



AquaControl™ Network Connection & Firmware Update Instructions

▶ Getting Connected

Introduction: Ashly AquaControl products have a built-in web server delivering software right to your computer or mobile device. AquaControl connects to your device via its web browser using an Ethernet/Wi-Fi router or via a direct Ethernet connection to your PC. Supported browsers include current versions of Chrome®, Edge®, and Safari®. For best results, Ashly recommends a minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768, and screen size of 10" or larger.

Ethernet Connection: AquaControl devices come configured with automatic IP assignment as the default, to ensure compatibility with your network/computer. This means you must initially connect its Ethernet jack to a network router for automatic IP assignment (DHCP), or alternatively connect it directly to a computer for automatic Link Local IP assignment. Once connected, you may access AquaControl software to change the connection to static IP if desired.

Getting Started: Entering the Hostname Address in your browser. (preferred method)

1) Apply power to the Ashly AquaControl device and router (if used), then boot your computer or mobile device. Wait a couple minutes for all devices to boot and establish network connections.

2) Launch the web browser on your computer or mobile device, then enter the device's unique hostname address (shown below) in the browser's address bar. For example, a MXA1502 hostname address would be "*http://MXA1502_MACAddress.local*". The MACAddress is the unique 12-digit number printed on a sticker on the back or side of every unit. Do not include the colons separating MACAddress number pairs shown on the sticker. Note that on certain products or revisions, only the SIX right-most numbers of the MAC address (**MAC6**) are used, whereby on others (**MAC12**) all 12 numbers are used (see below).

Note also that depending on the product and revision, the text character used between the DeviceName and MACAddress can be an underscore, hyphen, or nothing. See the table below for hostname address examples shown by device and firmware version:

Product	Firmware version	Hostname address	Examples: (<i>your MACAddress will be different</i>)
MXA1502	v1.3.1 or lower	"mxa1502_MAC12.local"	<i>mxa1502_0014aa03605c.local</i>
AQM408	v1.1.2 or lower	"aqm408_MAC12.local"	<i>aqm408_0014aa03605d.local</i>
AQM408	v1.1.3 or higher	"aqm408-MAC6.local"	<i>aqm408-03605d.local</i>
AQM1208	v1.1.1 or lower	"aqm1208_MAC12.local"	<i>aqm1208_0014aa03605e.local</i>
AQM1208	v1.1.8 or higher	"aqm1208-MAC6.local"	<i>aqm1208-03605e.local</i>
AQZ32	v1.3.2 or lower	"aqzMAC12.local"	<i>aqz0014aa03605f.local</i> (no 32, hyphen or underscore)
AQZ32	v1.3.6 or higher	"aqz32-MAC6.local"	<i>aqz32-03605f.local</i>

3) Once the hostname address is entered, login using the factory default credentials, User ID: **admin**, Password: **secret**.

▶ Alternate Network Discovery Instructions

Using the hostname address to login is most reliable, however the following methods are also available for device discovery.

Windows®:

1) Open File Explorer. Click the "Network" heading in the main Explorer panel. A list of all connected network devices will appear.

2) Your AquaControl device will appear in one or both of the resulting "Computer" or "Other Devices" lists. The DeviceName & MACAddress shown in these lists will be the same address used for the Hostname Address login method discussed in the previous section. Double-click on the device icon to launch the software.

3) In certain cases, the AquaControl device will only appear in the "Computer" network device list. However, you might get an error when you click on it that says something like, "*Windows cannot access \\DeviceName*". This is because Microsoft Windows 11 added a security update to prevent connection to other computers by default. Windows 11 clients need a configuration (required for 24H2+) to enable insecure guest logons to make it work.

Here are two different ways to enable guest access:

- Group Policy (Windows Pro/Enterprise): Open gpedit.msc, navigate to Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Network > Lanman Workstation, and set **Enable insecure guest logons** to **Enabled**
- Or via PowerShell: Run: **Set-SmbClientConfiguration -EnableInsecureGuestLogons \$true**

4) Note: As mentioned, the most reliable (and preferred) method to connect to AquaControl products with the factory default automatic IP setting is by entering their *hostname.local* address in the address bar of your browser.

OSX®:

- 1) From the desktop, click <Go>, then click on <Network>. The list of all Network devices will start populating. Wait for the list to complete.
- 2) Find your AquaControl device in the network device list. The device's MAC address is added to the end of it's name. The MAC address is printed on a sticker attached to the back or side panel. Double-click on the mXa device name.
- 3) Double click on the resulting <AquaControl> icon.
- 4) Double-click on the resulting <index.html> file to launch the software.
- 5) Log in to AquaControl software. Enter your username and password and press the Log In button. If this is the first log-in to a new unit, use the factory default credentials, User ID: **admin** Password: **secret**

iOS

- 1) Use a network device discovery app such as "Flame®" to see all available network devices.
- 2) Find the AquaControl device in the list. Its MAC address gets added to the end of its name.
- 3) Tap on the device to launch the software. Depending on the app used, additional address or type lines may need to be entered before the software will launch.
- 4) Log in to AquaControl software. Enter your username and password, then tap the Log In button. If this is the first log-in to a new unit, use the factory default credentials, User ID: **admin** Password: **secret**

Android®

- 1) Install an Android application that can discover Network Plug'n'Play devices. There are several apps that can do this. For example, "UPnP Tool" is a free discovery app available on the Google Play Store.
- 2) Launch the UPnP Tool or other network discovery application and it will provide a list of all Plug'n'Play devices on your network. You should see the AquaControl device listed, with its MAC address added to the end of its name.
- 3) Click on the (info) information icon, ("i" in a circle), to the right of the item to bring up the details of the product. Then click on the <presentationURL> link or the <IP address> link to launch AquaControl. Your default browser will launch and connect to the device. If this is the first log-in to a new unit, use the factory default credentials, User ID: **admin** Password: **secret**

► What To Do If Network Discovery Fails

If using a wired computer network connection, and your AquaControl device does not appear on the computer's network device list, it may be necessary to disable WiFi on your computer to allow discovery. Also confirm the computer is set for automatic (DHCP) IP configuration.

Automatic versus Static IP: The DHCP server (router), or direct-connected computer may arbitrarily re-assign a new IP address to the device after the IP lease expires or devices are rebooted. You'll need to rediscover the AquaControl device any time its automatic IP address gets changed. To avoid future discovery steps, connect using the hostname address, (see **Getting Started** section), or assign a Static IP address to the device.

To assign static IP from AquaControl software: Go to [Settings>Network] and select [Manual Configuration]. Save your settings and note the IP address for future use. Important: If you are using a router, a static IP address reservation for the AquaControl device must also be entered in your router's IP administration settings. Once the device has been assigned a static IP address, the address can be entered into the browser address bar to connect directly to AquaControl. Important: You must use an IP address with the same subnet as your router and computing device. The subnet is the first three sections of the IP address. For example, 192.168.1 is the subnet section of IP address 192.168.1.100. Tip: The easiest thing to do is use the IP address that was initially assigned to the AquaControl device by the router/DHCP server.

► Firmware Update Instructions

Please check your current AquaControl device's firmware and update if necessary. There is no automatic update feature.

- 1) Login to AquaControl software and check the installed firmware version by going to the Dashboard page. The firmware version is found under the Device heading.
- 2) In a separate browser tab, go to www.ashly.com/firmware-updates/ and check if a higher version is available for your AquaControl device. If so, click the link to download its new [*.bin] file.
- 3) To update firmware, in AquaControl go to the [Settings > General Settings] page, then click the "Update" button next to the current firmware revision text. Click the [+ Firmware File] to browse for the firmware file you just downloaded. Finally, click [Install Update] to begin the update process.

Do not remove power from the unit during the update process. The update may take up to 10 minutes to complete.