Z-Wave Guide

Because Z-Wave home automation is modular and don't need a central controller you can start off with different designs to suit your pocket and needs. Below we are going to look at three different options, the functionality you will get, what items you need and approximate costs. We recommend that a qualified electrician do your installation. Remember that you can always expand your current setup by adding more modules, no need to throw anything away!

1. **What you will get : Dim and brighten a light switch with a remote.**

   What you need to buy:

   Z-Wave Minimote

   Micro Smart Energy Illuminator

   The micro module will need a 3-wire (neutral) installation. Because of its small size it will fit behind your existing switch, no need to change it. It can also operate with a rocker or momentarily switch. The micro module will also allow you to dim lights that you couldn't before without needing to install a separate transformer or dimmer module. Install the micro module as per instructions. You then associate the light switch with the corresponding button on the minimote with a press of a button. You now have a remote controlled switch. By adding more micro modules you can then also associate a "scene" with a button on the minimote. Let's say you have 4 x micro modules and the minimote. Tonight you decide you want to have a romantic dinner and the perfect scene to go with it will be for the dining lights to be at 70% dim, lounge lights at 30% dim, hallway lights 30% and the kitchen lights to be off. To do this you will use the local switch of each light and adjust it to your liking. You then associate the "scene" with another button on the minimote and voila!, every time you press the "scene" button it will return to your chosen preset.

   Approximated Costs:

1 x Minimote R650

1 x Micro Smart Energy Illuminator R650

Total: R 1 300

2. **What you will get : Control your lights via your pc and add advanced macro's and events.**

What you need to buy:

Z-Wave USB Stick2

Micro Smart Energy Illuminator

PC (if you don't have one)

Home Automation software (commercial or open-source)

As above you will do the same installation with the micro smart energy illuminator. You will then need to buy or download home automation software.

Commercial software: Homeseer, mControl.

Open source: LinuxMCE,Open Z-Wave

The possibilities are endless what you can do with some of this software. The most expensive one but also the most featured packed software is definitely Homeseer and with a very active community of members. mControl v3 by Embedded Automation has just been released after a long while. Not so much advanced functionality but the interface is brilliant and definitely beats Homeseer on that front. LinuxMCE has also been a favourite as it's free and also a very active community.

Approximated Costs:

1 x Z-Stick2 USB R650

1 x Micro Smart Energy Illuminator R650

1 x PC (R2500 to R7000)

1 x Homeseer (between R2000 and R5000 depending on standard or pro version) or mControl (R1100) or LinuxMCE (Free)

3. **What you will get : Control your lights via a dedicated Z-Wave controller appliance. You can then manage your house from anywhere in the world using your iPhone, iPad, Android phone, PC and other mobile devices.**

What you need to buy:

Micasa Vera2 Z-Wave appliance

Micro Smart Energy Illuminator

As in option 1 and 2 you will need to do the same installation with the micro module. You will then install and associate your light with the Vera2 controller. The Vera2 is an excellent option as you don't have to worry about having to buy a PC or extra software. You can also access the controller via the internet by connecting it to your wireless ADSL router. You can add hundreds of devices to your Vera network and even add multiple Veras to your home or small business. You have unlimited options for scenes, rooms, timers, events and notifications.

Other benefits:

- Guaranteed compatibility with ALL Z-Wave devices – Includes scene controllers and all sorts of sensors, etc., so you can take advantage of everything the Z-Wave world offers–not just appliance modules and a thermostat.

- Simple, focused setup wizard – Simple 1,2,3 set up makes it easy for anyone to use.

- Advanced set-up Tab – Vera is extensible to also appeal to enthusiasts and advanced users with features seen only in high-end systems, like infrared/universal remote control, integration with monitored alarm system, ability to bridge multiple Z-Wave networks, works with INSTEON, X10 and other platforms.

- No Broadband Connection Needed for local control – Vera can set-up and configure your network and control all your devices without any internet connection.

- MiOS Application Marketplace – The growing APP store includes numerous 3rd party apps that extend your experience, such as weather forecasting, media control, alarm panel integration, remote live video streaming, etc., and more and it's growing all the time.

Approximated Costs:

1 x Micasa Vera2 Z-Wave appliance R2950

1 x Micro Smart Energy Illuminator R650

Total Cost: R 3 600

And it doesn't stop here! You can add Z-Wave motion sensors, Door sensors, thermostats, water flow meters and a lot more to any of the above solutions.