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Application Note # 107	ETC Application Notes are designed to provide specific helpful information regarding ETC's technology or about solving a problem using ETC equipment.
	If you need further assistance or information on this subject or any other, please contact ETC at 1-800-688-4116 or visit our web site at www.etcconnect.com.

Firmware Updates for Unison SmartLink and Unison Paradigm Dimming and Control Systems

Components:

The DRd enclosure is host to several individual components that require software. The most obvious are both of the Architectural Control Processors: the SmartLink ACP and Paradigm ACP. Other items include the DRd dimming engine assembly, Fluorescent Option, and DALI Option boards. In a cross-bussed AX12X system, there are two dimming engine assemblies and up to two options cards for fluorescent control (either DALI or FLO; only 1 per DRd), all of them running from a single ACP.

Firmware for all of these devices is provided in two packages, one for the SmartLink ACP and the other for the Paradigm ACP. Both include firmware for the ACPs themselves as well as all DRd components. Each firmware package has its own package version and guarantees compatibility between the subsystems. Also, the firmware versions within a package will vary over time and will not be the same version the package bears itself. The version of the constituent firmware files are viewable via either ACP in the About menu as well as in release notes for the package.

Rule of thumb:

If an ACP informs you of a Firmware Mismatch after installation in DRd enclosure, then you should obtain the latest package for either S-ACP or P-ACP and perform a firmware update via the File Operations menu (refer to your ACP programming manual for detail). An update operation aligns all of the components to the versions supplied within a given package, and guarantees proper operation.

You may not always receive a Firmware Mismatch error when the operating firmware is from differing packages, however this will be rare. For instance, if ETC releases a revision to the ACP software but not DRd, there will have been two consecutive package releases containing the same version of DRd software but have different ACP software. Therefore, a revision or new package version does not imply that a field upgrade is necessary or that the product will display a "Firmware Mismatch" error.

A quick note on other products in a Unison system:

The Paradigm Touchscreen and Unison Heritage line of stations require their own firmware and are unaffected by and do not use the aforementioned packages. The Paradigm Touchscreen firmware may require updates over time, and uses a straight forward update process via its local SD and USB removable media options. Unison Heritage stations, just like legacy Unison stations, cannot be easily field upgraded. ETC's policy on Heritage stations will typically be field replacement as this is the simplest option, however this will rarely ever be required.

A final note:

Always consult with ETC Technical Services and only perform software updates if the update will provide something that is required for you or your installation. Always read the release notes for the software and be sure you understand all technical errata.