Cortex Software release 26.0.0

May 2012

Important Installation Notes

This is a major version release and cannot be installed as an update to V25. Instead V25 must first be uninstalled (using MS Windows Add/Remove Programs utility). Then V26 can be installed by running the appropriate install file.
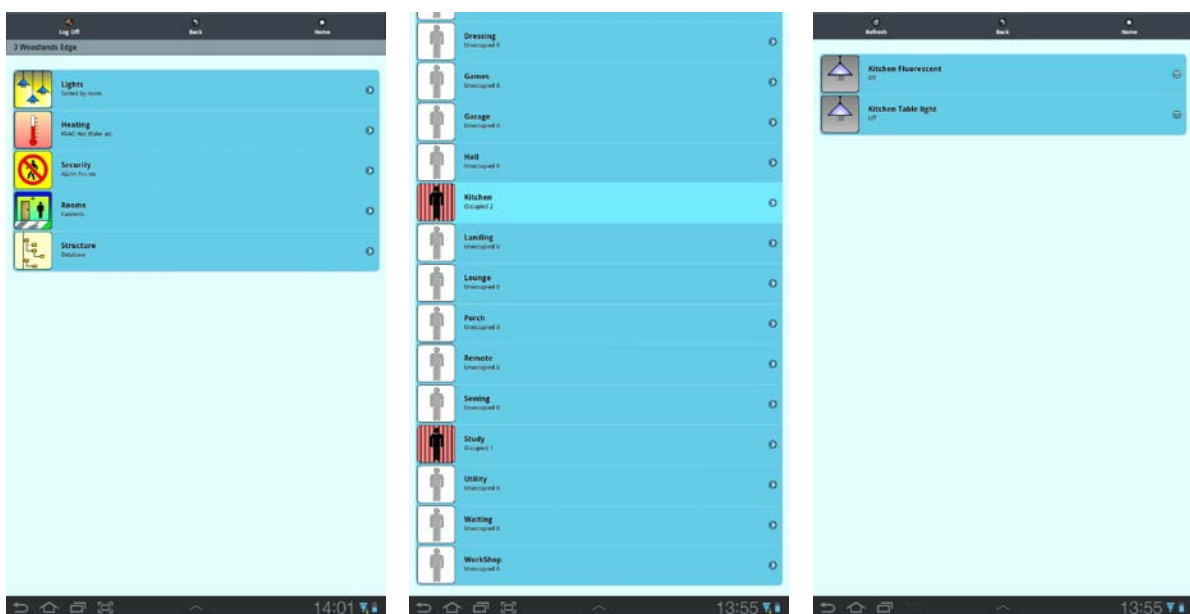
Before uninstalling V25:

1. Back up your registration details and note down the Install Key Code since this will be required by the V26 installation process.
2. Backup your database as a precautionary measure and identify it as used for Cortex 25 before installing Cortex 26.
3.Your licence, database and other settings should be carried over to Cortex 26 without requirement for any further action.
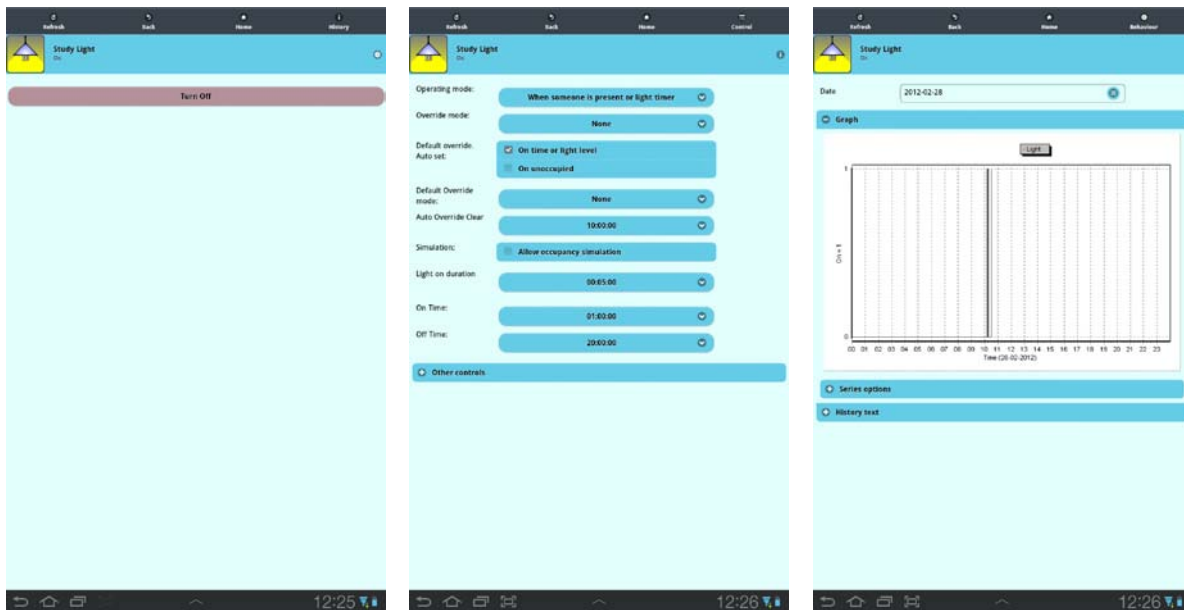
New Features

Cortex Mobile

This is the major feature change from Cortex 25 to 26. It is a feature of the Web Server and is the Cortex solution to provide access from mobile phones and tablets. The Cortex Mobile style is a separate licensable option in addition to the Web Server licence. A single licence allows access from any number of smart phones or tablets and it supports iOS (Apple) and Android (Google) operating systems. Indeed the underlying technology uses HTML5 and as such most popular smart phones and tablets should work.

Example: Navigation from Home page to selecting a light.

Example: Action menu, Behaviour menu and History.

Feature notes:
1. App style touch screen navigation and controls. Home page provides access to common categories of Lights, Heating and Security.
2. Objects may also be accessed via room or overall (database) structure categories.
3. Users can create their own favourite categories for frequently accessed objects.
4. Four possible coloured page themes are available.
5. Level oriented navigation buttons e.g. back button goes to previous level not to previous page.

Web Server

Has new options developed for Cortex Mobile but applicable to all styles.
1. In Web Server User behaviour, Sender IP Address can now be wild carded e.g. 192.168.0.* to allow access without logon requirement on a LAN.
2. Tools improved in object access rights for selecting objects applicable to a particular user. This is particularly useful for large databases.

General Logic

New logic elements added.
1. Time Window. Allow a logic signal to be gated within a time period.
2. Test Analogue Source. Provides an analogue source value which may be used for test purposes.
3. Test On-Off Source. Provide a digital signal which may be turned on/off by the user for test purposes.

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Virtual API object.

A third party application can now create an interface in Cortex using a Virtual API object. This virtual API object then provides connection ports which the user can connect to their existing objects and so may communicate with the third party application.

A Virtual API object may also be created by the normal design network menus. It allows the third part application to set or change user defined variables in the Virtual API object. The Virtual API object then provides normal Cortex ports to these variables so they may be connected to other objects. The XML version of the Cortex API allows the creation of Virtual API objects and their associated variables from the third party application. This would typically be done by the third party application after it makes a connection with Cortex. If the Virtual API object already exists then no error is generated.

Thermal Store object

Now provides additional thresholds to start heat demand based on accumulator **_bottom_** temperature and different if day or night.

On Off load

Now provide native xAP support using xAPBSC schema.

Analogue Load

Now provide native xAP support using xAPBSC schema.

Property Grid.

This provides a method to view the properties of all the objects in a particular category. It allows for more easy assessment of common properties of a large number of objects.

To edit the properties of a particular object the line is double clicked to bring up its normal behaviour menu.

The property grid menu can be accessed via the List view: Communications | Structure | List and then select filter for a particular category.

Note: Only selected filter categories have a property grid view:

The All HVAC object provides a property grid for all heating controls.

The Sound object ![sound icon] provides a property grid for all objects which can annunciate e.g. play a sound, speak a message or display text.

The All Light object ![light icon] provides a property grid for all on/off lights and dimmers.

The All Intercom object ![intercom icon] provides a property grid for all intercoms.

Audio User Interface ![audio interface icon]

New connections added to aid interaction with Skype. Functionality can now change dependant of property occupied state. Tamper object added. Camera power relay added. Default connections now made on creation.

Voip (Skype) ![skype icon]

Call completion connection now split into made and receive call connections. This allows specialist behave when a received call is finished.

Every contact now has an output connection – On called by 'Name'. This allows specialist behaviour when receiving a call from a defined contact e.g. It allows a call from a family member to be accepted automatically.

Contacts now have property which allows turning on Skype Video mode. Right click on contact to select video mode e.g. When a Skype call is received from a family member the Skype camera may be turned on automatically.

Updates (Also featured since cortex 25.0.0)

General Logic
New analogue signal elements.
1. Comparator with hysteresis, analogue in, logic out.
2. Differential amplifier, analogue in & out.
3. Summation amplifier, analogue in & out.
4. Filter, analogue in & out.
5. Sample and Hold, analogue and digital in, analogue out.
6. Threshold, analogue in, digital out.
7. Time Window gate

Monostable Source input. Now only responds to edge trigger.

Cortex API
Now has operational Window under Tools. Also XML version of API now offered (version 2). Now allows text message to lines of DFP Display. All Display now allows text message from API. Suppression of Dynamic connection messages.

Analogue Load **Analogue Heat Zone** **and Analogue Cool Zone** .
Now have increment and decrement value connections. xAP messages now provide level state.

Thermal Store object
Now plots demand from store. Can now control lowest temperature by day or night to utilise best energy tariff. Can now switch between boiler and Heat Pump based upon outside temperature.

Alarm Pro
All doors closed check can now include external doors not part of entry exit doors. Extra Armed state connections added. Night alarm sensor input now accepts room objects to prevent re-arming.

Display Function Panel LCD
DFP chronometer now updated at 2:05am. This allows DFP clocks to be in sync when clocks change.

All Light
Stealth mode now recorded in History.

Motion

Idratek Module Motion sensor indicator LED option added. Non Idratek PIRs can now use blocking input.

Slave Control

As used in Heating systems for functional elements. Now has times to operate properties. Can now demand from Boiler.

DBI Module (Dual buttons & Inputs)

Now includes Buttons and Switch inputs as sub objects of the Module object.

HVAC

Behaviour menu – controls, User offset increase and decrease buttons added (for test). Fallback description changed. Current User offset as analogue output connection added. Status request now also displays User offset value. HVAC Heating Setpoint (Output) added for Cortex API. Supplementary heat source can now be invoked when (Set-point – measured) is greater than specified amount i.e. needs warming up quicker.

Light

Improved warning when in stealth mode.

Dimmer

Dimmer level history graph added. Now allows dimmer rates to be changed via connections.

Scene Object

Now provides profile for dimmer off values. Can now control Override mode to force lights on or off for particular Scene. Non-dimmer lights can now be part of scene by using override mode.

All Light

New connection added for Stealth state output

Temperature

Alternative source input now averages when multiple sources connected. Virtual temperature sensor now allows Cortex API to set temperature via alternative temperature source input.

Email

Send and receive can now use SSL (Secure Socket Layer) e.g. for Gmail. Now supports collection of emails in HTML or Rich Text format. Email object removes formatting

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allowing Control commands to be actioned. Now supports reception of Base64 encoded messages.

Intercoms

'Hands free caller + broadcast' now sets listener intercoms to receive until a button is pressed.

House

House, Floor, Room can now have image surface. Can also have user selectable thicker border lines. Font colour can now be user set.

Analogue Signal Object

Virtual Analogue Signal object may now be added. Alternative signal source input added. Micon selection added.

- Analogue Signal Icon (static)
- Temperature Icon
- Compass Icon
- 270 degree meter Icon
- 90 degree meter Icon
- 180 degree gauge Icon
- Signal Level Icon
- Tank Gauge Icon

Light Level

Plan view icon now represents level by animated 90 degree meter.

Telephone

Introduction of auto generated User defined Menu. Creates menu based upon current activity.

All Display

Fixed messages can now be forwarded to message service. Message may now be forwarded to Alert form on PC screen.

Message Service

Can now receive status string from most objects.

Sound Object

Now reports if sound file type is not supported if codec missing.

Web Server

Update of style sheets to render Idratek Dimmers and allow dim level to be changed.

Hot Water

New Boost option provided.

Macro

Ability to copy macro line or lines and either insert or append added.

xAP

xAPBSC.query can now have content in message block.
ID= parameter in a request block recognised.

Digital Input

Blocking connection input added.

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