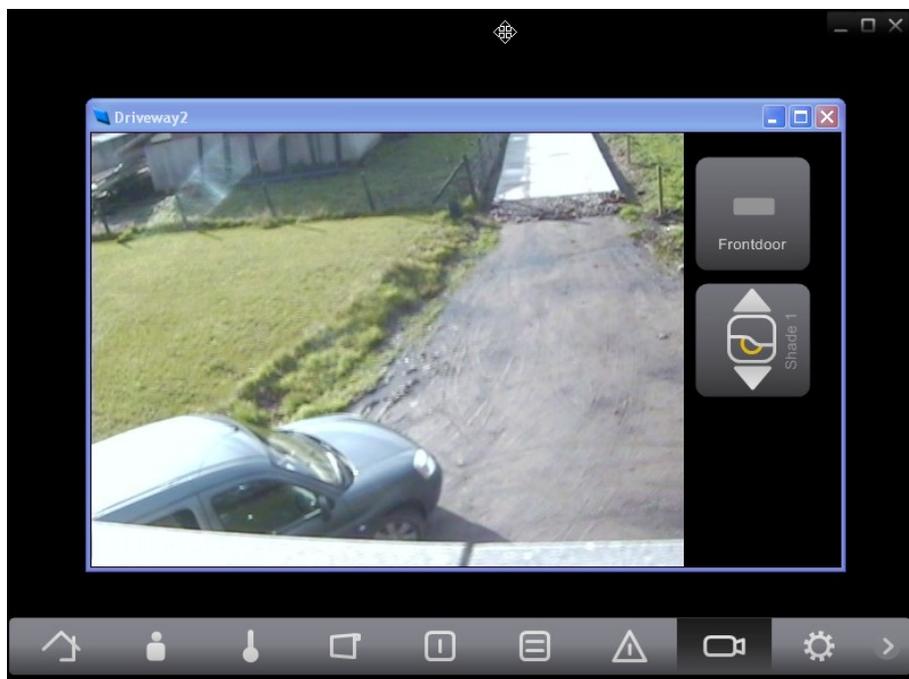
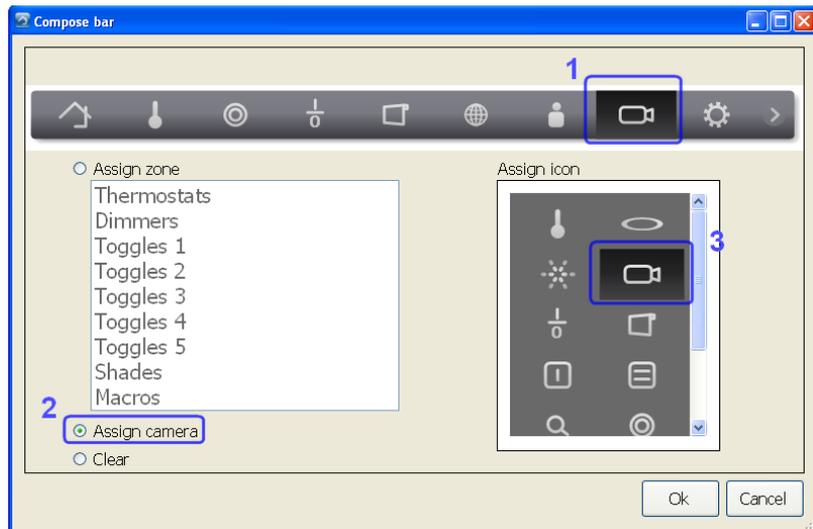
If the camera is correctly connected to the converter, you will see the live feed from the camera. Click Ok to confirm. That's it!



5.3. Activating the camera in Home center

The feed from the camera(s) can be activated by a button in the quick access bar.

To add a camera button in the quick access bar, go to *Settings*, and select *Compose bar*. Select the location on the quick access bar where you want the button for cameras. Then select *Assign camera* on the left side. Finally select the camera picture on the right side. Click Ok to confirm.



Now you can activate the camera at any time by clicking the camera icon from the quick access bar. If you have multiple cameras in your system, clicking the icon will show a list of available cameras. Select a camera to activate it.

5.4. Adding controls to the live feed window

On the camera screen there is a panel on the right where you can add controls from your home automation system. Any available control can be added. Right click in the panel to open the menu with all the controls. Select a control to add it. Add controls to activate a light, open a door, trigger an alarm, ...

To customize the layout of the control right click it to open the options menu.

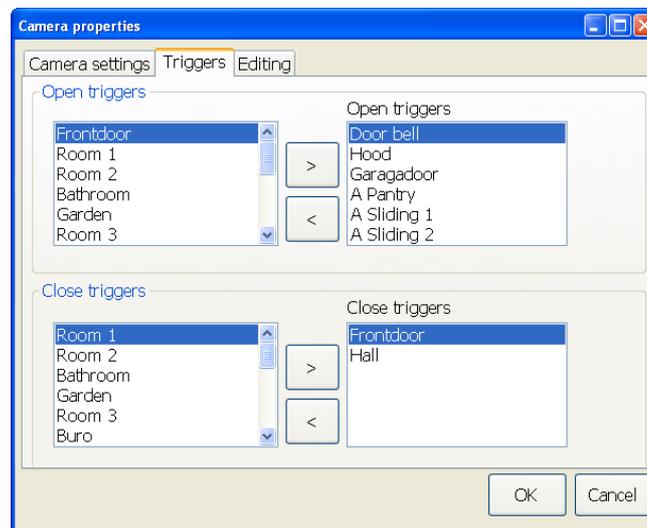
More details about editing the controls: 4.4.5 Editing a zone

5.5. Auto triggering the camera

Now it gets real interesting when a camera can be activated automatically when a device of your home automation system is triggered. For instance, the door bell is connected to the home automation system. When someone rings the bell, the camera feed will be activated.

You can also deactivate the feed with a trigger. For instance, by activating a control to automatically open the door.

To configure these triggers, go to *Settings*, select *Manage cameras*. Select the camera where you want to add triggers and click *Edit*. Select *Properties*. Select the tab *Triggers*. A list of all available controls in your system are displayed. You can add controls to the list to activate the camera by adding them to the *Open triggers* list and triggers to deactivate the camera by adding them to the *Close triggers*.



5.6. Camera settings

On the *Camera properties* tab, you can edit properties of the camera.

Name

Change the name and press OK. The new name will be set in the camera and in Home center.

IP settings

Camera IP, port, gateway, DHCP settings can be changed. To push these settings to the camera, click *Save IP settings to camera*.

Stream type

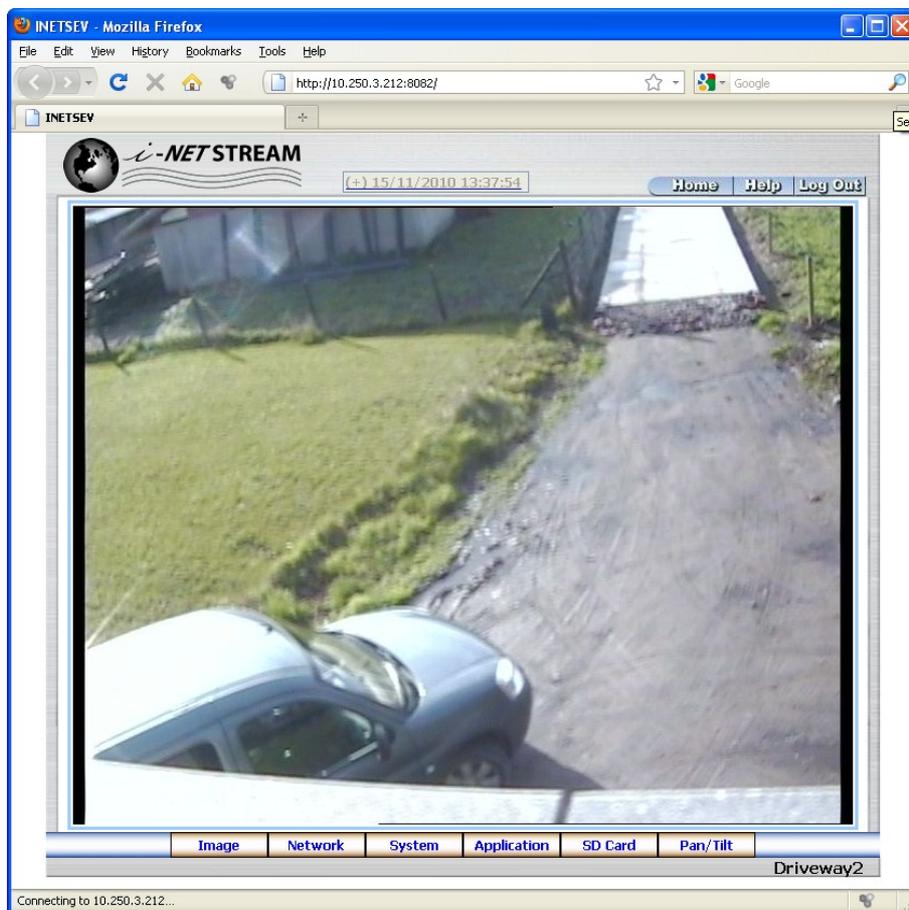
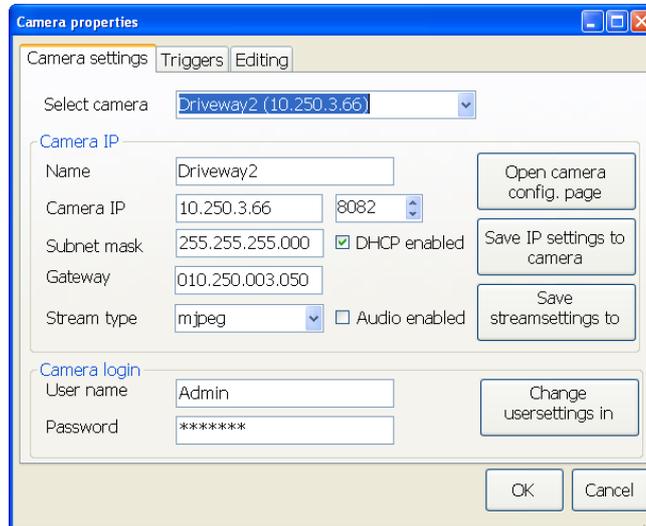
The stream type and audio settings can be changed. To push these settings to the camera, click *Save stream settings to camera*.

Login

Username and password to access the camera Admin can be set. To push these settings to the camera, click *Change user settings*.

I-stream web interface

To accessing the external camera user interface, click *Open camera config. page*. There you can further optimize and fine tune the camera.



6. Home center for iPhone/iPad



Home center for iPhone/iPad is a native iPhone/iPad application, not a web client. The advantage is that this works much faster and offers a very reliable and enhanced interface.

To use it, the Home center service needs to be running and must be reachable through wifi or GPRS.

Just like the Home center for Windows the interface is very much self-explaining and obvious. You hardly need a manual. You just need to be aware that a username and password is required to connect to the Home center service. (4.9 User management)



6.1. Download and install from App store

Go to the app store and find the Search box. Enter *Home center*, this should bring you right to the Home center for iPhone/iPad app. Select 'Install'.

6.2. Editions

Lite edition (basic license)

With a basic license all available controls are listed in one row. There are no operational limitations in the lite version, every control can be viewed and operated. The only limitation is that the controls cannot be sorted and the *zones* are not available.

Full edition (Extended license)

With a license upgrade the zones created with the Windows client are also available on the iPhone/iPad.

On the iPhone the controls of the zones are presented in a list. You can load the list of controls for each zone.

On the iPad the controls are arranged on the screen like in the Windows client. Also if there is a background image, the image will be shown.

6.3. Username and password

To protect your Home center installation, it is required to set a username and password for the iPhone app. More information in chapter 4.9 User management.



When the iPhone app has been installed, go to iPhone settings. In the list of applications you will find Home center. There you can enter the username and password.

Here you can also manually set the server IP and port to connect to. When the Home center service is reachable through wifi, you don't need to fill this in, Home center will do this for you. At first startup Home center for iPhone will try to locate the Home center service in your local network and automatically connect.

6.4. Home center for iPhone Usage



Home center for iPhone lets you operate and monitor all controls of your system. On connection, all available controls are downloaded to your iPhone. Each control can be operated by tapping it. The result of your action will immediately be visible in your house (for instance light goes on) and in the iPhone app (icon will be lit).

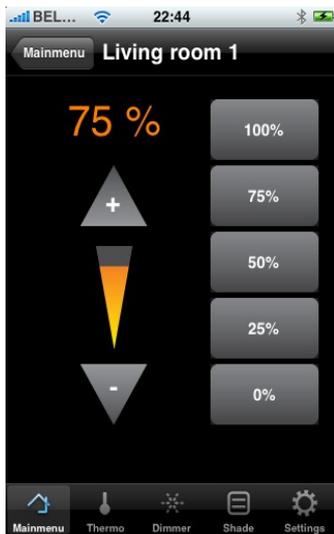
When starting Home center for iPhone, the app will try to detect the Home center server located in your home network through wifi. If found, the connection will automatically be established.

There are no operational limitations in the lite version, every control can be viewed and operated. The only limitation is that the controls cannot be sorted and the *zones* are not available.

6.4.1. Toggles

Toggles are displayed as an item with a round icon and its name next to it. To toggle the control, just tap the item. For instance, the light goes on. Tap again, the light goes off.

6.4.2. Dimmers



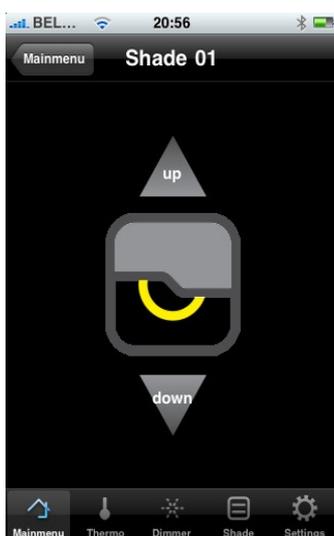
In the list, dimmers are displayed as an item with a reversed triangle and its name next to it. To 'toggle' the dimmer, just tap the item.

To have a detailed control, tap the small blue arrow on the right.

In the detail view, you can choose preselected values on the right. Increase or decrease the dimmer by pressing and holding the + triangle or – triangle.

Tapping the + triangle shortly will activate the dimmer. Tapping the – triangle shortly will deactivate the dimmer.

6.4.3. Shades



In the list, shade are displayed as an item with a rectangle with a shade and its name next to it. To 'toggle' the shade, just tap the item.

To have a detailed control, tap the small blue arrow on the right.

In the detail view, you can make the shade go up by tapping the up arrow. Tap the down arrow to make the shade go down.

6.4.4. Thermostats



In the list, thermostat are displayed as an item with a thermometer and its name next to it. You can also read the current temperature and the active regime.

Tap the small blue arrow on the right to operate the thermostat.

In the detail view, you can choose regimes on the right. Increase or decrease the thermostat value by tapping the + triangle or – triangle.

6.4.5. Macro's

Macro's are also available in the list. Just tap the macro to active.