Multiple UPB devices with the same unit id

One of the difficult problems to resolve in a UPB network is where you have, by mistake or mischance, more than one device with the same unit id. This can happen by adding a new device to a UPB network file that isn't up to date with all your devices, or installing a device that was programmed at another location. This application note provides some ideas on the symptoms and resolution.

The symptom of the problem is generally a difficulty to program or read the configuration for a device on a network where signal strength is good and has low noise. Another symptom is when you perform a communications test on the device it often fails, but when you do a network discovery or verify, the device always shows up as being present. Other devices on the same circuit work fine except for this one device.

One way to test for this is to make a note of the unit id of the device (let's call this device "Alpha") you suspect might have this problem and power it off, then do a network discovery. If you see that discovery finds a device with that id, then another device in your network also has that id since device "Alpha" is powered off and can't respond.

It can be hard to find that other device but here is one method. In UPStart, right click on the icon for device "Alpha" and pick "View" from the popup menu. Since device "Alpha" is powered off, the other device with the same unit id will respond. When complete you may be able to tell where it is by looking at the room and device names read from this device.

If you can't power down device "Alpha" here is another method. Guess at the device you suspect may have the same unit id as device "Alpha" and put it into setup mode. Now perform the UPStart operation "View Device" by a right-click on the display background and not on an individual device icon. UPStart when performing a "View Device" communicates with only the device in setup mode rather than by unit id. When the "View Device" completes, if it shows the same unit id as Device "alpha", you have found the culprit.

Resolving the issue isn't hard. Just factory reset one of the devices and then re-add it to the UPB network with a new unit id.

##end##

The Inventors Of:

UPB®
UNIVERSAL POWERLINE BUS