

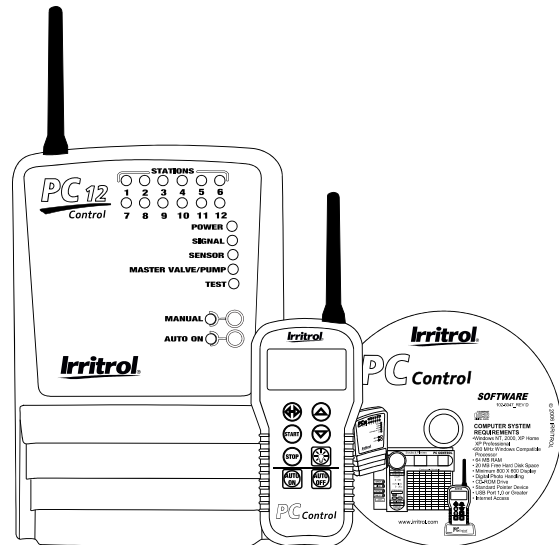
Product FAQ: PC Control

Q: Is the PC Control Software compatible with Windows Vista Operating System and how can I download it?

A: The current version of the Vista Software is located on the PC Control Forum Website www.pc-control.com/forums proceed to the bottom of the page under the Support Heading and click on "Downloads & Updates". Click on "PC Control Beta for Vista" to download the latest version.

Q: My software is not communicating with my controller what can I do?

A: Verify that the remote and controller have the correct PIN value. If they do and you are still experiencing issues then it could be that the radio board in the controller came loose. Take off the bottom portion of the controller panel, then remove the top cover. You should see the radio board towards the top left of the unit. The radio board has two lights, one is usually solid red and the other one is most likely blinking. Press the radio board down using your finger to make sure that it is properly connected. Test the radio communication from the remote to the controller now. The radio board should not become loose again. We noticed that the units received a little more jostling during shipment than we expected. We have corrected this on future units.



Q: Can my system be reprogrammed even if my PC is down?

A: Yes. If you have given your selected Personal Identification Number (PIN) for your PC-based system to your installer or maintenance person, your system can be reprogrammed even if your PC is down. A turf care professional (with the same program and equipment) can come by and make any changes you want, via laptop computer hooked up to a remote.

Q: What happens if I get a new computer?

A: Install the software for the PC Control system in your new computer, download your entire program to a CD and upload that program to the new computer from the disk. Use the current PIN number to access your controller.

Q: What happens if you have overlapping start times?

A: You have an option of no (0) overlap or two (2) overlaps allowed. In the no overlap mode, a message box will pop up in the schedule if you try to overlap a zone. The overlap option is provided so landscape lighting can run even when an irrigation zone is active.

Q: If my computer goes down, can I still use the remote?

A: Your last program sent from the computer resides in your controller in the garage. If your computer crashes, your controller will continue to water on the last schedule it received until you send it a new one. You can also command manual operations with your handheld remote even if your computer is not working.

Q: Is there a HELP desk # that I can call if I have any questions?

A: Yes, you can contact Irritrol's Customer Service at (800) 634-8873. You can also contact them via e-mail at pccontrolsupport@irritrol.com.

Programming help is also available in several ways:

In the HELP mode:

- You can click on the Scheduling Advisor for several tips.
- You can find the installer's phone number and e-mail address.
- You can find Irritrol Systems' technical HELP line and e-mail address.
- You can send your program over the Internet to either of the above for reprogramming.
- You can go to the Irritrol Systems website (www.irritrol.com/pccontrol) for FAQs on the PC-based system.

In the Schedule Selection screen, you can also click on the original schedule to activate the installer's initial default program.

Q: What if there was a power interruption? Would everything still get watered?

A: The "flash memory" in the controller will remember your program for years in the absence of A.C. power. Your system will not, however, water when A.C. power is off. The flash program and back-up battery are for memory retention. A short, neighborhood power outage, less than 48 hours, will not cause the system to lose the time and date. (It is recommended that the 9-volt, alkaline back-up battery be changed once per year). If you forget to change the battery and the system loses the time and date, everything will be brought up to date the next time you use your computer to contact the controller.

Q: Does the controller supply the main power to the landscape lights?

A: No, the controller provides switching control for a 24-volt, AC relay using the controller's zone wires and the Valve Common wire. You can use the Irritrol SR-1 relay, usually used to start pumps, that has a 24-volt relay that closes a bigger, main power relay that lets power through to the lighting transformer. Some landscape lighting manufacturers, like Nightscaping®, have transformers for lighting housed in cabinets that have a 24-volt relay for switching on the incoming power.

Q: How does the contractor change the homeowner's PIN? Must he use his PC or can he use the hand held remote?

A: To change the homeowner's PIN, the contractor must know the old PIN and use his laptop and remote to change the PIN.

Q: What is the Scheduling Advisor™?

A: There is a Scheduling Advisor that can be activated to assist in scheduling proper irrigation based on the local weather forecast. In the Advisor tab, you select specific information for a particular zone, such as amount of exposure to direct light, type of sprinkler head, plant type, slope and soil type. Once you click on the "Use Advisor" button, the recommended schedule will appear and the schedule will automatically be adjusted based on the Advisor recommendation.

Q: How do I add Multiple Controllers? (Example of 3 controllers)

1. Plug in all three controllers and disconnect USB from the Handheld Remote.
2. Choose a four digit PIN value to use in your system.
3. Starting with the controller #1 press the "Auto On" and "Manual" buttons at the same time. You should see both lights on, in addition to the "Power" button blinking, and one of the zone lights turned on. The zone light that is turned on is the first digit in your PIN, usually in a new system zone #10 is lit, which represents zero in the controller.
4. Use the "Manual" button to cycle through the numbers 1 – 10 to set the first digit of the PIN value.

5. Next, press the "Auto On" button. You should see the "Signal" light blinking and one of the zone lights turned on. This is the second digit in your PIN.
6. Use the "Manual" button to cycle through the numbers 1 – 10 to set the second digit of the PIN value.
7. Next, press the "Auto On" button. You should see the "Sensor" light blinking and one of the zone lights turned on. This is the third digit in your PIN.
8. Use the "Manual" button to cycle through the numbers 1 – 10 to set the third digit of the PIN value.
9. Next, press the "Auto On" button. You should see the "Master Valve/Pump" light blinking and one of the zone lights turned on. This is the fourth digit in your PIN.
10. Use the "Manual" button to cycle through the numbers 1 – 10 to set the fourth digit of the PIN value.
11. Next, press the "Auto On" button. You should see the "Test" light blinking and one of the zone lights turned on. This is the controller's number in the system. Usually all of them will be set to 1 as default.
12. Leave controller #1 setup to 1 when the "Test" light is blinking.
13. Finally, HOLD DOWN the "Auto On" button. You should see all the lights on the controller start flashing and it will repeat the new PIN value back to you. NOTE: If you do NOT see this step happen than the controller's PIN was NOT set properly, so repeat steps 3 – 13.

Setting the Second and Third Controllers

1. Repeat steps 3 – 11 using the SAME PIN value that was used for controller #1.
2. For controller #2, when the "Test" light is blinking press the "Manual" button until zone #2 is turned on. This tells the controller that it is the second controller in the system.
3. Repeat step 13 from above.
4. For controller #3 repeat these steps, but when the "Test" light is blinking setup the value to zone #3 to tell the controller that it is the third controller in the system.

Start the PC Control software WITHOUT the remote plugged in.

Q: How do I know if there are any electrical short circuits?

A: The controller has a diagnostic capability that will detect electrical short circuits in the valve solenoids or in the wiring from the controller to the valves in the system. The diagnostic circuit breaker will turnoff the zone with the short circuit and it will identify the problem zone with a blinking light on the controller. It will water all other operable stations according to their schedule.

Q: How many schedules can you have in the program? (If you're a contractor, how many customers' schedules can you have in your program?)

A: Currently there is not limit on how many schedules you can have at one time.

Q: Can you schedule a "no" irrigation day?

A: Yes. You can turn off a particular day of the week as a repeating non-water day, such as "no watering on Tuesdays".

Q: What is the maximum run time per station?

A: Each station can run for 24 hours.

Q: Do I assign my fountain to water or lighting stations?

A: Assign your fountain to a landscape lighting zone. Lighting zones pay no attention to rain sensors, water budgeting, odd or even day watering or the Scheduling Advisor™. Watering zones respond to all the above.

Q: The reaction time seems slow when the system is starting up. The SYSTEM STATUS tab rises and falls very slowly.

A: At start up, make sure to wait about 15 seconds or so for the system to establish contact with the controller in the garage. The SYSTEM STATUS tab will rise and then descend into view with AUTO ON or AUTO OFF depending upon your controller's setting. If the reaction time is still slow, click on SETUP and then click on the PIN CHANGE button. Enter your current PIN number in both the old and the new boxes and then click OK.

Q: How can I access my PC-based controller from work or while traveling?

A: Remote access computer programs such as PC Anywhere or Go to My PC allow the owner complete home computer control. These programs allow the owner to access his or her home computer online using a remote laptop while on the road, so the user can access his or her home computer and easily program and operate the PC Control system.

Q: How do I know if I have the latest version of the software?

A: If you have registered with Irritrol, after having a PC Control installed, you will receive a notice when an updated version of the software is available.

Q: Will the email feature work with my email program (Outlook, etc.)?

A: Yes, as long as your computer meets the system requirements and you have the PC Control program installed.

Q: What weather data comes in from weather.com for the Scheduling Advisor™ to use?

A: It is the daily average of the forecasted weather for your area based on zip code for the next 9 or 10 days. We recommend that you set your PC Control to check with weather.com every day. Within the next 9 or 10 days, there may be some days that you do not use your computer and some that you do. On the days you use your computer, the first time you turn it on, the system will ask if it's OK to go get the weather data. You can also set it to automatically check the weather without asking. Each time you get the updated weather data, you are looking at the next 9 or 10-day average. Zones that you have set to "USE ADVISOR" can either automatically adjust themselves or ask you to "OK" the schedule change.

Q: Will the system shut off during rainfall?

A: The system is compatible with most rain sensing devices for shutting off irrigation in a downpour. We recommend the use of an Irritrol rain sensor, either hard wired or a wireless model, to prevent irrigation when it is raining. In case of a "cold snap" in the weather, Irritrol also makes a wireless rain/freeze sensor to reduce the chance of ice damage to plants or to prevent icy sidewalks from normally scheduled irrigation. The system can then start as scheduled when the sensor dries out. The user can also manually set a delay period before the system will water again.

Q: How many lighting stations can you have and must you specify if it is a lighting station?

A: The latest unit will handle up to 3 lighting stations. They must be designated as lighting stations so the rain sensor, non-water days and water budget will not inhibit their running days or times. We are using a transformer that will handle 3 stations on at a time. The light bulb button on the remote will turn on the lighting stations. So if the owner expects guests to arrive or hears a strange noise outside

at night, he can unplug the remote, wake it up by pushing a button and press the light bulb button. The landscape lighting stations will all come on for a default time of 1 hour.

Q: How do I know what version software I have?

A: On the HELP menu, under the ABOUT tab, you will find the number for the GUI or software version you have.

Q: What if there is a power surge?

A: If there is a power surge, the controller has some protection with the capability to divert incoming electrical surges to earth ground.

Q: Will the system require an expert or can I run it?

A: The system is virtually straight-forward and very intuitive. The PC Control is meant to be installed and set-up by an irrigation or landscape professional and then run by the end-user thereafter.

Q: How hard is it to replace a component?

A: Additional or replacement controllers or remotes are salable separately. Also available as replacement parts are external plug-in transformers, controller access panels and USB cables.

Q: How does the "Seasonal Adjust" feature work?

A: In the SETUP menu, the Seasonal Adjust feature allows the entire system's watering time to be set for less or more in 10% increments. If everything looks a little wet or a little dry, you can adjust the whole system at one time by a certain percentage by simply moving the arrow bar up or down. A system set at 100% represents the original setting for the zones. To reduce watering by 10%, for example, simply adjust the arrow bar downward to 90%.

Q: Can the system save water?

A: Yes, there are several ways the system can save water: 1) you can manually turn off the system during the winter months conveniently at your computer, 2) the system has rain sensor compatibility and will allow a wireless RS1000 or RFS1000 and wired RS500 to be connected to the controller to automatically disable watering during rainfall, and 3) the Scheduling Advisor™ will save water by adjusting the zones according to online weather forecasts.

PC Control Troubleshooting Miss-communications

Start-up

1. When first installing the system it is best to power-up your Controller(s) first. They can become "confused" if the Remote is bombarding it with data when they are Booting-up.
2. Install battery in the Remote. At this point the Remote and Controller should be communicating with each other. If they are not manually check the pin number in both the Controller and Remote (they should both be set at 0000).
3. Install the software on the PC. This process should avoid any miss-communication problems.

A Confused Controller

When the Remote is not in its "Sleep" state, it is constantly sending data to the Controller. If the Controller is powering-up at this time it may become confused during its "Boot" process. If this should occur follow the following steps.

1. Un-plug the Remote from the computer.
2. Un-plug the Remote battery.
3. Power the Controller down (transformer and battery) for 20 seconds.
4. Power the CONTROLLER back up and allow it to completely re-boot (once the Signal light is

blinking or about 30 seconds).

5. Re-install the battery into the Remote and CONTROLLER.
6. Communication should be re-established, if not, manually verify Pin numbers in both the Remote and CONTROLLER.

Multiple Controllers

Communication errors can occur when multiple Controllers are in use and there are "unassigned" stations. The software does not like this condition. A Comm. check will usually read "good" in this condition but when you Update the Controller is when a miscommunication error occurs.

1. Make sure all stations have been assigned and disable any unused stations in the software.
2. You may have to reset the Pin number after assigning the stations to re-establish the communications.

Check /Changing the Pin on the Controller

- Press both & hold both the Auto On & Manual buttons
- The first pin number is indicated by the lamp lit under the station #
- The flashing light next to "Power" represents the first digit
- Press the "Manual" button to change the pin value or the "Auto On" to advance to next pin digit
- The flashing light next to "Signal" represents the second digit
- The flashing light next to "Sensor" represents the third digit
- The flashing light next to "Master Valve/Pump" represents the fourth digit
- The flashing light next to "Test" represents the Controller Address Number 1-4
- To enter the code press and HOLD the "Auto On" button until all the station lamps light up then release to lock in the new pin.

Check/Changing the Pin on the Remote

Press any button to "wake up" the remote.

Press and Hold "Side to Side"  & "Up/Down"  Buttons

The 4 digit Pin will appear. Use the up and down buttons to change first digit
Use the "Side to Side" Buttons to skip to next digit

Use the "Start Button"  to lock in the code.