

Control4® Smart Home Automations Guide



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Note: The information in this guide applies to the latest Control4 system capabilities. Features can vary between customized installations and Control4 software releases, so contact your dealer with any questions about available features.

Planning automations

When >> Then
you do this... this happens

Planning ahead

In the world of Control4 custom automations, also known as “When >> Then,” every action can result in a host of reactions. You can decide which event (“When”) results in which action (“Then”).

Before creating your own automations, it helps to plan ahead. A good place to start is to ask yourself these two questions:

- 1 What event should happen that starts the automation? (the “When”)
- 2 What is the end result you want with the automation? (the “Then”)

Another approach is to write down every “I wish...” thought you encounter regarding your smart home, over the course of several days. With this comprehensive “wish list,” you can more deliberately plan how each automation should be launched and which results can be combined.

Tips for planning your automations

- Don’t worry about making mistakes—it’s as easy to change (or delete) an automation as it is to create one. And, your Control4 Dealer can also help answer your questions or create automations for you.
- Test the automation right after you create it to make sure it acts the way you expect it to.
- If you want multiple keypads to launch the same automations, it’s much easier to remember button assignments if the automations are assigned consistently to each keypad.
- You will be able to see dealer-authored automations in your list, but they will be disabled for editing unless the dealer unlocks them. To change or delete those automations, contact your Control4 Dealer.
- Requesting automation changes to buttons with engraved labels may necessitate changing the label text (for the label to match the new action). Keep in mind that replacing engraved buttons will involve additional cost.

This is what a “When >> Then” automation looks like. The action is on the left, the result on the right. You’ll first select the “When” (sunrise, in this example), then you can specify “Thens” (turning off the outside lights).



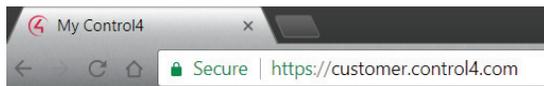
Getting started

To create your own home automation, you'll first need to log in to your online Control4 account.

Important: You must have a current 4Sight subscription to create your own automations. To subscribe or check on your subscription status, log in to customer.control4.com, then click **4Sight** in the **Resources** tile. You can also ask your Control4 Dealer to help you sign up or renew.

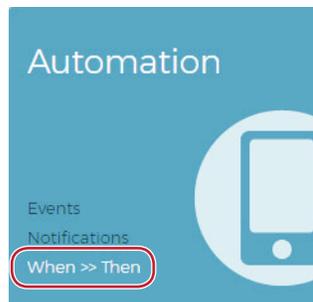
To log in and watch an introductory video:

- 1 Log in to your account at customer.control4.com.

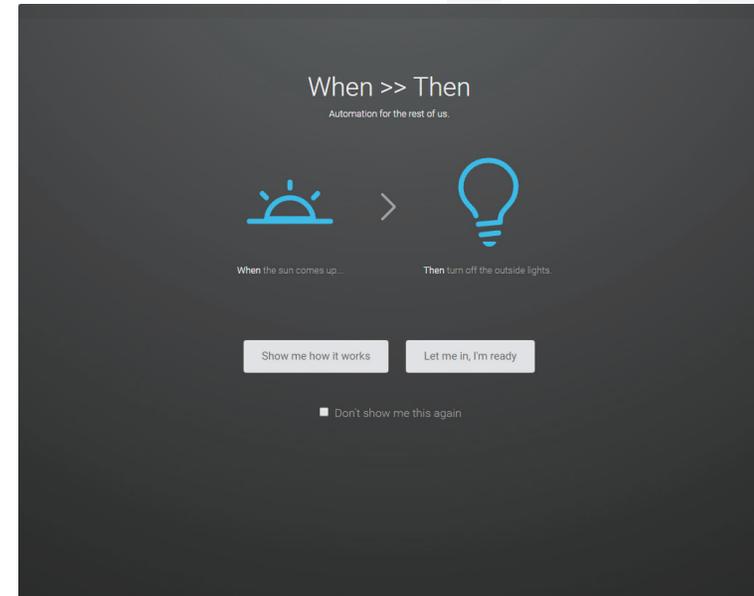


Tip: If you don't have your login information, contact your Control4 Dealer. Or, you can go to the login page, enter your email address, then click **Forgot Password**. An email will be sent to you with password reset instructions.

- 2 In the *Automation* tile, click **When >> Then**.



The *When >> Then* home screen opens.

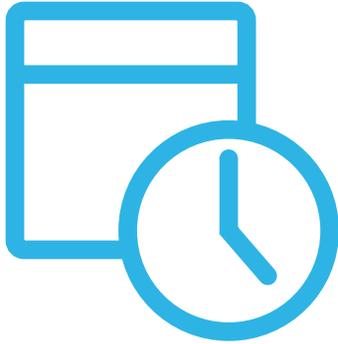


- 3 For an quick introduction, click **Show me how it works**. Scroll through the information, or click **Watch the video**. When you're ready to try it on your own, click **Try it now**.

-OR-

If you want to get started right away, click **Let me in, I'm ready**.

Selecting a “When”



A “When” is an action or condition that triggers a different action (a “Then”). Control4 automations are made up of a “When” paired with one or more “Thens.” Your system has several “Whens” to select from:

Scheduled actions

Scheduled actions are tied to schedules that you’ve created. A schedule is more than just date and time—it can also include date ranges, recurring dates, and even sunrise/sunset times. You must create a schedule before you’re able to select it as a “When.” You can also edit schedules after the automation has been created.

Buttons

Buttons can be used to start any automation. The buttons need to be a Control4 keypad, switch, dimmer, remote control, or door station, and most button presses can be configured as single, double, and triple-taps.

Lights

Lights can start automations by reaching an on, off, or specific dimming level, whether they reach that state via remote control or manually. You can even make a lighting scene start an automation when it’s activated or deactivated.

Security and access

Security and door access can trigger an automation for house-wide monitoring and “welcome home” automations. You can know exactly when your children get home from school or when a package was left inside your door.

Sensors

Sensor-launched automations can add to your home’s security by notifying you when motion, vehicles, door or gate openings, or water is detected. Even your Door Station can trigger events when a keypad button is pressed or the camera starts or stops detecting motion.

Room media

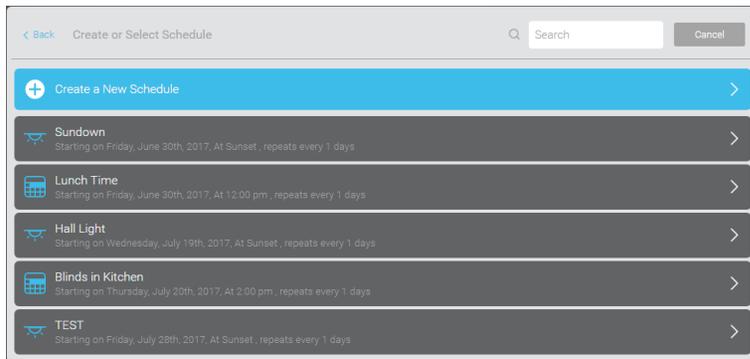
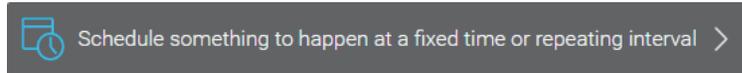
Room media, when tied to automations, can make your entertainment options come to life. Want to automatically dim the lights when a movie starts playing? You can do that and so much more.

Creating a schedule event

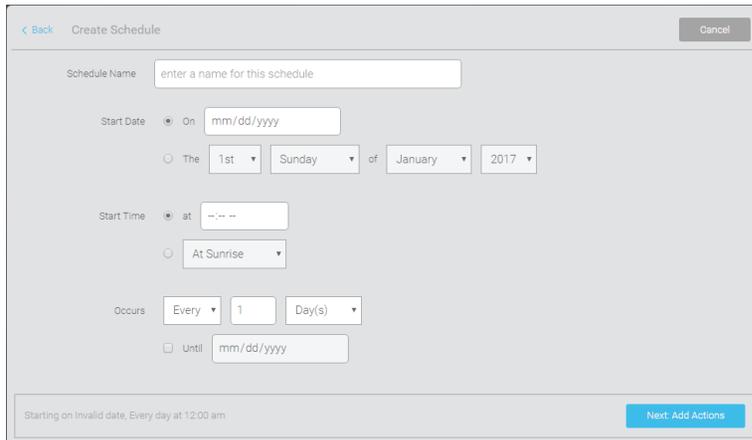
A schedule event is a “When” that is based on times and dates, or with a recurring natural event such as sunrise and sunset.

To create a schedule:

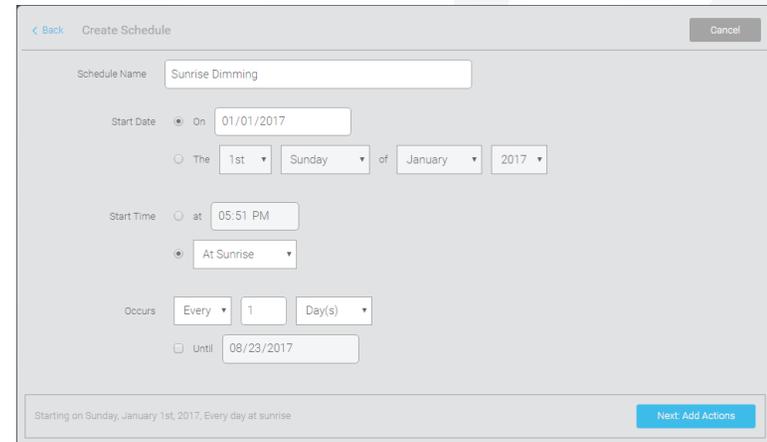
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **Schedule something to happen...**, then click **Create a New Schedule**.



The *Create Schedule* screen opens.



- 2 Enter a descriptive name for the schedule, set the dates, times, and the recurrence schedule, then click **Next: Add Actions**.



The action assignment screen opens.

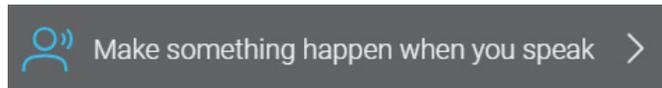
- 3 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a voice scene

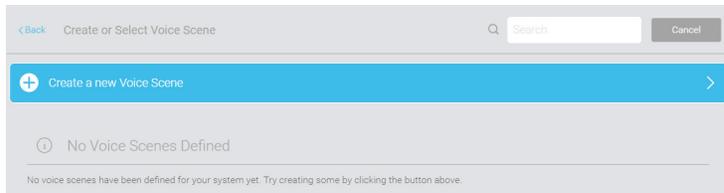
If you have an Amazon Alexa device, install the latest Control4 skill to integrate it with your Control4 system. Not only can you voice-command lights, locks, and more without any custom automations, but also you can create a voice scene automation of your own. A voice scene is a “When” event that, like all the other available events, can result in a host of “Then” actions, all depending on how you put together the automation.

To create a voice scene:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, under *Voice Scenes*, click **Make something happen when you speak**.



The *Create or Select Voice Scene* screen opens.

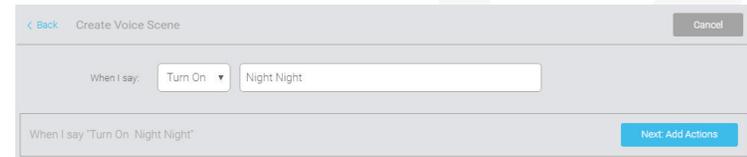


The voice scene list will be blank the first time you open it.

- 2 Click **Create a New Voice Scene**. The *Create Voice Scene* screen opens.



- 3 Click the drop-down list next to “When I say:” and select how the voice command will begin—**Turn On** or **Turn Off**—then type the voice scene title you want to activate the scene with. In this example, we create a scene called “Night Night.”



Important: The “Turn On” and “Turn Off” options refer to only what you want the voice command to start with, *not* to what the scene *does*. The identical “Then” actions are available whether you select “Turn On” or “Turn Off.” Which you use to start the voice command is completely up to you.

- 4 Click **Next: Add Actions**, then go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a keypad or remote button tap event

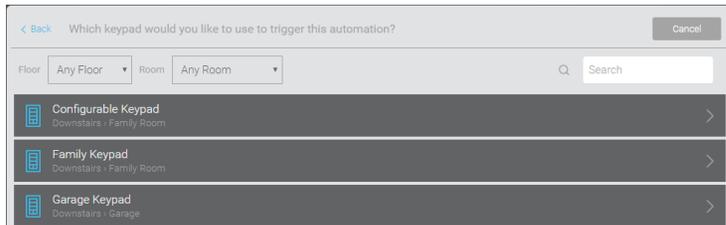
A keypad or remote button tap event is a “When” that is based on single-, double-, or triple-taps of keypads or presses of remote control custom buttons.

To create a button tap event for keypads or switches:

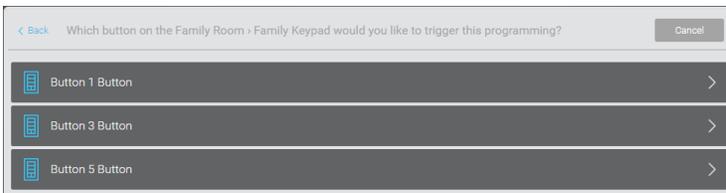
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a keypad button is pressed...**



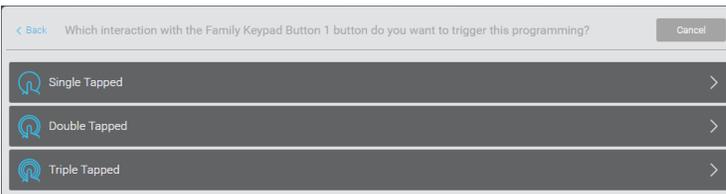
A list of keypads or light switches opens.



- 2 Click the keypad or switch you want to use. A list of available buttons opens. **Note:** The available buttons will depend on the keypad’s custom button layout.



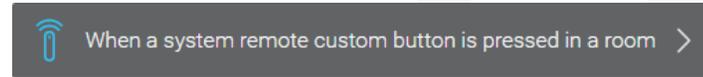
- 3 Click the button you want to use. A list of available tap patterns opens.



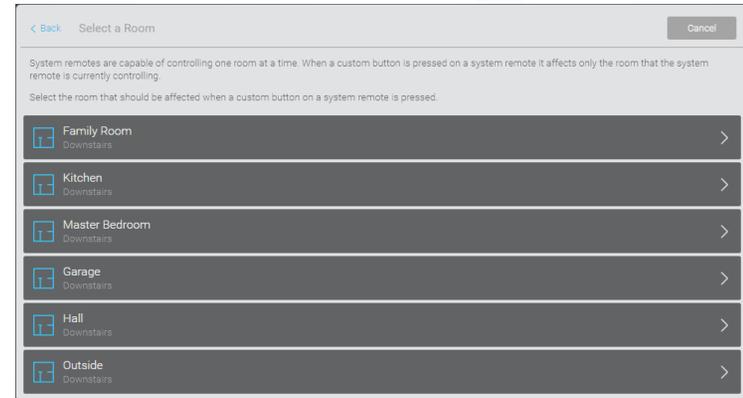
- 4 Click the tap pattern to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 5 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

To create a button press event for a system remote:

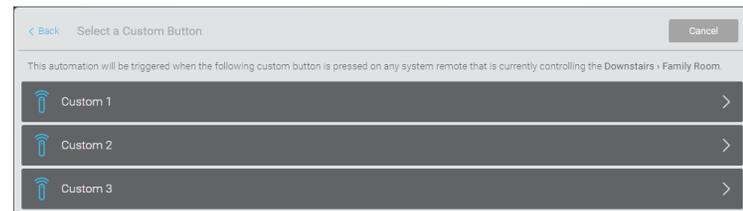
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a system remote custom button is pressed...**



- 2 A list of rooms opens. (Remember that a “room” can also be “outside” or “garage.”)



- 3 Click the room in which to set the button’s behavior. A list of the three available buttons opens.



- 4 Click the button to use for the action. The action assignment screen opens.
- 5 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a light switch tap event

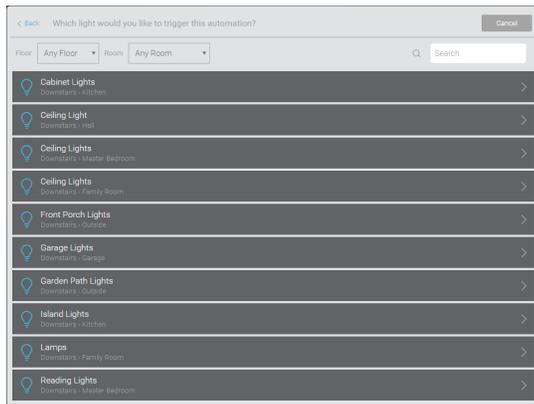
A light switch tap event is a “When” that is based on single-, double-, or triple-taps of light switch and dimmer buttons.

To create a light switch tap event for light switches and dimmers:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a light switch button is tapped**.



A list of light switches and dimmers opens.



- 2 Click the light switch or dimmer you want to use. A list of available buttons opens. **Note:** if your switch has more buttons than the single on/off switch, it's considered a “keypad,” and you should create a button press event instead (see previous page).



- 3 Click the button you want to use. A list of available tap patterns opens.



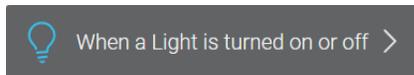
- 4 Click the tap pattern to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 5 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a lights event

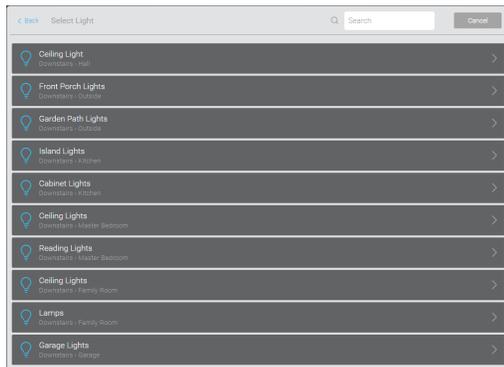
This event detects lighting status, regardless of how the light got to that level—either through keypad control, manual load control, or an automation. For example, you can automatically play music in a room when the light is turned on, or lock the front door whenever the porch light is turned off.

To create a lights on/off event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a Light is turned on or off**.



A list of lights opens.



- 2 Click the light you want to use. A list of available lighting states opens (on or off only).



Tip: Any amount of “on” will launch an “on” event. For example, a dimmer at 5% will launch a “lights-on” event as surely as it would at 100%.

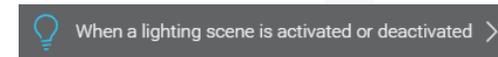
- 3 Click the lighting state to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a lighting scene event

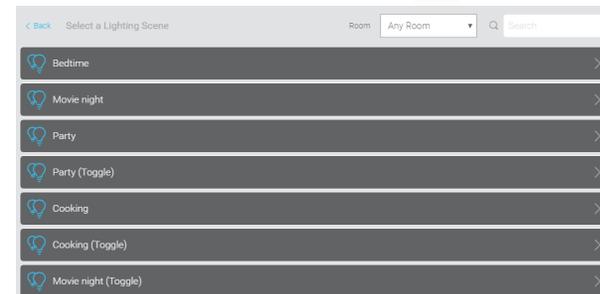
This event detects when a lighting scene is activated or deactivated.

To create a lighting scene event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a lighting scene is activated or deactivated**.



A list of lighting scenes opens.



- 2 Click the lighting scene you want to monitor. A list of available lighting scene states opens (active or inactive only).



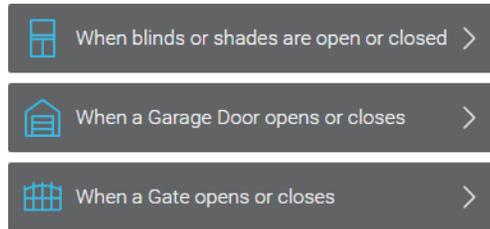
- 3 Select the scene state you want to detect.
- 4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Creating a security and access event

Whether you want to monitor the comings and goings of your kids, the arrivals of guests or deliveries, or gate access, automation events can help you keep tabs on it all.

To create a security and access event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click an event such as **When a garage door opens or closes** or **When a door station camera starts or stops detecting motion**. (Available events depend on which hardware is installed.)



- 2 A list of blinds, garage doors, or gates opens, including the available open/close states.



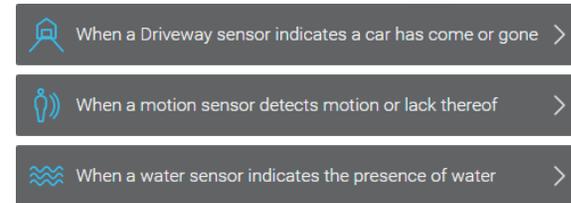
- 3 Click the open/close state to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 4 Go to "Selecting a "Then"" on page 12.

Creating a sensor event

Smart sensors throughout your home and yard can tell you when a vehicle is on the driveway, when motion is detected, when a water leak or excessive heat or humidity is detected, and much more..

To create a sensor event:

- 5 In the *Automation* home screen, click an event such as **When a water sensor indicates the presence of water** or **When a motion sensor detects motion or lack thereof**. (Available events depend on which hardware is installed.)



- 6 A list of sensors, including driveway, heat, humidity, motion, water, and any other available sensors, opens, along with the available sensor states.



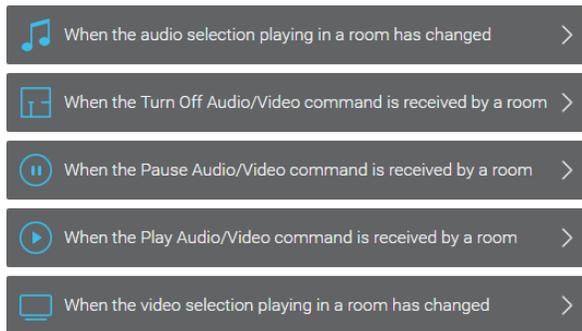
- 7 Click the sensor state you want to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 8 Go to "Selecting a "Then"" on page 12.

Creating a room media event

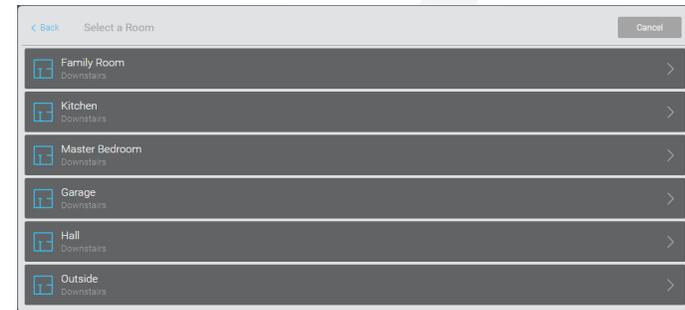
You can use the condition of media playback in any room to start an automation. Whenever a movie is started or stopped, whenever a streaming music station is changed, and whenever a video or audio source has changed, you can change lighting, security, temperature—anything that's connected to your smart home.

To create a room media event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click an event such as **When the Play Audio/Video command is received by a room** or **When the video selection playing in a room has changed**. (Available events depend on which hardware is installed.)



- 2 A list of the rooms in your house opens.



- 3 Click the room you want to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 12.

Selecting a “Then”



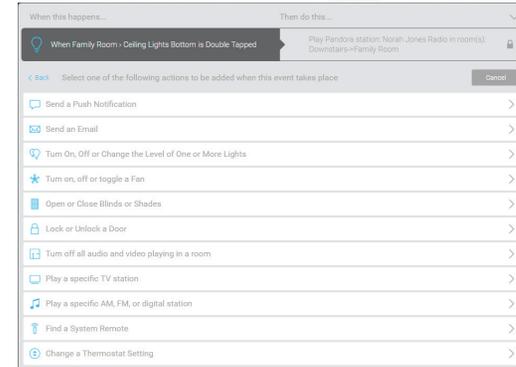
A “Then” is an action or actions that result from a “When” event. Although all “Then” actions are displayed, only actions supported by the Control4 software (such as **Send an email**) or installed hardware will work. You can select from several actions, such as:

- Send a push notification
- Send an email
- Turn on, off, or change the level of a light
- Activate or deactivate a lighting scene
- Change the color of LEDs on a switch, dimmer, or keypad
- Open or close blinds or shades
- Lock a door
- Turn off all audio and video playing in a room
- Play a movie from your collection
- Play a specific TV station
- Play an album from your collection
- Play one of your playlists
- Find a system remote
- Change a thermostat setting

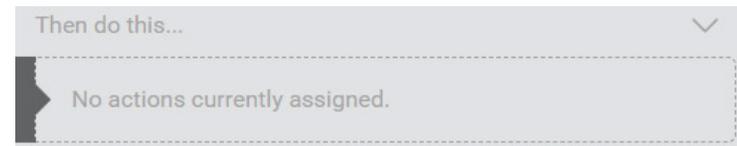
Note: If you want to control a device that hasn’t been integrated into your Control4 system, ask your Control4 Dealer for help.

To set a “Then” action:

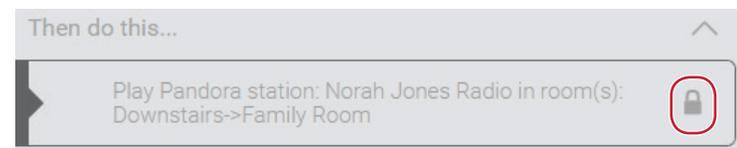
- 1 After you have set the “When” event, you are brought to the action assignment screen.



- 2 The first time you set an action for a particular event, the summary bar (near the top of the screen) should read “No actions currently assigned.”



- 3 If the summary bar is grayed out with a lock icon, then the automation has been programmed and locked by your Control4 Dealer, and only they can change it, unless they unlock it.



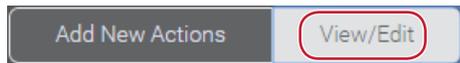
- 4 Select an action. The configuration screen for that action type opens.
- 5 Follow the on-screen prompts to complete the automation.

Editing automations

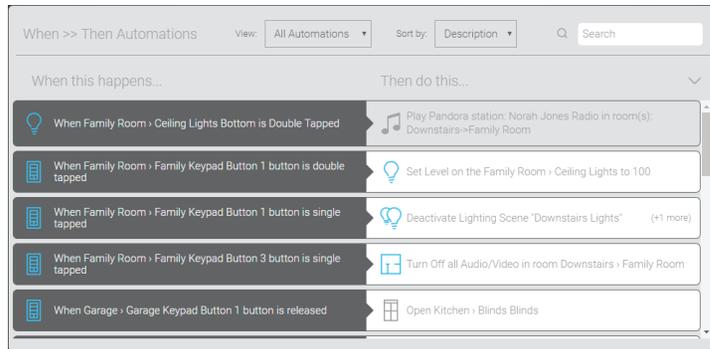
After you've assigned an action to an event, you can either use the new automation as-is, or add/delete or enable/disable multiple actions. You can even fully edit the details of a schedule event. With the addition of enough tasks to an event, pressing one button can "wake up" your entire house (or put it to bed).

To edit an existing automation:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **View/Edit**.



The *When >> Then Automations* edit screen opens.



Tip: If an automation already has multiple actions, the "Then" half of the display will show how many more are active.



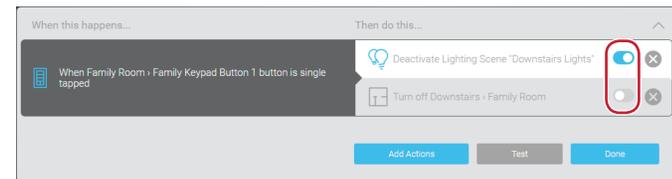
- 2 Click the automation you want to add an action to. The automation details screen opens.



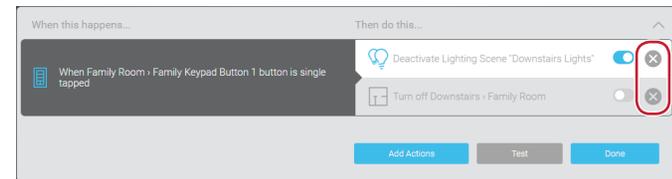
- 3 To add an action, click **Add actions** and change the event settings as previously shown.



- 4 To toggle an action off (or on), click the toggle button next to the action.



- 5 To delete an action, click the delete button next to the action.



- 6 To edit a schedule, click the schedule you want to change, then click **Edit Schedule**, make the necessary changes, and click **Save**.



- 7 To delete the whole automation, delete each of the actions, then click **Done**.

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