

MaxAir BOILER Setup Guide

MaxAir will initially be configured as a WiFi AP (Access Point) named MaxAirHotspot, connect to the AP using the password **1234567890** and browse to IP address **192.168.50.5** where you will be presented with the initial connection screen.

Select your local WiFi SSID from the dropdown list and enter the associated password.

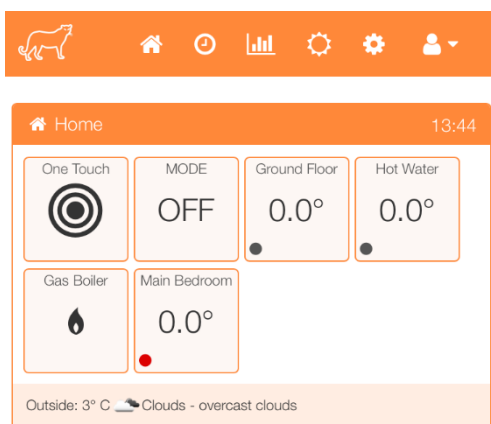
Alternatively, if you want MaxAir to operated as a 'stand-alone' AP, just click to select AP Mode.

Finally click on 'Set and Restart'.

If working in AP Mode you will be presented with the MaxAir login screen, otherwise reconnect to your local AP and browse to the IP address associated with MaxAir (if your AP is using DHCP, then access your router to determine which IP address has been allocated).

The system can be accessed from a suitable WEB browser using its IP address on the local network. The system can be configured with both a wireless and/or an Ethernet wired connection.

The default login credentials are username – **admin** and password - **pihome**



The Home screen layout will be dependent on whether the system is operating in HVAC or Boiler Mode. The example shows a system operating in Boiler Mode with two zones. Ground Floor is the central heating zone and Hot Water is the hot water zone. The example system is configured with a 'stand-alone' temperature sensor located in the Main Bedroom.

Before use the system must be configured to match the local system to be controlled.

Configuration

The system configuration follows a four-layer model: -

Schedules
Zones
Devices
Nodes

Each layer is built from the previous layer e.g. Devices are built using Nodes and Schedules are built using Zones.

Nodes

The nodes are the basic hardware devices that control the system. Some nodes are auto-detected, others must be defined manually.

Examples of auto-detected nodes are MySensors temperature sensors and MySensors relay modules, while examples of manually defined devices are GPIO connected relays, I2C relay modules and Tasmota type switches.

Devices

Devices define how the system recognises the nodes hardware, devices are either Temperature Sensors or Relays. The devices are defined manually.

Zones

The zones define the areas of the system which need to be controlled, examples are Central Heating and Hot Water zones. A further example would be a Lamp zone which includes Tasmota switch/s.

Schedules

Schedules are time related definitions which dictate when the system performs actions and the parameters associated with those actions. An example would be a schedule to control the hot water zone, with a start time of 0600 hours, a stop time of 0930 hours and a maximum temperature of 40°C.

Example Configuration

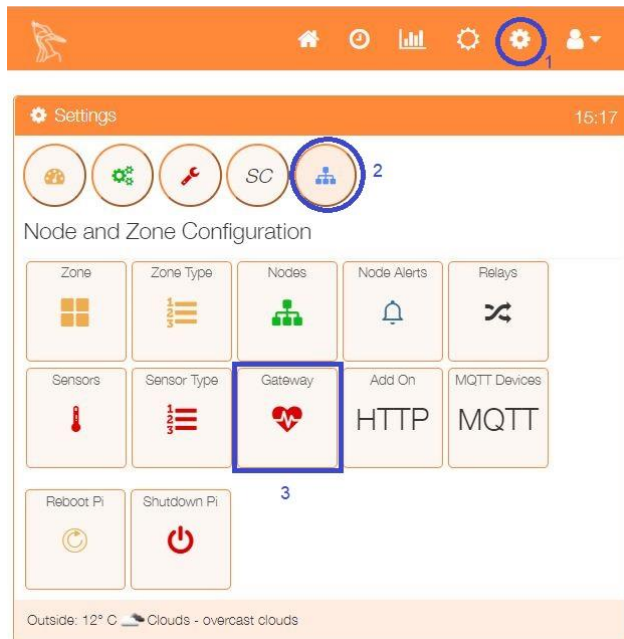
The system to be configured comprises the following elements:

1. A gas boiler, controlled by a 240volt trigger signal
2. A 240volt zone value for the central heating zone
3. A 240volt zone value for the hot water zone
4. A MySensors Temperature to control the central heating zone
5. A MySensors Temperature to control the hot water zone
6. A MySensors Temperature to measure a bedroom temperature

The above will determine the MaxAir nodes requirements as follows:

1. Three MySensors Temperature Sensors
2. Three GPIO pins for relays
3. A serial gateway device to send/receive messages to/from 1 and 2

Step 1 – Configure the Gateway



The gateway is configured using the Gateway option from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu.

For this example, a MySensor gateway is required and should be configured as either Serial or WiFi.

Smart Home Gateway

Smart Home Gateway has nRF24L01 to communicate with the nodes and WiFi to connect to your home network to which controller will also be connected.

☒ Enable Gateway

☒ Enable Outgoing Messages (GPIO Outputs Enabled by Default)

Gateway type
Serial

Serial Port Location
/dev/tty2

Baud Rate for Serial
115200

Timeout
3

Gateway Version
0

Gateway Script Process Info

PID	24732
PID Running Since:	Tue Nov 9 14:51:59 2021
Script Re-Started in Last 5 Minute:	0

Reset GW Search GW Save Close

Smart Home Gateway

Smart Home Gateway has nRF24L01 to communicate with the nodes and WiFi to connect to your home network to which controller will also be connected.

☒ Enable Gateway

☒ Enable Outgoing Messages (GPIO Outputs Enabled by Default)

Gateway type
WiFi

IP Address
192.168.0.12

TCP/IP Port
5003

Timeout
3

Gateway Version
0

Gateway Script Process Info

PID	24732
PID Running Since:	Tue Nov 9 14:51:59 2021
Script Re-Started in Last 5 Minute:	0

Reset GW Search GW Save Close

If no MySensors gateway is required eg where both sensors and relays are connected to the GPIO port or when MQTT devices are used, then configure as a Virtual gateway (this is the initial default configuration).

Smart Home Gateway

☒ Enable Gateway

☒ Enable Outgoing Messages (GPIO Outputs Enabled by Default)

Gateway type

Virtual

Gateway Version

0

Gateway Script Process Info

PID	8535
PID Running Since:	Mon Nov 15 16:52:18 2021
Script Re-Started in Last 5 Minute:	0

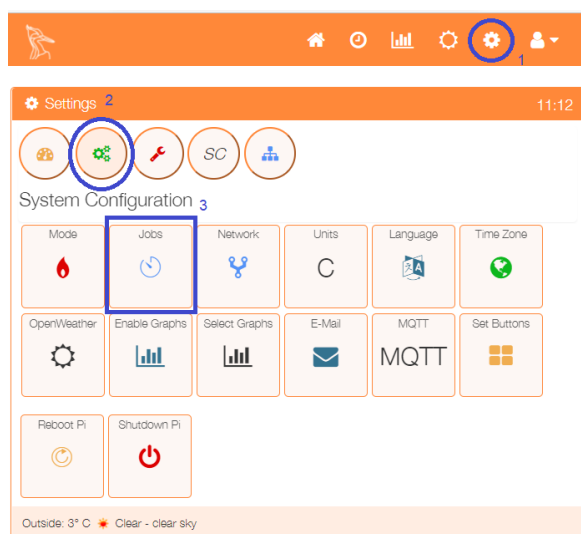
Reset GW

Search GW

Save

Close

Once the gateway has been configured, the script file which executes the task on a regular time interval will be executed by the 'Job Scheduler', which is configured by default. It can be accessed from Settings/System Configuration and selecting the 'Jobs' menu option.



A listing of the scheduled jobs will be displayed. New Jobs can be added or the settings for existing Jobs modified or deleted.

Schedule Jobs

Configure Jobs to run every set interval and enable creation of a Log file if required.

Job Name	Script Name	Enabled	Log Job	Run Every	
controller	/var/www/cron/control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	
db_cleanup	/var/www/cron/db_cle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	02:00	
check_gw	/var/www/cron/check_	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	
system_c	/var/www/cron/system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	300	
weather_update	/var/www/cron/weathe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800	
reboot_wifi	/var/www/cron/reboot_	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	120	
check_ds18b20	/var/www/cron/check_	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	
sw_install	/var/www/cron/sw_ins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	
update_code	/var/www/cron/update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	00:00	
check_gpio_swi	/var/www/cron/check_	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60	

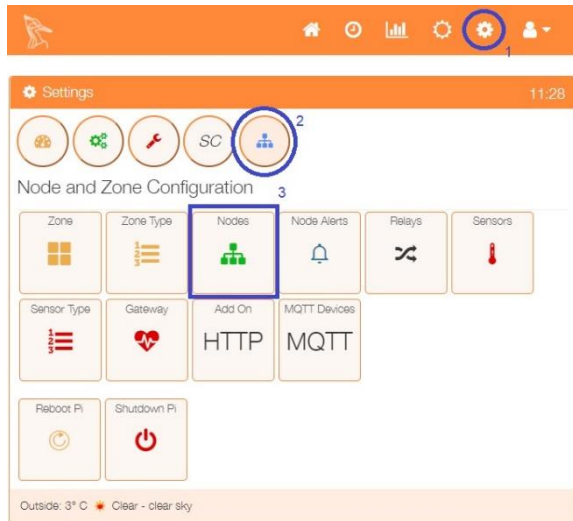
Add Job

Apply

Close

Step 2 – Layer 1 Configuration - Connect the Nodes

Once the gateway is running, connect the MySensors Temperature Sensor devices, so that they can be detected.



To show the nodes currently available select the Nodes menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu.

The example configuration uses relays connected via GPIO pins, the GPIO node is created by default as part of the initial setup process.

The Nodes menu option will show the default GPIO node plus the 3 autodetected MySensor nodes.

List Nodes			
List of all Nodes and the maximum number of associated Child IDs			
Node ID	Max Number of Child IDs	Name	Type
0	0	GPIO Controller	GPIO
21	0	Temperature Sensor	MySensor
28	0	Temperature Sensor	MySensor
34	0	Temperature Sensor	MySensor

CloseAdd Node

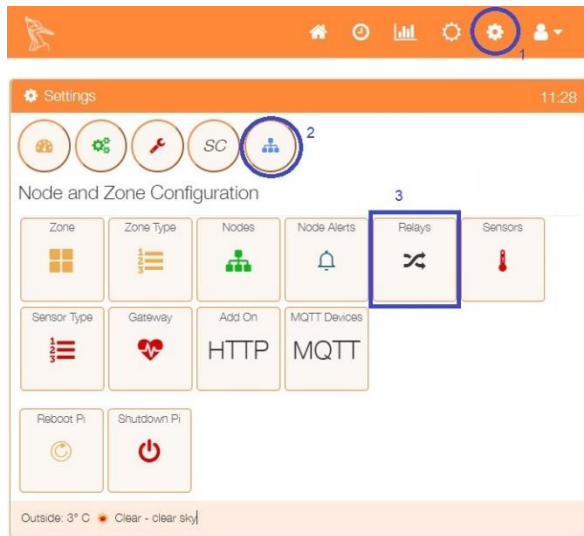
This completes the Layer 1 configuration.

Step 3 - Layer 2 Configuration - Add Devices

This step will add the Relay and Temperature Sensor devices.

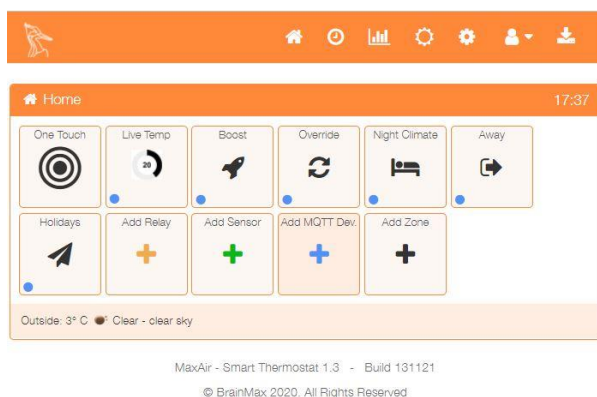
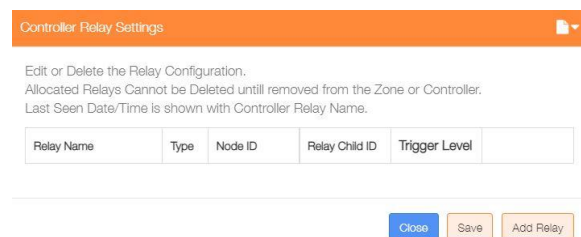
Relays

The example system will require 2 zone relays and 1 boiler relay.



Select the Relays menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu to display a list of any currently configured relays.

Click on the 'Add Relay' button to configure the first relay



An alternative method to go directly to the Add Relay dialogue, is from the Home screen click on the 'One Touch' button then select the 'Add Relay' menu item.

Select the Controller Type e.g. Boiler

Provide a name for this relay device

Select the Relay ID from the dropdown list of available Nodes

Choose the Child ID from the dropdown list, in the case of a GPIO controller, the GPIO pin.

Select the level to trigger relay ON.

Click on 'Submit' to add the device.

A screenshot of the 'Add Relay' dialog box. It has an orange header with a plus icon and the text '+ Add Relay'. Below the header, there are several fields: 'Controller Type (Zone or Heat or Chill or Fan)' with a dropdown menu showing 'Boiler'; 'Relay Name (Identify where the Relay is being used.)' with a text input field containing 'Gas Boiler'; 'Relay ID Node ID for the Relay' with a dropdown menu showing '0 - GPIO Controller'; 'Relay Child ID Node Child ID for the Relay' with a dropdown menu showing '15'; and 'Trigger Level The logic Level to Turn Relay ON.' with a dropdown menu showing 'HIGH'. At the bottom left, there are two buttons: 'Submit' (blue) and 'Cancel' (blue). The status bar at the very bottom shows 'Outside: 6° C' and 'Clear - clear sky'.

Repeat the process to add the two Zone Controller relays.

Re-selecting the Relays menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu will display the updated list of currently configured relays.

This dialogue can be used to Add/Delete/Edit the relay configurations.

Controller Relay Settings

Edit or Delete the Relay Configuration.
Allocated Relays Cannot be Deleted untill removed from the Zone or Controller.
Last Seen Date/Time is shown with Controller Relay Name.

Relay Name	Type	Node ID	Relay Child ID	Trigger Level	
Hot Water (2021-11-23 13:43:24)	Zone	0	11	HIGH	
Central Heating (2021-11-23 13:43:24)	Zone	0	13	HIGH	
Gas Boiler (2021-11-23 13:43:24)	Boiler	0	15	HIGH	

Close

Add Relay

Temperature Sensors

The example system will use 3 temperature sensors, one for the Central Heating, one for the Hot Water and a third to monitor a bedroom temperature. The configuration process is very similar to that used to configure the relay devices.

Select the Sensors menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu to display a list of any currently configured sensors.

Click on the 'Add Sensor' button to configure the first sensor

Sensor Settings

Edit or Delete the Sensor's Configuration.
Sensors Allocated to a Zone Cannot be Deleted.
Last Seen Date/Time is shown with Sensor Name.

Sensor Name	Node ID	Sensor Child ID	Correction Factor	Zone Name	Show	

Close

Save

Add Sensor

An alternative method to go directly to the Add Sensor dialogue, is from the Home screen click on the 'One Touch' button then select the 'Add Sensor' menu item.

+ Add Sensor 11:58

☒ Before System Controller: When Sensor is NOT Allocated to a Zone, Locate Tile either Before or After the System Controller Tile on the Home Screen

Index Number In the List of sensors where you want to place this sensor on home screen

1

Sensor Type Temperature, Humidity, etc

Temperature

Sensor Name

Central Heating

Sensor ID Node ID for the Sensor

21 - Temperature Sensor

Sensor Child ID Node Child ID for the Sensor

0

Sensor Correction Factor Positive or Negative Correction Factor

0.00

Frost Protection The System will protect itself against frost. To Disable protection you can set the temperature to 0

3

Frost Controller The zone controller to be activated when frost protection is triggered by this temperature sensor:

Central Heating

Submit Cancel

Outside: 17° C Clouds - overcast clouds

Show either before or after the system controller on the Home screen

Used to order where on the Home screen the sensor is displayed

Either Temperature or Humidity

Provide a name for this sensor device

Select the Sensor ID from the dropdown list of available Nodes

Choose the Child ID from the dropdown list, for nodes with only 1 sensor, this will be 0

Positive or Negative correction to be applied to the sensor reading. correction factor

Select the frost protection temperature or 0 to disable this feature

If frost protection is enabled, then select the zone to be activated on protection

Click on 'Submit' to add the device.







Repeat the process to add any other temperature sensors.

Re-selecting the Sensors menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu will display the updated list of currently configured temperature sensors.

This dialogue can be used to Add/Delete/Edit the sensor configurations.

The 'Show' tickbox can be used suppress displaying a sensor on the Home screen, with the exception of any sensors allocated to a zone.

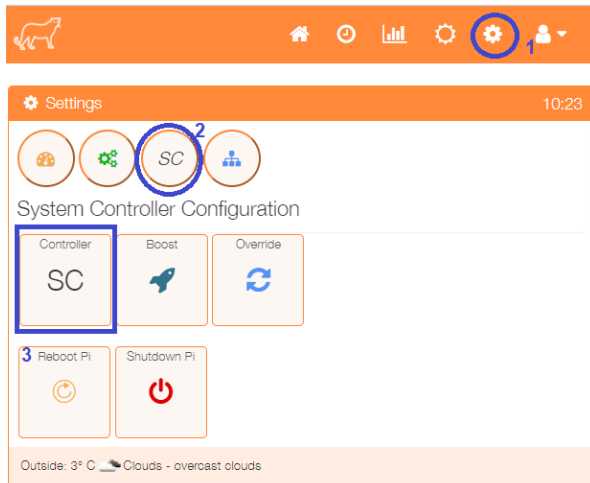
This example shows one unallocated and two allocated sensors.

Sensor Settings						
Edit or Delete the Sensor's Configuration. Sensors Allocated to a Zone Cannot be Deleted. Last Seen Date/Time is shown with Sensor Name.						
Sensor Name	Node ID	Sensor Child ID	Correction Factor	Zone Name	Show	
Bedroom 1 (2021-11-23 13:44:55)	34	0	0	Not Allocated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 
Central Heating (2020-10-20 16:45:28)	21	0	0	Central Heating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 
Hot Water (2021-11-23 13:44:50)	28	0	0	Hot Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 

Close Save Add Sensor

System Controller Configuration

A relay is used as a trigger for activating the boiler, this relay was added as a relay device above and now need to be associated with the 'system Controller'.



Select the SC menu item from the Settings/System Controller Configuration menu to display the configuration screen.

A screenshot of the 'System Controller Settings' configuration screen. The title bar is orange and says 'System Controller Settings'. The main content area has a light gray background. At the top, it says 'System Controller Settings and how System Controller interact with PiHome i.e Wirelss Controller or Connected to your Raspberry Pi GPIO Pin.' Below this is a toggle switch for 'Enable Boiler' which is currently turned on. There are five configuration sections, each with a label and a text input or dropdown field: 1. 'System Controller Display Name' with the text 'Gas Boiler'. 2. 'HEAT Relay ID System Controller Heating Switching Relay' with a dropdown menu showing 'Gas Boiler'. 3. 'Hysteresis Time Delay Between Stop and Start of the Boiler in minutes, Default is 3 minutes.' with a dropdown menu showing '3'. 4. 'Max Operation Time Continuous Max Running Time of the Boiler in minutes.' with a dropdown menu showing '60'. 5. 'Overrun Time for Boiler to circulate the water to dissipate residual heat.' with a dropdown menu showing '2'. At the bottom right of the form are two buttons: 'Close' (blue) and 'Save' (orange).

Enter a name for this controller

Select the relay from the dropdown list

Enter a hysteresis value in minutes

Enter a maximum running time in minutes

Enter overrun time in minutes

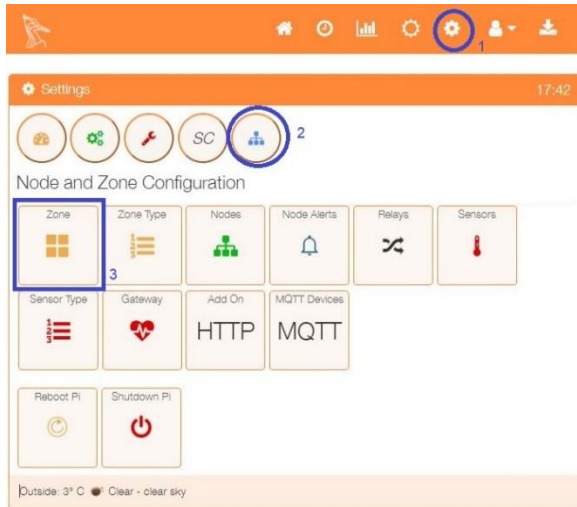
Click on 'Save' to update

This completes the Layer 2 configuration.

Layers 1 and 2 define the basic hardware configuration of the system.

Step 4 – Layer 3 Configuration - Add Zones

The example configuration will have two zones, one for the Central Heating and a second for the Hot Water.



Select the Zone menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu to display a list of any currently configured sensors.

Click on the 'Add Zone' button to configure the first zone.

Zone Settings

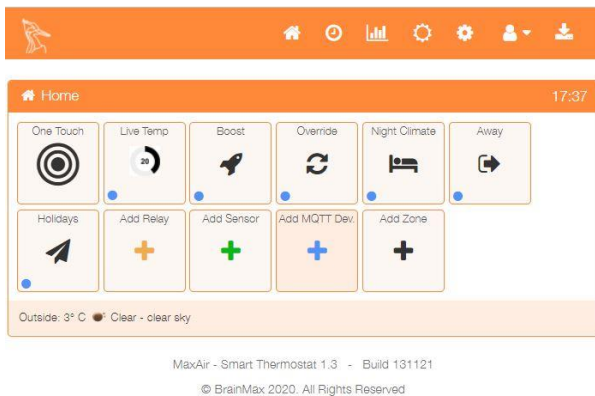
Hysteresis (Minimum delay between power off and on)

Maximum operating time

Maximum Zone temperature.

Close

Add Zone



An alternative method to go directly to the Add Zone dialogue, is from the Home screen click on the 'One Touch' button then select the 'Add Zone' menu item.

There are currently seven types of zone, Heating, Water, Immersion, Switch, HVAC, Humidity and Binary. The format of the Add Zone dialogue will depend on the type of zone selected, for example Immersion type zones will disable 'System Controller' selection, while Switch type zones will disable all temperature sensor related selections, together with the 'System Controller' selection, as these parameters do not apply to these zone types.

The example below shows a typical Heating zone configuration. A similar configuration would be used for the heating zone. Once the parameters have been entered, click on the 'Submit' button.

☒ **Enable Zone** Enable this Zone if you want this Zone to be controlled

Index Number In the List of Zones where you want to place this Zone on the home screen

Zone Name Zone display name

Zone Type Zone type i.e. Heating, Hot Water or Electrical Immersion

Default Temperature Default temperature this Zone, used when no scheduled temperature is active.

Maximum Temperature Maximum temperature this Zone can reach before Zone heating will shut-off for safety

Maximum Operation Time Maximum operation time in minutes of any continuous time

Hysteresis Time Minimum delay between Zone off and on

Temperature Setpoint Deadband Check link for [Deadband](#)

Temperature Sensor Node ID for the Sensor

Zone Controller ID Select Zone Controller Type and Number



Boost Button ID Boost console if you have any

Boost Button's Child ID Boost button number if you have any

System Controller

Outside: 3° C Clouds - overcast clouds

Repeat the process to add any other zones.

Re-selecting the Zone menu item from the Settings/Node and Zone Configuration menu will display the updated list of currently configured zones.





This dialogue can be used to Add/Delete/Edit the zone configurations.

Zone Settings

Hysteresis (Minimum delay between power off and on)

Maximum operating time

Maximum Zone temperature.

Central Heating	Max 25° - Sensor: 21 - GPIO: 53-13	 
Hot Water	Max 42° - Sensor: 28 - GPIO: 53-15	 

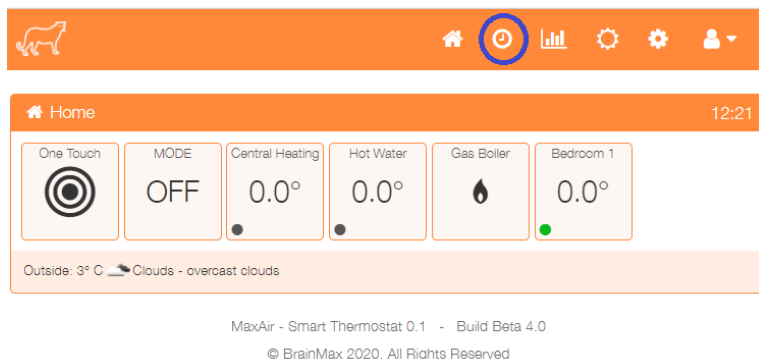
Close

Add Zone

This completes the Layer 3 configuration.

Step 5 – Layer 4 Configuration - Add Schedules

The example configuration will have a single schedule to control the Central Heating and Hot Water zones.



Click on the toolbar clock icon to configure the first schedule.



Click on + or 'Add Schedule'

The Add schedule screen will be presented, the example below shows:

- An enabled schedule
- Operated Monday to Friday
- Titled Weekdays AM
- Operated between 0630 hours and 0930 hours
- Controls both the Central Heating and Hot Water Zones
- Uses 40°C as the Hot Water Zone cut-off temperature
- Uses 19.5°C as the Central Heating Zone cut-off temperature

Add Schedule 13:57

☒ Enable Schedule

☐ Sun
 ☐ Mon
 ☒ Tue
 ☒ Wed
 ☒ Thu
 ☒ Fri
 ☐ Sat

WeekDays AM

Start Time

08:30

☒ Normal
 ☐ Sunrise
 ☐ Sunset
 0

End Time

09:30

☒ Normal
 ☐ Sunrise
 ☐ Sunset
 0

Select Zone/s

☒ Central Heating
 ☐ Coop Start

Temperature: 19.5°

☒ Hot Water
 ☐ Coop Start

Temperature: 40°

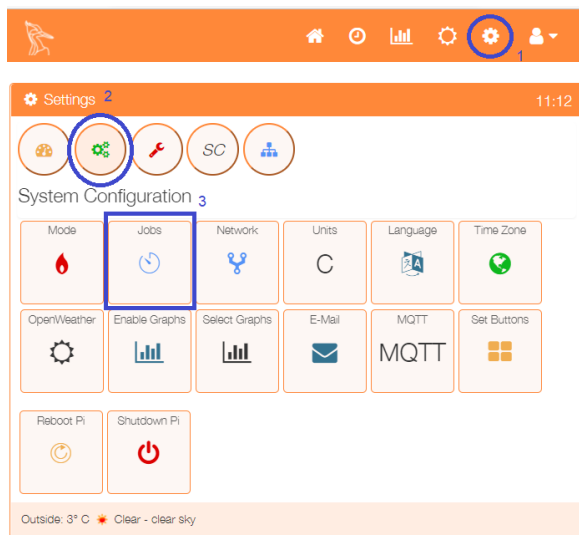
Outside: 6° C Clear - clear sky

Once configured, click on the 'Submit' button to add the schedule.

Add any other schedules as required.

This completes the Layer 4 configuration.

Step 6 - Scheduled Jobs



In order for the system to function a number of tasks need to operate at pre-determined time intervals. These tasks are configured as part of the initial setup process and can be displayed from the Settings/System Configuration/Jobs menu option. The default configuration is as shown below and for example, as can be seen the 'check_ds18b20' is not enabled, this job is only required if 1-Wire temperature sensors are connected to the GPIO bus.

Schedule Jobs

Configure Jobs to run every set interval and enable creation of a Log file if required.

Job Name	Script Name	Enabled	Log Job	Run Every
controller	/var/www/cron/control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60
db_cleanup	/var/www/cron/db_cle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	02:00
check_gw	/var/www/cron/check_	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60
system_c	/var/www/cron/system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	300
weather_update	/var/www/cron/weathe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800
reboot_wifi	/var/www/cron/reboot_	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	120
check_ds18b20	/var/www/cron/check_	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60
sw_install	/var/www/cron/sw_ins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10
update_code	/var/www/cron/update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	00:00
check_gpio_swir	/var/www/cron/check_	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60

Buttons: Add Job, Apply, Close

Add New Scheduled Job

Add New Job Name, Script Name, Log On/Off and run Interval.

☒ Enabled

Job Name Descriptive name for the Scheduled Job.

controller

Script Name Full Path Name for the executable Job Script.

/var/www/cron/controller.php

Run Every Run the Jobs Script Every x Seconds.

60

☐ Log Job

Close

Save

New scheduled tasks can be added by clicking on the 'Add Job' button.

THIS COMPLETES THE BASIC SETUP