Elgato Stream Deck Installation and Usage Guide



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chowmainsoft

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Overview

Elgato Stream Deck is a powerful and customizable control interface that puts your favourite actions and automations at your fingertips. Originally designed for content creators and streamers, Stream Deck has evolved into a versatile control solution that combines physical buttons with software-based virtual controls.

The Stream Deck range features dedicated hardware with customizable LCD keys, allowing users to execute actions instantly with a single press. For those who prefer a software-based solution, Stream Deck Mobile brings the same intuitive button interface to smartphones and tablets, while Stream Deck's desktop software provides additional on-screen control options.

With Chowmainsoft's Stream Deck integration for Control4, you can seamlessly connect these interfaces to your home automation system. Instantly activate lighting scenes, control music playback, adjust volume, select room sources, raise or lower shades, manage heating and cooling, play announcements, trigger Control4 events, execute programmed button presses, or create advanced custom actions to suit your specific requirements.

Whether using physical LCD buttons or virtual controls on your mobile device or computer, Stream Deck provides a fast, intuitive and highly customizable way to interact with your Control4 system.

Features

The Chowmain Stream Deck driver works with every Elgato Stream Deck, including Stream Deck +, XL, MK.2, Mini, Neo, Pedal, Studio and Stream Deck Mobile. The Stream Deck plugin runs on Windows and macOS.

Stream Deck actions

- **Custom Button:** a button you create in Composer. It fires push and release events for programming, and can be bound to a light or other device with a standard button link, which it controls and whose state and colours it shows. Its text, images and other settings come from its variables. It can also fire tapped, double tapped and held events, and on a dial, rotated events.
- **Lighting Scene:** activates or toggles an Advanced Lighting scene, and lights up while the scene is active.
- **Macro:** runs a Composer macro.
- **Announcement:** plays a Control4 announcement.
- **Light:** toggle, on, off, set level, set a colour or colour temperature, or brighten and dim while held. Keypad mode toggles on a tap and dims on a hold, like a Control4 keypad. On a dial, turn to dim (or change the colour temperature) and press to switch.
- **Area Lights:** every light or shade in a room, on a floor or in the whole house on one key: toggle, on, off, open or close. On a dial, turn to dim them all.
- **Room:** mute, volume, play/pause, next, previous, select a source, a source at a set volume, remote buttons (arrows, OK, menu, guide, numbers and more) for whatever's playing, favourite channels with their logos, and room off. The key can show the cover art of what's playing. On a dial, turn for volume and press to mute.
- **Thermostat:** shows the temperature with the setpoint, humidity, fan mode, hold mode or preset; steps the setpoint, changes the mode, fan mode or hold mode, and runs presets. On a dial, turn to set the temperature.
- **Shade:** open, close, stop or go to a position. On a dial, turn to move the shade.
- **Fan:** on, off, faster, slower, a set speed or reverse. On a dial, turn to change the speed.
- **Variable:** shows any Control4 variable, such as a sensor reading, with your own format. Keys and dials can also toggle, set or step Composer's custom variables, so programming can follow them.
- **Camera:** shows a project camera's snapshot, refreshed every few seconds. Press to pan, tilt, zoom, go to a preset or open a page. On a dial, turn to pan, tilt or zoom.
- **Room Context:** chooses the room that Room and Area Lights keys set to follow it control, like the room list in Navigator.

Live feedback

- Keys update the moment something changes in Control4, whoever changed it.
- Keys show a red cross while the controller can't be reached, and "Not found" when their device or button has been removed from the project.

- Lights, rooms, scenes, cameras and devices are listed by room in Stream Deck, straight from the project.
- Stream Deck can find the controller on the network, so there's no IP address to type.

Composer

- Pair each computer once with a pairing code. Remove one computer, or all of them.
- Limit what each computer can use: only some rooms, and none of the device types you turn off (for example no cameras on a guest computer).
- Custom buttons have events for pushed, released, tapped, double tapped, held, rotated clockwise and rotated anticlockwise, and variables for their text, state, images and colours.
- Programming can flash a button's keys, or every key, in a colour with your text until someone presses one, optionally with a live camera snapshot. Pressing one fires an event, so a doorbell, leak or finished wash can be acknowledged from a desk.
- Programming can show an alert or a tick on a button's keys, and open a web page on a computer.
- Events fire when a computer connects, disconnects or wakes from sleep, and, if you turn it on, when Zoom, Teams, Webex, FaceTime, OBS, Steam, Spotify or Plex starts or quits on it. A variable says which computer, so one button or event can do something different on each desk.
- Conditionals check whether a Stream Deck computer is connected.
- The Stream Deck tab lists what each computer did lately, and which alerts are flashing.
- Export a project's custom buttons to a file and import them into another project.
- Optionally hide lighting scenes or announcements from Stream Deck users.
- The driver never gives access to alarm systems, security panels, locks or doors (garage doors, gates and door stations).

Frequently Asked Questions

Which Stream Deck units are supported?

This driver is compatible with the following hardware and software Stream Deck solutions

- Stream Deck Hardware
- Stream Deck Mobile - IOS / Android
- Virtual Stream Deck - Windows / macOS

More Stream Deck Hardware is available in: Stream Deck Hardware Device Models

What are the requirements?

Stream Deck app 7.1 or later on Windows 10 or later, or macOS 12 or later, and Control4 OS 3.4.3 or later. The computer must be on and logged in while the Stream Deck is used.

The keys show a red cross

The plugin can't reach the controller. Open any Control4 key's settings in Stream Deck to see the status, then:

1. Check the computer is on the same network as the controller.
2. Check the controller's IP address hasn't changed. Use a fixed IP address or a DHCP reservation.
3. Check the agent driver is in the project and its licence is valid.
4. Check the agent's **Control4 Controller Address** property shows an address. If it says the port is in use, change **Server Port** and pair again.

The keys recover by themselves when the controller is back.

A key says "Not found"

The light, room, scene or custom button it used has been removed from the project. Open the key's settings and pick another.

The settings say "Pair it again"

The computer's access was removed with **Revoke All Computers**, or the agent was replaced. Generate a new pairing code and pair again.

Is it secure?

Only computers paired with a code from Composer can control the system, and access can be removed at any time. Pairing codes last 10 minutes and work once.

The Stream Deck shows the Stream Deck logo instead of buttons

The Stream Deck app isn't running. The computer may be asleep, logged out or starting up.

Can Stream Deck arm or show my alarm?

No. The driver never gives access to alarm systems or security panels, and their devices aren't listed anywhere in Stream Deck.

A camera key shows "No image"

The agent fetches snapshots the way touchscreens do. Check the camera shows on a touchscreen. Cameras that only send their snapshot later (some Luma models) can't be shown; enter a snapshot URL in the key's settings instead. Snapshots are refreshed every 10 seconds by default; large cameras send big images, so don't set it much faster.

A Variable key won't change the variable

Keys can change Composer's custom variables only (the **Custom variables** device). Other devices' variables are shown only. A custom variable marked read-only can't be changed either.

A key says "Not found" on one computer but works on another

That computer is limited on the agent's **Stream Deck** tab (**Access**): the device's room or type isn't allowed for it.

Setup

Requirements

- Any Elgato Stream Deck.
- A Windows 10 or later, or macOS 12 or later, computer that stays on and logged in while the Stream Deck is used.
- Stream Deck app 7.1 or later.
- Control4 OS 3.4.3 or later.
- A fixed IP address for the primary Control4 controller (a DHCP reservation is fine).

Control4 setup

1. Add the **Stream Deck Agent (Chowmain)** driver to the project.

2. Add any announcements and Advanced Lighting scenes you want on Stream Deck, then refresh Navigators.

3. Open the agent in Composer. It opens on its **Stream Deck** tab, which has everything below in one place. To make custom buttons, go to **Custom buttons** on that tab:

    1. Select **Add button with a button link** for a button that works like a keypad button. Bind its BUTTON_LINK connection to a light or other device: a press controls it, and the button shows its on/off state and colours.
    2. Select **Add button for programming** for a button you control from programming.
    3. Name the button. Set its text, choose a built-in image or give your own image addresses (PNG or JPG), and choose where its state, colours and state text come from. The tab shows the images it will use.
    4. Programming can change the button while the system runs, through its `action-<ID>-text`, `action-<ID>-text-state`, `action-<ID>-state`, `action-<ID>-image-on`, `action-<ID>-image-off`, `action-<ID>-color-on` and `action-<ID>-color-off` variables.

    The **Select Action** property and the properties below it do the same job, if you prefer the Properties tab.

4. Add programming to the button events as needed: pushed, released, tapped, double tapped, held, and rotated clockwise or anticlockwise for dials.

Pair the computer

Each computer that runs Stream Deck is paired once.

1. On the agent's **Stream Deck** tab in Composer, select **Generate pairing code**. The code lasts 10 minutes and works once. (The **Generate Pairing Code** action does the same, and shows the code in the **Pairing Code** property.)
2. On the Stream Deck computer, install the Control4 plugin (you generally just need to open it).
3. Either:
    - Open the setup link from the **Stream Deck** tab (also in the **Stream Deck Setup Link** property) on the Stream Deck computer, enter the code and select **Connect Stream Deck**; or
    - Drag any Control4 action onto a key, select **Find controllers** in its settings (or type the controller's IP address), enter the code and select **Pair**.
4. The settings show **Connected to** with your project name, and the computer appears under **Paired computers** on the **Stream Deck** tab.

To stop a computer controlling the system, select **Remove** next to it on the **Stream Deck** tab. **Revoke All Computers** removes every computer at once.

What each computer can use

Select **Access** next to a computer on the **Stream Deck** tab:

- **Rooms:** every room, or only the rooms you tick. While rooms are limited, floors and the whole house can't be used, and keys for other rooms show "Not found".
- **Can use:** untick the device types the computer shouldn't use, such as cameras or custom buttons on a guest computer.
- **App events:** fire **Stream Deck App Started** and **Stream Deck App Quit** when Zoom, Teams, Webex, FaceTime, OBS, Steam, Spotify or Plex starts or quits on it. Off until you turn it on, because it tells the house which apps someone uses.
- **Web pages:** let the **Open Web Page** command open pages on it. Off until you turn it on.

Changes apply straight away. The **Activity** section lists the last 50 presses and events from every computer.

Add keys

1. Drag Control4 actions from the Stream Deck action list onto keys or dials.
2. Pick the light, room, scene or button. Lists are grouped by room.
3. Choose what a press does where offered. Stream Deck uses the Control4 name as the title, or you can type your own.

Some actions need more:

- **Variable:** keys can change Composer's custom variables (the **Custom variables** device in the list), to toggle a mode or step a value that programming follows. Other devices' variables are shown only.
- **Camera:** pick a camera from the project. The agent fetches its snapshots, so the camera's address and login stay on the controller. Cameras that send their snapshot later (some Luma models) can't be shown; type a snapshot URL instead.

- **Room Context:** put one key per room on a page. Room and Area Lights keys set to **The room chosen by a Room Context key** then control whichever room was pressed last.

Programming

- **Show Alert On Button** and **Show OK On Button** flash a warning or a tick on every key that uses that custom button.
- **Flash Button** makes a custom button's keys (or every key) flash in a colour with your text, until someone presses one or the seconds you set pass. It can go to one computer or all, and show a camera's snapshot between flashes. The press doesn't press the button: it clears the alert everywhere and fires **Stream Deck Alert Acknowledged**, with the button's name in `STREAM_DECK_ALERT`. **Clear Alert** stops it from programming. For a doorbell, run **Flash Button** with the door camera when the doorbell rings.
- **Open Web Page** opens a page on one computer or all of them, if they allow it.
- **Stream Deck Computer Connected** and **Stream Deck Computer Disconnected** fire as computers come and go. The `LAST_STREAM_DECK_COMPUTER` variable holds the computer's name.
- **Stream Deck Computer Woke** fires when a computer wakes from sleep, and **Stream Deck App Started** and **Stream Deck App Quit** when a watched app starts or quits (`STREAM_DECK_APP` holds its name).
- `STREAM_DECK_COMPUTER` holds the name of the computer behind the latest press or event. Check it in a button's events to make one button do something different on each desk.
- The **A Stream Deck computer is connected** and **Stream Deck computer connected** conditionals check whether any computer, or one by name, is connected. A button's state is its `action-<ID>-state` variable.
- The agent has only one of each event for every computer and alert, because Control4 allows a driver 1000 events and the custom buttons use most of them.

Moving buttons to another project

On the **Stream Deck** tab, select **Export buttons** to save every custom button to a file (or copy it from the box). In the other project, select **Import buttons** and choose the file. The buttons get new IDs and events, so set up their programming again.

Tips

- Turn off sleep and hibernation on the Stream Deck computer, and set it to log in automatically, so the Stream Deck works at all times.
- Back up the Stream Deck profile (Stream Deck preferences, Profiles, Export) to copy the layout to other computers. Each computer still needs to be paired.
- On Stream Deck +, the Light, Area Lights, Room, Thermostat, Shade, Fan, Variable, Camera and Custom Button actions also work on dials.

Licensing

Marketplace

To Purchase drivers

Chowmain Drivers are only available to authorized dealers. Integrators can sign up to a Chowmain account via the Chowmain Website. Authorization of dealers can take up to 48 hours; however, you can trial the drivers without an account.

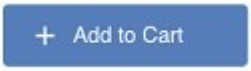
1. Navigate to the login page of Chowmain website: Chowmain - Login
2. Sign in using credentials provided after sign up request approval
3. Ensure you are logged into the website using website's header: registration and sign up buttons are replaced with cart icon and user icon



4. Navigate to the drivers page: Chowmain - Drivers
5. Alternatively, you can use the global search input in the header to find the driver



6. Search for and locate the driver you are interested. Click *Add To Cart*



7. Once you have added all drivers to your cart, navigate to the shopping cart: Chowmain - Cart
8. Click *Checkout & Pay*. Follow the directions



9. Purchase confirmation will be sent to your email, all orders can be viewed in the Chowmain - Orders
10. Once the payment is processed, the driver will be available in your account: Chowmain - My Drivers

Create Chowmain Project and obtain Project Code

Note:

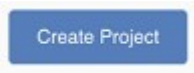
- Showroom Projects contain all drivers of its Control System
- Paid licenses cannot be assigned to Showroom Projects
- Only 1 Project is required per home
- If the Project has already been created, do not create a second one
- If controller already has a Project code created by another installer, please contact the original installer for access. If the original installer is unavailable, contact Chowmain - Support

- If the controller has been replaced and the license needs to be transferred to a new controller you can do so yourself via the website

1. Ensure you are signed into the Chowmain Website
2. Navigate to Dashboard => Projects



3. Click *Create Project*:



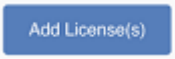
4. Complete the details for the Project (*Project Name*, *Customer Name*, *Control System*)
5. Upon completion, take note of the **Project Code**. This is required to link the Control System to the newly created project

To Assign purchased drivers to Project

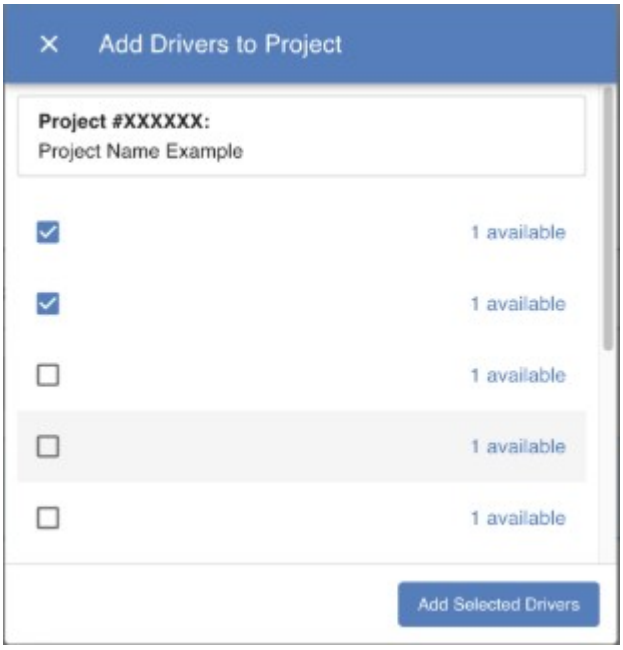
NOTE: Driver must already be purchased and a Project Code must be created as per above 'Create Chowmain Project and obtain Project Code' section

1. Navigate to Chowmain Software - Projects. Click the *Project Name* you wish to assign the driver to



2. Click the *Add License(s)*: 

3. Select Drivers you wish to assign to the project, and click *Add Selected Drivers*:



4. Alternatively you can add in drivers via the [Chowmain - Drivers]

5. The driver will be added to the project with the license status *Licensed*



Control4

To Download and install Chowmain drivers:

NOTE: Licensed Chowmain drivers come with a complimentary 90-day trial period. To license the driver, installation of the Chowmain Project Agent is required. The Project Agent is also required for automatic driver updates. Throughout the 90-day trial period, Chowmain Drivers operate without any limitations. After this period, the driver will be disabled unless properly licensed.

All Chowmain Licensed drivers require a minimum of OS 3.1.3 to operate correctly unless specified.

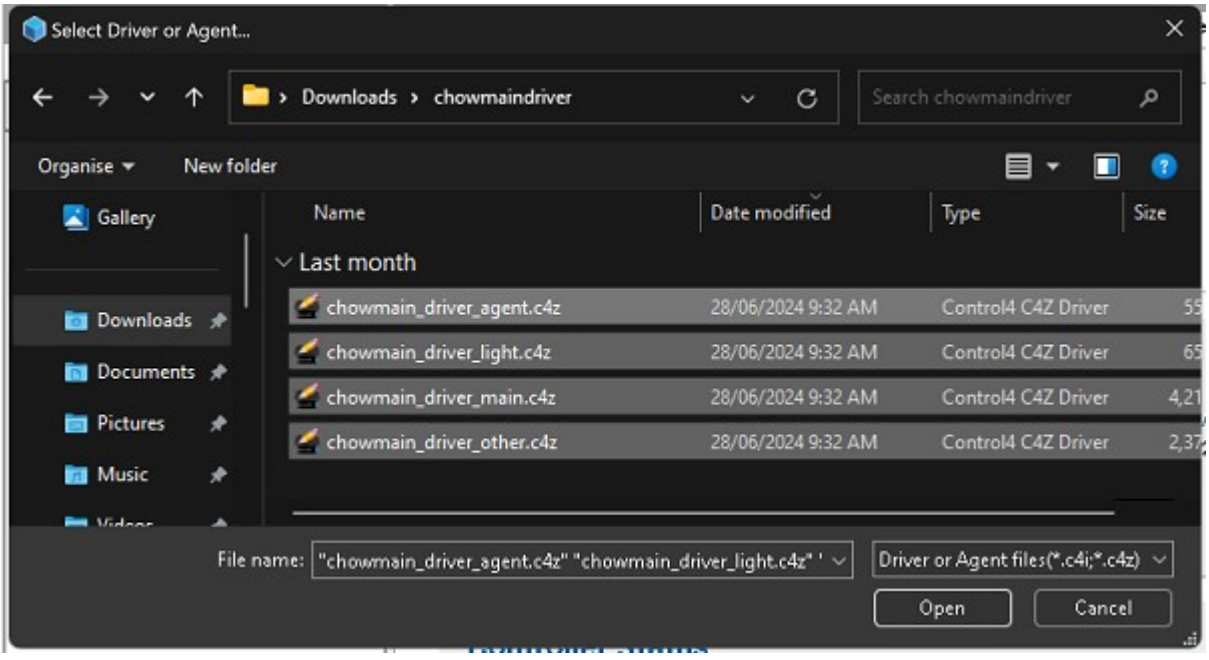
1. Visit: https://chowmain.software
2. Search and locate your driver, and click into the details by clicking the picture or heading.
3. Select Download. And extract the contents of the downloaded Zip file to a temporary directory



4. **Please note: For many drivers, it is no longer recommended to copy the contents of most modern drivers directly to your Control4/drivers directory.** The recommended method of updating drivers or installing drivers is in Composer Pro, navigate to the Driver=>Add Or Update Driver Or Agent menu item.



5. Locate the temporary directory containing your C4Z files. You can select and install/update all drivers simultaneously by selecting one and using Ctrl+A. Alternatively, click the top driver+shift+click the bottom. Click the open button. You will be alerted when drivers are installed



6. Install drivers as per normal. Please note, some drivers may be agents, and you must use the Agents tab in Control4 to install the driver. Composer Express does not support Agents, and Composer pro is recommended for all installers.

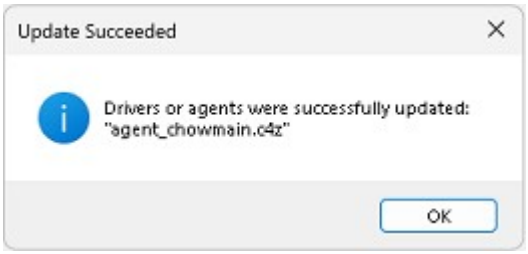
Install Chowmain Agent

Installation of the Chowmain Agent is required to licence drivers

1. Download Chowmain Project Agent From the [Chowmain Project Agent Page]
2. Open Project In Composer Pro. Composer Express does not Support Agents and cannot be used
3. Navigate to the *Driver=>Add Or Update Driver Or Agent* menu item



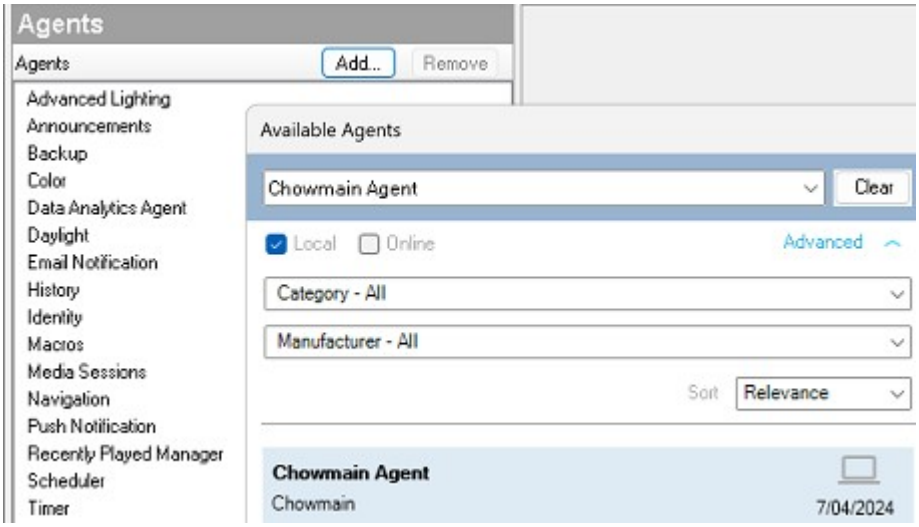
4. Add the *agent_chowmain.c4z* file



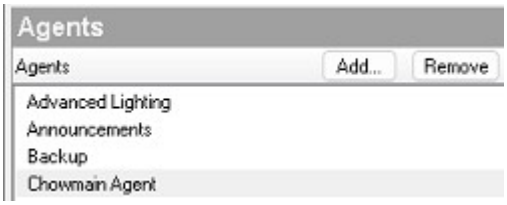
5. Navigate to the Agents View in Composer Pro



6. If *Chowmain Agent* is not already added to project, select the *Add* button in Agents and add the *Chowmain Agent* to Project



7. *Chowmain Agent* should be listed in the project.

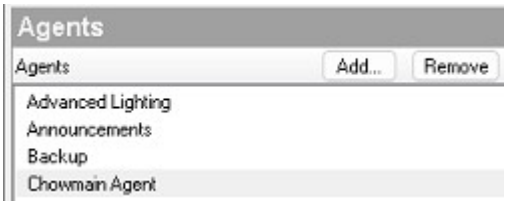


Link Project Code to Control4 Project

1. Ensure Chowmain Agent is installed on primary Control4 Controller. If not, follow the previous information
2. Navigate to the Agents View in Composer Pro



3. Select *Chowmain Agent* in the project



4. Enter the Project Code into the Project Code Property. You would have previously set this up on the Chowmain website as outlined in the Website portion of this document. If you have not set up a project you can do so via the [Chowmainsoft - Projects] webpage.



5. The status property will provide feedback on driver licencing status



6. **Please note:** If project code has been used previously on another controller you can revoke the licence for use again.

LICENCING FAQ

What are the Requirements for Chowmain licencing?

- Driver trials do not require Agent to be installed.
- To activate licenced drivers, *Chowmain Project Agent* must be installed.
- Composer Pro 3.1.3 or later is required to install and configure *Chowmain Project Agent*
- Internet is required during the licence registration process.
- If Internet is lost then the licence will persist the last state.
- If the Chowmain Project Agent is removed then licencing will be invalidated. Do not remove the Chowmain Project Agent once installed.

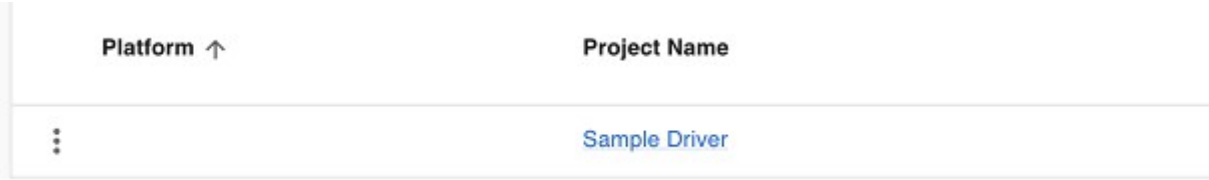
How do I know if the deployed driver is using Chowmain Licencing?

- There are multiple ways:

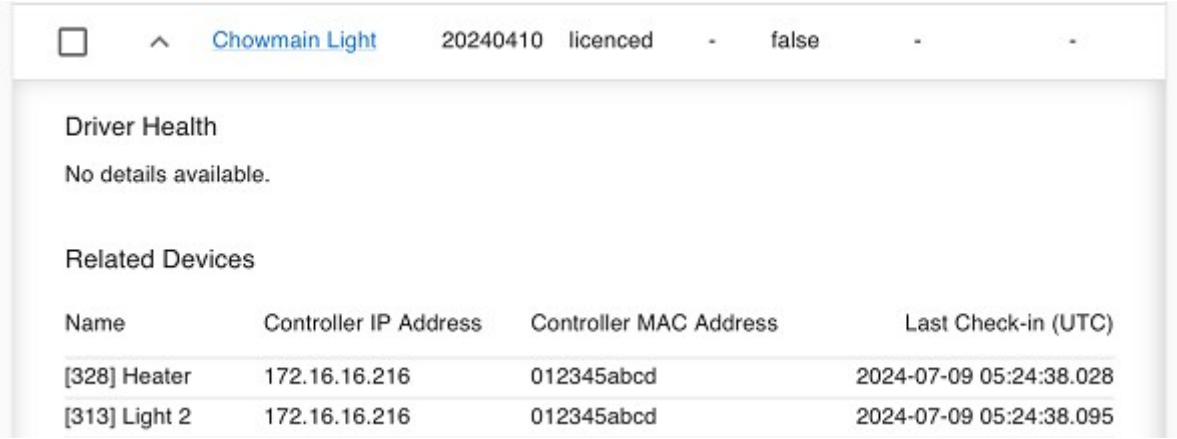
1. Chowmain licensed drivers have *CM:* in their cloud status property



2. If the *Project Code* has been correctly entered in Chowmain Project Agent and the project is registered, you can find the list of Chowmain-licensed drivers deployed on your controller using the Chowmain website.
    1. Navigate to [Chowmainsoft Website - Projects]
    2. Select your Project Code



    3. Known Chowmain Drivers will be listed, and if you select the driver, it will list which drivers in the project are known to be CM Licenced. Please note, this list may not update immediately



How does the trial period work?

All Chowmain drivers are free to use for 90 days. When the trial expires the driver will cease to function until you purchase a licence and apply it to the project.

What benefits does Chowmain Project Agent provide?

Chowmain Project Agent provides a number of benefits for projects

- Required for activation of driver licences. Enables the linking of Control4 Projects to Chowmain Project Codes.
- Required for Auto Updates of Chowmain Licenced drivers
- Provides local access to all Diagnostics for all known licenced Chowmain drivers on Control4 system in 1-click
- Bulk Enable and Disable of Automatic Updates of drivers
- Display local licencing information for all known driver
- Update All Drivers in 1 click to latest versions available for that driver

Where do I buy a Licence from?

- Chowmain Control4 Drivers are only available to Control4 installers. Installers can sign up to a Chowmain account using: https://chowmain.software/signup. If you are a home owner you should contact your automation installer for support, purchase and installation of drivers
- This driver is developed by Chowmainsoft and can be purchased from the Chowmain Software Website.
- All licences are site licences. This means the one licence can be used to unlock as many instances of the same driver in the same project.

Can I upgrade old versions of drivers from other marketplaces to Chowmain?

- This process is mostly automated.
    1. Install Chowmain Project Agent, and assign a Project Agent as required
    2. Ensure all drivers are up to date, and replace obsolete drivers with updated builds.
    3. Wait 10 mins.

Developer Information



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Information stated in this document is current as of January 2026 and may change. For latest information please visit https://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
Australia / New Zealand / United Kingdom	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	https://chowmain.software/for-integrators/technical-support

Phone Support

Region	Hours of Operation	Phone Number
Australia	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+61 3 9028 6999](tel:+61 3 9028 6999)
United Kingdom	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+44 29 2000 5551](tel:+44 29 2000 5551)
United States	Monday - Friday - See website for hours of operation	[+1 206 944 5444](tel:+1 206 944 5444)

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.

Change Log

Version 20261105 - 05-NOV-2026

- Initial Release