

# Control4® Smart Home Automations Guide



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**Note:** The information in this guide applies to the latest Control4 system capabilities. Features can vary between customized installations and Control4 software releases, so contact your dealer with any questions about available features.

# Planning automations

**When >> Then**  
you do this... this happens

## Planning ahead

In the world of Control4 custom automations, also known as “When >> Then,” every action can result in a host of reactions. You can decide which event (“When”) results in which action (“Then”).

Before creating your own automations, it helps to plan ahead. A good place to start is to ask yourself these two questions:

- 1 What event should happen that starts the automation? (the “When”)
- 2 What is the end result you want with the automation? (the “Then”)

Another approach is to write down every “I wish...” thought you encounter regarding your smart home, over the course of several days. With this comprehensive “wish list,” you can more deliberately plan how each automation should be launched and which results can be combined.

## Tips for planning your automations

- Don’t worry about making mistakes—it’s as easy to change (or delete) an automation as it is to create one. And, your Control4 Dealer can also help answer your questions or create automations for you.
- Test the automation right after you create it to make sure it acts the way you expect it to.
- If you want multiple keypads to launch the same automations, it’s much easier to remember button assignments if the automations are assigned consistently to each keypad.
- You will be able to see dealer-authored automations in your list, but they will be disabled for editing. To change or delete those automations, contact your Control4 Dealer.
- Requesting automation changes to buttons with engraved labels may necessitate changing the label text (for the label to match the new action). Keep in mind that replacing engraved buttons will involve additional cost.

*This is what a “When >> Then” automation looks like. The action is on the left, the result on the right. You’ll first select the “When” (sunrise, in this example), then you can specify “Thens” (turning off the outside lights).*

The screenshot shows a dark grey card on the left with a clock icon and the text "Sunrise Dimming" and "Starting on Sunday, January 1st, 2017, 15 before Sunrise, repeats every 1 days". An arrow points from this card to a white box on the right containing two automation actions. Each action has a lightbulb icon, a text label, a blue toggle switch, and a grey 'X' icon. The first action is "Turn off the Outside > Front Porch Lights" and the second is "Turn off the Outside > Garden Path Lights".

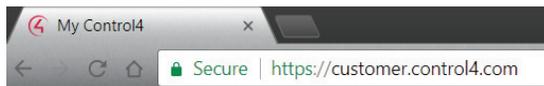
# Getting started

To create your own home automation, you'll first need to log in to your online Control4 account.

**Important:** You must have a current 4Sight subscription to create your own automations. To subscribe or check on your subscription status, log in to [customer.control4.com](https://customer.control4.com), then click **4Sight** in the **Resources** tile. You can also ask your Control4 Dealer to help you sign up or renew.

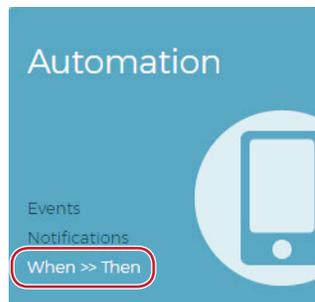
## To log in and watch an introductory video:

- 1 Log in to your account at [customer.control4.com](https://customer.control4.com).

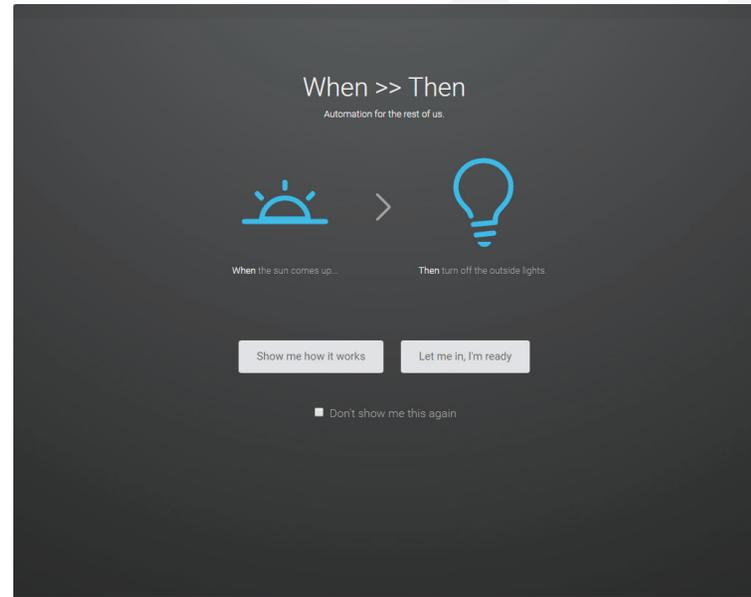


**Tip:** If you don't have your login information, contact your Control4 Dealer. Or, you can go to the login page, enter your email address, then click **Forgot Password**. An email will be sent to you with password reset instructions.

- 2 In the *Automation* tile, click **When >> Then**.



The *When >> Then* home screen opens.

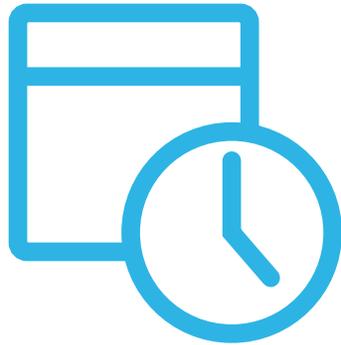


- 3 For an quick introduction, click **Show me how it works**. Scroll through the information, or click **Watch the video**. When you're ready to try it on your own, click **Try it now**.

-OR-

If you want to get started right away, click **Let me in, I'm ready**.

# Selecting a “When”



A “When” is an action or condition that triggers a different action (a “Then”). Control4 automations are made up of a “When” paired with one or more “Thens.” Your system has several “Whens” to select from:

## Scheduled actions

Scheduled actions are tied to schedules that you’ve created. A schedule is more than just date and time—it can also include date ranges, recurring dates, and even sunrise/sunset times. You must create a schedule before you’re able to select it as a “When.”

## Buttons

Buttons can be used to start any automation. The buttons need to be a Control4 keypad, switch, dimmer, or remote control, and most button presses can be configured as single, double, and triple-taps

## Lights

Lights can start automations by reaching an on, off, or specific dimming level, whether they reach that state via remote control or manually.

## Security and access

Security and door access can trigger an automation for house-wide monitoring and “welcome home” automations.

## Sensors

Sensor-launched automations can add to your home’s security by notifying you when motion, vehicles, door or gate openings, or water is detected.

## Room media

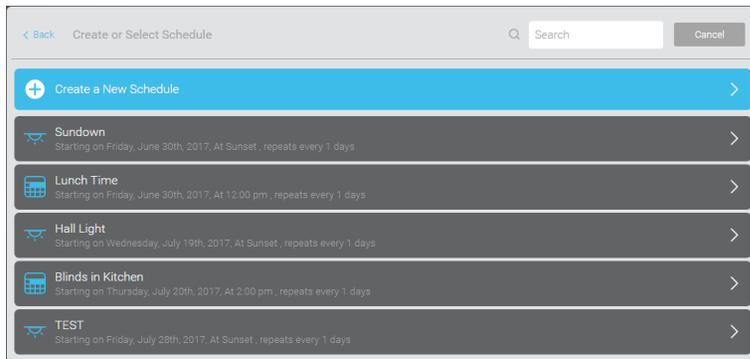
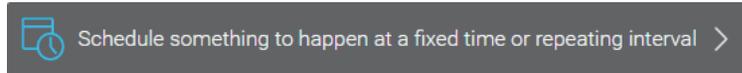
Room media, when tied to automations, can make your entertainment options come to life. Want to automatically dim the lights when a movie starts playing? You can do that and so much more.

## Creating a schedule event

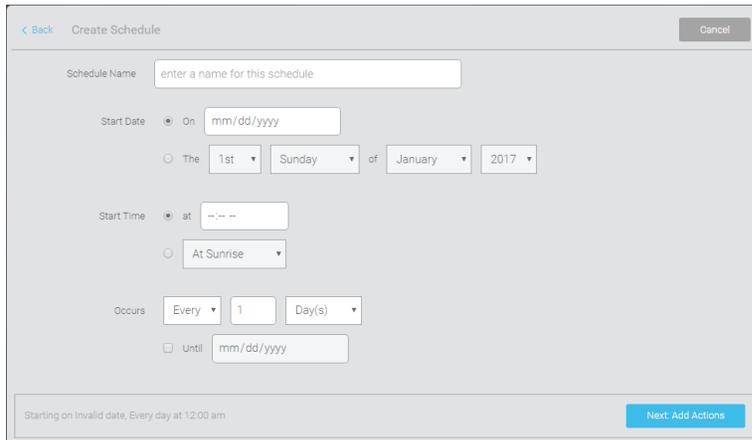
A schedule event is a “When” that is based on times and dates, or with a recurring natural event such as sunrise and sunset.

To create a schedule:

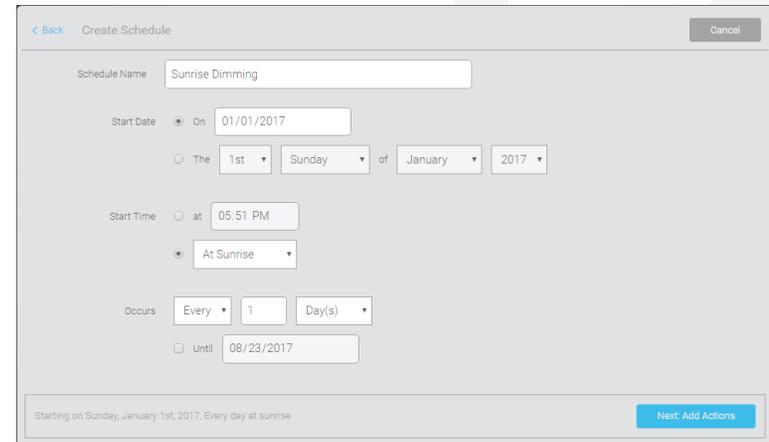
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **Schedule something to happen...**, then click **Create a New Schedule**.



The *Create Schedule* screen opens.



- 2 Enter a descriptive name for the schedule, set the dates, times, and the recurrence schedule, then click **Next: Add Actions**.



The action assignment screen opens.

- 3 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

## Creating a keypad or remote button tap event

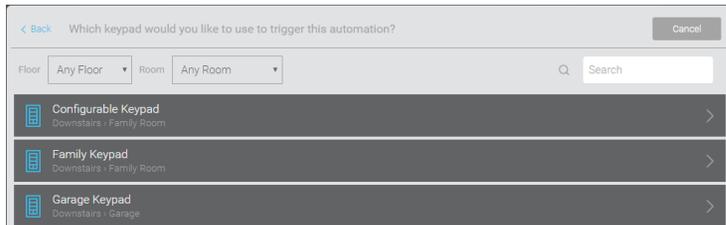
A keypad or remote button tap event is a “When” that is based on single-, double-, or triple-taps of keypads or presses of remote control custom buttons.

### To create a button tap event for keypads or switches:

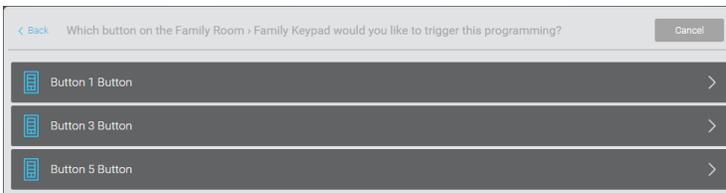
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a keypad button is pressed...**



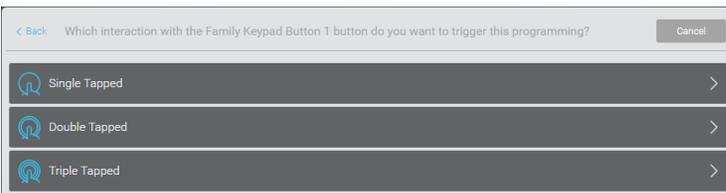
- 2 A list of keypads or light switches opens.



- 3 Click the keypad or switch you want to use. A list of available buttons opens. Note: The available buttons will depend on the keypad's custom button layout.



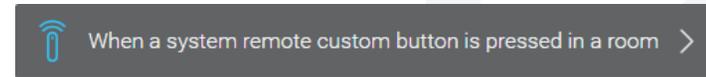
- 4 Click the button you want to use. A list of available tap patterns opens.



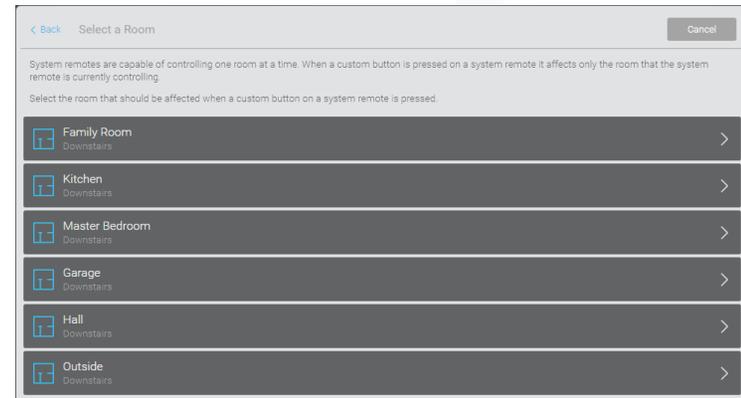
- 5 Click the tap pattern to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 6 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

### To create a button press event for a system remote:

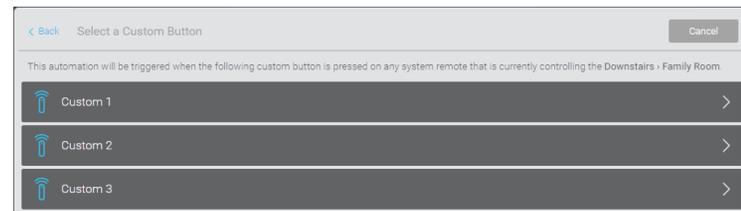
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a system remote custom button is pressed...**



- 2 A list of rooms opens. (Remember that a “room” can also be “outside” or “garage.”)



- 3 Click the room in which to set the button's behavior. A list of the three available buttons opens.



- 4 Click the button to use for the action. The action assignment screen opens.
- 5 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

## Creating a light switch tap event

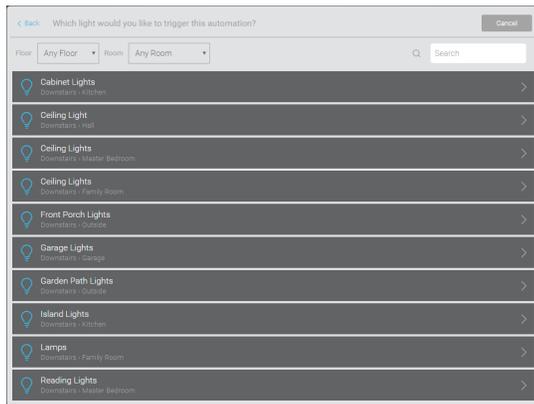
A light switch tap event is a “When” that is based on single-, double-, or triple-taps of light switch and dimmer buttons.

To create a light switch tap event for light switches and dimmers:

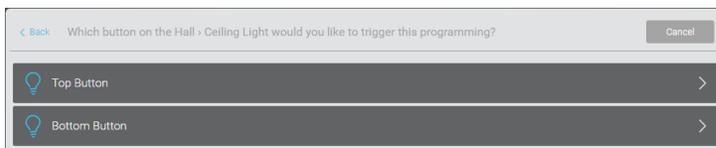
- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a light switch button is tapped**.



A list of light switches and dimmers opens.



- 2 Click the light switch or dimmer you want to use. A list of available buttons opens. **Note:** if your switch has more buttons than the single on/off switch, it's considered a “keypad,” and you should create a button press event instead (see previous page).



- 3 Click the button you want to use. A list of available tap patterns opens.



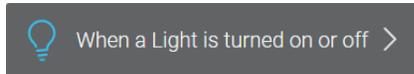
- 4 Click the tap pattern to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 5 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

## Creating a lights on/off event

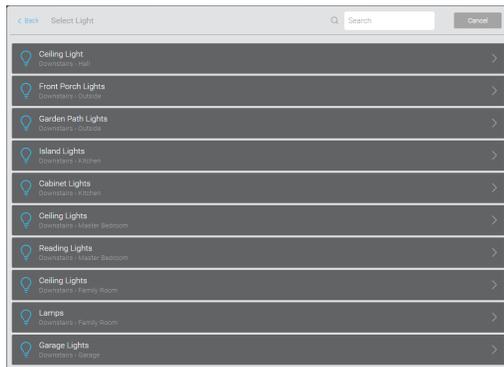
This event detects lighting status, regardless of how the light got to that level—either through keypad control, manual load control, or an automation. For example, you can automatically play music in a room when the light is turned on, or lock the front door whenever the porch light is turned off.

### To create a lights on/off event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When a Light is turned on or off**.



A list of lights opens.



- 2 Click the light you want to use. A list of available lighting states opens (on or off only).



**Tip:** Any amount of “on” will launch an “on” event. For example, a dimmer at 5% will launch a “lights-on” event as surely as it would at 100%.

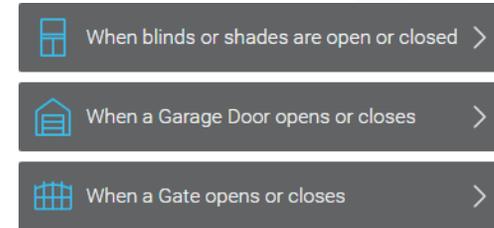
- 3 Click the lighting state to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

## Creating a security and access event

Whether you want to monitor the comings and goings of your kids, the arrivals of guests or deliveries, or gate access, automation events can help you keep tabs on it all.

### To create a security and access event:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **When blinds or shades are open or closed**, **When a garage door opens or closes**, or **When a gate opens or closes**.



- 2 A list of blinds, garage doors, or gates opens, including the available open/close states.



- 3 Click the open/close state to use. The action assignment screen opens.
- 4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.

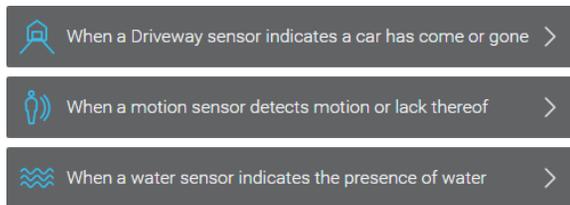
## Creating a sensor event

Smart sensors throughout your home can tell you when a vehicle is on the driveway, when motion is detected, or when a water leak is present.

### To create a sensor event:

1 In the *Automation* home screen, click one:

- **When a driveway sensor indicates a car has come or gone**
- **When a motion sensor detects motion or lack thereof**
- **When a water sensor indicates the presence of water**



2 A list of driveway sensors, motion sensors, or water sensors opens, including the available sensor states.



3 Click the sensor state you want to use. The action assignment screen opens.

4 Go to “Selecting a “Then”” on page 11.



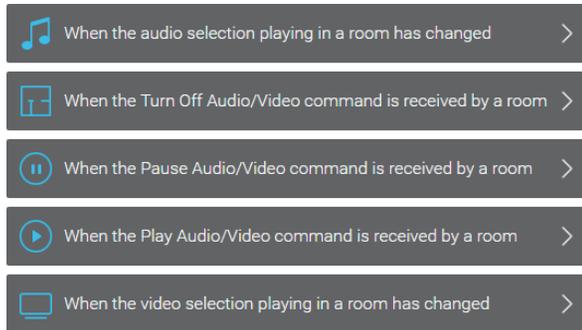
## Creating a room media event

You can use the condition of media playback in any room to start an automation. Whenever a movie is started or stopped, whenever a streaming music station is changed, and whenever a video or audio source has changed, you can change lighting, security, temperature—anything that's connected to your smart home.

### To create a room media event:

1 In the *Automation* home screen, click one:

- When the audio selection playing in a room has changed
- When the Turn Off Audio/Video command is received by a room
- When the Pause Audio/Video command is received by a room
- When the Play Audio/Video command is received by a room
- When the video selection playing in a room has changed



2 A list of the rooms in your house opens.



3 Click the room you want to use. The action assignment screen opens.

4 Go to "Selecting a 'Then'" on page 11.

# Selecting a “Then”



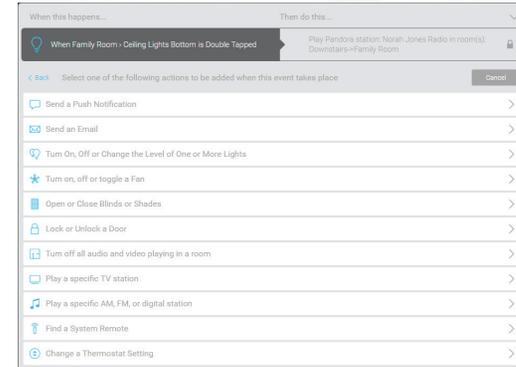
A “Then” is an action or actions that result from a “When” event. Your system has several “Thens” to select from:

- Send a push notification
- Send an email
- Turn on, off, or change the level of one or more lights
- Turn on, off, or toggle a fan
- Open or close blinds or shades
- Lock or unlock a door
- Turn off all audio and video playing in a room
- Play a specific TV station
- Play a specific AM, FM, or digital station
- Find a system remote
- Change a thermostat setting

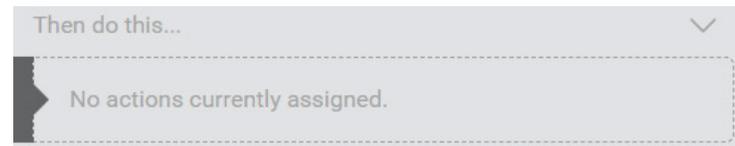
**Note:** Available actions depend on which devices are installed in the home. If you want to control a device but don't see it listed as a “Then” option, ask your Control4 Dealer for help.

## To set a “Then” action:

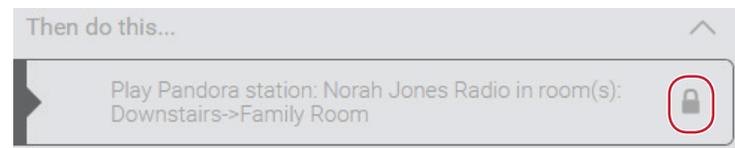
- 1 After you have set the “When” event, you are brought to the action assignment screen.



- 2 The first time you set an action for a particular event, the summary bar (near the top of the screen) should read “No actions currently assigned.”



- 3 If the summary bar is grayed out with a lock icon, then the automation has been programmed by your Control4 Dealer, and only they can change it.



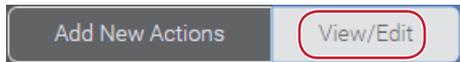
- 4 Select an action. The configuration screen for that action type opens.
- 5 Follow the on-screen prompts to complete the automation.

# Editing automations

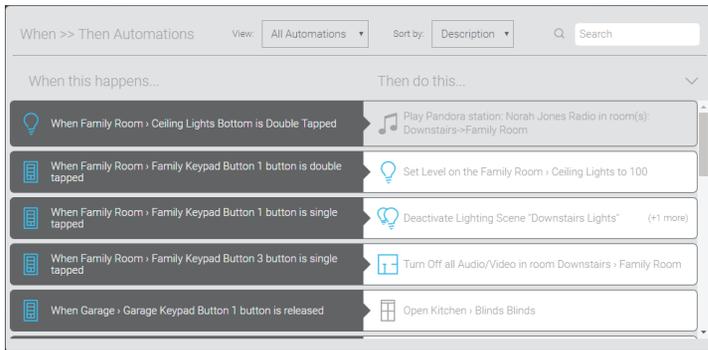
After you've assigned an action to an event, you can either use the new automation as-is, or add/delete, enable/disable multiple actions. With the addition of enough tasks to an event, pressing one button can "wake up" your entire house (or put it to bed).

## To edit an existing automation:

- 1 In the *Automation* home screen, click **View/Edit**.



The *When >> Then Automations* edit screen opens.



**Tip:** If an automation already has multiple actions, the "Then" half of the display will show how many more are active.



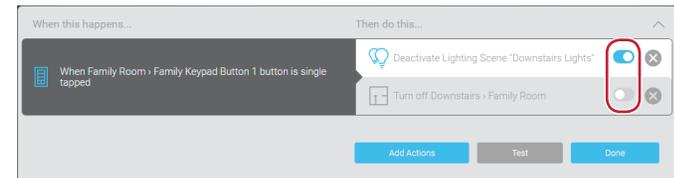
- 2 Click the automation you want to add an action to. The automation details screen opens.



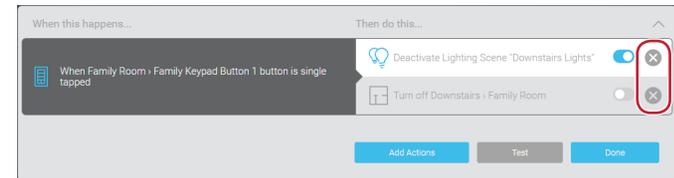
- 3 To add an action, click **Add actions** and change the event settings as previously shown.



- 4 To toggle an action off (or on), click the toggle button next to the action.



- 5 To delete an action, click the delete button next to the action.



- 6 To delete the whole automation, delete each of the actions, then click **Done**.

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## Contact information

Control4 Corporation  
11734 S. Election Road  
Salt Lake City, UT 84020 USA  
[www.control4.com](http://www.control4.com)