FAQ
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Frequently Asked Questions

There are a lot of “Intelligent” lighting control systems. What makes NX Distributed Intelligence™ different?

NX Distributed Intelligence lighting control platform is the only fully distributed, fully scalable lighting control system available. No other lighting control system provides true distributed intelligence lighting control components that can be deployed as standalone, as an intelligent fixture, as part of a room control solution, or as a part of a complete facility lighting control system.

Is NX an indoor or outdoor lighting control solution?

NX was designed from the ground up to be a complete lighting control system and provides all the control requirements to be deployed as an indoor or outdoor solution.

What’s so important about “Distributed Intelligence”?

Distributed Intelligence enables scalability and reliability that is not possible with centrally controlled or hybrid semi-distributed solutions. By moving, or “Distributing,” the control functions’ “Intelligence” out to the devices themselves, NX provides not only unparalleled scalability but also enhances reliability by removing any possibility for a single point of failure. This is often the achilles heel of centralized or semi-centralized systems.

Is NX wired or wireless?

NX is both. NX functions equally well utilizing wireless, wired or a combination of both. This allows for NX to use the most appropriate technology based on the application. With NX there is no need to try to get a wireless system to work in an environment it was not designed to, or to try get control wiring to fixtures that could be better connected using wireless.

What components make up the NX system?

The NX System is made of the following major components:

- NX Fixture Control Modules
- NX Fixture mounted Occupancy/Vacancy – Daylight sensors
- NX Ceiling mounted Occupancy/Vacancy – Daylight sensors
- NX Room Controllers
- NX Lighting Control Panels
- NX Area Controllers
- NX Bridges and networking components
- NX Accessories and specialty control components

How “Scalable” is an NX system?

NX, due to its distributed architecture, is the only completely scalable lighting control system available. NX can be deployed as a single intelligent lighting fixture with Occupancy/Vacancy, Daylight Harvesting, Time based Scheduling (Including Astronomical) as well as Occupant control stations all programmed and commissioned from a simple Bluetooth® enabled App available free of charge for Android™ or iOS® devices. When required, the same NX components can be combined with other Intelligent Lighting Fixtures, Room Controllers, Lighting Panels and other NX components to provide a complete facility-wide lighting control solution.

When do I need a NX Bridge?

NX Bridges are used to provide physical and logical separation between Zones. Use one NX Bridge per control Zone.
When do I need a NX Area Controller?

The NX system is completely distributed; the NX Area Controller is not required for system operation. However, when the system requires information from 1 Zone to be shared with another, multi-Zone control, central point for commissioning, monitoring control or when remote access is required, a NX Area Controller will is required.

Can NX be integrated into Building Automation Systems?

Yes. The NX Area Controller has a built-in BACnet™ gateway for the connection of BAS systems.

Does NX wireless use meshing technology?

NX uses a robust & reliable IEEE 802.15.4 - 2.4GHz wireless mesh network radio protocol to provide a secure peer-to-peer, self-organizing and self-healing mesh network. All devices are peers and act as repeaters, forwarding messages to ensure message delivery

- Self-organizing: Network automatically builds itself
- Self-healing: Messages automatically reroute around failed nodes

Does NX wireless require a “Coordinator” or “Gateway”?

No. One of the key benefits of a completely distributed, intelligent system is that Coordinators or Gateways are not required. These would create a single point of failure and compromise the reliability of the entire system.

What is the max distance between NX Radio Modules?

For indoor applications it is best to limit range to 100 ft, however for outdoor applications the distance can be increased to up to 1000 ft (clear line of sight).

Can NX Radio Modules be installed in a building with WiFi?

Yes. Although WiFi signals can overpower 802.15.4 signals on some channels, NX radios can be adjusted to avoid these same channels and prevent interference.

Does the NX system meet the requirements of the latest energy codes and standards?

Yes. The NX system has been designed to meet the latest energy codes and standards. In fact, NX components, when connected to each other, automatically configure themselves to comply with these standards.

Who commissions a NX system?

Depending on the system size NX systems can be commissioned by the installing contractor or by a Hubbell Control Solutions’ Certified Factory Technician (CFT).

Are NX components upgradeable?

Yes. NX components can have their firmware and or software upgraded wired or wirelessly depending on the device type.

What Hubbell Lighting fixtures can be NX enabled?

Many Hubbell Lighting fixtures are already NX enabled with more being added every day. Please visit our web site for updates - www.hubbellcontrolsolutions.com.

Can NX be installed in Non-Hubbell fixtures?

Yes. Please consult Technical Services for assistance.
Is NX compatible with LED color tuning applications like Hubbell Lighting's SpectraSync™ Color Tuning Technology?

Yes. The NXFM fixture control module comes standard with a dimming output specifically for color (CCT) control and the NXRC room controller offers color control as an optional mode for each dimmer.

Why does the NX use a powered Ethernet network?

The NX HubbNET™ network is industry standard Ethernet with 24 volts DC applied to the conductors typically reserved for PoE (Power over Ethernet). This provides fail safe redundant power to the NXHNB network bridge modules allowing them to maintain network communication during localized power outages.

How do I setup and program NX rooms without an Area Controller?

A free App is downloadable for any Android or iOS smart device that allows configuration of NX room device settings as well as calibrating daylight sensors, and creating schedules that run locally.