

Cobalt Cube Quick Start Guide



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To ensure that you experience a smooth, first-time set up process with the Cobalt Cube®, we recommend that you check out our Knowledge Base, which contains a range of useful resources to help you get started. You can:

- Read the Cobalt Cube technical documentation
- Watch step-by-step video tutorials
- Read the FAQ's
- Generate support requests

You should have already received an email with the login details, [click here to log in.](#)

To help you get up and running with the Cobalt Cube, this Quick Start Guide highlights the key steps and points you to the relevant sections of the '*Getting Started Guide*' document.

Power on and connecting to vehicle

What you need:

- The Cobalt Cube power connector and pins included in the box, to wire it to a 12V supply (see section '*Cobalt Cube power connector*')
- USB cabling to connect the Cobalt Cube to the vehicle, depending on your vehicle's USB ports

If the vehicle has USB-A ports:

- USB-A to USB-C cable

Or if the vehicle has USB-C ports:

- USB-C to USB-A converter connected to the vehicle
- USB-A to USB-C cable from the converter to the Cobalt Cube

- Note that a single USB-C to USB-C cable instead may work in most vehicles but it's not guaranteed

For optimum reliability all USB cabling should be USB-IF certified and 1 metre or less in length. VNC Automotive recommends Anker USB-IF certified USB cables based on our own testing (see the dedicated FAQ section for exact recommendations).

It is advisable, but not essential, to have the following to troubleshoot any connection setup issues:

- A mouse and/or touchscreen-enabled HDMI monitor
- An HDMI cable to connect the monitor to the Cobalt Cube's HDMI port
- A USB mouse or touchscreen cable to connect to the Cobalt Cube's HOST port

Once you have connected the Cobalt Cube to the vehicle and the automated first-time setup is completed, you will be able to interact with the the Cobalt Cube interface from the vehicle screen.

General configuration

Admin-level options are accessible from a hidden menu, protected by a PIN code (see section '*System customisation*'). These settings control which apps are visible on the home screen and navigation bar, networking configuration, system updates, and more.

User-level options are accessible from the dedicated My Settings app. These settings allow the user to connect and manage Bluetooth devices, connect to Wi-Fi networks, check the system version, and more.

If you have received Cobalt Cube units that are pending activation, then you will first need to use the Activation Code provided by your technical representative. This is a file with extension CCA that can be loaded using a USB stick (*'Product activation'*).

If these Cube Cube units are no longer running the latest system update, then see below for how to update them.

Audio support

To receive media or app audio on the vehicle speakers from a PC or mobile device, pair the device to the Cobalt Cube using Bluetooth from My Settings (*'Bluetooth→Manage devices'*).

To receive phone call audio on the vehicle speakers from a mobile device, first link the device to the Cobalt Cube from My Settings (*'Phone Call Support'*). Finally, pair the device to the vehicle

using Bluetooth.

Cobalt Cube system updates

VNC Automotive will periodically release system updates for new functionality, bug fixes, security improvements and continued compatibility with vehicle software. It is strongly recommended that units are kept up to date.

These updates can be applied with the following methods:

- Via the Internet using our OTA Update Service (over Wi-Fi, Ethernet or USB modem)
 - This can be configured from the admin settings (*'Automatically download system updates'*)
 - Note that, before activation this is temporarily enabled for seamless provisioning (*'Activation options menu'*)
- Via a PC running the Cobalt Link+ application
 - This can be configured from the admin settings (*'MDT→System Update'*)
- Via a USB stick
 - This is enabled by default
 - The update process is started immediately without user interaction required

The latest system update for Cobalt Cube can always be downloaded from this link:

<https://files.vncautomotive.com/cobaltcube-update>

Please see document *'System Update Guide'* for details on the update policy and available approaches. For a seamless experience, VNC Automotive can help recommend the best update approach for your needs.

VNC Automotive support

If you require further support, please email your account manager and CC

technicalsupport@vncautomotive.com, which will ensure someone is always available to pick up your enquiry.

MDT (PC) Control setup

What you need:

- An Ethernet cable from the Cobalt Cube to the Windows PC or your in-vehicle network router

Decide how you want to connect the Cobalt Cube to the PC (see document *'MDT Control guide'*):

- Using a direct connection with the Cobalt Cube handling IP address assignment
 - This can be configured from the admin settings ('*DHCP Server*') on the Cobalt Cube
- Using a direct connection with static IP addresses
 - This can be configured from the admin settings ('*Ethernet settings*') on the Cobalt Cube and from Windows network settings on the PC
- Using a router which already handles IP address assignment
 - This is the default behaviour on the Cobalt Cube

Download and install the Windows Cobalt Link+ Server:

<https://files.vncautomotive.com/cobaltlinkplus-windows>

For full instructions on this Windows application, see document '*Windows Server Getting Started guide*'.

Smartphone Control setup

What you need:

- An Android or iOS device running the VNC Automotive Cobalt Link+ app

Install our app from Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store:

- [Cobalt Link+ App on Google's Play Store](#)
- [Cobalt Link+ App on Apple's App Store](#)

Alternatively you can obtain the application files directly from:

- <https://files.vncautomotive.com/cobaltlinkplus-android>
- <https://files.vncautomotive.com/cobaltlinkplus-ios>

Decide how you want to connect the Cobalt Cube to the mobile device:

- Using a USB connection (Android only)
 - Connect the Android device to the HOST port
- Using a Wi-Fi connection
 - We recommend enabling the Wi-Fi hotspot on the Cobalt Cube from the admin settings

For full instructions, see document '*Smartphone Control guide*'.

Camera Feeds setup

What you need:

- Your camera hardware
- HDMI to USB converter, connected to the Cobalt Cube's HOST port
- HDMI cable for the camera output
- If the camera only supports analogue output, then additionally:
 - RCA to HDMI converter
 - Yellow RCA Phono cable for the camera output

For full instructions, see document '*Camera Feeds guide*'.

MCS Control setup

What you need:

- Standby® MCS Controller unit
- Standby MCS CAN Bridge (includes USB cable to connect to the Cobalt Cube's HOST port)
- Standby MCS handset (optional)

For full instructions, see document '*MCS Control guide*'.

Pathfinder Control setup

What you need:

- Federal Signal® Pathfinder Light & Siren Controller
- Federal Signal Pathfinder handset (optional)
- Ethernet CAT5 Cable (Generic) / RJ45 cable
- Waveshare® USB to RS485 converter (<https://amzn.eu/d/3quod9V>)

For full instructions, see document '*Pathfinder Control guide*'.

MCS Matrix Display setup

What you need:

- Standby® Traffic Commander unit
- Standby Matrix Display RS232 adaptor
- USB / serial RS232 cable to connect to the Cobalt Cube's HOST port

For full instructions, see document '*Matrix Display guide*'.