

Control4 IP Camera ANPR/ALPR

This driver provides a way to detect a license plate from any URL image. You can use this driver to check images from any IP camera which can be used with Control4. The driver supports Basic authentication AND Digest Authentication for IP cameras so if you can get a URL for a snapshot then this driver will almost certainly work!

Installation

This driver uses PlateRecognizer or OpenALPR for recognition. The free account provides you with 1,000 requests per month. If you use this driver correctly with good motion sensing/line crossing detection this should be plenty for most uses.

We recommend PlateRecognizer for improved accuracy, although there is a monthly fee. You are able to contact them to receive a discount for being a Control4 user!

<https://platerecognizer.com/contact/>

You can sign up and get an API key from <https://cloud.openalpr.com/account/register>. Once signed up, activate your email address and you will see your API Key at <https://cloud.openalpr.com/cloudapi/>.

You can use the Composer Driver Actions to test the image being fetched. The Lua output will produce a Base64 representation of the image which you can copy and paste into <https://base64.guru/converter/decode/image> to check the image is correct.

You can also use the Test & Detect action to capture an image and detect a number plate. The Lua output will provide you with information regarding the capture if you have Log Level turned to Info and Log Mode to Print.

Important Note

This driver's function is to take an image and provide back a license plate. The driver **cannot** ensure a 100% accurate response and therefore it is vital to take into consideration environmental factors concerning the camera being used. For best practices and guidelines please see <https://docs.rekor.ai/camera-configuration/camera-placement-guide>.

Regions

You can use the following regions in the driver. You should use the value on the right (e.g. "ar") in the region Property. If you don't see your exact region you can use one close to you or one that uses a similar type of plate. There is still a high chance of success. For PlateRecognizer regions please see <http://docs.platerecognizer.com/#countries>. For OpenALPR: Canada or Mexico installs should use "us" which counts for all of North America and then:

Argentina – ar Australia – au Brazil – br China – cn Europe – eu Great Britain – gb Gulf Cooperation Council – gcc India – in Indonesia – id Japan –

jp [SEP] Korea – kr [SEP] Malaysia – my [SEP] Middle East – middleeast [SEP] New Zealand – nz [SEP] North America – us [SEP] Russia – ru [SEP] Singapore – sg [SEP] South Africa – za [SEP] Thailand – th

Troubleshooting

1. If you run into issues with setting up this driver with BDM then please try the following:
 - Re-entering your license key
 - Rebooting your director
 - Logging out and back in on the BDM driver

If you still have issues please email shivam@shivampaw.com with details.

Features

The driver includes two variables: **License Plate** and **Confidence Level**. The License Plate will contain the license plate detected in the last image. This will be an uppercase string with NO spaces. The Confidence Level will be a float number between 0 and 100 showing the confidence level of the recognition.

The driver itself has a programming **event** called **License Plate Detected**. This will fire when a license plate has been detected. At this point, you can use the variables to program something to happen. For example, if the License Plate is “AB12CDE” then Open the gate and turn on a room light.

The driver contains a programming **action** that **must** be used to trigger the fetching of an image and detection of a plate. The action is called **Fetch Image And Detect License Plate**. You would normally trigger this action when motion is detected on a sensor.

You can also use push notification images with this driver. In **Agents -> Push Notifications** you can choose an attachment and this driver has an option to send the last recorded image as a push notification.

Use Cases

This driver brings proper ANPR functionality to Control4. If you have a camera that can get a good image of a vehicle and its license plate then you can program based of it in Control4.

For example, if you arrive at your gate, open the gate and turn on your favourite radio station.

If an unknown car arrives at your gate, use our [Text to Speech](#) driver to announce the number plate. Also, send a push notification to devices with an image of the vehicle.

Support

For support please contact shivam@shivampaw.com

Disclaimer

Note: This driver is not affiliated with PlateRecognizer or OpenALPR and relies on their cloud API. Should the API be taken down for any reason we will do our best to find an alternative however we can make no guarantees to this extent.