KPC7 overlooked configuration options

In the KPC7 series of tech tips the button configuration, indicator configuration, and button engraving are covered. In this tech tip, some often overlooked configuration settings are explained and reasons to use them examined.

Backlighting and LED Brightness

The KPC7 has two properties that are often overlooked for setting how bright the keypad appears. These are on the Keypad options tab of the keypad properties.

Backlighting: Enable ▼   LED Brightness: High ▼

The backlighting option controls if all the keypad buttons – even when off – show some level of illumination. The LED Brightness is the level of illumination that a button shows when ON.

Why would you want to adjust these? Well, it really depends on the installation. For example, in the hallway you may want the keypad to be much brighter than in the bedroom. There is no magic in choosing selections for these settings. The best way to adjust them is after installation of the keypad and after you see how it looks and how those who use the room like it.

Transmit enables

Suppose that you want to configure the KPLD7 or the KPLR7 so the buttons control the load you have wired the keypad for. Also suppose that you want to use the ON, OFF, and other buttons to set different levels. This is simple to do. You create a set of scenes, configure the buttons to activate those scenes – the OFF button deactivates the scene. In addition to this you must add those scenes to the keypad "Load Rx" table.

Once you program the keypad with this configuration, pressing the button controls the load to the level you have selected. But those scene activate and deactivate commands are also transmitted into your UPB installation when you pressed the keypad button. Is this a problem? Probably not. But there may be circumstances where you don't want the transmission to happen.

This could be a problem if, for example, you have lots of keypads in your installation. If you configure each with several scenes you may run out of scenes. Even if you don't run out of scenes you are just making it more difficult to keep track of many more scenes that you really need.

You can prevent the keypad buttons from transmitting the scene and in turn not affect any other device in the installation. This is done on the "Keypad Options" tab in the "Transmit Enables" section.

If the checkbox for the button is ticked then the button transmits the scene and command you configured it with. If the checkbox is not ticked then the button doesn't transmit but the keypad will still process the scene with how it's configured so the load is still controlled.

Why would you want to use this? By disabling the button transmit, you can use the same set of scenes in multiple keypads and those scenes affect only that keypad even though you are using those same scenes in each keypad.

Timed Auto Shut-Off

The Timed Auto Shut Off feature, available for the KPLD7 and KPLR7, allows you to configure the load controlled by the keypad to turn off after a set time. This can be very useful for controlled lighting in closets, hallways, and similar. In addition to enabling this feature you can also configure a scene and command to be sent when the auto shutoff timer expires.

Why would you want to use this feature? Suppose you have multiple devices configured to respond when you press the "ON" button on the keypad. You can configure the timed auto shutoff option to turn the load off in, say 1 minute, but the other devices that were turned on by the button press would still be on.

By using the configuration option to send a scene and command when the timer expires, you can send the same scene and command that a manual press of the OFF button would have sent. This makes it possible for those devices that went on with the ON button to go off when the auto off timer expires.

Minimum dimming level

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For the KPLD7, the minimum dimming level can be set on the "Load Options" tab.

Dimming

Dimming [Enabled ▼]   Default fade rate [1.6 seconds ▼]   Minimum dimming level: [30% ▼]

The effect of this option is to control the lowest dim level achievable when using the dim down button on the keypad. It also sets the minimum level that any preset can control the load to.

Why would you want to use this? Aside from the obvious reason of preventing the illumination level in the area to be too low, some CFL and LED bulbs operate poorly when dimmed too low. If using one of those types of bulbs this may be a feature worth investigating.