

Vacation Lighting Scheduler for Crestron Home

Manufacturer: LCD Scheduler · **Model:** Vacation Lighting Scheduler V2 · **SKU:** CHHOMEAWAY

Occupancy simulation for an empty house. The driver records what the home's lighting actually does, and plays that week back while the owners are away, so the property looks lived-in.

What it does

Every five minutes the driver asks this processor which lighting scene is active in each room, and stores it. The week is kept as 288 five-minute slots a day across seven days, 2016 in all.

When Vacation Mode is on, the driver stops recording and drives the house instead. Every five minutes it recalls the scenes for that time of day. How it does that depends on how much has been recorded:

Recorded so far	What Vacation Mode does
At least one day filled to 80%	Replays the recorded week. A day with gaps borrows from a complete day at the same time of day.
Some recording, but no complete day	Replays what was recorded and simulates the rest.
Nothing yet	Simulates a lived-in day from each room's <i>All On</i> and <i>All Off</i> lighting scenes.

The driver chooses at the moment Vacation Mode starts, and says which it chose. Vacation Mode can be started at any time, including on the day the driver is installed.

A simulated day has a shape: a short morning in one or two rooms, dark through the day, rooms coming on one after another from around sunset, then going off one by one until the last light goes out between 22:30 and 23:30. The evening follows real sunset for the latitude and longitude set in the driver's configuration, and stays between 16:00 and 20:30.

The driver also fires two randomised A/V windows a day, one morning and one evening, that programming can use to switch on a television or some audio. The times are drawn again every midnight.

Installation

1. **Add the driver** in the Crestron Home setup app: *Drivers > Scheduler > LCD Scheduler > Vacation Lighting Scheduler V2*.
2. **Enter the licence key** on the first configuration step. A 30-day trial key and full licences are available from the LCD web store. The driver does nothing for the house until it is licensed: it doesn't record, and Vacation Mode can't start.
3. **Check the location** on the second step. Latitude and longitude default to London. Change them if the site is elsewhere, so simulated evenings follow local sunset.
4. **Open *Diagnostics & Setup*** from the configuration page. Use it to confirm recording is working and to choose which rooms take part.

There is no device address to enter. The driver reads rooms and scenes from this processor's own web API.

Requirements

- The processor's own web API must be enabled: *Settings > System Control Options > Web API Settings*.
- The rooms to be simulated need **lighting scenes**. The driver records and replays scenes only.
- To be simulated when nothing has been recorded, a room needs lighting scenes named **All On** and **All Off**.
- Outbound HTTPS to `lightingcontrol.co.uk` is needed to activate a licence. Once activated, the licence is cached on the processor and keeps working offline.
- The processor's time zone must be correct, because sunset is worked out in local time.

Using it

On a touch panel

The driver's tile shows whether Vacation Mode is on. Its page shows a status line that says what the house is doing.

Control	Does
I'm going away	Starts Vacation Mode, after a confirmation.
I'm back	Ends Vacation Mode and resumes recording. Immediate, with no confirmation.
Choose rooms	Which rooms take part while away.

In the browser (Diagnostics & Setup)

Tab	Shows
Coverage	The recorded week as a heatmap, how full each day is against the 80% mark, what Vacation Mode would do if started now, and the Start/End and Record now buttons.
Rooms	Which rooms take part. Excluded rooms are still recorded, but never driven while away.
Events	Today's randomised A/V windows and the event names to use in programming.
Settings	Whether the tile appears on the Home page, the room page, or both.
Troubleshooter	Nine checks covering the licence, processor API, rooms, scenes, database and recording, each with a fix, plus a report to copy for support.
Activity	What the driver has recorded and replayed recently.

Programming

Actions

Action	Does
<code>setAway</code>	Start Vacation Mode.
<code>setHome</code>	End Vacation Mode.
<code>toggleAway</code>	Switch between the two.
<code>awayPassthrough /</code> <code>homePassthrough</code>	Fire the matching pass-through event, for chaining your own logic. <code>homePassthrough</code> only fires while Vacation Mode is on.

Everything the driver does needs a licence: recording, Vacation Mode, the A/V events and these actions.

Events

Event	Fires
awayModeSet / homeModeSet	When the mode changes, however it was changed.
avEventAmStart / avEventAmEnd	The morning A/V window opening and closing. It opens between 07:00 and 11:59.
avEventPmStart / avEventPmEnd	The evening A/V window. It opens between 16:00 and 19:59.
awayPassthroughFired / homePassthroughFired	Raised by the matching action.
driverLoaded	Once the driver is up and has read the room list.

Each A/V window lasts between 30 and 120 minutes. The A/V events fire every day, whether or not Vacation Mode is on.

Troubleshooting

Nothing is being recorded. Run the Troubleshooter. The usual causes are no licence, the processor's web API being disabled, or the rooms having no scenes.

Lights do not come on while away. Check the Rooms tab: an excluded room is never driven. In a simulated day nothing comes on during the daytime, and a room without *All On* and *All Off* lighting scenes cannot be simulated. The Coverage tab lists those rooms.

The Troubleshooter shows a warning on Data coverage. No day has reached 80% yet. This is not a fault. Vacation Mode still works, and replays this house's own week once a day is complete.

The setup page says the driver is gone. The driver was re-imported, removed, or the processor restarted. Reload the page. The recorded week is stored on the processor and is not affected.

Where the data lives. `/user/Data/ThirdParty/LCDDrivers/CHHOMEAWAY/Lighting.db` on the processor. Logs are under `/user/Data/ThirdParty/LCD/CHHOMEAWAY/Logs`.

Limitations

- Records and replays **scenes** only. A light switched on by itself, outside a scene, is not recorded.
- The "Whole House" room is never recorded. Its scene drives every other room, so replaying it would drive every room twice.
- Replay works in five-minute steps.
- Recording stops while Vacation Mode is on, so the simulation is never recorded over the real week.
- Install one instance of this driver per processor.
- Don't install this driver alongside the previous Vacation Lighting Scheduler.

Support

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