

openHAB2 Raspberry beginner's walkthrough – Using Raspberry Pi 3 and openHAB2 to create a home automation controller for Z-Wave, WiFi LED, 433MHz plugs, Yahoo Weather and meteoblue.com weather widget

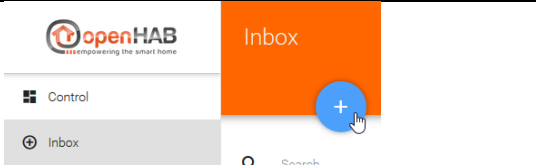
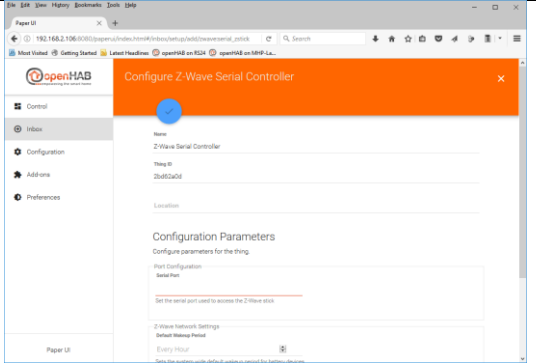
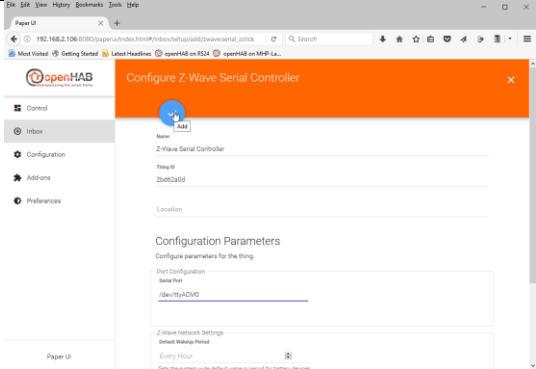
Contents

Adding things connected via Z-Wave controller	2
Adding Z-Wave controller.....	2
Adding Z-Wave things using HABmin UI.....	3
For details documentation on the Z-Wave Binding usage in HABmin consult:.....	4
Creating items form things.....	5
The concept of Things, Channels, Items and Links.....	5
Creating the required items for my project	6
Now go on creating the items according to the list below	7
Chapter 12: Creating a dashboard for your home automation project	8
BASIC UI dashboard	8
PAPER UI dashboard.....	9
HABPANEL UI dashboard.....	11
HABMIN dashboard.....	11
Chapter 13: Creating rules.....	12
Creating the myfirstrule.rules file	12
Creating a basic rules.....	14
Basic rule example:.....	15
Basic tips for debugging rules.....	18
Creating an item the see the value of a variable of a rule online	18
Creating a virtual switch on HABPANEL to use it in a rule	20
Further Rule examples based on this home automation project:	22
Switching ON/OFF switches based on luminance reading of the multisensory.....	22

Adding things connected via Z-Wave controller

NOTE: first you have to connect the Z-Wave controller as a thing. After this you will use HABmin to further include things into the Z-Wave network. These things should show up automatically in the inbox of PAPER UI.

Adding Z-Wave controller

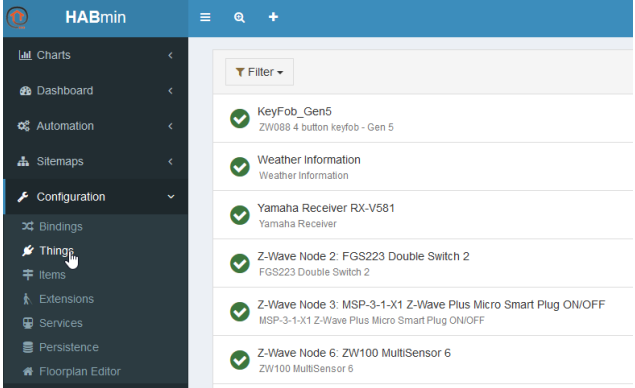

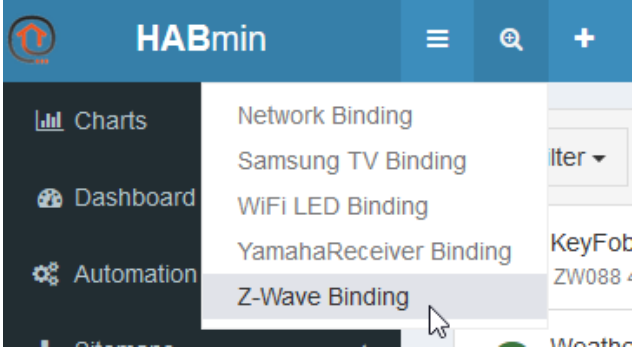
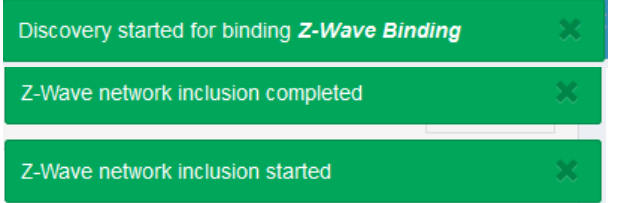
<p>Select in your PAPER UI inbox the add blue add icon (+)</p>	
<p>Select the Binding <Z-Wave Binding></p>	<p>Z-Wave Binding</p> <p>The ZWave binding supports an interface to a wireless Z-Wave home automation network. ZWave is a wireless home automation protocol with reliable two way communications between nodes. It supports a mesh network where mains powered nodes can route messages between nodes that could otherwise not communicate with each other. The network supports hop distances of up to four hops. A wide range of devices are supported from lights, switches and sensors to smoke alarms, window coverings and keyfobs. Z-Wave certification guarantees that certified devices will be compatible with each other and the network.</p> <p>The binding uses a standard Z-Wave serial stick to communicate with the Z-Wave devices. There are many sticks available, and they all support the same interface so the binding does not distinguish between them.</p>
<p>Select the thing <Z-Wave Serial Controller></p>	<p>Z-Wave Serial Controller</p> <p>Z-Wave USB Stick with Serial Interface</p>
<p>Now you have to configure the thing In this case you have to enter the serial Port of the Z-Wave controller The standard port where the UBS-Z-Wave controller should come up it: <code>/dev/ttyACM0</code></p>	 <p><code>/dev/ttyACM0</code></p>
<p>Then just add the thing by clicking on the blue check icon</p>	 <p><(+)></p>

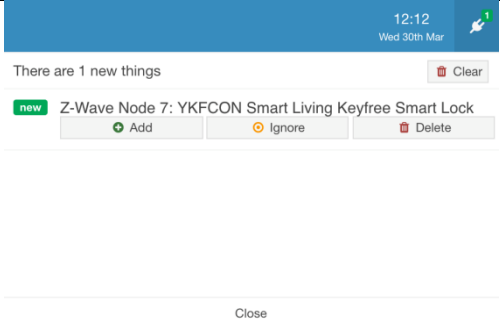
Adding Z-Wave things using HABmin UI

To include further devices into your Z-Wave network and make the available as openHAB2 things you have to use the HABmin inclusion functionality.

Please also consult the online documentation for general information about Z-Wave :

<https://github.com/openhab/org.openhab.ui.habmin/wiki/ZWave-Device-Installation>

<p>Start HABmin Direct URL: http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/habmin/index.html#/home The select the Things tab -Configuration --Things HABmin will show you all the things which are available in PAPER UI as well</p>	
<p>To start the inclusion in HABmin you have to select the add thing icon of HABmin (magnifying glass)</p>	
<p>Then select the Z-Wave binding</p>	
<p>This now is triggering the inclusion mode of your Z-Wave controller</p>	
<p>Now you have to put your Z-Wave devices in inclusion mode to be detected for online detection (applicable when using UZB Z-Wave PLUS USB stick by Z-Wave.Me as a Z-Wave controller)</p>	<p>Please refer to the Z-Wave devices manual how to put them in inclusion mode</p>
<p>Optional: Using the Aeotec by Aeon Labs Z-Stick Gen5 which is allowing for offline inclusion Since this Z-Wave controller stick is allowing for offline inclusion, you have to unplug the stick before you start the inclusion on HABmin and use the inclusion button on the stick to start the inclusion mode inclusion mode of your Z-Wave controller The plug in the stick again do the HABmin inclusion. You do not have to put your Z-Wave devices again in inclusion mode.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Aeotec by Aeon Labs Z-Stick Gen5 documentation for further details</p>

<p>And when a device is found it will be listed Just select the <Add> button to include this device as a thing for openHAB2 NOTE: some devices may come up as “unknown device”. You can still add the device and “cure” the information later. The normal reason for this is that the device was not able to finish the communication with HABmin during the inclusion process This might be very likely for battery powered devices since they will go to sleep mode after a certain amount of time. To cure this you just have to manually wake up the device (see device manual) multiple times (up to 10 times) before the communication is completed and the device is recognized as a proper thing in HABmin ATTENTION: Using the Aeotec by Aeon Labs Z-Stick Gen5 almost every battery powered item will come up as “unknown device” since in the timespan you include the battery device to the stick and you do the HABmin inclusion after you plugged the stick back in will be too long and most of the devices will go back to sleep. You might prevent this by manually waking up the device again just seconds before you start the inclusion on HABmin. The other reason is that the device is not supported by the openHAB2 Z-Wave binding. You can check the supported devices at: http://www.cd-jackson.com/index.php/zwave/zwave-device-database/zwave-device-list</p>	 <p>The screenshot shows a notification in the HABmin GUI. At the top, it says 'There are 1 new things' with a 'Clear' button. Below that, a notification card for 'Z-Wave Node 7: YKFCOON Smart Living Keyfree Smart Lock' is displayed. The card has a 'new' badge and three buttons: 'Add', 'Ignore', and 'Delete'. A 'Close' button is located at the bottom of the notification area.</p>
<p>The newly added thing should now be visible in the HABmin GUI things tab Now you can switch to the PAPER UI and find the new things in the inbox or check the new things in the things tab</p>	

For details documentation on the Z-Wave Binding usage in HABmin consult:

<http://www.cd-jackson.com/index.php/openhab/habmin/10-habmin-zwave-binding-initialisation>

Creating items form things

The concept of Things, Channels, Items and Links

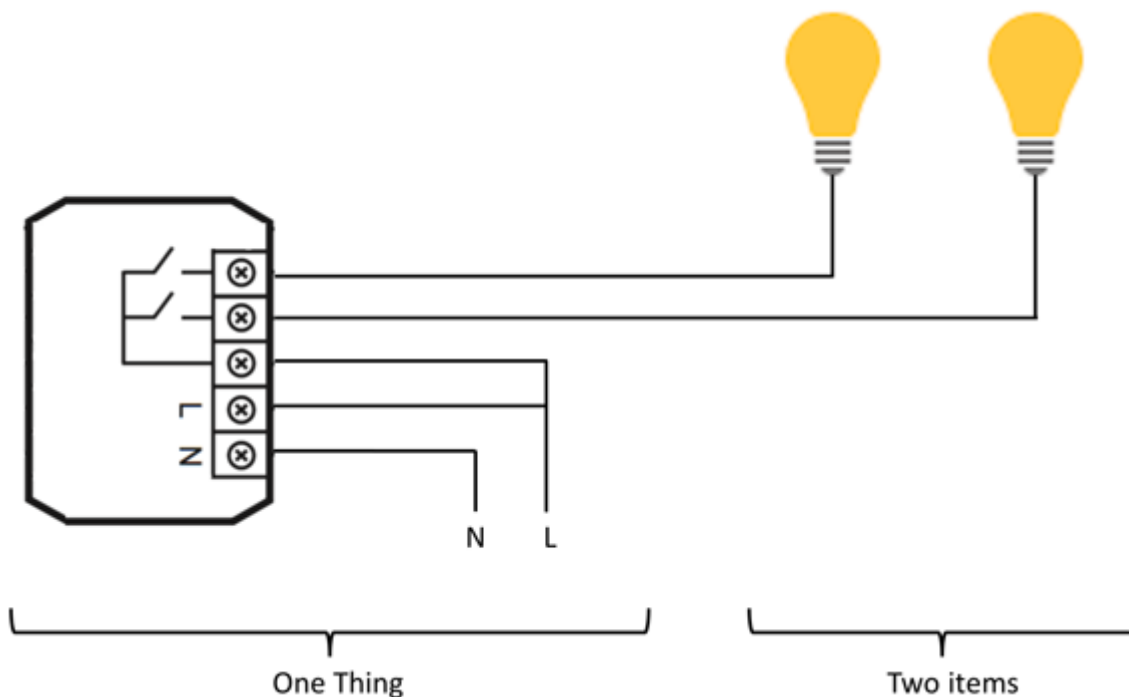
Before we start please read first the concept of Things, Channels, Items and Links which is directly tanken from the openHAB2 User Manual page <http://docs.openhab.org/concepts/index.html#things-channels-items-and-links>

Things are the entities that can be physically added to a system and which can potentially provide many functionalities at once. It is important to note that things do not have to be devices, but they can also represent a web service or any other manageable source of information and functionality. Things provide their functionality through a set of Channels. Channels are “passive” and can be regarded as a declaration of a Thing, what it can offer. It is up to the individual setup, which of the Channels are actively used through Items (see below).

Items represent (fine-grained) functionality that is used by applications - as user interfaces or automation logic. Items have a state and they can receive commands.

The glue between Things and Items are Links. Links are associations between exactly one Thing Channel and one Item. If a Channel is linked to an Item, it is “enabled”, which means that the functionality that the Item represents is handled through the given Channel. Channels can be linked to multiple Items and Items can be linked to multiple Channels.

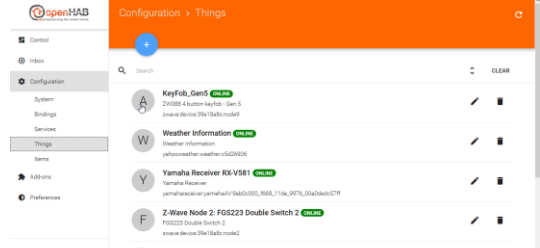
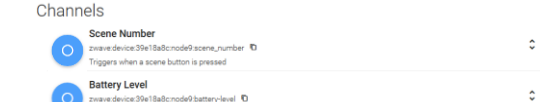
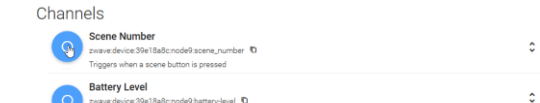
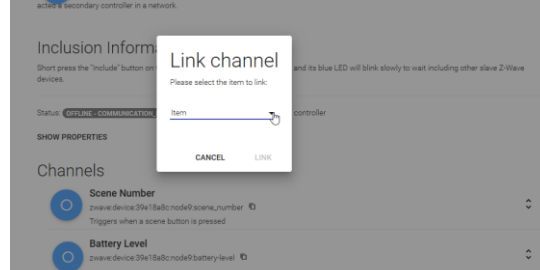
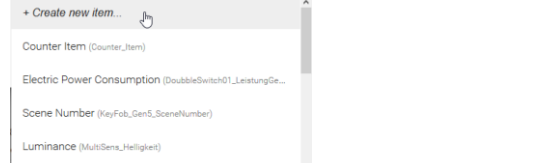
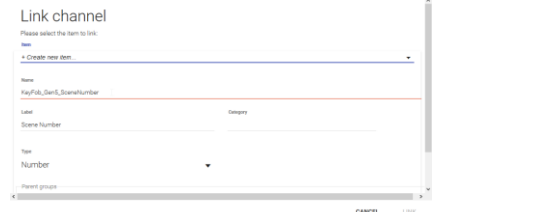
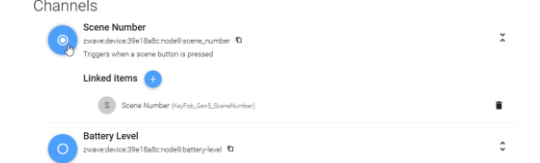
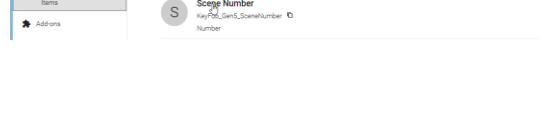
To illustrate these concepts, take a two-channel actuator that controls two lights:



The actuator is the Thing. This might be installed in the electrical cabinet, it has a physical address and needs to be setup and configured in order to be used. The user is instead interested in the two lights, which are located at different locations in his home. These lights are the desired functionality, thus the Items and they are linked to the Channels of the actuator. A Link can be regarded like a physical wire in this example.

The basic process of in PAPER UI is explained on:
<http://docs.openhab.org/tutorials/beginner/configuration.html>

Creating the required items for my project

<p>Switch to -Configuration --Things and select the KeyFob_Gen5 thing</p>	
<p>A list of all the available channels of the thing will be shown</p>	
<p>Now click on the blue icon in front of the channel number to link this channel to an item</p>	
<p>A link channel window will come up Select the pull down option for the item</p>	
<p>The next window coming up will allow you to select already existing items or: In our case <+Create new item...></p>	
<p>The next window will allow you to configure the item you want to link to the thing channel You can also change the name of the item if you are planning to run with your own naming convention Then select <LINK> to create your new item</p>	
<p>Now the blue icon to the left of the name will change (white dot in the center) By clicking on this icon the channel will expand and show you the linked items to this channel</p>	
<p>You can now find the new item in -Configuration --Items</p>	

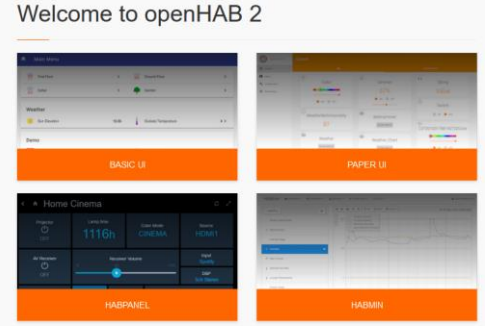
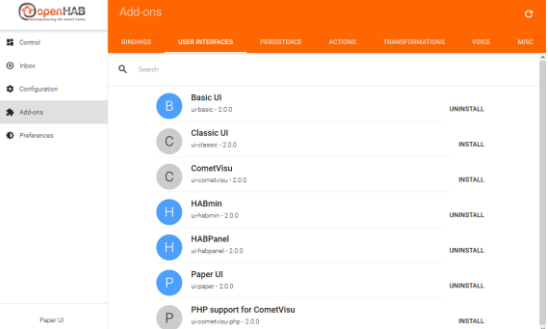
Now go on creating the items according to the list below

Thing	Channel	Item
KeyFob_Gen5	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node9:scene_number	KeyFob_Gen5_SceneNumber
Weather Information	yahooweather:weather:c5d26906:temperature	Yahoo_Temperature
Weather Information	yahooweather:weather:c5d26906:humidity	Yahoo_Humidity
Yamaha Receiver RX-V581	yamahareceiver:yamahaAV:9ab0c000_f668_11de_9976_00a0dedc57ff:power	YamahaReceiverRXV581_Power
Yamaha Receiver RX-V581	yamahareceiver:yamahaAV:9ab0c000_f668_11de_9976_00a0dedc57ff:volume	YamahaReceiverRXV581_Volume
Yamaha Receiver RX-V581	yamahareceiver:yamahaAV:9ab0c000_f668_11de_9976_00a0dedc57ff:mute	YamahaReceiverRXV581_Mute
Z-Wave Node 2: FGS223 Double Switch 2	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node2:meter_watts	DoubleSwitch01_LeistungGesamt
Z-Wave Node 2: FGS223 Double Switch 2	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node2:switch_binary1	DoubleSwitch01_Relais1
Z-Wave Node 3: MSP-3-1-X1 Z-Wave Plus Micro Smart Plug ON/OFF	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node3:switch_binary	SchuKo01
Z-Wave Node 3: MSP-3-1-X1 Z-Wave Plus Micro Smart Plug ON/OFF	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node3:meter_watts	SchuKo01_Leistung
Z-Wave Node 6: ZW100 MultiSensor 6	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node6:sensor_rehumidity	MultiSens_Luftfeuchte
Z-Wave Node 6: ZW100 MultiSensor 6	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node6:sensor_temperature	MultiSens_Temperatur
Z-Wave Node 6: ZW100 MultiSensor 6	zwave:device:39e18a8c:node6:sensor_luminance	MultiSens_Helligkeit
HF-LPB100-ZJ200	wifiled:wifiled:F0FE6B314910:power	HFLPB100ZJ200_Power
HF-LPB100-ZJ200	wifiled:wifiled:F0FE6B314910:color	HFLPB100ZJ200_Color
HF-LPB100-ZJ200	wifiled:wifiled:F0FE6B314910:white	HFLPB100ZJ200_White
DUMMYTHING_SamsungTV	Data missing	DUMMYITEM_SamsungTV_Power

Chapter 12: Creating a dashboard for your home automation project

Every User Interface on openHAB2 is providing its own style of dashboards to control your home automation project, display current item states and attribute values or even include online information like web pages.

In our configuration of openHAB2 you will have the choice of 4 different user interfaces which can be selected

<p>Start openHAB2 start screen Direct URL: http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/start/index Here you will now find the GUIs: <BASIC UI> (requires setup using textual *.sitemap files) <PAPER UI> (which were already using to configure openHAB2) <HABPANEL> (this UI is all about creating a dashboard) <HABMIN> (which we already used for inclusion of Z-Wave devices)</p>																									
<p>You can also install more UIs in PAPER UI Add-ons section: http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/paperui/index.html#/extensions on the tab <USER INTERFACES></p>	 <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Version</th><th>Action</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Basic UI</td><td>urbasic-2.0.0</td><td>UNINSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>Classic UI</td><td>urclassic-2.0.0</td><td>INSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>CometVisu</td><td>urcometvisu-2.0.0</td><td>INSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>HABmin</td><td>urhabmin-2.0.0</td><td>UNINSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>HABPanel</td><td>urhabpanel-2.0.0</td><td>UNINSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>Paper UI</td><td>urpaper-2.0.0</td><td>UNINSTALL</td></tr><tr><td>PHP support for CometVisu</td><td>urcometvisu-php-2.0.0</td><td>INSTALL</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Version	Action	Basic UI	urbasic-2.0.0	UNINSTALL	Classic UI	urclassic-2.0.0	INSTALL	CometVisu	urcometvisu-2.0.0	INSTALL	HABmin	urhabmin-2.0.0	UNINSTALL	HABPanel	urhabpanel-2.0.0	UNINSTALL	Paper UI	urpaper-2.0.0	UNINSTALL	PHP support for CometVisu	urcometvisu-php-2.0.0	INSTALL
Name	Version	Action																							
Basic UI	urbasic-2.0.0	UNINSTALL																							
Classic UI	urclassic-2.0.0	INSTALL																							
CometVisu	urcometvisu-2.0.0	INSTALL																							
HABmin	urhabmin-2.0.0	UNINSTALL																							
HABPanel	urhabpanel-2.0.0	UNINSTALL																							
Paper UI	urpaper-2.0.0	UNINSTALL																							
PHP support for CometVisu	urcometvisu-php-2.0.0	INSTALL																							

BASIC UI dashboard

Since this is a beginner's tutorial where I am trying to get things done using as less textual coding as possible, I will not go into the details of creating a dashboard for the BASIC UI since it requires the file based approach.

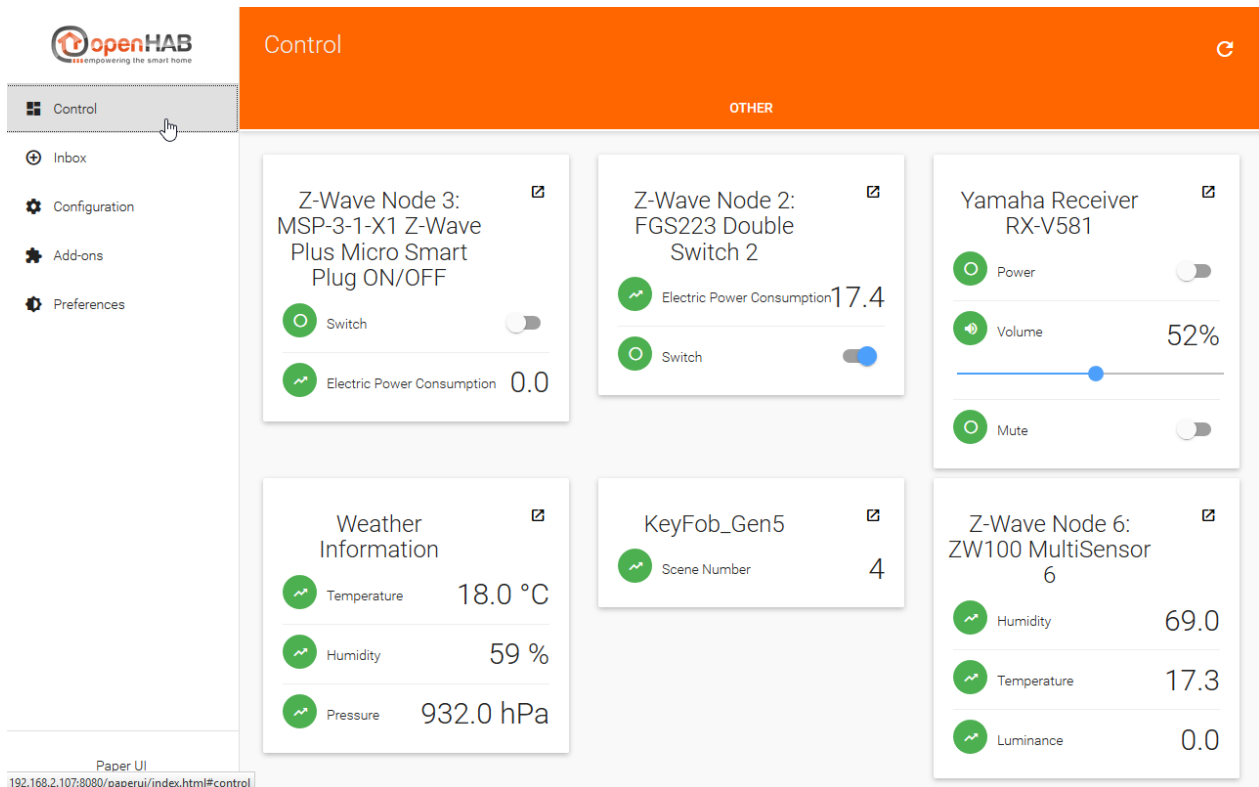
Tough you might find that some specific requirements to a dashboard can only be solved creating this textual sitemap configuration and using BASIC UI for displaying your dashboard.

You can find more information in how to setup and use BASIC UI on:

<http://docs.openhab.org/configuration/sitemaps.html>

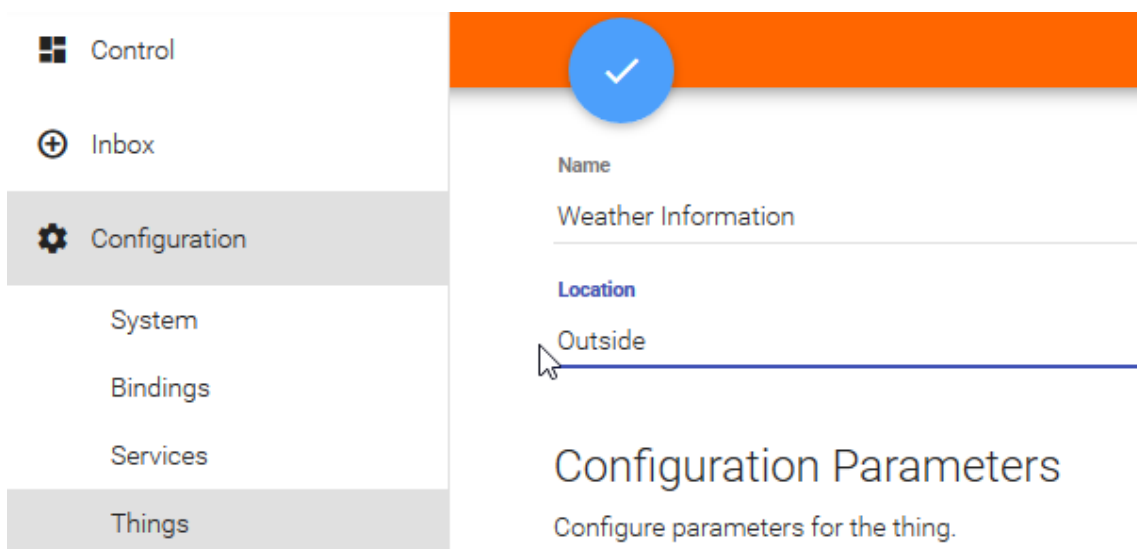
PAPER UI dashboard

The simplest way of creating an interactive user interface is in just clicking on the <CONTROL> tab to PAPER UI. Now you should see all the items grouped by the things they belong to.



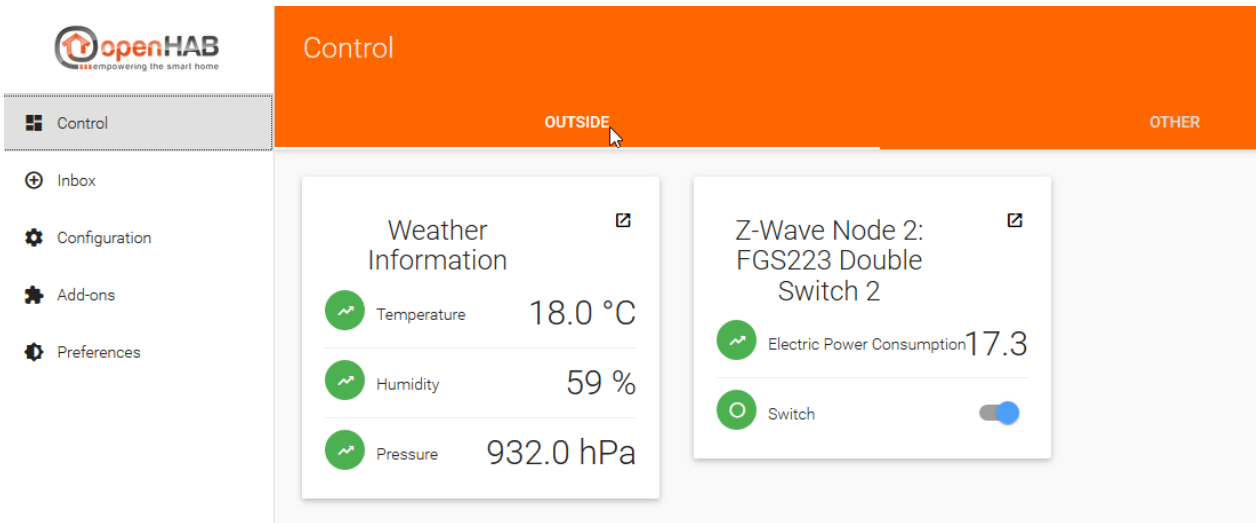
You can also easily create different tabs of things by adding <Location> information to the thing in the thing tab:

NOTE: I had issues in updating a few things, so it will be good to it while creating the things

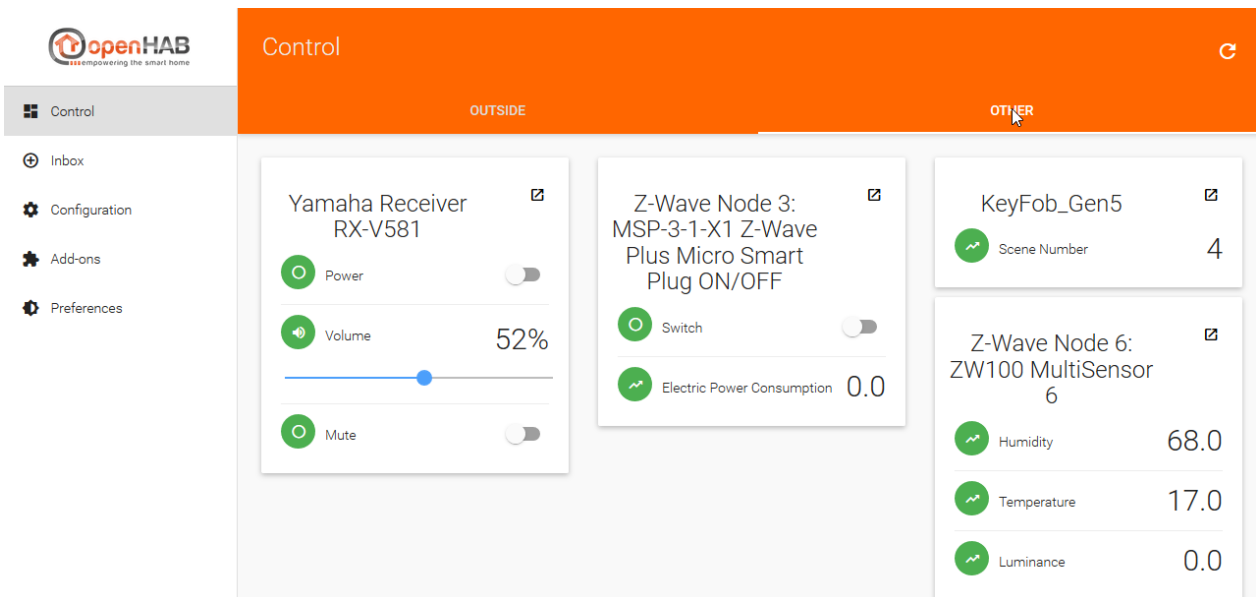


Now you will have Control panel giving you various tabs with items grouped by their things

Tab <OUTSIDE>

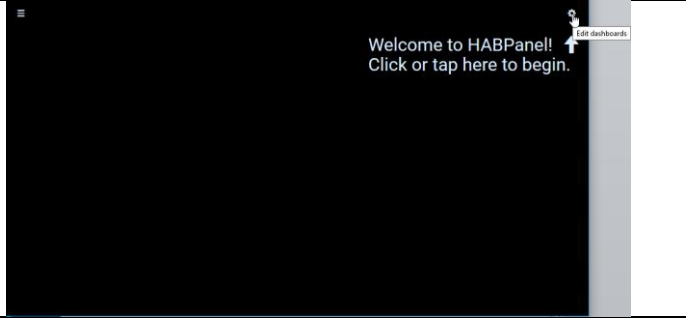
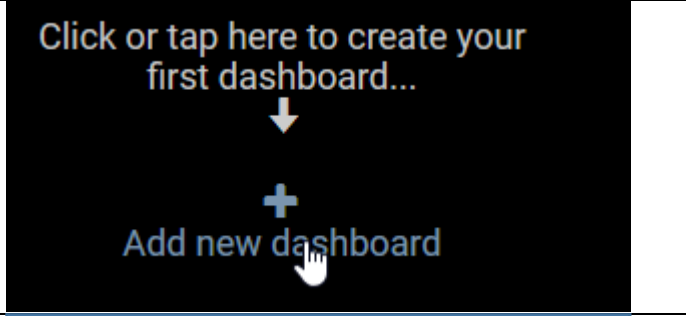
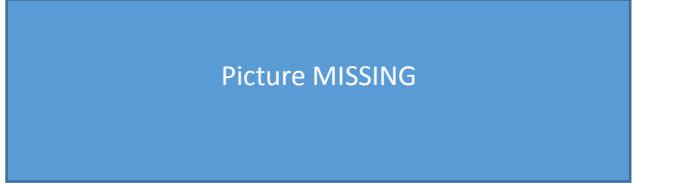


Standard tab <OTHER>



HABPANEL UI dashboard

The HABPANEL UI is all about creation a dashboard for your home automation project. Therefore you can not to do all the configuration work for openHAB2 in this UI. The configuration hast to be done in the other UIs

<p>Start HABPANEL http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/HABPANEL/index.html#/ It will come up a complete blank panel asking you to start configuration</p>	
<p>You now can choose to <Add new dashboard></p>	
<p>Create switches to control the Z-Wave switches Details MISSING</p>	

You can find the standard documentation on:

<http://docs.openhab.org/addons/uis/HABPANEL/readme.html>

HABMIN dashboard

And once again, since this is a beginner's tutorial I can't go into all the possibilities of how to create a dashboard in openHAB2. So I will not go into creating a dashboard in HABMIN. But be aware the HABMIN is providing a powerful graphical way of creating dashboards you might want to have a look at.

You can find the standard documentation on:

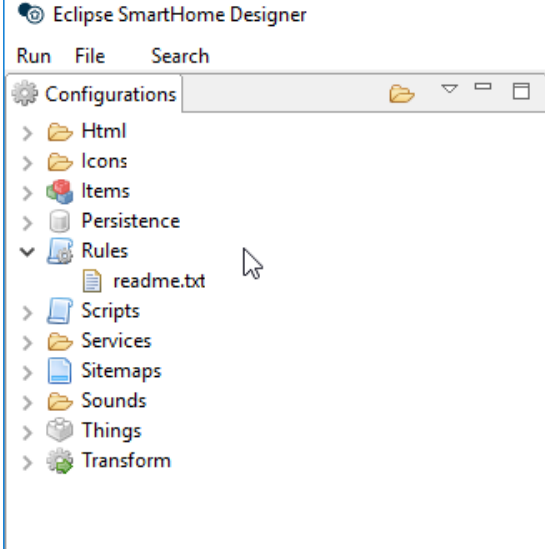
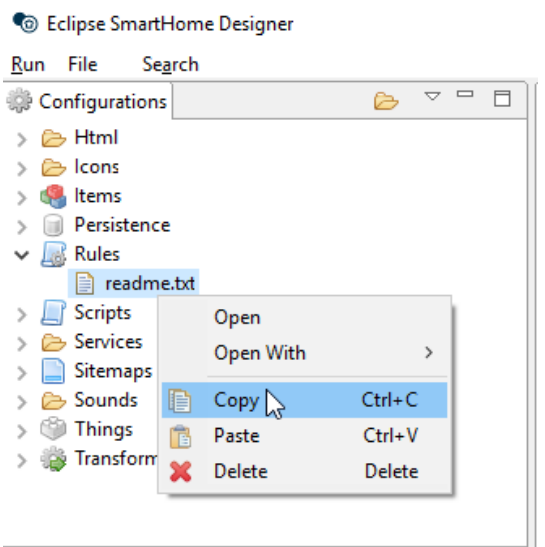
<http://docs.openhab.org/addons/uis/habmin/readme.html>

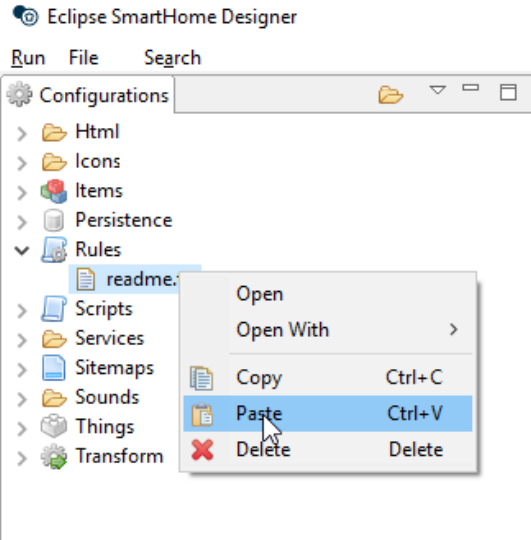
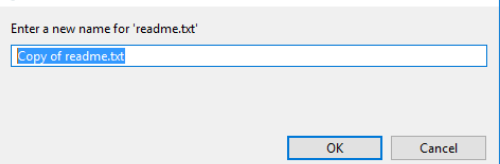
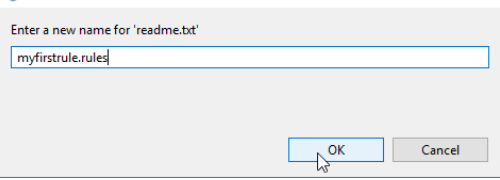
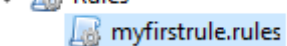
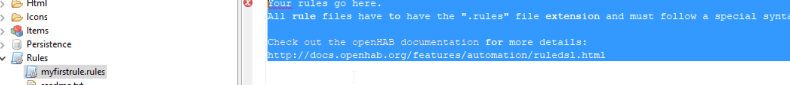
Chapter 13: Creating rules

Since rules can't be configured using the PAPER UI (stable version) you now have to go to the text files for now. For this part we will now use the Eclipse Smart Home Designer since it creates at least some syntax highlighting.

REMARK: You might find already some functionality about configuration of rules in the PAPER UI snapshot versions so there will be some changes in the way of doing rules more easily in the future. Also HABmin is providing some kind of graphical rule engine.

Creating the myfirstrule.rules file

<p>Start Eclipse Smart Home Designer on your PC Make sure you have mapped the Raspbian samba drive to your PC and Start Eclipse Smart Home Designer is set to the right folder in this samba drive (see Chapter 7: Installation of Eclipse Smart Home Designer -: part launching first time) You should now the augmented icons for the different folders If you check the Rules folder you will only find a readme.txt file</p>	 <p>The screenshot shows the Eclipse SmartHome Designer interface. The 'Configurations' window is open, displaying a tree view of folders and files. The 'Rules' folder is expanded, showing a 'readme.txt' file. A mouse cursor is hovering over the 'readme.txt' file.</p>
<p>You need to create a file with the ending .rules to store your rules there. The fastest way of doing it is using the basic file management functionality of Eclipse Smart Home Designer Right click on the readme.txt file and select copy</p>	 <p>The screenshot shows the Eclipse SmartHome Designer interface. The 'Configurations' window is open, displaying a tree view of folders and files. The 'Rules' folder is expanded, showing a 'readme.txt' file. A context menu is open over the 'readme.txt' file, with the 'Copy' option selected. The context menu also shows 'Open', 'Open With', 'Paste', and 'Delete' options.</p>

<p>Then right click again and select Paste</p>	
<p>A new window will ask you to enter a new file name.</p>	
<p>Change the file name to myfirstrule.rules an press <OK></p>	 <p>myfirstrule.rules <OK></p>
<p>A new file will appear in the Rules folder showing the rule icon</p>	
<p>Now double click on the file to open it and delete the old content to have a plain rule file</p> <p>And save the rule file again</p>	 <p><ctrl+a> <ctrl+s></p>

Creating a basic rules

I will try to give some basic rule examples to start with but you have to be aware:

DISCLAIMER:

I am no coding expert at all and writing rules is still the most difficult part in my home automation project (finding the right commands, the right syntax and so on), so you might be better off using to other tutorials.

For the standard rules documentation incl. the rule syntax please refer to the online documentation:

<http://docs.openhab.org/configuration/rules-dsl.html>

You can also find some rules samples on:

<https://github.com/openhab/openhab1-addons/wiki/Samples-Rules>

And maybe some coding experts in the community will find the time to create a kind of an openHAB2 compendium to make it easier the non-experts to do rules.

REMAKR: Yes, I know there are plenty of online documentation sites available, but the problem for me was the “plenty” part of it since I always had to go through plenty different websites to finally get the syntax right and make the rule do, what I wanted it to do.

Basic rule example:

We will use the:

KeyFob_Gen5

to control some items linked to

Z-Wave Node 2: FGS223 Double Switch 2

Z-Wave Node 3: MSP-3-1-X1 Z-Wave Plus Micro Smart Plug ON/OFF

Yamaha Receiver RX-V581

DUMMYTHING_SamsungTV

HF-LPB100-ZJ200 (WiFi LED)

Just copy the code to the right directly into your myfirstrule.rules file

```
rule "KeyFob"

when
    Item ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber
received update
then
    //Scene number 1 - Button 1 (up left) pressed short
    if
        (ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 1) {
        //Switching ON the items DoubleSwitch01_Relais1 and
        SchuKo01
            sendCommand (DoubleSwitch01_Relais1, ON)
            sendCommand (SchuKo01, ON)
        }

    //Scene number 2 - Button 1 (up left) pressed long
    if
        (ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 2) {
        //Switching OFF the items DoubleSwitch01_Relais1 and
        SchuKo01
            sendCommand (DoubleSwitch01_Relais1,
OFF)
            sendCommand (SchuKo01, OFF)
        }

    //Scene number 3 - Button 2 (up left) pressed short
    if
        (ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 3) {
        //Switching ON the items YamahaReceiverRXV581_Power and
        DUMMYITEM_SamsungTV_Power
            sendCommand (YamahaReceiverRXV581_Power,
ON)
            sendCommand (DUMMYITEM_SamsungTV_Power,
ON)
        }

    //Scene number 4 - Button 2 (up left) pressed long
    if
        (ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 4) {
        //Switching OFF the items YamahaReceiverRXV581_Power and
        DUMMYITEM_SamsungTV_Power
            sendCommand (YamahaReceiverRXV581_Power,
OFF)
            sendCommand (DUMMYITEM_SamsungTV_Power,
```

```

OFF)
    }

//Scene number 5 - Button 3 (up left) pressed short
    if
(ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 5) {
//Switching ON the item HFLPB100ZJ200_Power
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_Power, ON)
    }

//Scene number 6 - Button 3 (up left) pressed long
    if
(ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 6) {
//Switching OFF the item HFLPB100ZJ200_Power
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_Power, OFF)
    }

//Scene number 7 - Button 4 (up left) pressed short
    if
(ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 7) {
//NOTE: since setting the color will influence the dimming
of the WHITE
//         so if you want to set both values at the same
time, always
//         set color first and than
//         set the dimming of WHITE

//Changing the color of the item HFLPB100ZJ200_Color to RED
//openHAB2 is requesting the color to be set in HSL code
(Hue, Saturation, Lightness" or in openHAB terms "HSBType"
(Hue, Saturation, Brightness)
//To convert RGB code to HSL code just go to e.g.
http://www.rapidtables.com/convert/color/rgb-to-hsl.htm
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_Color, (new
HSBType("0,100,50")))
//Dimming the item HFLPB100ZJ200_White to 50%
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_White, 50)
    }

//Scene number 8 - Button 4 (up left) pressed long
    if
(ZWaveNode9ZW0884ButtonKeyfobGen5_SceneNumber.state == 8) {
//NOTE: since setting the color will influence the dimming
of the WHITE
//         so if you want to set both values at the same
time, always
//         set color first and than
//         set the dimming of WHITE

//Changing the color of the item HFLPB100ZJ200_Color to
GREEN
//openHAB2 is requesting the color to be set in HSL code
(Hue, Saturation, Lightness" or in openHAB terms "HSBType"
(Hue, Saturation, Brightness)
//To convert RGB code to HSL code just go to e.g.
http://www.rapidtables.com/convert/color/rgb-to-hsl.htm
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_Color, (new
HSBType("120,100,50")))
//Dimming the item HFLPB100ZJ200_White to
100%
        sendCommand (HFLPB100ZJ200_White, 100)
    }
end

```


Save the rule file. The rule should now be available	<ctrl+s>
---	----------

Test it by clicking through the buttons (pressed long and pressed short)

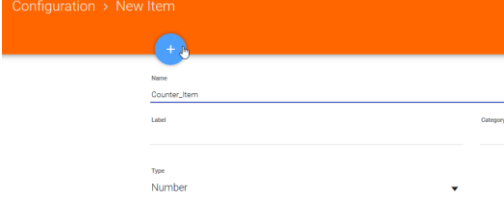

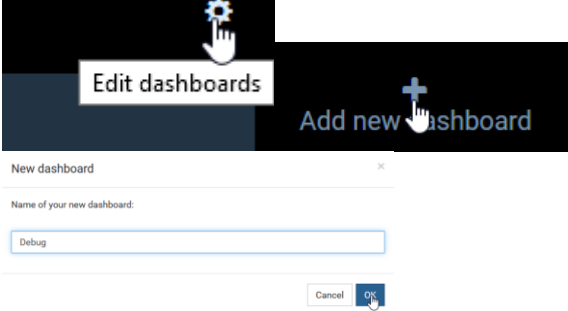
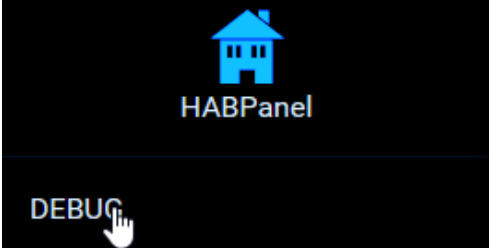

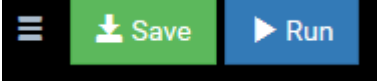
NOTE: When working with rules for the WiFi LED be aware, that the controller is storing the setting when you send the OFF command. So if you want you switch on the LED with a different color you might be better off in setting the color to black before switching off you if you switch on again the LED starts black and not in the old color.

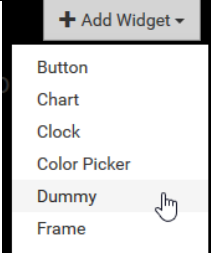
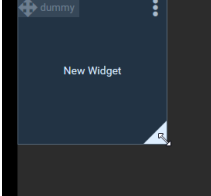
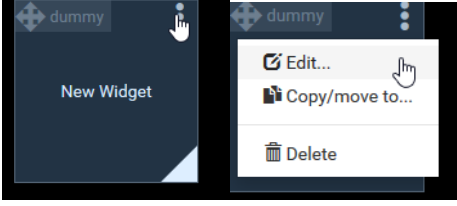
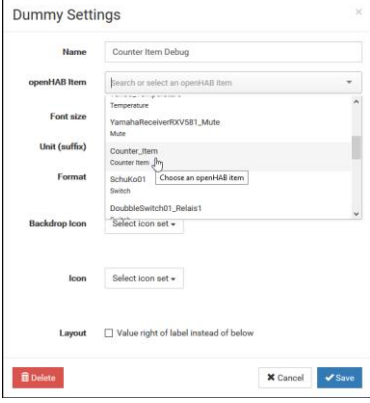
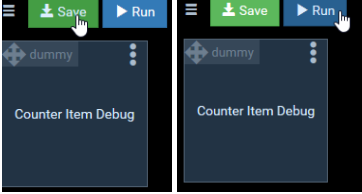
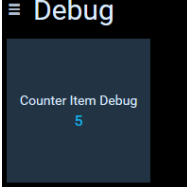
Basic tips for debugging rules

Creating an item the see the value of a variable of a rule online

The standard way of debugging a rule would be to use a logfile.

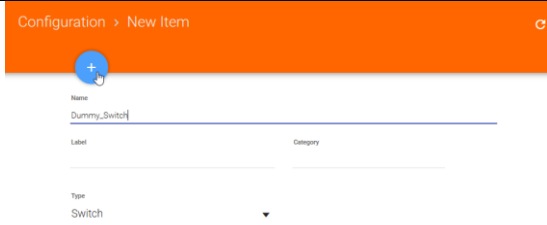

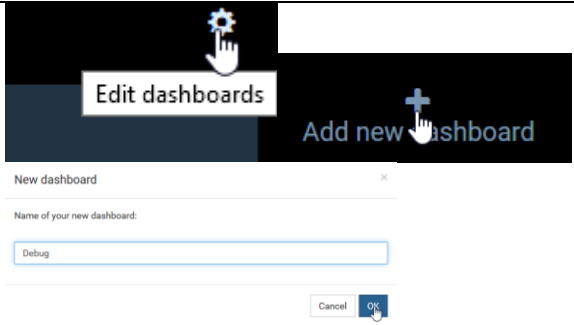
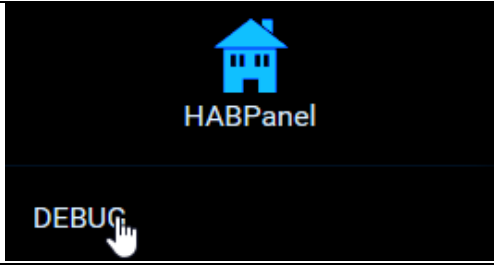


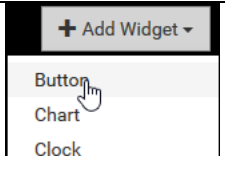
For simple problems you might also be able to visualize the variables online by creation item with the same type and posting the value of the variable inside the rule


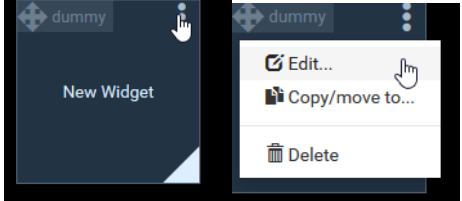
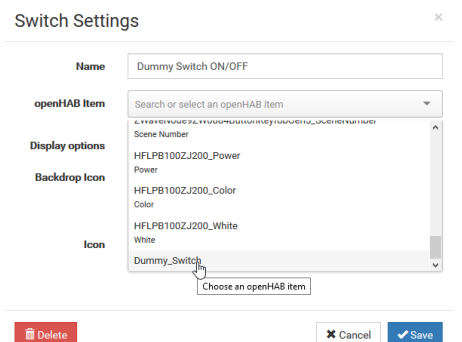
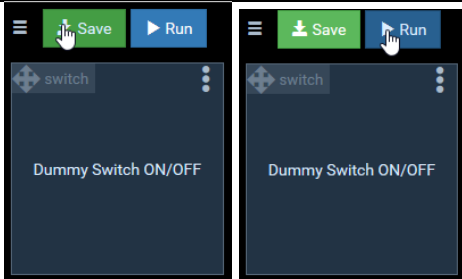
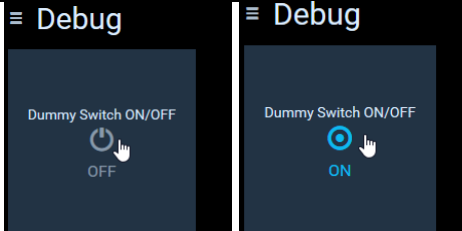
<p>If you are using a variable in your rule initially set to</p>	<pre>var Number loop_counter = 0</pre>
<p>Create the item Counter_Item with the same type: In PAPER UI switch to -Configuration --Items And press the blue icon (+) Enter Name Counter_Item Select Typ <Number> And confirm the creation by clicking again on the blue icon (+)</p>	 <p>Counter_Item <Number> <(+)></p>
<p>Result: A new item called Counter_Item should be visible in the item tab NOTE: Since this Item is not linked to a thing it will not show up in the <Control> Tab to PAPER UI.</p>	
<p>Now enter a line into your rule to post the value of the var to the Counter_Item</p>	<pre>postUpdate(Counter_Item, loop_counter)</pre>
<p>To show the value on a dashboard you have to use e.g. HABPANEL Start HABPANEL http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/HABPANEL/index.html#/ and select <Edit dashboards> in the upper right corner then <Add new dashboard> enter the name Debug and <OK></p>	 <p>Debug <OK></p>
<p>Now you should have the dashboard <Debug> available in your HABPANEL Select the dashboard</p>	
<p>If you now hover with your mouse right of the dashboard name the <Edit Debug> icon will appear. Click on it to enter the edit mode.</p>	 <p><Edit Debug></p>
<p>The edit mode is indicated by the two icons <Save> and <Run></p>	

<p>Now you have to <+ Add Widget></p> <p>You have to use the <Dummy> widget to display numbers</p>	 <p><+ Add Widget> <Dummy></p>
<p>The new Widget will appear on your dashboard NOTE: you can easily change the size of the widget by dragging the lower right corner. I will snap to a predefined grid</p>	
<p>To edit the widget you have to click on the 3 dots in the upper right corner of the widget and select <Edit></p>	 <p><.> <Edit></p>
<p>In this window you can change the name to Counter Item Debug You have to select the openHAB item <Counter_Item> to link it to this widget. Optional you can change font size, add a unit and format or add some icons. Now <Save> the widget.</p>	 <p>Counter Item Debug <Counter_Item> <Save></p>
<p>Now <Save> the dashboard and <Run> it.</p>	 <p><Save> <Run></p>
<p>You will now see the value of your rule variable displayed dynamically on your HABPANEL dashboard</p>	

Creating a virtual switch on HABPANEL to use it in a rule

This switch might come handy if you are debugging your rule while physically having no access to the switch. Standing up and running to the switch might do you some good when it comes down to fitness but surely is disturbing while developing your rule

<p>Create the item Dummy_Switch with the same type: In PAPER UI switch to -Configuration --Items And press the blue icon (+) Enter Name Dummy_Switch Select Typ <Switch> And confirm the creation by clicking again on the blue icon (+)</p>	 <p>Dummy_Switch <Switch> <(+)></p>
<p>Result: A new item called Dummy_Switch should be visible in the item tab NOTE: Since this Item is not linked to a thing it will not show up in the <Control> Tab to PAPER UI.</p>	
<p>Now replace the item name of the <i>physical_switch</i> with the name of the Dummy_Switch</p>	<p><i>physical_switch</i> will become Dummy_Switch</p>
<p>To use the Dummy_Switch on a dashboard you have to use e.g. HABPANEL Start HABPANEL http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8080/HABPANEL/index.html#/ and select <Edit dashboards> in the upper right corner then <Add new dashboard> enter the name Debug and <OK></p>	 <p>Debug <OK></p>
<p>Now you should have the dashboard <Debug> available in your HABPANEL Select the dashboard</p>	
<p>If you now hover with your mouse right of the dashboard name the <Edit Debug> icon will appear. Click on it to enter the edit mode.</p>	 <p><Edit Debug></p>
<p>The edit mode is indicated by the two icons <Save> and <Run></p>	
<p>Now you have to <+ Add Widget></p>	

<p>You have to use the <Button> widget to display numbers</p>	<p><+ Add Widget> <Button></p>
<p>The new Widget will appear on your dashboard NOTE: you can easily change the size of the widget by dragging the lower right corner. I will snap to a predefined grid</p>	
<p>To edit the widget you have to click on the 3 dots in the upper right corner of the widget and select <Edit></p>	 <p><.> <Edit></p>
<p>In this window you can change the name to Dummy Switch ON/OFF You have to select the openHAB item <Dummy_Switch> to link it to this widget. Optional you can select display options and icons Now <Save> the widget.</p>	 <p>Dummy Switch ON/OFF <Dummy_Switch> <Save></p>
<p>Now <Save> the dashboard and <Run> it.</p>	 <p><Save> <Run></p>
<p>You will now see the Dummy_Switch Item be visualized by the Dummy Switch ON/OFF widget. The initial state should be <Inactive> Just click on the widget to change the state to <Active></p>	

Further Rule examples based on this home automation project:

Switching ON/OFF switches based on luminance reading of the multisensory

The rule is designed to switch on/off the Z-Wave Node 2: FGS223 Double Switch 2 based on the illumination measured by the Z-Wave Node 6: ZW100 MultiSensor 6

The trigger value is set to 10 LUX

To prevent von switching on/off if the illumination is around 10 lumen and e.g. just a cloud is casting a temporarily shadow, there is a counter included which is measuring multiple times the illumination and only allows to triggering the switch if there reading is consistently (10 times) above or below the trigger value.

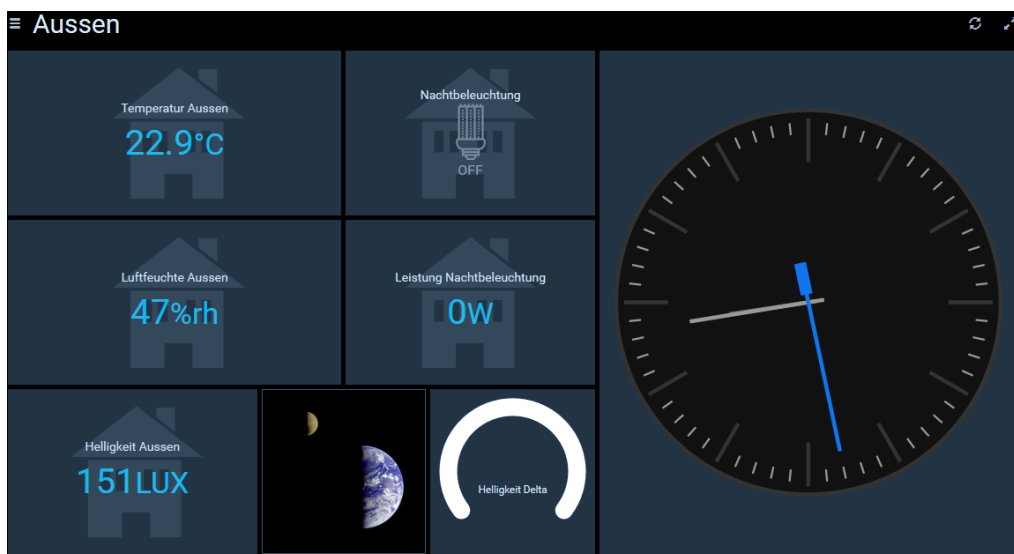
NOTE: Make sure you have create the item Counter_Item since it's used in the rule (see: part "Creating an item the see the value of a variable of a rule online" in this chapter).

REMARK: This was done as some kind of coding and configuring HABPANEL exercise. You might get the same result in just checking the reading in a less frequent period, forget about the counter and just trigger the switch when the illumination reading is above or below the trigger value.

You can also use this Counter_Item to display some tendency whether your light is about to switch ON/OFF depending on the value of the Counter_Item on your dashboard. So if you play a little with the "knob" widget in HABPANEL it might look like this:



Then you add some other readings of your multissor, the wattage reading and trigger of your switch, a clock widget and you have a complete dashboard of your real weather and let it trigger your outside lighth.



You can just add these lines at the bottom of your existing rule file or create a new file in the same folder

```
var Number loop_counter = 0

rule "check_illumination"
// using the loop_counter to ensure that it is
// 10 times in a row darker/lighter before triggering switch

when
// every x seconds "0/x" the value is checked
// 0/30 means every 30 sec the value is checked
    Time cron "0/30 * * ? * * *"
then
// reset loop_counter if required (counter outside -5 +5 range)
if (loop_counter >= -5 && loop_counter <= 5){
// <= 10 is defining the LUX trigger value when ligth is switched ON/OFF
    if (MultiSens Helligkeit.state <= 10) {
        if (loop_counter > -5) {
            loop_counter = loop_counter -1
            postUpdate(Counter_Item, loop_counter)
        }
        else {
            if (DoubleSwitch01 Relais1.state == OFF)
                sendCommand (DoubleSwitch01 Relais1, ON)
        }
    }
    else
        if (loop_counter < 5) {
            loop_counter =loop_counter +1
            postUpdate(Counter_Item, loop_counter)
        }
        else {
            if (DoubleSwitch01 Relais1.state == ON)
                sendCommand (DoubleSwitch01 Relais1, OFF)
        }
}
else {
    loop_counter = 0
}
end
```

And save the file

