

Soma Connect Installation and Usage Guide



Version: 2024.7.30
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024
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Overview

SOMA Smart Shades turns the existing shades in your home into smart shades with no screws and no additional wiring. These Bluetooth based controllers are battery operated, can be either USB charged or solar panel charged and provide you with the ability to move your shades up, down, stop or to a specific level. It is compatible with chain based shading solutions and also tilt (rod) based solutions. As such it can be easily retrofit into existing homes with ease at an extremely affordable price

Features

- Bi-directional control and feedback via local API
- Import of all soma shades (including tilt)
- Up / Down / Stop / Level based commands
- Position feedback
- Battery level feedback

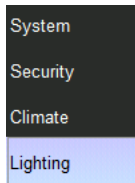
Setup

Requirements

- Supported Soma Shade:
 - Soma Connect
 - Soma Smart Shades 2
 - Soma Tilt 2
- Nice Home Management Core 8.8.600 or later is required
- The driver requires a valid licence for use. Customers can trial the driver out for 90 days prior to licence purchase. Dealers who have showrooms can demonstrate the driver for free via the Chowmain Dealer Showroom Licence. You can apply for a showroom licence via the Chowmain website.

Installation Process

1. Download the latest version of the driver
2. Extract the file to your preferred driver storage location.
3. In configurator click on the Lighting tab

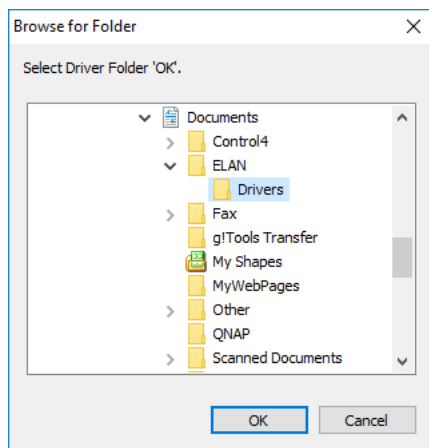


4. Click on the arrow next to Lighting Interfaces
5. Click on Add New Lighting Interface

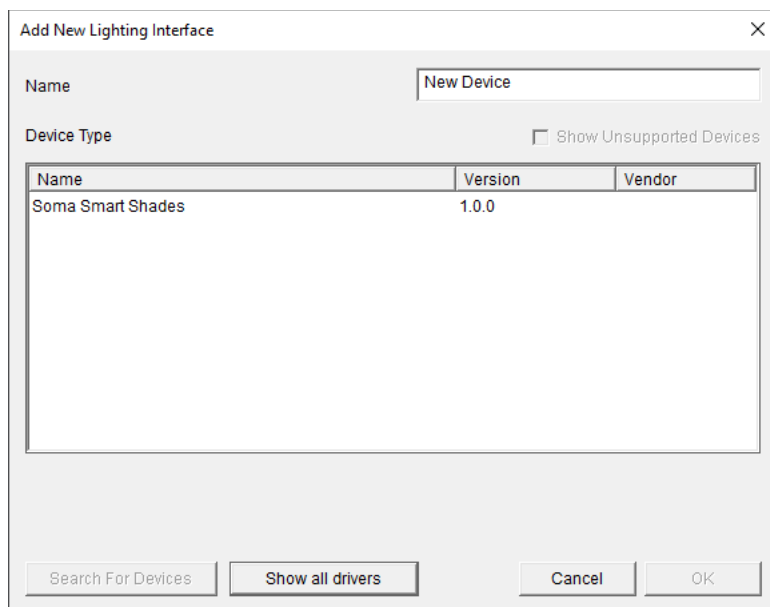


6. Click on the Search Folder button

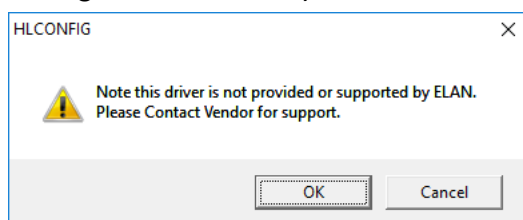
7. Select your driver folder and press ok



8. Select the Soma Smart Shades driver for your control type.



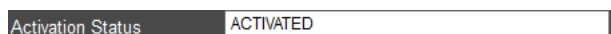
9. Configurator will warn you that the driver is not provided or supported by Elan. Click on OK.



10.Highlight the Soma Smart Shades driver.

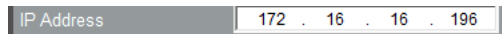
11.The driver will advise that the 90 day trial has begun. Please note, a licence must be purchased to use the driver beyond that period.

12.Once a licence has been deployed, the Activation status will update



13. Enter the IP Address of the Soma Connect device.


NOTE: The Soma Connect device should be assigned a static or reserved IP address

A screenshot of a web interface showing an 'IP Address' field with the value '172.16.16.196'.

14. If the driver connects successfully it will update the firmware version.

A screenshot of a web interface showing a 'Firmware Version' field with the value '2.2.8'.

15. Press the Import Devices button. The driver will import the blinds. You will notice the Number of Devices increase to the number you have.

A screenshot of a web interface showing a 'Number of Devices' field with the value '2'.

16. You can adjust the poll interval if desired. We recommend a higher interval the more Soma Shades or Soma Tilt devices you have as we need to poll each device individually.

A screenshot of a web interface showing a 'Poll Interval (Seconds)' dropdown menu with the value '15' selected.

17. **OPTIONAL:** We also recommend adjusting the battery level warning to a higher warning. This will change the string variable from OK to LOW and also fire an event map if any of the batteries are below that level.

A screenshot of a web interface showing a 'Poll Interval (Seconds)' dropdown menu with the value '15' selected.

18. Now that the blinds have imported in you must add them to a custom page.

19. For each blind you can add the following controls

a. Shade Button (Latching) – Used for UP / DOWN / STOP commands

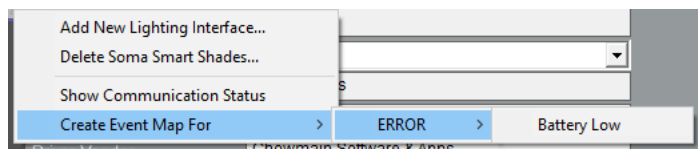


b. Light Dimmer Control – Used for UP/ DOWN / LEVEL commands



20. **OPTIONAL:** You can also add in a Text (FEEDBACK) control to provide the battery feedback for the blinds. Note you will also need to put in Static Text control as well as a label.

21. **OPTIONAL:** You can also program an event map for the Battery Low event. This event will fire if any of the shades falls below the Battery Level Warning level you set earlier.



22. Congratulations you have successfully setup the Soma driver for Nice Home Management. Please note, a licence purchase will be required to use this driver outside of the initial trial period

Configuration

The following table provides settings used in Configurator. Please refer to the Configurator Reference Guide for more details.

Devices	Variable Name	Setting	Comments
Lighting Interface (Soma Smart Shades)	Name	" User Defined"	
	System#	" Auto Detect"	
	Driver Version	" Auto Detect"	
	Driver Vendor	Chowmain Software & Apps	
	Device Type	Soma Smart Shades	
	Device Classification	" User Defined" Shades should be selected for this	
	Activation Key	" User Defined" This is the activation Key	See Note 1
	Activation Status	" Auto Detect" This provides the licence status feedback	See Note 1
	Firmware Version	" Auto Detect" This is the firmware version of the Soma Connect device	
	Number of Devices	" Auto Detect" This is the number of shades that the Soma Connect	
	Poll Interval	" User Defined " How often the driver should poll for position and battery feedback	See Note 2
	Battery Level Warning	" User Defined " Battery level warning percentage	See Note 3

Notes:

1. The driver requires a valid purchased licence for use. All licences are site licences. This means that you can use as many instances of the driver as you want in a single system with the one licence. The driver also includes a 90 day trial for testing purposes. The driver will provide feedback as to the state of the licence in the Activation Status field.
2. The driver polls for both level feedback (in percent) and also battery feedback. Note that for larger systems a higher poll rate is recommended as we need to poll for each individual shade.
3. The battery level warning percentage is used for firing of the Battery Low event map and also to change the string variable from OK to LOW.

4. This is the IP Address of the projector. Please make sure that it is on a static IP address or reservation. Change of IP address will result in loss of control.

COMMON MISTAKES

1. IP Address needs to be on a static IP address or IP reservation
2. Poll Interval is not adjusted for larger systems (needs to be higher as we poll for each individual device)

FAQ

Can you give us some usage examples?

- Automate existing shades in the home without additional wiring at an extremely affordable price!
- Program shades to open in the morning and close at night
- Program shades to close when you arm the home
- Program shades to close when you start up your movie

Where can i purchase these devices from?

- Soma is available for international purchase from their [website](#)
- Alternatively if you are in Australia you can purchase it from our friends at [OzSmartThings](#)

How long does it take to charge via USB?

The full charge takes up to 10 hours and the battery will last up to 25 days on a single charge, depending on the number of triggers and manipulations with the device.

What about charging via solar panel?

Solar panel is expected to be connected to the device constantly and it does not charge the device fully to 100%.

Installation instructions

- Plug in the charging cables audio jack, see detailed instructions [here](#)
- The protective film needs to be removed from the solar panel
- The panel has to be attached to the window glass facing outdoors
- The panel does not work or has limited effectiveness with the following types of windows
 - Frosted glass windows
 - Windows with spectrally selective glazing
 - Windows with tinted, coated or reflective glasses
 - Triple pane windows
- Make sure that the solar panel is fully open to the sunlight and that it is not covered even partly by physical items or that it is not partly covered by shadow (for example shadows might be caused by nearby buildings or trees)
 - Check the Charging Level. In the Smart Shades app > Device Settings > Troubleshooting > Charging Level. The Charging Level changes according to the light entering the panel. Move the panel to find the best position for it
 - Make sure that you have the latest firmware installed to see this option in the settings. See Checking for Firmware Updates.
- The panel may have limited effectiveness if attached to the windows facing north
- The panel may have limited effectiveness during certain seasons in certain geographical locations

- Use USB charger during these periods

How do we know when the battery level is low?

The battery level can be checked via the Soma Smart Shades app. The driver also pulls in the battery level information as a variable. As such you can program against the battery level. We highly recommend you add a push notification to advise the home owner when the battery level is low.

I want to try this driver out before buying it?

All Chowmain drivers for Nice Home Management/ELAN come with a 90 day trial.

Licensing

- How does the trial period work?

All Chowmain drivers are free to use for a set trial period. When the trial expires the driver will cease to function until you purchase a licence and apply it to the driverCentral project.

- Where do I buy a Licence from?

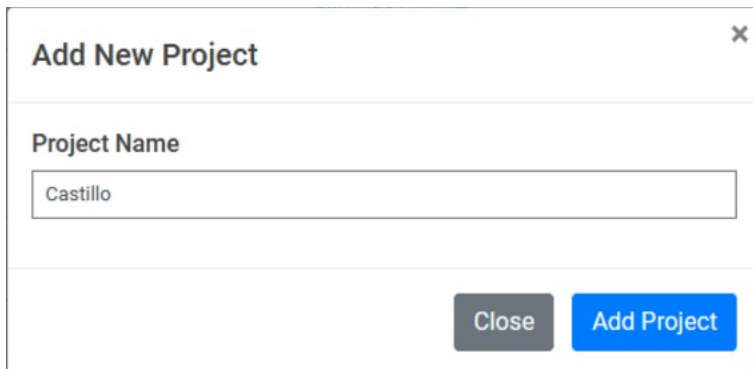
This driver is developed by Chowmain software & Apps and is distributed by driverCentral, Inc
<https://www.drivercentral.io/chowmain-ltd>

To purchase a driver:

1. On driverCentral, purchase a license and register it to your project
2. If the driver is not already installed in your project, download it and install it
3. If necessary, use the cloud driver's Action: "Check Drivers" to force the licence to download into the project


Creating a Project on Driver Central

1. Visit <http://www.drivercentral.io>
2. Log into your driver Central dealer account
3. Click **Portal**
4. Click **New Project**
5. Enter the project name

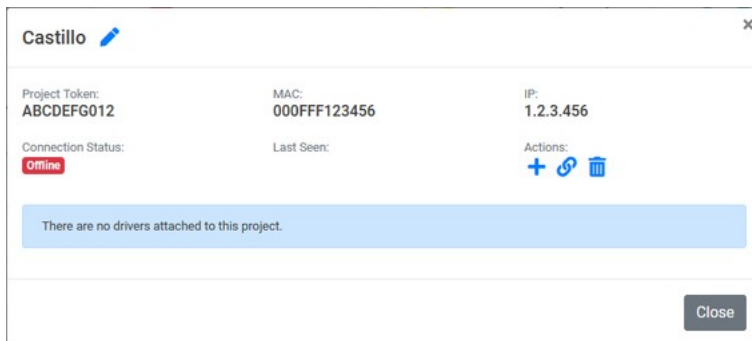


The screenshot shows a modal dialog box titled "Add New Project". Inside the dialog, there is a label "Project Name" above a text input field. The input field contains the text "Castillo". At the bottom right of the dialog, there are two buttons: a grey "Close" button and a blue "Add Project" button.

6. Click **Add Project**
7. Click on the project we just created

Project	Status	Created
 Castillo	Unassigned Project	1999-12-31 23:59:56

- Take note of the **Project Token** as this will be used later when we install the Cloud Driver



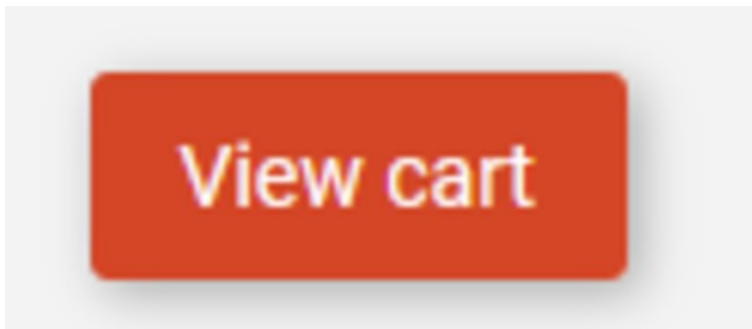
- Click **Close**

Purchasing a Driver Licence

- Visit <https://www.drivercentral.io/chowmain-ltd/> and find the product/driver you want to purchase a licence for
- Click on **Add to Cart**

ADD TO CART

- Now click the shopping cart icon (top right) and click **View cart**



- Confirm that your order is correct and click on **Proceed to checkout**

Proceed to checkout

- Choose your payment option, provide the relevant details and click **Place order**

Developer Information



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Information stated in this document is current as of July 2020 and may change. For latest information please visit <http://www.chowmainsoft.com>

Support

Ticket / Live Chat Support

We provide ticket based support and live chat support for those who can't contact us via phone. Click the button below to visit our online helpdesk.

Support Centre	Hours of Operation	URL
American Support Desk	8:30AM – 4:30PM Mountain Time	https://help.drivercentral.io/

Phone Support

Support Center	Hours of Operation	Phone Number
Australian Support Desk	6:30AM – 5:30PM Australian Eastern Time	+61 3 9028 6999

Driver Documentation

All of our drivers come with detailed instructions on how to install and configure the driver for use in different projects. Please refer to the documentation included with the driver you downloaded, or [contact us](#) if you are unable to locate the documentation for your driver.

CHANGELOG

Version 2024.7.30 - 30 JUL 2024

- Modernise Backend
- Add Improved Troubleshooting and Submit Diagnostics support
- Upgrade Communication Stack

Version 1.0.2 - 27-JUL-2023

- Added support for USB Bridge

Version 1.0.0 - 23-AUG-2021

- Initial release