

MaxAir Technical – Custom Message Sensors

‘Message Sensors’ provide the ability to display external text information on a Home Screen sensor tile.



For example, it is possible to display external status information captured from an interface to the boiler. Due to the format of the ‘messages_in’ table, this information is passed as a numeric code, which must be converted to the message to be displayed on the tile’

There are four areas on the tile that accept data:

1. The Tile Name.
2. The centre text area.
3. The lower left status icon colour.
4. The lower right text area.

The same technique could be used for displaying data from any other external sources.

Implementation

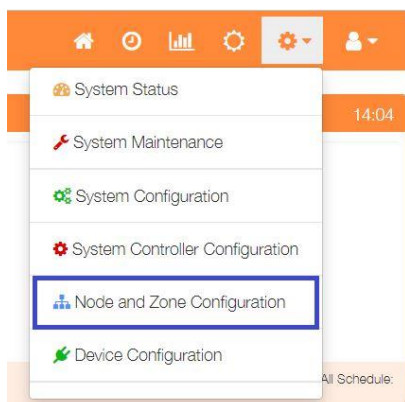
MaxAir

1. A ‘Dummy’ node will be created.
2. A ‘Message Sensor’ device will be created and allocated to the ‘Dummy’ node.
3. Mapping information will be created to place the required information on the sensor tile..

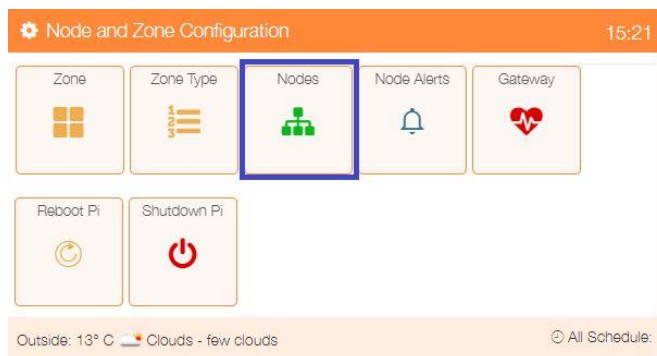
External System

1. The external system will be able to access the MaxAir database from its Python script.
2. The required data in the form of a message code will be captured and used to add an entry to the MaxAir ‘messages_in’ table, using the ‘Dummy’ node IDs created above.

MaxAir Configuration



Select ‘Node and Zone Configuration’ from the Settings dropdown list, then click the ‘Sensors’ button.



Node Setting

You can Add GPIO, I2C relay board as Node, Wireless Nodes are automatically discovered.

Type	Node ID	Max Number of Child IDs	Name	

Close

Add Node

Click on 'Add Node'.

Add a 'Dummy' node type, the 'Node ID' can be any value not currently in use, and for this example the 'Number of Child Devices attached to Node' will be 1.

Add Node

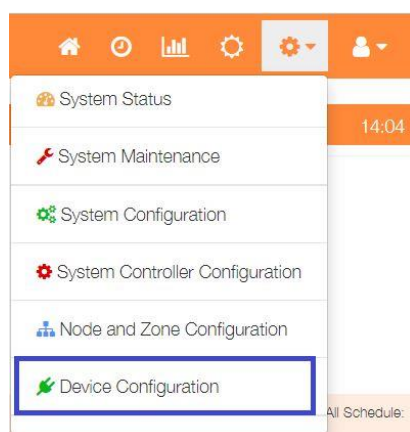
You can Add GPIO, I2C relay board as Node, Wireless Nodes are automatically discovered.

Node Type Node you want to make available for Zone and Boiler controller
 Dummy

Node ID I2C board ID or 0 if you want to use Raspberry Pi GPIO
 101

Number of Child Devices attached to Node Number of Attached Devices
 2

Close Save



Select 'Device Configuration' from the Settings dropdown list, then click the 'Sensors' button.



Sensor Settings

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

Sensor Name	Node ID	Child ID	Zone Name	Show	

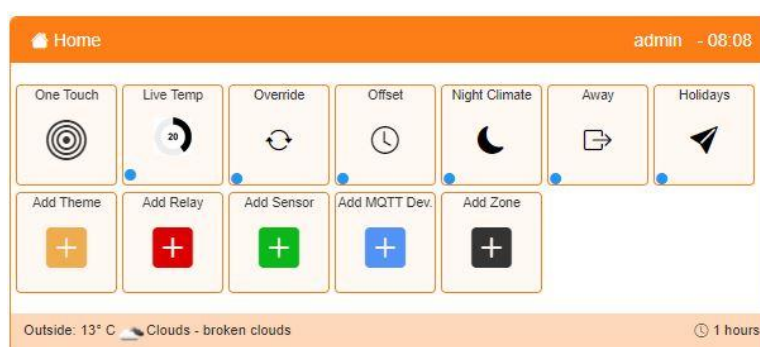
Close

Save

Add Sensor

Click on the 'Add Sensor' button to configure the first 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 09:18

☐ 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

18

Sensor Type Temperature, Humidity, etc

Message

Sensor Name Select either Outside Weather or Sensor to be used to calculate the Start Time Offset Applied.

Boiler Status

Sensor ID Node ID for the Sensor

100 - Dummy Sensor

Sensor Child ID Node Child ID for the Sensor

0

Submit Cancel

Outside: 14° C Clouds - broken clouds

Show before or after the system controller on the Home screen

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

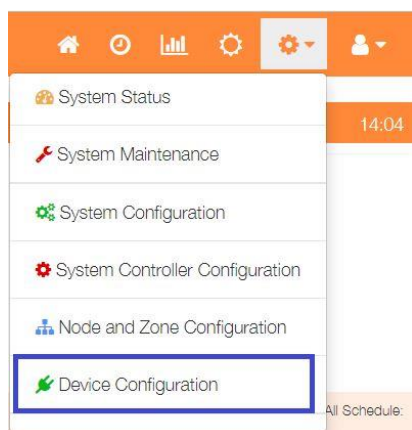
Select 'Message' type

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

Click on 'Submit' to add the device.



Select 'Device Configuration' from the Settings dropdown list, then click the 'Sensors Msg' button.



Custom Sensor Messages

Map Message Code to Message Text

Sensor	Msg ID	Type	Message	Color	

Close Add Msg

To start building the message mapping, click on the 'Add Msg' button.

For a centre message and associated status icon color:

Add Message

Map Message Code to Message Text, and Set Status Icon Colour

Sensor Select Message Sensor to which this Message will be attached

Boiler Status



Select the Message Sensor

Msg ID Code returned as Sensor Value

22

Add the Message numeric code

Text Position Select position on tile for text, either Centre or Lower Right

Center



Select message position

Message Text Message Text to be displayed

F22

Enter the text to be displayed

Status Color Lower Left Status Icon Colour

Leave Blank for Centre Messages

Set the associated status icon colour (HEX color codes can be used)

Close

Save

Click 'Save' when completed.

For a lower right message:

Add Message

Map Message Code to Message Text, and Set Status Icon Colour

Sensor Select Message Sensor to which this Message will be attached

Boiler Status



Select the Message Sensor

Msg ID Code returned as Sensor Value

4

Add the Message numeric code

Type Use '0' for Centre Text, '1' for Lower Right Text

1



Select '1' for lower right message

Message Text Centre Message Text to be displayed

Burner ON

Enter the text to be displayed

Status Color Lower Left Status Icon Colour

Leave Blank for Type 1 Messages

Leave Blank

Close

Save

Click 'Save' when completed.

Example Python Script to Update the MaxAir Database

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import time, datetime, MySQLdb
from configparser import ConfigParser

#### Initialise the database access variables ####
config = ConfigParser()
config.read('/var/www/st_inc/db_config.ini')
servername = config.get('db', 'hostname')
username = config.get('db', 'dbusername')
password = config.get('db', 'dbpassword')
dbname = config.get('db', 'dbname')
nodeID = config.get('db', 'kitchen_node_id')

#### Initialise the database connection ####
cnx = MySQLdb.connect(host=servername, user=username, passwd=password, db=dbname)

#### Find the node and child ids for the dummy sensors used to pass data back to the PiHome database ####
query = ("SELECT * FROM temperature_sensors WHERE name = 'Boiler Status' LIMIT 1;")
cursorselect.execute(query)
results = cursorselect.fetchone()
if cursorselect.rowcount > 0 :
    status_id = int(results[0])
    status_sensor_id = int(results[4])
    status_sensor_child_id = int(results[5])
    cursorselect.execute('SELECT node_id FROM nodes WHERE id = (%s)', (status_sensor_id, ))
    results = cursorselect.fetchone()
    if cursorselect.rowcount > 0 :
        status_node_id = int(results[0])

Loop reading status from boiler and send to MaxAir
while True:
    # Add Error and Current Status to the messages_in table
    e_code = ..... # code here to get error status from boiler
    s_code = ..... # code here to get current state from boiler
    try :
        cursorinsert = cnx.cursor()
        cursorinsert.execute('INSERT INTO messages_in(`sync`, `purge`, `node_id`, `child_id`, `sub_type`, `payload`)
VALUES(%s,%s,%s,%s,%s,%s)', (0,0,status_node_id,status_sensor_child_id,0,e_code))
        cursorinsert.close()
        cnx.commit()
    except :
        pass

    # Add Current Status to the messages_in table
    try :
        cursorinsert = cnx.cursor()
        cursorinsert.execute('INSERT INTO messages_in(`sync`, `purge`, `node_id`, `child_id`, `sub_type`, `payload`)
VALUES(%s,%s,%s,%s,%s,%s)', (0,0,status_node_id,status_sensor_child_id,1,s_code))
        cursorinsert.close()
        cnx.commit()
    except :
        pass
    time.sleep(1)
```