Nortek HUSBZB-1

Nortek HUSBZB-1 QuickStick Combo USB Stick User Manual

Model: HUSBZB-1

1. Introduction

The Nortek HUSBZB-1 QuickStick Combo is a versatile USB stick designed to provide dual Z-Wave and Zigbee radio functionality. This device enables seamless integration of Z-Wave and Zigbee smart home devices with a compatible host system, acting as a central controller for various smart home ecosystems.
Key features include:

- Integrated Z-Wave and Zigbee radios.
- Z-Wave Certification ID: ZC10-15090013.
- Frequency Region: U.S./Canada/Mexico.
- Z-Wave Library Version: 6.51.06.
- Device Category: Controllers.

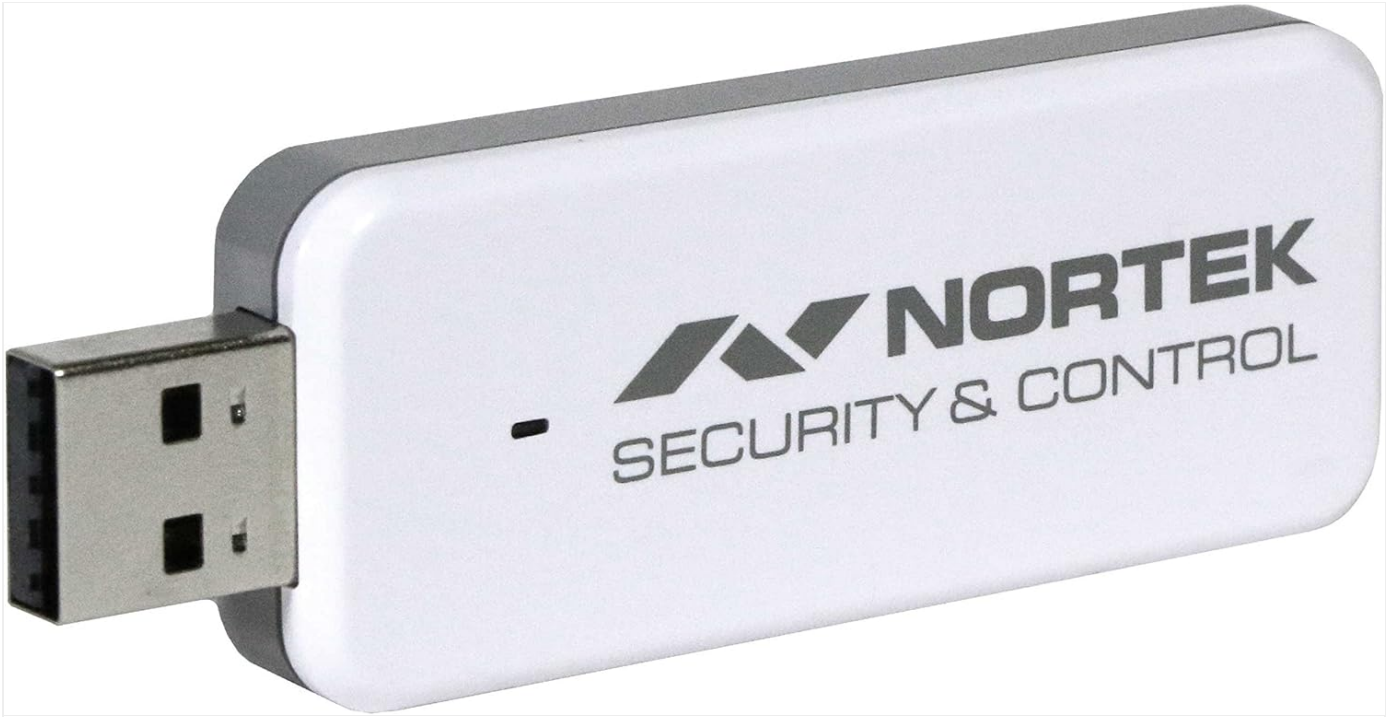


Figure 1: The Nortek HUSBZB-1 QuickStick Combo USB Stick. This image displays the white USB dongle with the 'Nortek Security & Control' logo, featuring a standard USB-A connector.



Figure 2: Z-Wave Plus Logo. This logo indicates the device's compliance with Z-Wave Plus standards, offering enhanced features and compatibility.

2. Setup

2.1 Physical Installation

1. **Identify a USB Port:** Locate an available USB 2.0 Type A port on your host device (e.g., computer, Raspberry Pi, NAS).
2. **Insert the Device:** Carefully insert the HUSBZB-1 USB stick into the identified USB port. Ensure it is fully seated.
3. **Consider a USB Extension Cable:** For optimal performance, especially when using with devices like a Raspberry Pi, it is recommended to use a USB extension cable (approximately 10 inches) to distance the HUSBZB-1 from the host device. This can help mitigate potential interference that may affect Zigbee and Z-Wave signal reliability.

2.2 Software Configuration

The HUSBZB-1 requires software integration with a compatible smart home platform to function. Common platforms include Home Assistant and OpenHAB.

- **Driver Recognition:** In most modern operating systems and smart home distributions (e.g., Home Assistant OS), the device drivers for the HUSBZB-1 are often pre-installed or automatically detected.
- **Platform Integration:**
  - **Home Assistant:** The device is typically recognized by Home Assistant, prompting for Z-Wave JS and ZHA (Zigbee Home Automation) integrations. Follow the on-screen instructions within Home Assistant to configure these integrations.
  - **OpenHAB:** Similar integration processes apply. Refer to the OpenHAB documentation for specific steps on adding Z-Wave and Zigbee controllers.
  - **Virtual Machines (VMs):** If running your smart home platform in a VM (e.g., on Synology DSM 7), ensure the USB device is properly passed through to the virtual machine. This usually involves selecting the "Silicon Labs HubZ Smart Home Controller" in the VM settings.
- **Firmware Updates:** While the device works out of the box, firmware updates may be available to improve performance or add features. Updating firmware can be a technical process and may require specific tools or a Linux PC. Consult community resources or the manufacturer's support for detailed instructions if considering a firmware update.

3. Operating the Device

3.1 Pairing Z-Wave Devices

1. **Initiate Inclusion Mode:** In your smart home platform's Z-Wave integration settings, activate the "Add Device" or "Inclusion" mode.
2. **Activate Device Pairing:** Follow the specific instructions for your Z-Wave device to put it into pairing mode (e.g., pressing a button, cycling power).
3. **Confirm Pairing:** Your smart home platform should detect and add the device. Assign a name and location as prompted.
4. **Network Healing:** After adding multiple Z-Wave devices, especially those acting as repeaters, it is often beneficial to

perform a Z-Wave network heal or re-interview to optimize routing.

3.2 Pairing Zigbee Devices

1. **Initiate Pairing Mode:** In your smart home platform's Zigbee integration settings (e.g., ZHA), activate the "Add Device" or "Permit Join" mode.
2. **Activate Device Pairing:** Follow the specific instructions for your Zigbee device to put it into pairing mode. This often involves a series of power cycles or holding a reset button.
3. **Confirm Pairing:** Your smart home platform should detect and add the device. Assign a name and location as prompted.
4. **Zigbee Mesh Network:** Zigbee devices form a mesh network. For larger homes or to extend range, strategically place mains-powered Zigbee devices (e.g., smart plugs, light bulbs) that act as repeaters. The HUSBZB-1 supports a limited number of directly connected Zigbee devices (e.g., 32 devices); repeaters help expand this capacity and network reliability.

3.3 General Operation Tips

- **Device Placement:** Position the HUSBZB-1 centrally within your smart home environment for optimal signal coverage.
- **Interference:** Keep the USB stick away from sources of electromagnetic interference, such as Wi-Fi routers, large metal objects, or other USB 3.0 devices.
- **Network Health:** Regularly monitor the health of your Z-Wave and Zigbee networks within your smart home platform.

4. Maintenance

- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the Nortek support website or relevant smart home community forums for available firmware updates. While not always necessary, updates can provide bug fixes, performance improvements, or new features. Exercise caution and follow instructions precisely when performing firmware updates.
- **Host System Updates:** Ensure your host operating system and smart home platform software are kept up-to-date. This ensures compatibility and access to the latest drivers and features for the HUSBZB-1.
- **Physical Care:** Keep the USB stick in a dry, clean environment. Avoid exposing it to extreme temperatures, moisture, or physical impact.

5. Troubleshooting

5.1 Device Not Recognized

- **Check USB Connection:** Ensure the HUSBZB-1 is securely plugged into a functional USB port. Try a different USB port.
- **Reboot Host System:** A simple reboot of your host device can often resolve recognition issues.
- **Verify VM Passthrough:** If using a virtual machine, confirm that the USB device is correctly passed through to the VM.
- **Driver Installation:** Although often automatic, verify that necessary drivers are installed on your host system. Consult your smart home platform's documentation for specific driver requirements.

5.2 Pairing Difficulties / Unreliable Connection

- **USB Extension Cable:** If experiencing issues, especially with a Raspberry Pi, use a USB extension cable to move the HUSBZB-1 away from the host device to reduce interference.
- **Distance to Devices:** Ensure the device you are trying to pair is within range of the HUSBZB-1 or a repeater. Try pairing closer to the controller first.
- **Interference Sources:** Move the HUSBZB-1 away from other wireless devices (Wi-Fi routers, cordless phones) or large metal objects.
- **Zigbee Mesh:** For Zigbee, ensure you have enough mains-powered devices acting as repeaters to build a robust mesh network.
- **Z-Wave Network Heal:** For Z-Wave, perform a network heal or re-interview of devices within your smart home platform.
- **Reset Device:** Try factory resetting the Z-Wave or Zigbee device you are trying to pair before attempting to pair again.

5.3 Zigbee2MQTT Compatibility

- The HUSBZB-1 may require specific firmware updates or advanced configuration to work with Zigbee2MQTT. This is not an out-of-the-box feature and may require technical expertise. Consider dedicated Zigbee coordinators for Zigbee2MQTT if you encounter persistent issues.

6. Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	HUSBZB-1
Manufacturer	Nortek
Brand	Z-Wave Plus
Part Number	HUSBZB-1
Hardware Interface	USB 2.0 Type A
Compatible Devices	Z-Wave and Zigbee Devices
Data Transfer Rate	150 Megabits Per Second
Item Weight	0.634 ounces (0.02 Kilograms)
Package Dimensions	3.78 x 2.28 x 0.98 inches
Item Package Quantity	1
Z-Wave Certification ID	ZC10-15090013
Frequency Region	U.S./Canada/Mexico
Z-Wave Library Version	6.51.06
UPC	642872867529
Date First Available	September 10, 2015

7. Warranty Information

Specific warranty details for the Nortek HUSBZB-1 QuickStick Combo are not provided in this manual. For comprehensive warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your purchase or visit the official Nortek website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

8. Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or further inquiries, please contact Nortek customer support. You may find contact information and additional resources on the official Nortek website. Online communities and forums dedicated to smart home platforms like Home Assistant and OpenHAB can also be valuable resources for user-contributed solutions and advice.

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Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. Privacy details.

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question