



Beginners Guide to Winplus Home Automation

Introduction

Winplus Home Automation is an exciting new range of automation products. The range consists of kits, modules and controllers, nearly all Winplus Home Automation products are DIY. Winplus Home Automation uses globally recognized X10 technology allowing users to automate lighting, appliances, devices, watering systems, security and even curtains, all without running additional wires in your home.

What is X10?

X10 is an ingenious combination of infrared (IR), radio frequency (RF) and power line carrier (PLC) technology that uses a House and Unit code address system to give users remote, scheduled or PC control of lights, appliances and devices.

Infrared Technology

Infrared technology is very common and is used in most homes today. Audio visual equipment such as TV's, stereos, DVD players and cable television boxes are controlled by an infrared remote control. With X10 you can control all your audio visual equipment with the same remote that turns on your lights or boils the kettle.

Radio Frequency

Radio Frequency technology is becoming increasingly popular in homes with wireless internet and cordless phones. RF signals travel through walls and ceilings making it the ideal solution for Winplus Home Automation wireless controllers which can send signals to your Winplus Home Automation modules from anywhere in the house.

Power line Carrier Technology

In the past, if you wanted to be able to control certain lights and appliances from one location, you would have to run hundreds of feet of wire to route the power switches of each device to one location. Winplus Home Automation turns your existing electrical wiring into a home automation network, eliminating the need to run additional wiring.

House And Unit Codes

In order to control specific devices, all Winplus Home Automation modules are assigned an address, which consists of a House and Unit code. There are 16 House codes (A through P) and 16 Unit codes (1 through 16). Each House code has 16 Unit codes. This means there are 256 possible addresses. An example of a Winplus Home Automation address would be A5, where A is the House code and 5 is the Unit code.

When you wish to turn on a Winplus Home Automation controlled lamp, you have to "tell" the Lamp Module controlling that lamp to turn on. The Lamp Module is monitoring the power line for a command specifically addressed to it. In other words, any command sent must be preceded by an address matching the Lamp Module's address. Let's say the Lamp Module's address is set to A5. The Lamp Module will only respond to the A5 ON command on the power line.

Note: There are exceptions to this rule. Most modules will respond to special commands that are addressed to a large group of modules. One example is the All Lights On command. Any lamp modules set to a specific House code (i.e. House code "A") will turn on when this command is transmitted.

Confused?

We understand that everyone has a different way of learning, so these concepts may be difficult for some people to understand. If so, let's try looking at this a different way.

Imagine you have a room that contains groups of people. In fact, there are 16 groups of people. In each group, there are 16 people. You are at the front of the room and your job is to issue instructions to these people. Some of the instructions you are going to issue are for specific people and others are for entire groups of people. To prevent miscommunication, every group has been assigned a letter (A through P), and each person has been assigned a number (1 through 16). Each person wears a sign around their neck that has the letter and number they have been assigned.

Your first instruction is for a man you had spoken with earlier that day. His sign reads "A7". To ensure that he is the only one to respond to your instruction, you say, "A7 take one step forward." The man wearing the A7 sign obeys your instruction. No one else in the room follows this instruction. This example parallels commanding a specific X10-controlled lamp or appliance module (set to A7) in your home to turn on or off.

Your second instruction is a little different. It involves having all the women in the "J" group sit. To cause this to happen you say, "All women in the 'J' group sit down." Every woman in the "J" group sits on the floor. This example is comparable to the All Lights On. Lamp Modules assigned to a certain house code (in this case J) would respond. Lamp Modules assigned to a different house code would not respond. Appliance Modules do not respond because they are a different type of module.