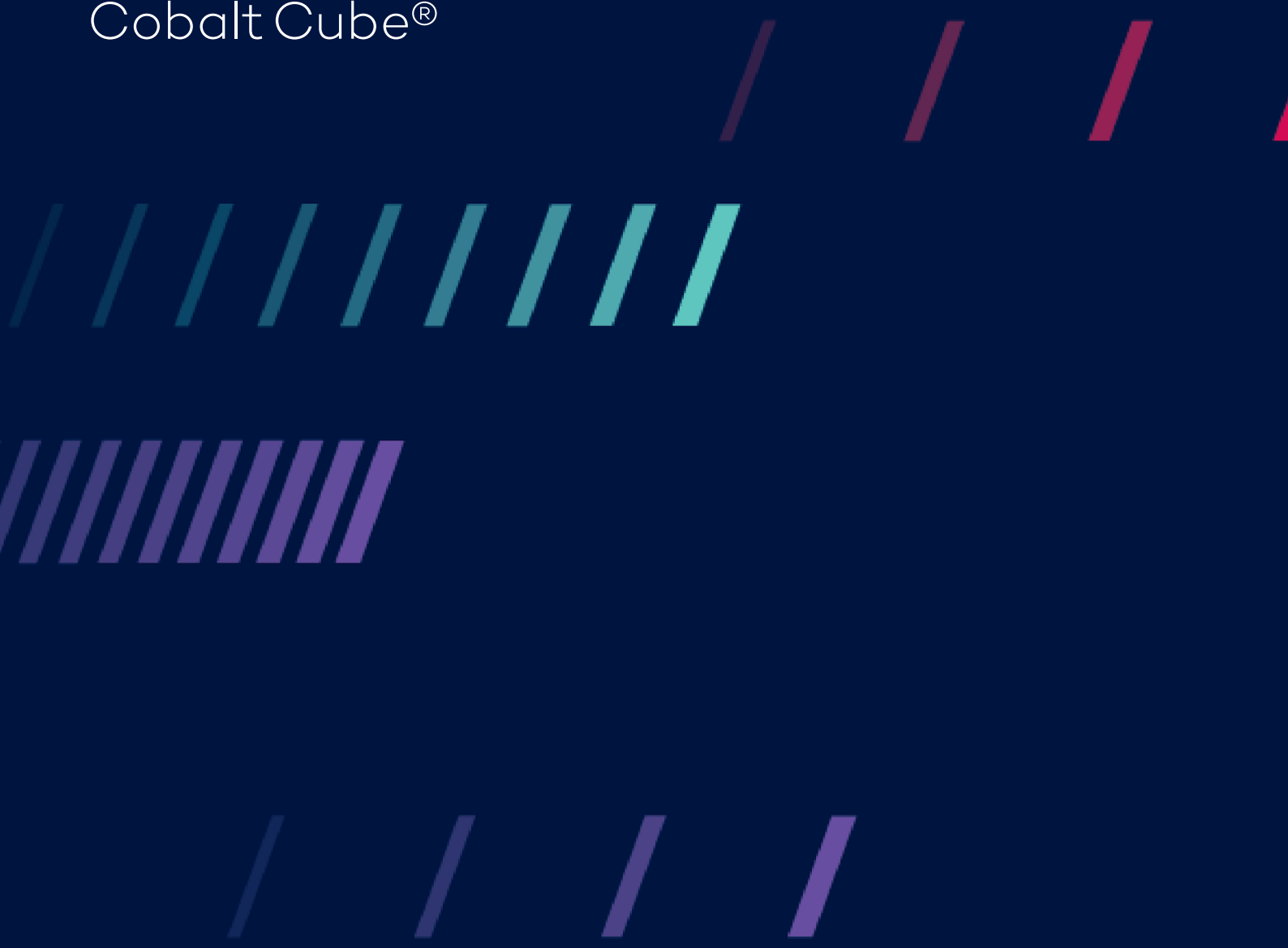


Getting Started Guide

Cobalt Cube®



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1 Cobalt Cube overview

The instructions detailed in this document will allow you to set up and evaluate the Cobalt Cube® hardware, as long as it has been flashed with a VNC Automotive production system image.

1.1 Cobalt Cube ports

The Cobalt Cube has a series of labelled ports. This guide will refer to some of them, this section details their purpose.



Figure 1: Cobalt Cube

- HDMI: HDMI out port, to connect the Cobalt Cube directly to a screen over HDMI. This can be used for troubleshooting the Android Auto connection (see the [Cobalt Cube FAQs](#) page).
- POWER: 12V power input.
- GPS: port to connect a GPS antenna to improve GPS positioning. It is not required for any use case covered in this document.
- ETHERNET: port to connect an RJ45 cable, to allow an Ethernet connection to the network.
- OTG: USB-C port. Provides 5V power input to the device. USB OTG connectivity to 3rd party devices is supported.
- HOST: USB host Standard-A port. Can be used to connect USB sticks or USB peripherals (e.g., a mouse) to the Cobalt Cube.
- DCP: USB Standard-A port for DC output (5V).

1.2 Cobalt Cube basic hardware setup

1. For use cases which require network connectivity: connect one end of the Ethernet cable to the ETHERNET port on the Cobalt Cube, and the other end to a free port on the network router/switch.
2. Connect a USB-A to USB-C cable to the Cobalt Cube. The USB-A end should plug into the Android Auto port on the vehicle and the USB-C end should be connected to the Cobalt Cube.
3. Plug the 12V power block into the POWER port of the Cobalt Cube.

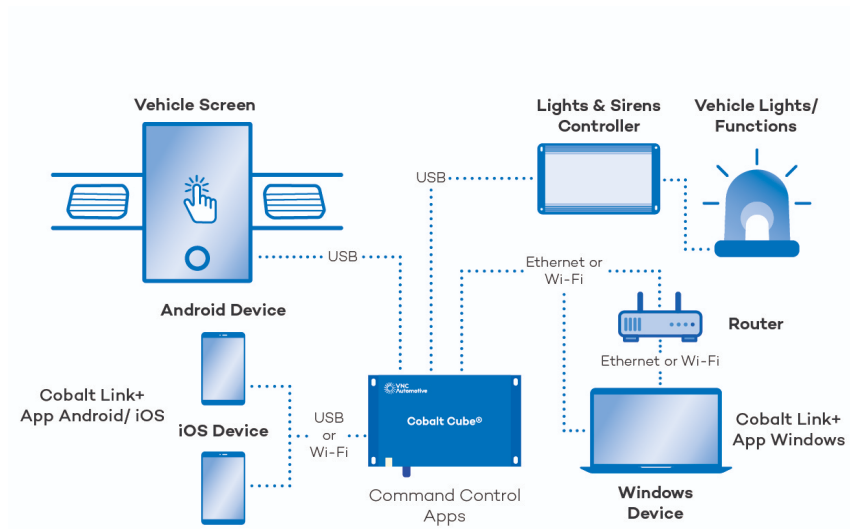


Figure 2: Possible hardware layout

1.3 Cobalt Cube power connector

Item	Part Number	Supplier Link
Power Connector	172167-1	https://uk.farnell.com/amp-te-connectivity/172167-1/plug-housing-4way/dp/1248283
Metal Contacts (x3)	170362-1	https://uk.farnell.com/amp-te-connectivity/170362-1/contact-socket-22-18-awg-crimp/dp/1772741

The image below shows the rear view of the power connector included with the Cobalt Cube.

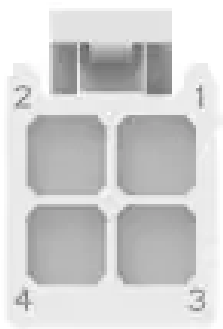


Figure 3: Cobalt Cube power connector, as seen from the side that faces away from the Cobalt Cube

The connector can be cabled into the vehicle as follows:

Pin number	Function
1	Ground
2	-
3	Battery plus
4	Accessory

For the Cobalt Cube to operate correctly, it must receive a constant 12v supply to both the battery plus and accessory pins. Therefore, it is advised to connect both cables to the same battery.

1.4 Reducing start-up time for Cobalt Cube content

To access content faster, the Cobalt Cube can be permanently powered by an auxiliary battery. This avoids waiting for the Cobalt Cube to boot when the car is switched on. In this case the Cobalt Cube should have both battery plus and accessory connected to this auxiliary supply.

1.5 Supported USB Stick file formats

The Cobalt Cube supports the following USB Stick file formats:

Format	Operating System Compatibility
fat32	Windows, Linux, Mac
ntfs	Windows
ext4	Linux

2 First-time setup

2.1 Automated acceptance of Android Auto prompts

The first time the Cobalt Cube is connected to a particular vehicle there are set-up prompts from Android Auto that need to be accepted. This process has been automated so that no user interaction is required. The Cobalt Cube needs to be powered on and plugged into the vehicle, then after 1-2 minutes, the Cobalt Cube screen should appear on the vehicle's screen. If the Cobalt Cube does not show on the vehicle's screen, follow the steps in the [Cobalt Cube FAQs page](#).

2.2 Product activation

The Cobalt Cube must be activated before it can be used. This is part of the Enterprise Device Management system for your fleet of Cobalt Cube units. The feature supports dynamic configuration and deployment of apps, services and settings. This is particularly useful for batches of units installed and/or managed by the same supplier, which are in use by different groups of users with differing needs. Product activation involves a unique code(s), including all the dynamic configuration required for the deployed unit(s).



Note: You will only require your activation code if the unit has been newly shipped, or the device has been factory reset and is displaying a screen as shown in [Figure 4](#).



Note: If you do not have an activation code for your units, contact your VNC Automotive technical representative to discuss your needs.

Product activation can be carried out before or after the unit has been fitted in a vehicle. When activating outside of a vehicle, attach an HDMI monitor and a mouse. In a vehicle, the vehicle's screen can be used when activating the Cobalt Cube. Until a Cobalt Cube is activated, it will remain on the screen shown in [Figure 4](#).

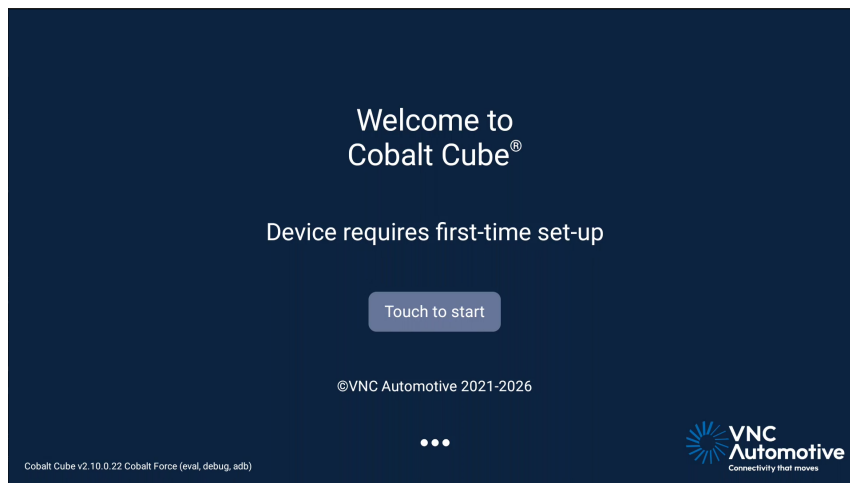


Figure 4: Welcome screen for Cobalt Cube activation

2.2.1 Activating a Cobalt Cube

On the screen in [Figure 4](#), click “Touch to start”. The screen in [Figure 5](#) will appear. Put your activation code on the USB stick. It is important that this file is not renamed between receiving it from VNC Automotive and applying it to a Cobalt Cube.

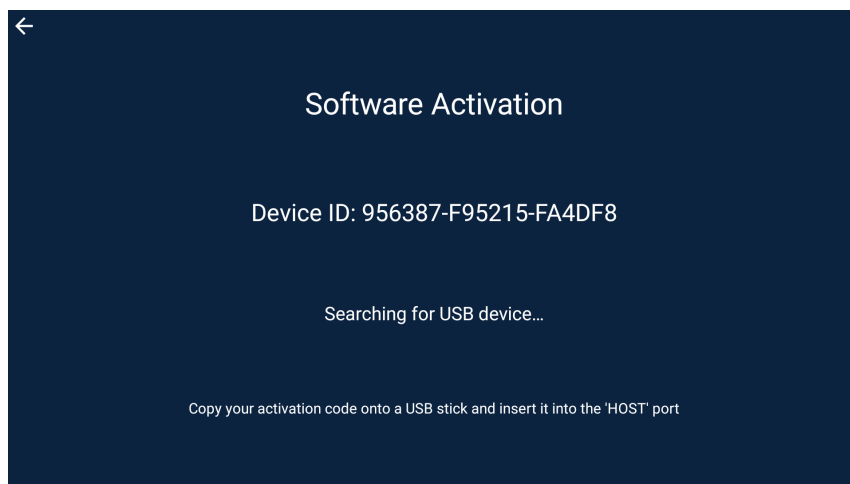


Figure 5: Activation screen

Insert the storage device with the activation code into the Cobalt Cube’s “HOST” port. When activating the Cobalt Cube in a vehicle, it may be easier to do this before starting the engine, if the Cobalt Cube is stored out of reach from the driver’s seat. When the storage device is detected by the Cobalt Cube, it will read the activation code and start the activation process, which should only take a few seconds. This will enable all purchased apps and apply any settings that have been specified in the activation code. Upon a successful activation, the screen in [Figure 6](#) will appear. Touch anywhere to navigate to the launcher screen shown in [Figure 11](#).

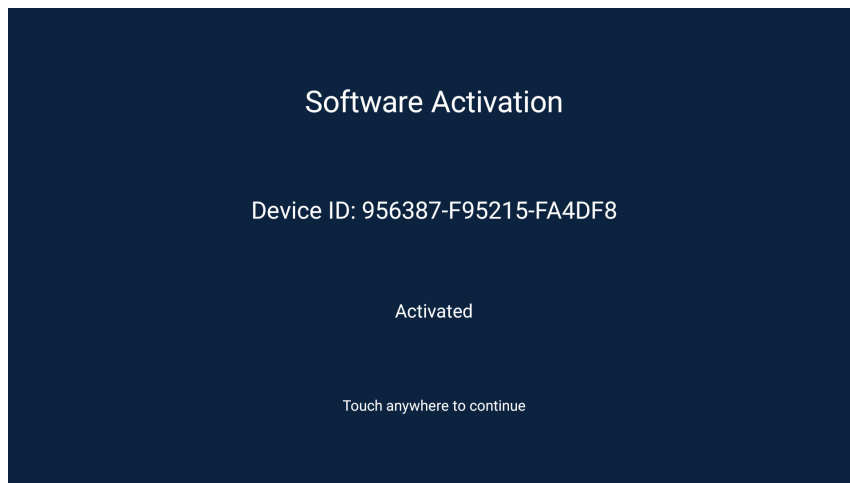


Figure 6: Activated screen



Note: if the storage device is not detected after ten seconds, try pressing the back button in the top-left corner, and then pressing the “Touch to start” button again. Otherwise, remove the device and re-insert it.

The Cobalt Cube will scan the removable storage device for activation codes, and ignore any that were created for devices other than itself. This is a convenience for installers that use the same USB stick to configure many devices over time. If there is more than one activation code that applies to a particular unit, the user must select one using the dialog shown in [Figure 7](#).

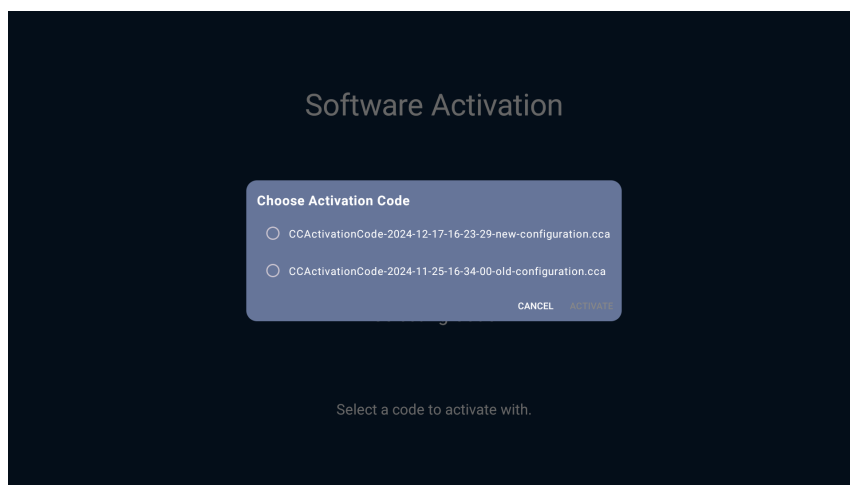


Figure 7: Activation code selection

Once an activation code is selected, and “ACTIVATE” is clicked, the activation process will continue in the same way as before, and the screen in [Figure 6](#) will be shown.



Note: Some activation options require that the Cobalt Cube is rebooted for the changes to take effect. In these cases you will see a prompt as per [Figure 8](#). The Reboot Later option may be used to potentially save time during initial device set-up if other settings are being configured at that time. The settings changes will all take effect the next time the unit is powered on.

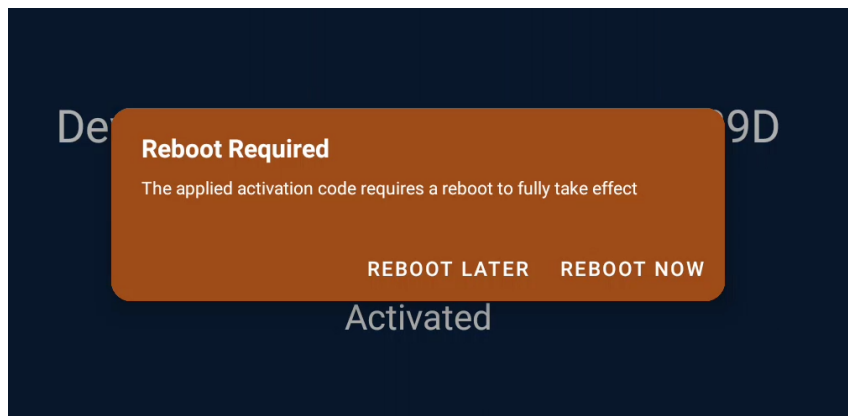


Figure 8: Activation code changes require a reboot

2.2.2 Activation options menu

Additional options and functionality can be accessed from the Activation screen by pressing on the three dots at the bottom of the screen as shown in [Figure 4](#).



Note: This screen is only available for units that have not been activated or have been factory reset.

From this options screen you can:

1. Update the Cobalt Cube to the latest system software version.
2. Manage Wi-Fi networks.
3. Save diagnostic logs to a USB stick for sharing with VNC Automotive.
4. Factory reset the Cobalt Cube.

See [Figure 9](#).

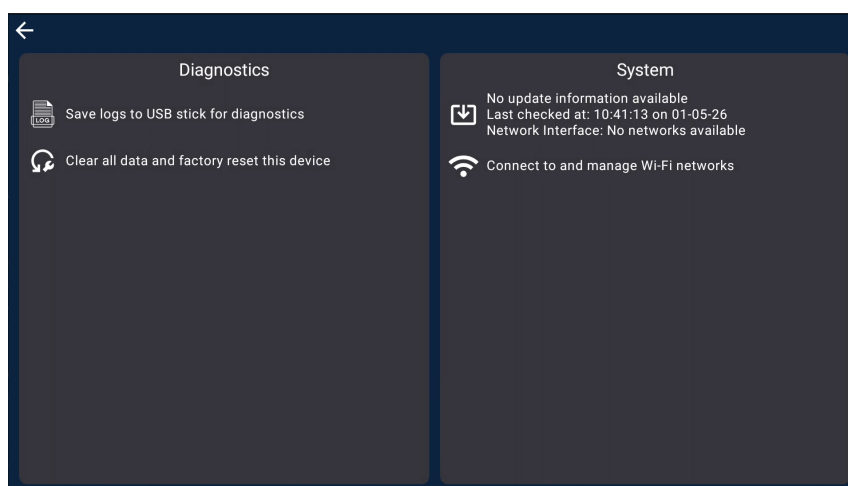


Figure 9: Activation options screen



Note: Whilst units pending activation will automatically search for updates on any connected network, activated units explicitly have the over-the-air update setting disabled – it is our policy to, by default, disallow any unnecessary network traffic. The Internet OTA feature can be enabled automatically if this has been specifically requested to be included as part of the activation code on behalf of the customer, or if the setting is manually enabled. See [section 6](#) for more information on update options once activated.

2.3 Activation code details

The name of the current activation code applied to a Cobalt Cube (if any) can be found under the Admin Settings of the Cube Home app as shown in [Figure 10](#)

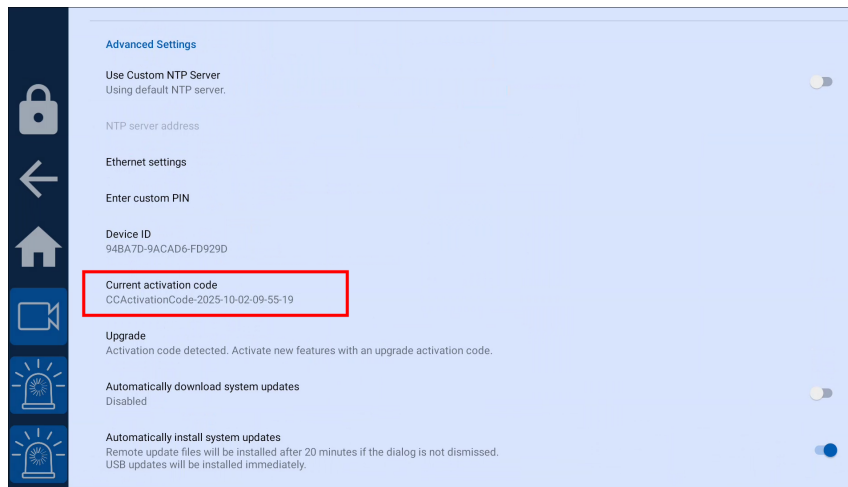


Figure 10: Applied activation code details

3 System customisation

The Cobalt Cube comes pre-installed with Android and includes a selection of applications based on the options purchased. The Android image can be updated (see [section 6](#)). All installed applications can be launched from the Cobalt Cube launcher, shown in [Figure 11](#).

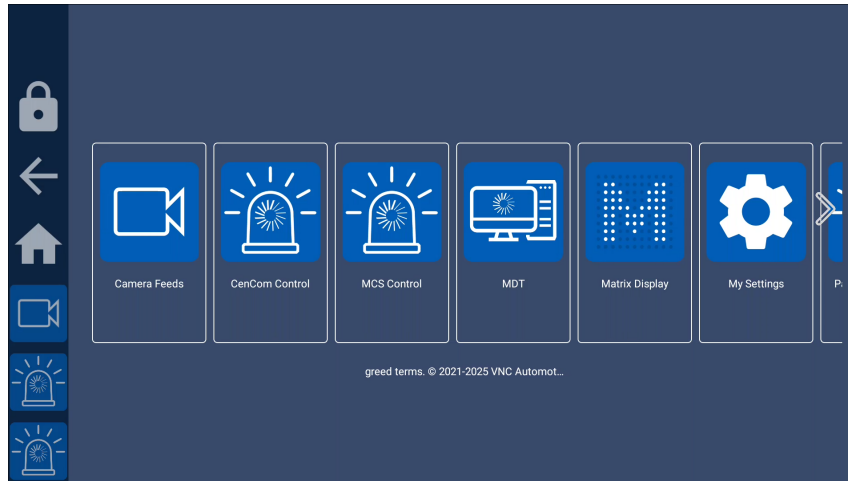


Figure 11: Cobalt Cube launcher

3.1 Accessing Cobalt Cube admin settings

The Cobalt Cube admin settings are accessed through a hidden menu on the main screen. This menu may be accessed by triple-tapping the bottom left corner of the main screen:

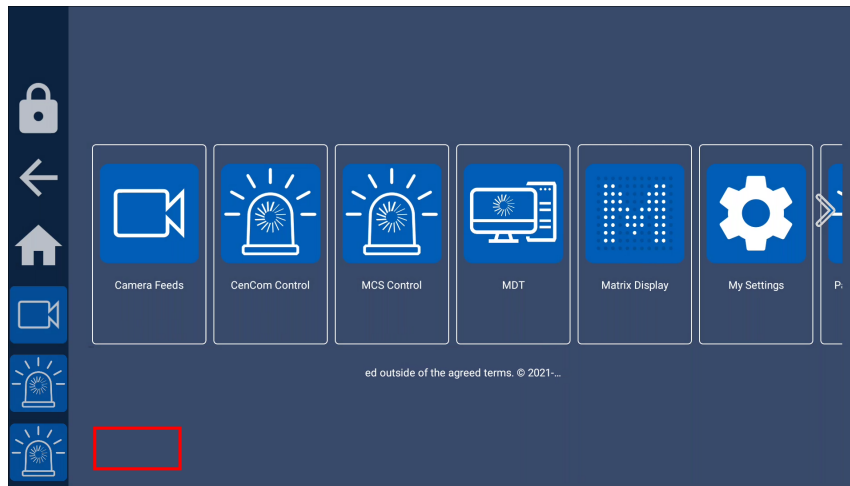


Figure 12: Area to triple-tap for Cobalt Cube settings

3.2 Settings PIN lock

The Cobalt Cube settings page is protected by a pin lock to prevent unwanted user tampering when the unit is deployed.

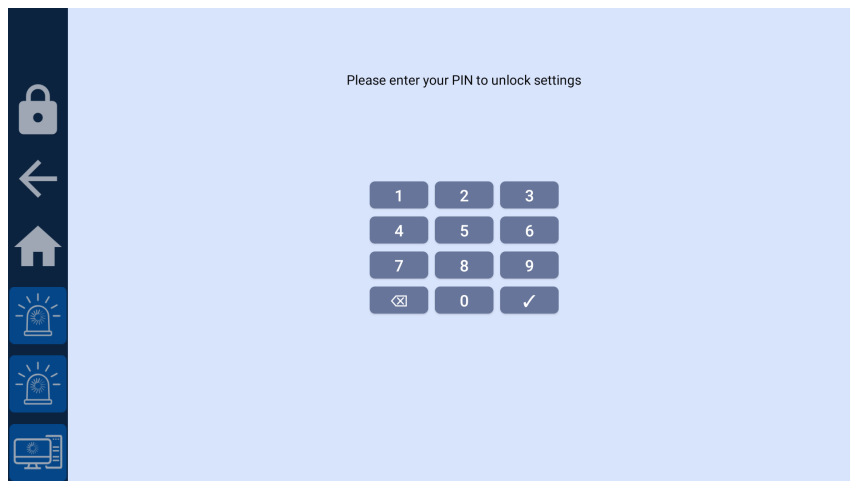


Figure 13: Settings PIN lock

The Cobalt Cube ships with a default pin code of: 2823

You can change this default pin once you access the Cobalt Cube admin settings menu.



Note: if you forget your updated pin there is no way to reset it.

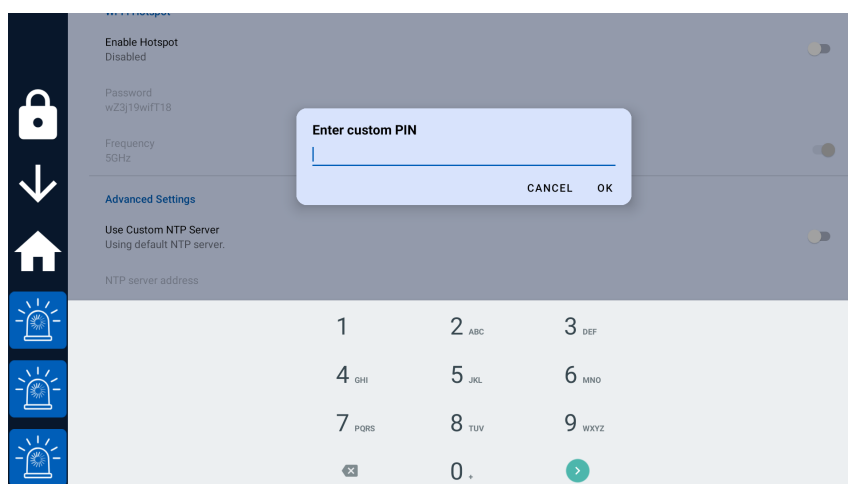


Figure 14: Custom PIN entry

3.3 Application specific settings

Some applications on the Cobalt Cube have their own settings menus. These can be found at the top of the Cobalt Cube admin settings page. A single tap on each listed icon will launch the settings for that app.

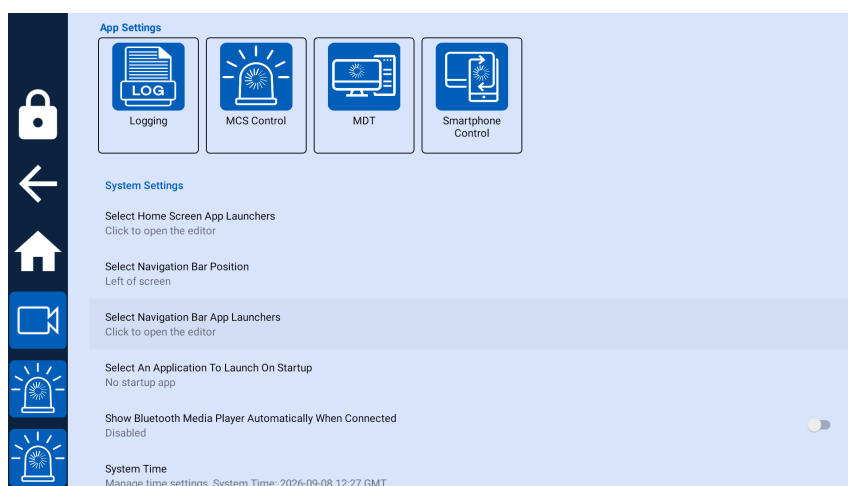


Figure 15: Application settings

3.4 Changing the display name for an application

Applications that support their own settings also support having their display name changed on the Cobalt Cube main screen. To enter a display name for an app, press and hold on the application icon at the top of the Cobalt Cube admin settings menu until the name change dialog appears.

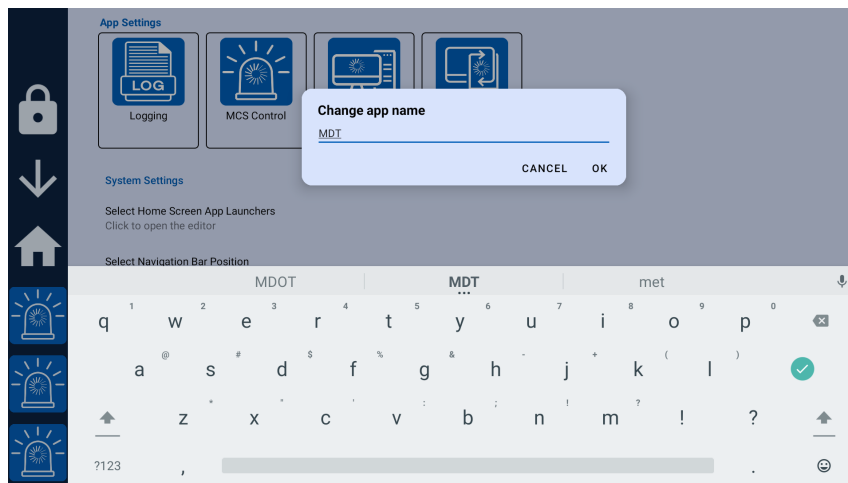


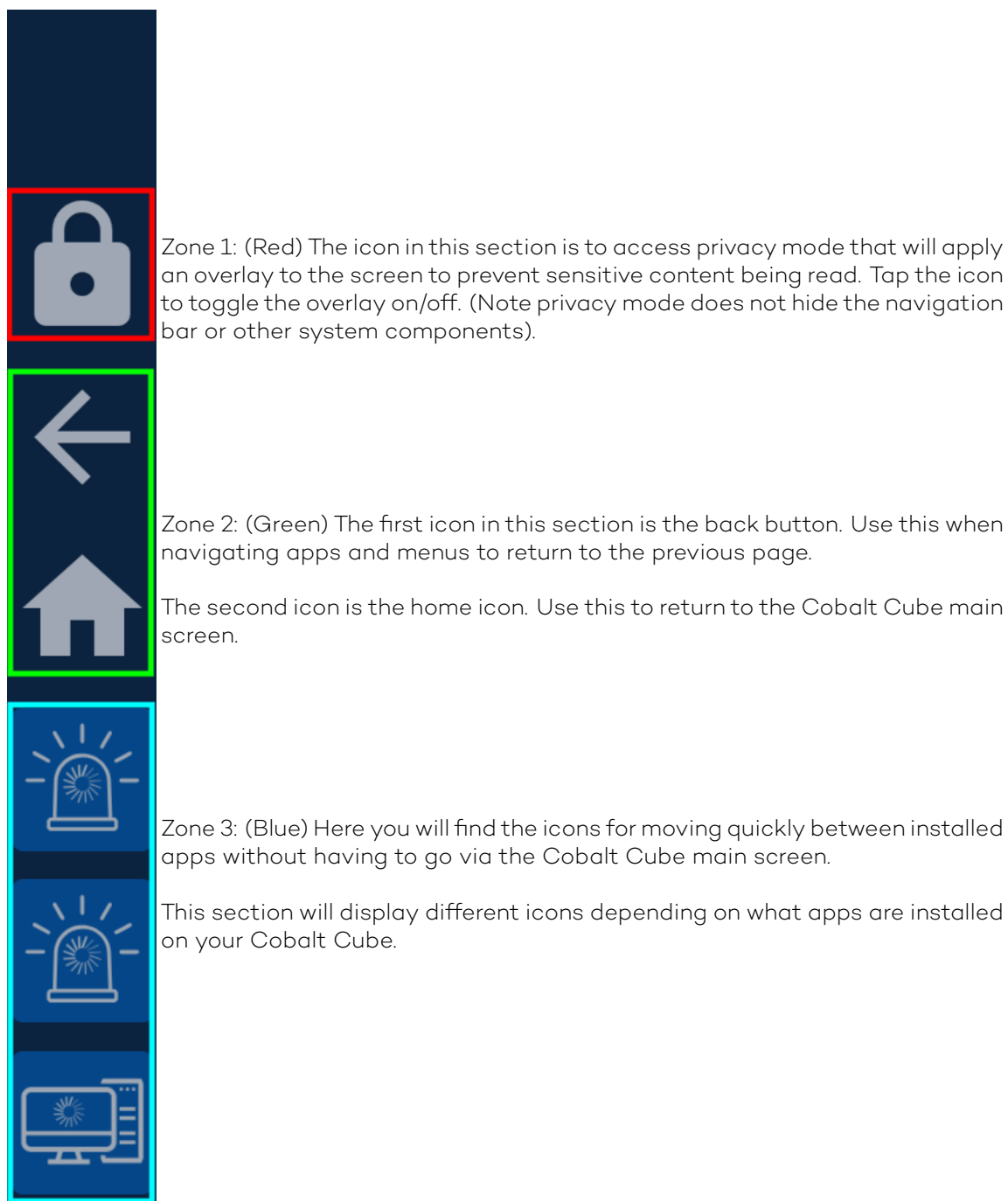
Figure 16: App name customisation



Note: The name of the Logging App will always be “Dump Logs” in the Cobalt Cube Launcher. This reflects the functionality of the app when shown in the launcher.

3.5 Navigation bar

The Cobalt Cube features a navigation bar that is divided into three zones:



3.5.1 Position

The Cobalt Cube navigation bar can be configured in four possible ways. By default, the navigation bar is present on the left side of the screen. When changing the position of the navigation bar the following list of four options will be shown as in [Figure 17](#).

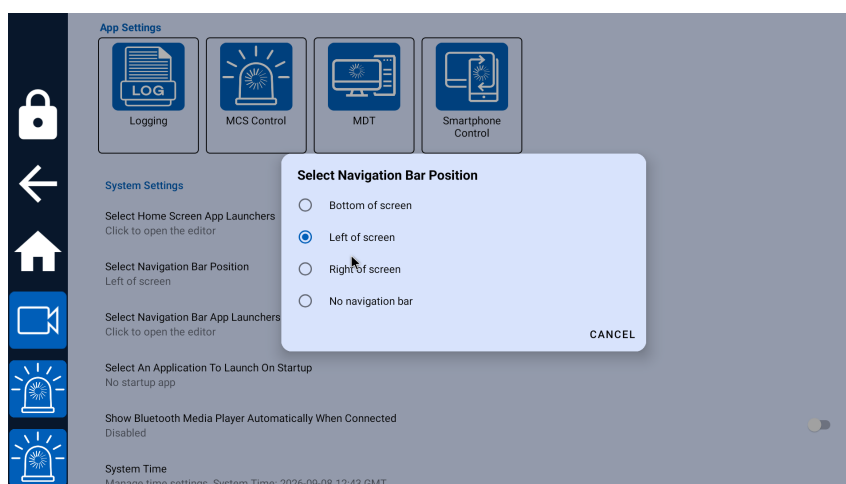


Figure 17: Navigation bar position dialog

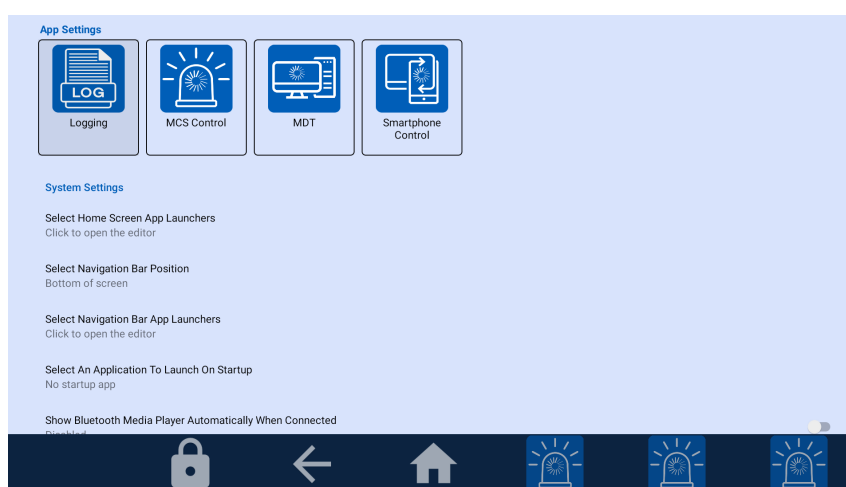


Figure 18: Navigation bar at the bottom of the screen

Note: Only applications pre-installed by VNC Automotive on the Cobalt Cube are guaranteed to be navigable when the navigation bar is hidden (done by selecting “No Navigation Bar” in the options). As such, we recommend that you keep the navigation bar visible and only turn it off if you have a specific reason to do so. Furthermore, when setting up your Cobalt Cube, disabling the navigation bar should be the last step you perform.

Note: If you choose to hide the navigation bar then navigation bar specific functionality such as “privacy mode” will be unavailable.

3.5.2 Navigation bar quick launch apps

There are three spaces for app launchers in the navigation bar. By default, these are populated by VNC Automotive applications. They can be changed by clicking “Select Navigation Bar App Launchers”. A dialog will appear showing the apps currently in the navigation bar as well as the apps that could be added to it. Apps that are not currently in the navigation bar are greyed out. Tap the greyed-out app icons in the dialog to add them to the navigation bar, and the non-greyed-out icons to remove them.

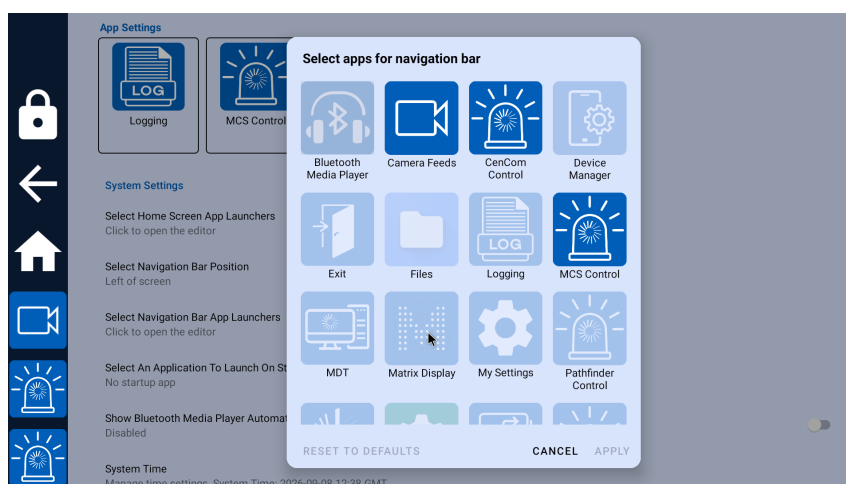


Figure 19: Navigation bar application picker



Note: The order in which apps are added to the navigation bar affects the order in which they are displayed.

3.6 Setting up the home screen

By default, the home screen is set up with all installed VNC Automotive applications listed in alphabetical order, except for Bluetooth Media Player and Logging. App launchers can be added or removed from the home screen by clicking the “Select Home Screen App Launchers” option. A dialog will appear with icons representing the apps that can be added to the home screen, which are greyed out, as well as apps that are already shown on the home screen, which are not greyed out. This dialog behaves in a similar way to the dialog for changing the apps in the navigation bar. Click the app icons in the dialog to select or deselect them. Selected apps will appear in the home screen once the changes are applied.

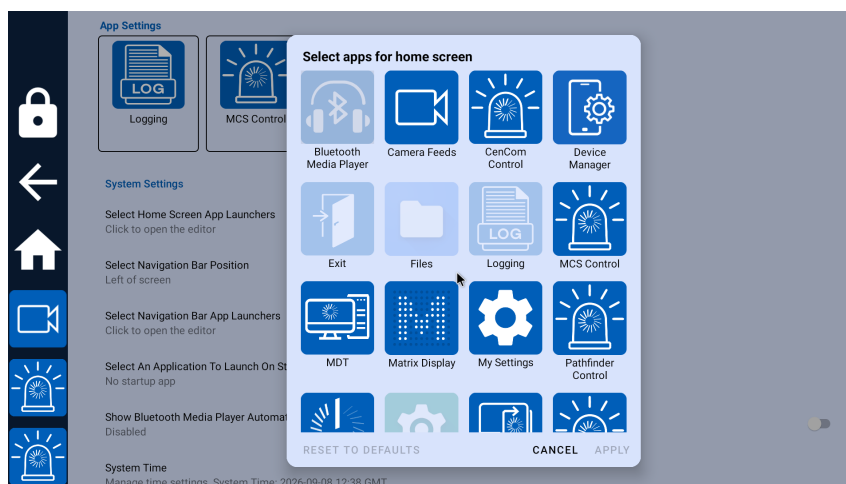


Figure 20: Home screen application picker

3.7 Setting a startup application

If there is an application that should open on startup, it can be selected in the “Select an application to launch on Startup” menu. By default, this is set to “No startup app”.

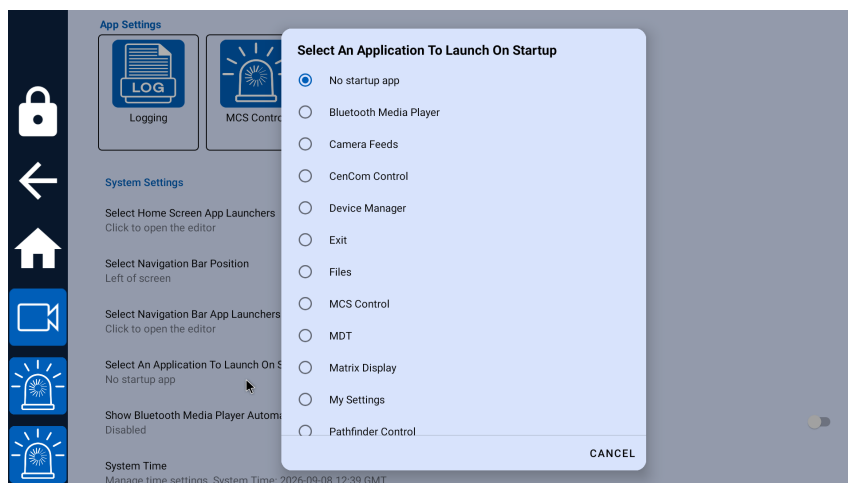


Figure 21: Startup application picker



Note: only apps shown on the home screen will appear in this menu. If an app is missing from this menu, add it to the home screen.

3.8 Setting a custom Network Time Protocol (NTP) server

The Cobalt Cube supports user defined NTP servers. Initially, three things need to be done before the custom NTP server will be enabled. First, the custom NTP server toggle under “Use Custom NTP Server” must be toggled on. Second, the “NTP server address” must be set to the desired IP address or domain name as seen in [Figure 22](#). After both these steps are complete, the Cobalt Cube must be rebooted for the changes to take effect.

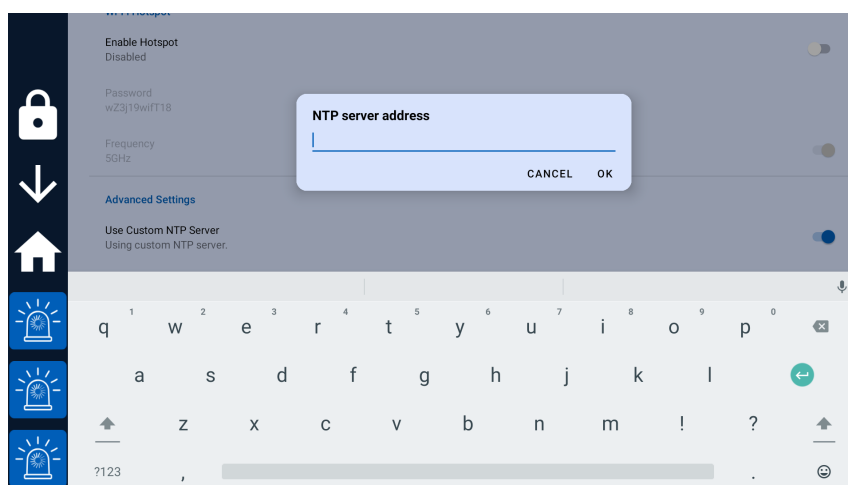


Figure 22: Choose custom NTP address

To disable the use of a custom NTP server the “Use Custom NTP Server” should be toggled off and the Cobalt Cube rebooted. There is no need to clear the address saved in “NTP server address” when disabling the custom NTP server. If an address is already present in “NTP server address” when “Use Custom NTP Server” is toggled on, then it will be applied after the subsequent reboot. When either the toggle is changed, or the address entered a prompt will show as in [Figure 23](#). This shows the following options: “CANCEL CHANGES” which stops that change from being applied and returns you to the settings, “REBOOT LATER” will save the change so it will be applied on any later reboot and “REBOOT NOW” which immediately reboots and applies the change.

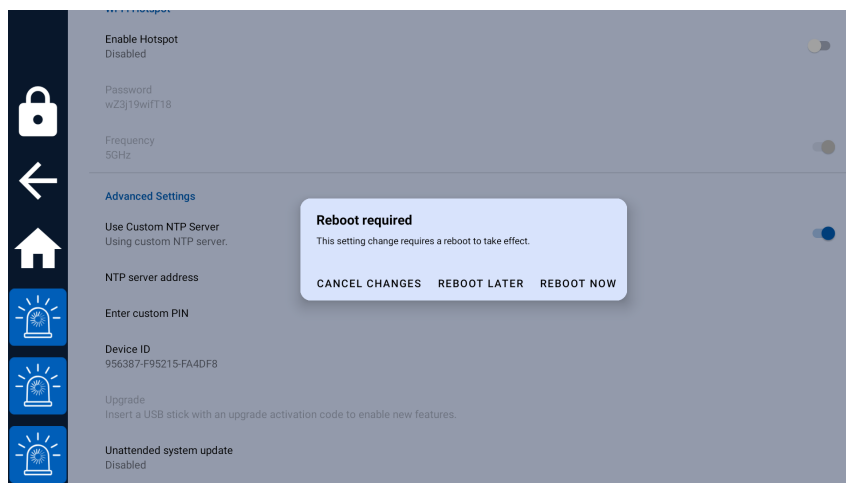


Figure 23: NTP reboot prompt



Note: The Cobalt Cube polls the custom NTP server once a minute. This allows the use of the server as a source of time-zone adjusted time, where large jumps are possible.

3.9 Device Manager

The Device Manager is used to manage Bluetooth connections between the Cobalt Cube and devices such as mobile phones, portable PCs and tablets. It allows users to pair new devices, toggle audio streaming, and manage phone call support.

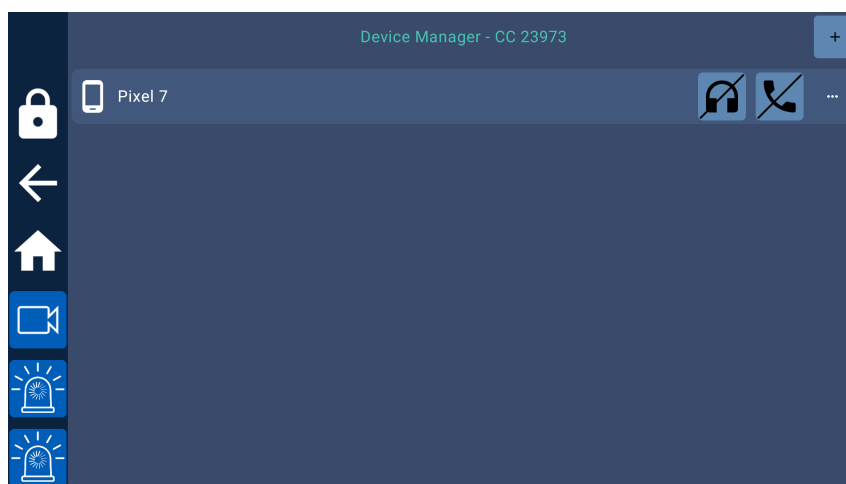


Figure 24: Device Manager main screen

3.9.1 Pairing a new device

To initiate a pairing to a new Bluetooth capable device from Device Manager, follow these steps:

1. From the main Device Manager screen, tap the “+” button in the top-right corner.
2. The Cobalt Cube will begin scanning for nearby Bluetooth devices. A list of discoverable devices will be displayed, as shown in [Figure 25](#).
3. Select the device you wish to pair from the list.
4. You will be prompted to accept the pairing request on the other device. Check that the PIN on the device matches the PIN shown on the Cobalt Cube. Accept the pairing request as required. See [Figure 26](#).

5. Once pairing is successful, the device will appear on the main screen and can be managed from there.

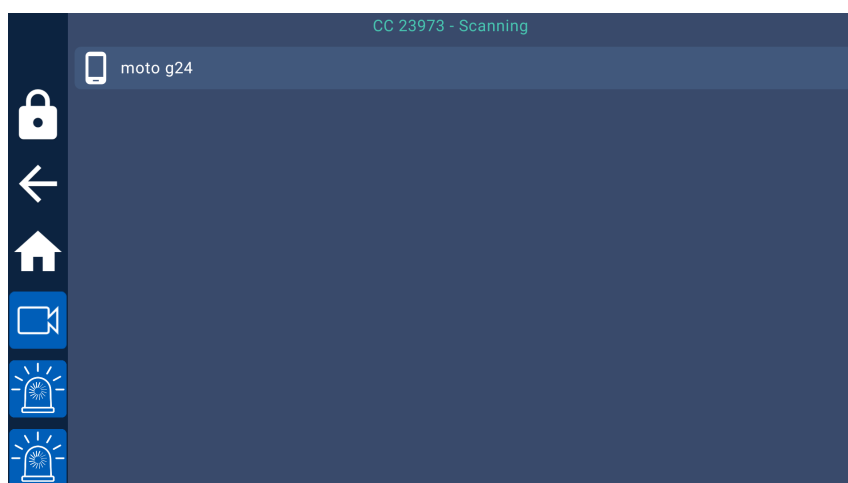


Figure 25: Device Manager scanning for new devices

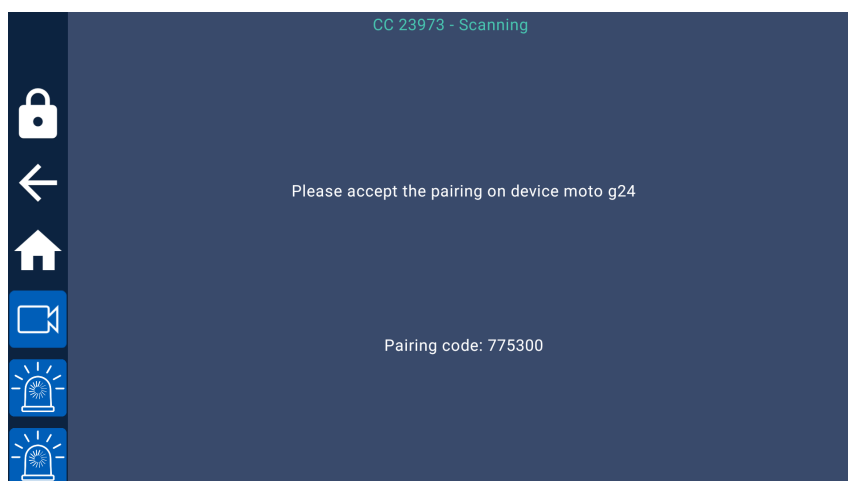


Figure 26: Device Manager pairing request

To initiate a Bluetooth pairing from another device to the Cobalt Cube:

1. Open the Device Manager, this will make the Cobalt Cube discoverable over Bluetooth.
2. From the other device, initiate a pairing request to the Cobalt Cube.
3. You will be prompted to accept the pairing request on the Cobalt Cube. Check that the PIN matches on both devices. Accept the pairing request as required on both the Cobalt Cube and the other device.
4. Once pairing is successful, the device will appear on the main screen.

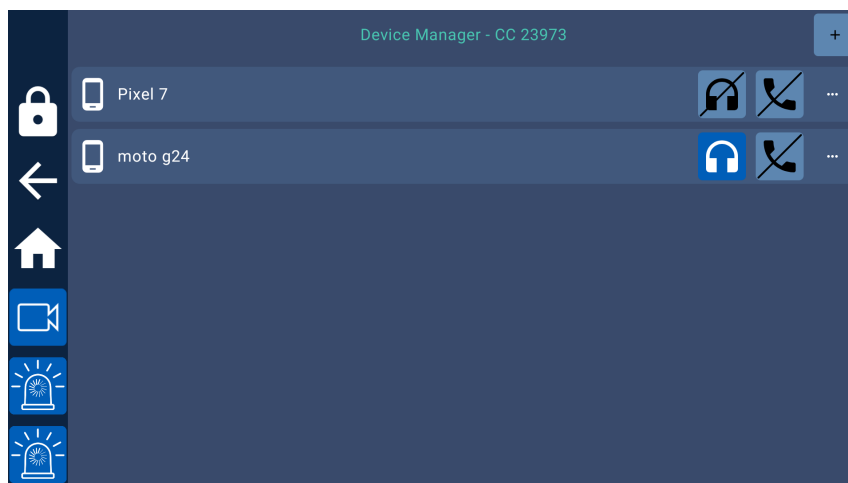


Figure 27: The new device paired and connected for Bluetooth audio

3.9.2 Device Management

The Device Manager displays a list of all known devices along with their current connection states. Connection states are indicated by the highlighting of the relevant icons. See Figure 27.

3.9.3 Bluetooth audio

This allows media and application audio from the device to be played through the vehicle via the Cobalt Cube. Tapping the headphone icon toggles the Bluetooth audio connection for that device.



Note: When connecting Bluetooth audio for a device, any other device currently connected for Bluetooth audio will be disconnected.

3.9.4 Phone call support

While the Cobalt Cube is connected to the vehicle touchscreen, a mobile phone handset can also be connected to the vehicle's screen via Bluetooth. This allows call audio to be handled through the vehicle's speakers and microphones. For the widest compatibility with different vehicles and mobile phone handsets, Cobalt Cube has been designed to work alongside the pre-existing Bluetooth hands-free phone call support of the vehicle. For Cobalt Cube to run alongside a paired handset in the vehicle, a one-time set up process is required.



Note: Control over the call (making a call/picking up a call etc...) is dependent on the behaviour of the particular vehicle. Call controls in some vehicles may be disabled whilst Android Auto is active. One or more of voice command, steering wheel buttons, head-up display controls and central console controls may or may not be possible in your vehicle whilst Cobalt Cube is connected. When integrating Cobalt Cube in a new vehicle it may be instructive to run test calls and identify the supported functions for phone call handling.

Tapping the phone icon toggles phone call support for the device. If this is the first time phone call support has been set up for this device, the Cobalt Cube will require a reboot to finish the set up process. As seen in Figure 28.

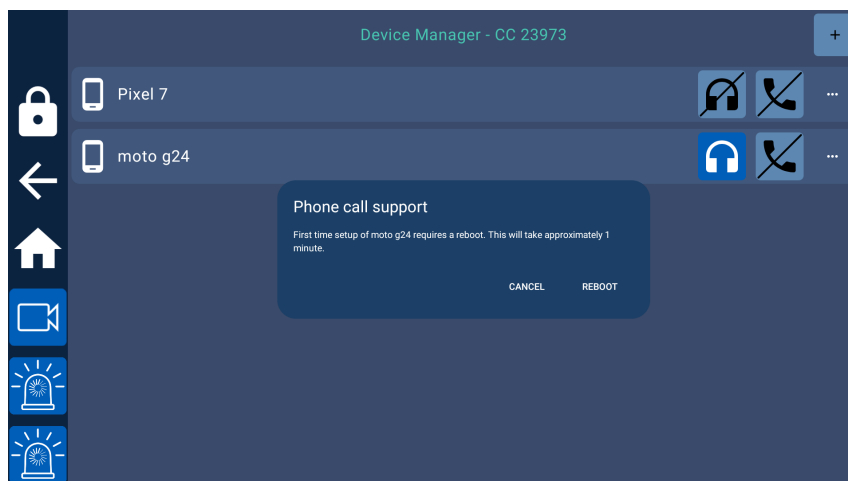


Figure 28: The first time set up dialog for phone call support

Pair and connect the device to the vehicle via Bluetooth (if the device is already paired and connected, this step can be skipped).



Note: In a small number of vehicles, it has been observed that pairing cannot be done while the Cobalt Cube is connected, in this case, restart the Cobalt Cube and pair the phone while it is rebooting.

If the device has had phone call support set up, but it isn't currently enabled, the Cobalt Cube will need to disconnect and reconnect to the vehicle screen to enable phone call support, see [Figure 29](#). Ensure the device is connected to the vehicle.

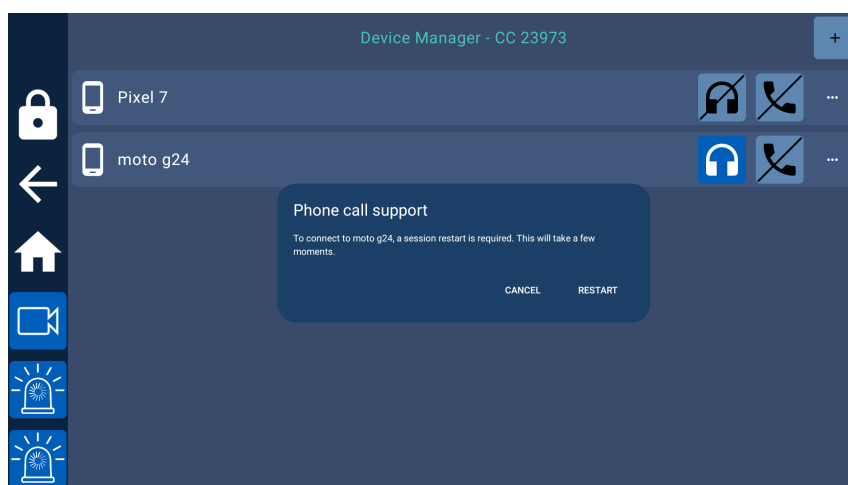


Figure 29: The set up dialog for phone call support

Once phone call support is enabled, and the device is connected to the vehicle, phone calls should be routed to the vehicle microphone and speakers.



Note: Sometimes a vehicle will connect to the Cobalt Cube instead of or as well as the device. The vehicle may attempt to route phone call audio from the Cobalt Cube instead of the phone. To avoid this, set up phone call support for the device in Device Manager. If the Cobalt Cube is paired to the vehicle after it has rebooted, unpair the vehicle and the Cobalt Cube. The vehicle will not re-pair with the Cobalt Cube.

3.9.5 More info

Tapping the three-dot icon opens a screen showing the device's Bluetooth MAC address and a delete button. As seen in [Figure 30](#).

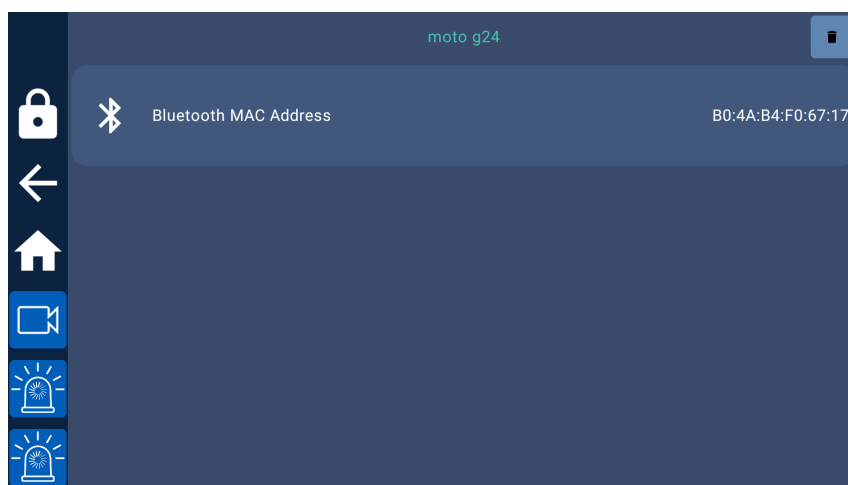


Figure 30: The "More Info" screen

3.9.6 Deleting a device

To delete a paired device, enter the More Info menu for the device and tap the delete icon. A confirmation dialog will appear with checkboxes for each connection type that can be removed, as shown in [Figure 31](#). Only connection types that have been set up are listed. When all listed connection types are selected for deletion, the entire device record will be removed and it will no longer be shown in the Device Manager. If a connection type is not removed, the device will remain known by the Device Manager.

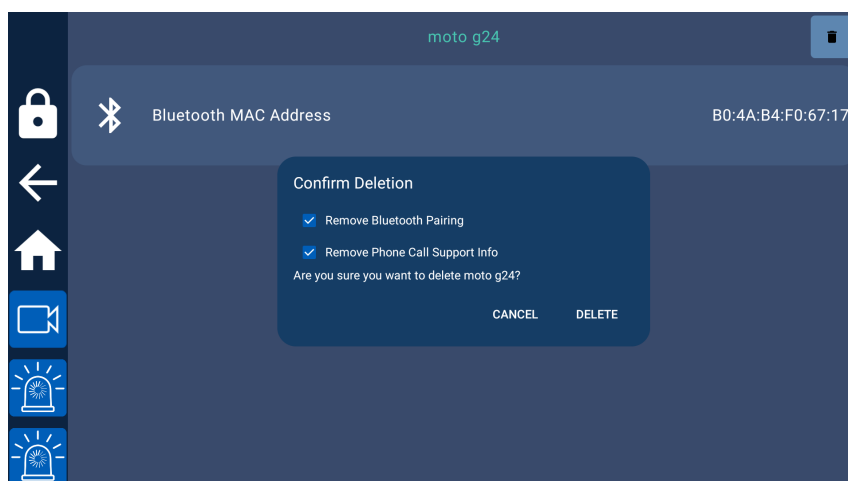


Figure 31: Deleting a device

3.9.7 Remove Bluetooth pairing

Disconnect and unpair the Bluetooth audio connection with the device. The device will need to be re-paired to use Bluetooth audio in future.

3.9.8 Remove phone call support info

Removes the phone call support configuration for the device. To use phone call support on this device in the future, the full set up including the reboot will be required.

3.10 Phone call support

For the best experience, use the Device Manager set up method as seen in [section 3.94](#). The legacy method is detailed below.

3.10.1 Legacy phone call support setup

The following steps should be followed to set up phone call support.

Step 1 - Discover the phone on the Cobalt Cube

The first step is to link the phone with the Cobalt Cube. To do this the phone must have its Bluetooth turned on and be discoverable. Open “My Settings” and click “Selected Bluetooth handset” under the category of “Phone Call Support”. If this is the first device to be paired with the Cobalt Cube this brings up a pop-up which shows all discoverable Bluetooth devices within range of the Cobalt Cube as seen in [Figure 32](#). If there are already devices set up on the Cobalt Cube see [section 3.10.2](#) for how to discover additional devices.

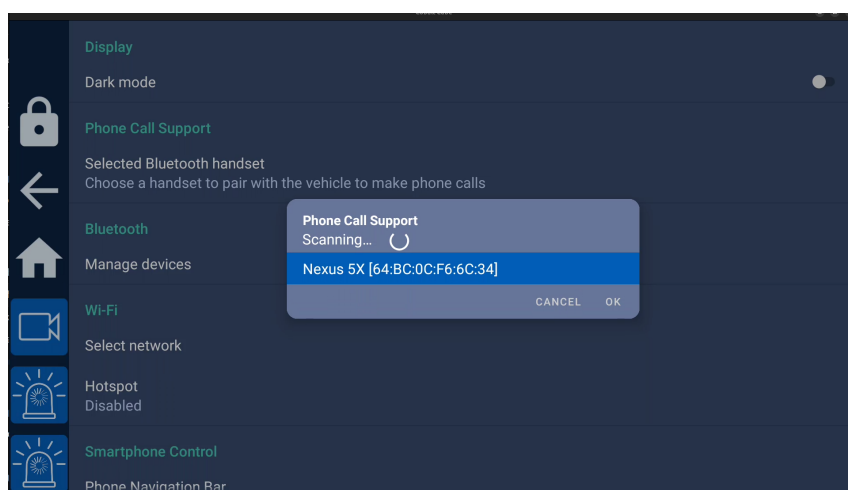


Figure 32: Linking the first phone to the Cobalt Cube

Step 2 - Link the phone to the Cobalt Cube

Select the phone to be linked from the discovered list and then Click “OK” to link the device with the Cobalt Cube. To complete the linking procedure, the Cobalt Cube will need to be restarted. A pop-up will appear allowing an immediate reboot or a deferred reboot (see [Figure 33](#)). If the reboot is deferred, then the “Reboot” app will need to be used to reboot the Cobalt Cube before moving on to the next step.

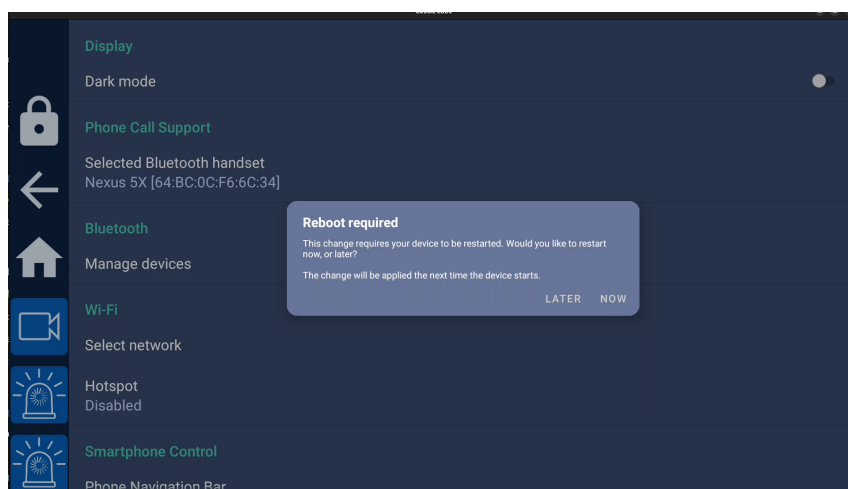


Figure 33: Reboot to apply phone setting

Step 3 - Pair and connect the phone to the vehicle

If the specified phone is already paired and connected to the vehicle, then this step can be skipped. If not, the phone needs to be paired and connected to the vehicle through Bluetooth. Ensure that the vehicle is selected as the device used for phone calls. Once this is done, all phone call audio will be routed through the vehicle.



Note: In a small number of vehicles, it has been observed that pairing cannot be done while the Cobalt Cube is connected, in this case, restart the Cobalt Cube and pair the phone while it is rebooting.



Note: Sometimes a vehicle will connect to the Cobalt Cube instead of or as well as the phone. The vehicle may attempt to route phone call audio from the Cobalt Cube instead of the phone. To avoid this, link the phone to the Cobalt Cube (Step 1). If the Cobalt Cube is paired to the vehicle after it has rebooted, unpair the vehicle and the Cobalt Cube. The vehicle will not re-pair with the Cobalt Cube.

3.10.2 Managing linked phones and adding additional devices

Linking additional devices to the Cobalt Cube

In order to link additional phones with the Cobalt Cube, once the Phone Call dialog is showing, you will need to select the plus button on the right of the dialog as shown in Figure 34.

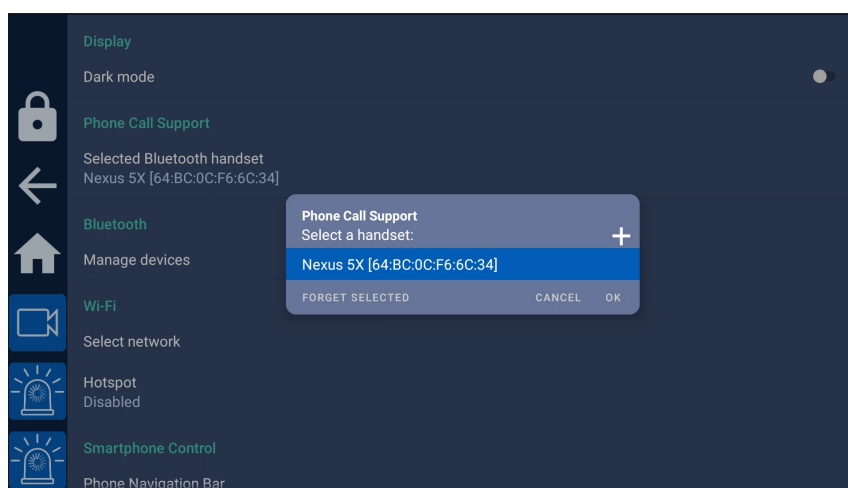


Figure 34: Adding an additional phone to the Cobalt Cube

This button will bring up the scanning dialog as show in Figure 35. Once the phone to be linked is detected, please follow the instructions in Figure 3.10.1 to continue the set up process.

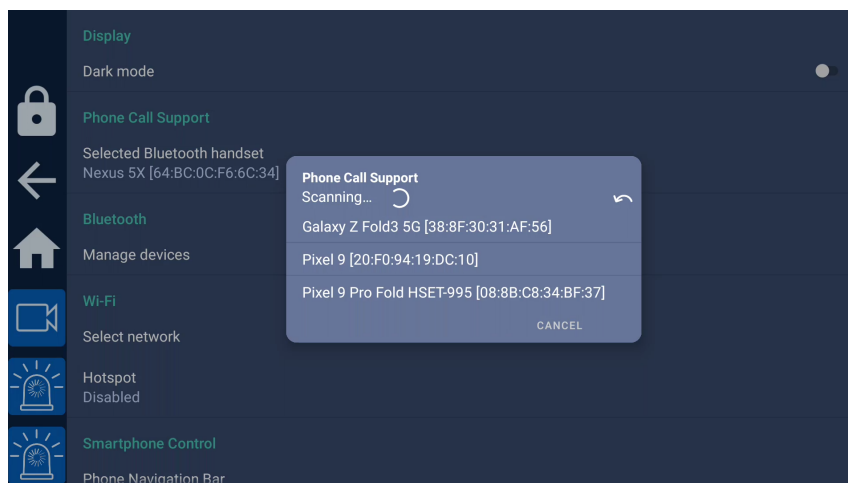


Figure 35: Scanning for additional phones

Managing linked devices

The Cobalt Cube saves a list of previously linked devices. This can be used to quickly swap between known devices (see [Figure 36](#)) and is the format that will be shown every time, once at least one device has been linked with the Cobalt Cube. A short automatic disconnection and re-connection to the Android Auto session is required when switching between linked phones (see [Figure 37](#)).

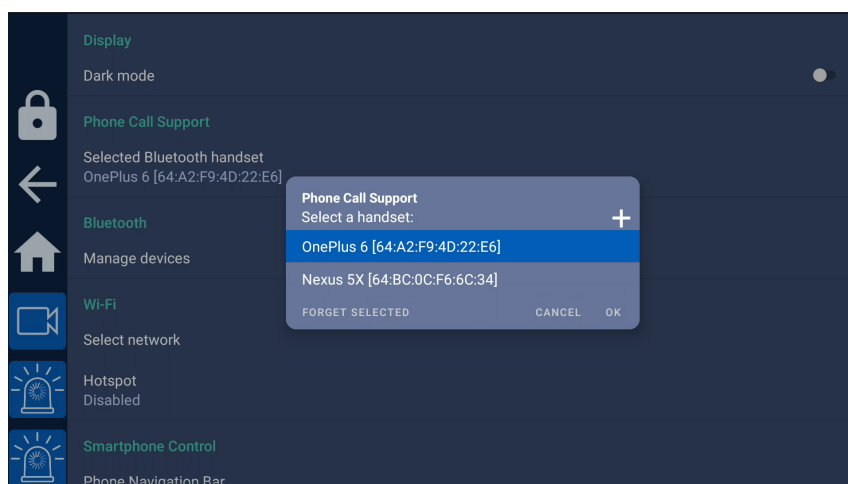


Figure 36: Selecting from previously linked phones

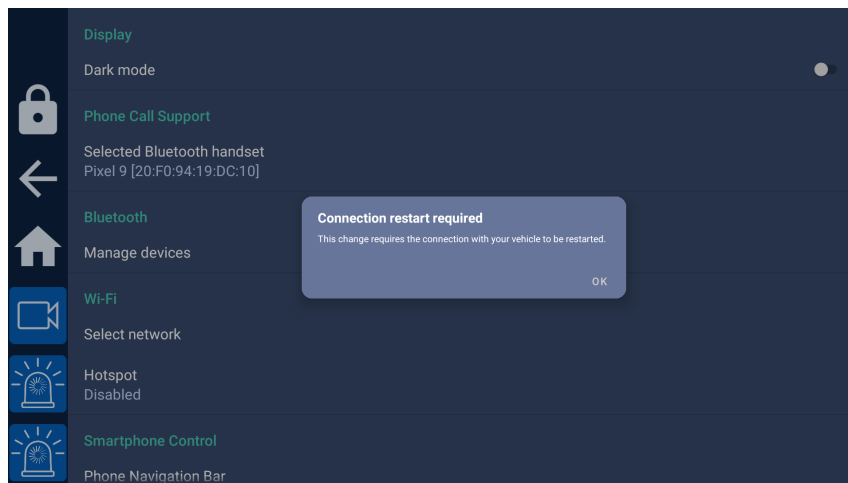


Figure 37: Restarting the vehicle connection when switching between known devices.



Note: Known linked phones are displayed in the order they were last used so more recent devices will be closer to the top of the list.



Note: Any linked phone can be unlinked with the Cobalt Cube at any time using the “FORGET SELECTED” button on the linking pop up dialog, see [Figure 36](#)

3.11 Bluetooth audio

The Cobalt Cube can act as a bridge between a Bluetooth capable device and the vehicle, enabling the audio from the device to be played through the vehicle’s speakers.

For the best experience, use the Device Manager setup method, as seen in [section 3.9.1](#). The legacy method is detailed below.

3.11.1 Legacy Bluetooth audio setup

The following steps can be followed to enable the use of Bluetooth audio through the Cobalt Cube.

First the device must be paired with the Cobalt Cube. To do this, the device must have its Bluetooth turned on and be discoverable.

My Settings can be used to manage Bluetooth devices, including pairing a new device. Open “My Settings” and under the “Bluetooth” heading, click “Manage devices”. This will launch the “Connected devices” screen.

Select “Pair new device”. Then select your device and follow the instructions on the prompt. After the devices are paired, ensure that media audio is enabled for your device by selecting “Connected devices” → your device. The “Media audio” setting should be enabled as in [Figure 38](#). If it is not, toggle the option so that it is enabled for this device.

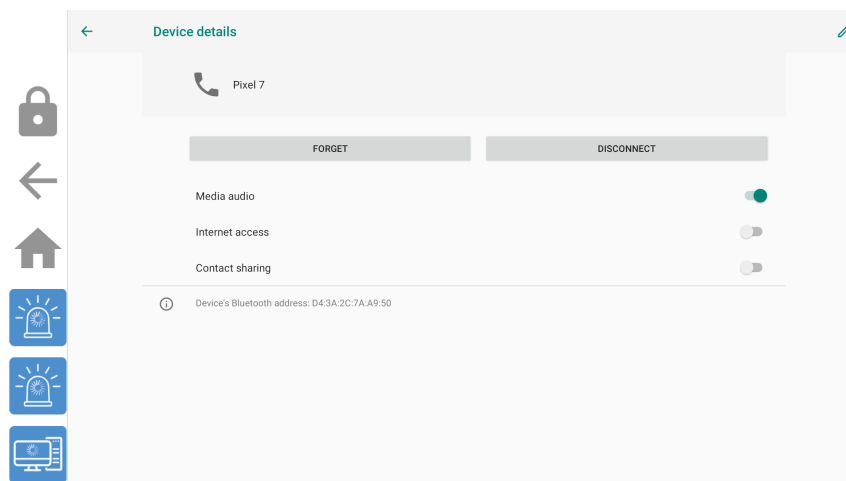


Figure 38: A Bluetooth device with Media audio enabled



Note: Multiple Bluetooth devices can be connected to the Cobalt Cube at once, however, only one should be enabled for media audio at a time as there is no way in the present version to select which one will be used.

3.11.2 Bluetooth Media Player

When another device is connected to the Cube and playing media audio, this audio can be controlled using the Bluetooth Media Player app on the Cobalt Cube. There are three ways to access the Bluetooth Media Player:

- Add the Bluetooth Media Player to the home screen (see [section 3.6](#) for more details) and open the app as normal.
- Enable “Show Bluetooth Media Player Automatically When Connected” as seen in [Figure 15](#) which will launch the media player when a Bluetooth media device is connected.
- Open it from the volume control bar by clicking the Bluetooth icon in the volume control bar (see [Figure 39](#)). The volume control bar is shown when the volume is changed on the Bluetooth media device.

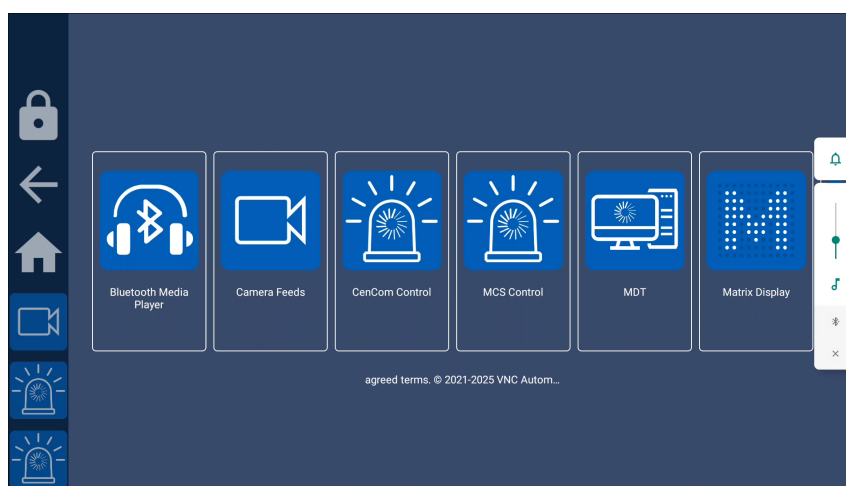


Figure 39: The volume control bar

The Bluetooth Media Player has two modes:

- Full-screen mode: Where the media player covers most of the screen, see [Figure 40](#).
- Overlay mode: This is a smaller overlay at the top of the screen, see [Figure 41](#).

Switching between these modes can be achieved by clicking the plus or minus buttons on the right-hand side of the Bluetooth Media Player, and it can be closed by clicking the adjacent "X" icon.

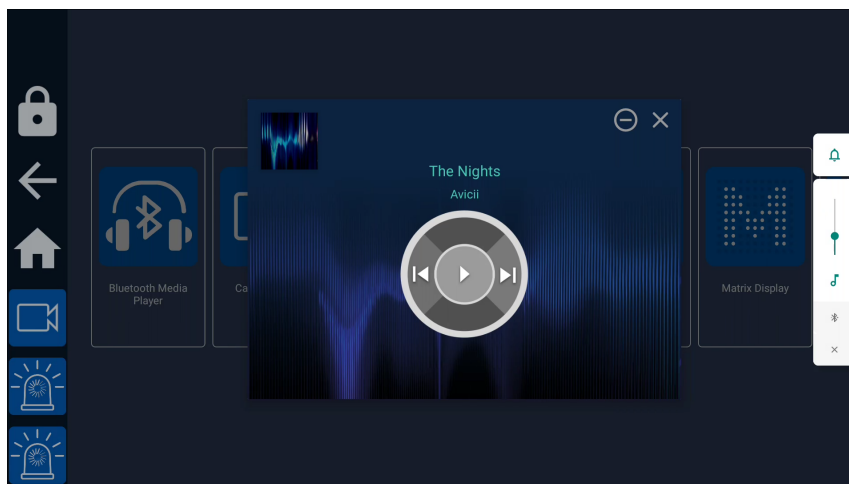


Figure 40: The Full-screen media player

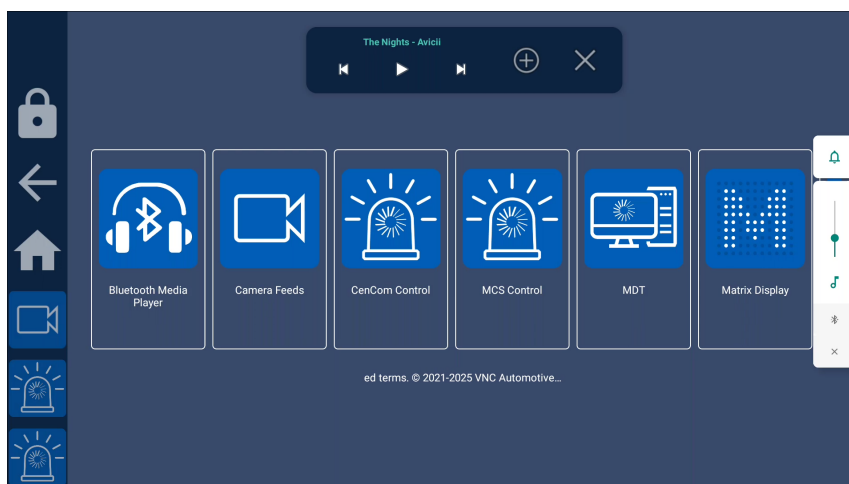


Figure 41: The media player in overlay mode

The play/pause, next and previous buttons can be used to control the media audio from the Cobalt Cube. However, these controls will not work for non-media audio such as navigation directions.

3.11.3 Bluetooth Automatic Reconnect

The Cobalt Cube is able to automatically reconnect to any Bluetooth devices that it has previously been connected to. It will do this for 5 minutes after it boots, or until it successfully connects to a device, whichever is sooner. This means that a device that is paired with the Cobalt Cube and within Bluetooth range will automatically connect when the Cobalt Cube boots, without requiring any user intervention.

If, after the 5 minutes has passed, the Cobalt Cube has not been able to connect to any Bluetooth devices, it will stop attempting to connect automatically. In this case a Bluetooth connection will need to be manually initiated from either the Cobalt Cube or the other device by the user.

3.12 Installing 3rd party apps

3rd party apps can be easily installed on the Cobalt Cube with the use of the Files app. To install an app, first load the .apk file onto a USB stick. Plug the USB stick into the Cobalt Cube's "HOST" port and open the Files app. Select the USB stick in the Files app as seen in Figure 42.

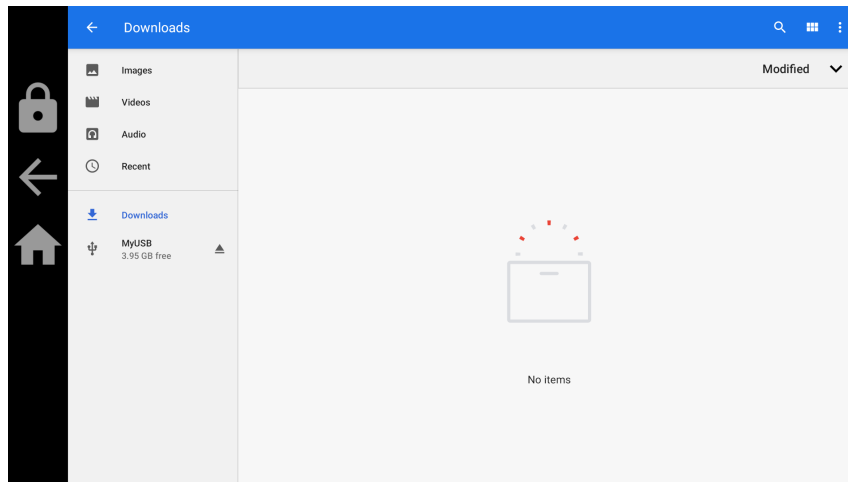


Figure 42: Selecting the USB stick in the Files app

Once the USB stick is opened in the Files app, click on the desired app (which will be a .apk file) to start the installation process.

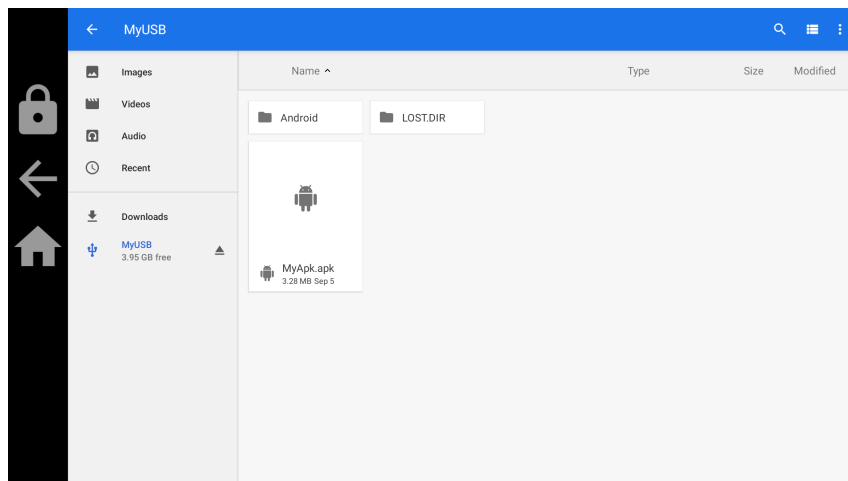


Figure 43: Selecting the apk in the Files app

Once the installation process has started, a warning will show as seen in Figure 44. Ensure that the app is not malicious and comes from a trusted source before continuing.

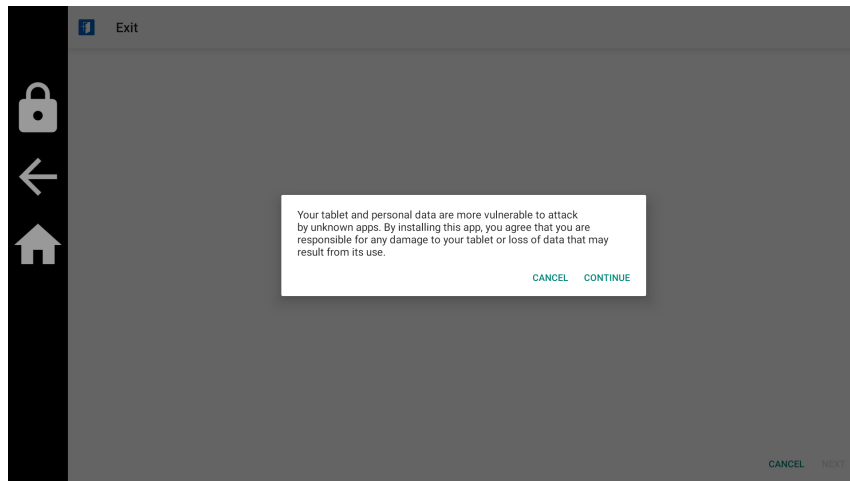


Figure 44: Installation warning

Clicking “INSTALL” on the screen shown in [Figure 45](#) will install the app onto the Cobalt Cube.

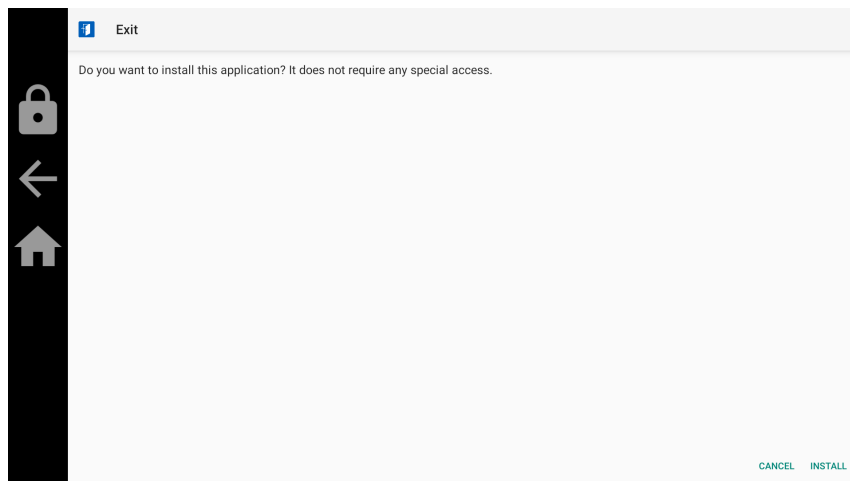


Figure 45: Installation screen

Upon successful installation of the app, the screen in [Figure 46](#) is shown, the app can now be used on the Cobalt Cube.

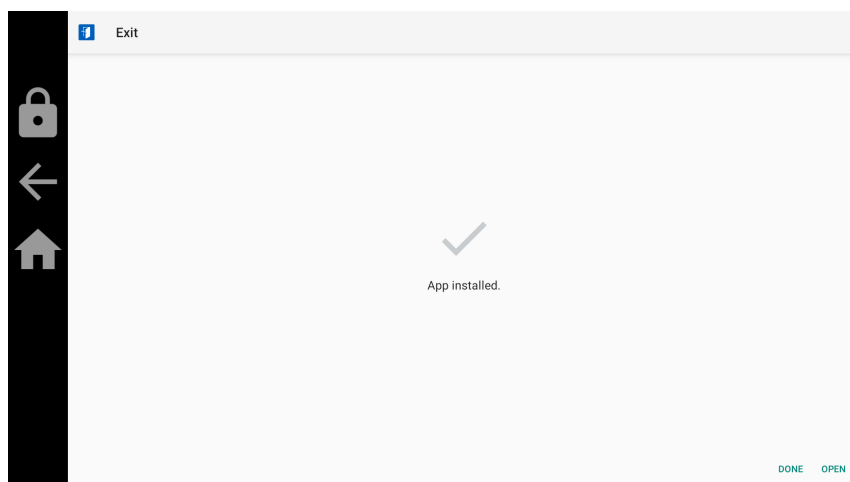


Figure 46: Successful installation



Note: Whilst many 3rd party apps can be installed and will operate successfully on Cobalt Cube, the behaviour of any 3rd-party app cannot be guaranteed, and should be confirmed independently. Some types of app require software or hardware dependencies that are not featured on Cobalt Cube.

4 Rebooting the Cobalt Cube

In order to reboot the Cobalt Cube from the vehicle touchscreen, the Reboot app can be used. Clicking on the app opens a simple prompt as shown in [Figure 47](#). Clicking “OK” on this will immediately reboot the Cobalt Cube, whereas selecting “CANCEL” will close the prompt and not reboot.

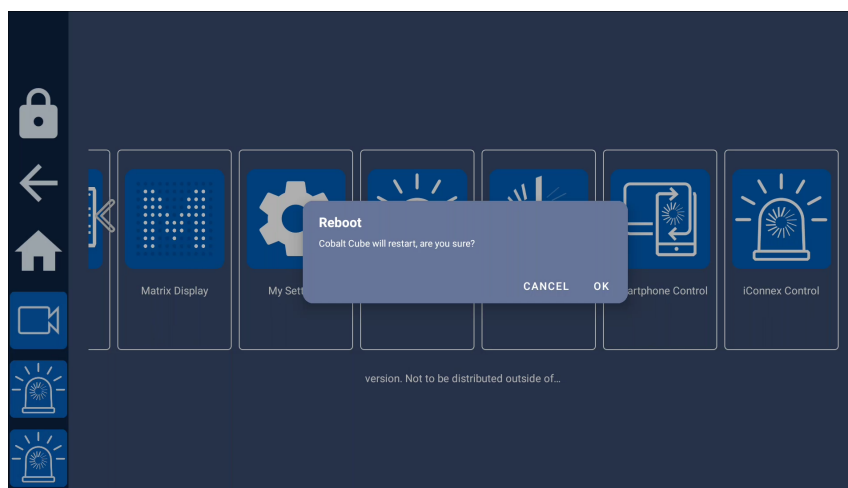


Figure 47: Cobalt Cube reboot prompt

5 Exit to Car System

Some vehicles do not provide a physical or software button to return from the Cobalt Cube display to the built-in vehicle menus. For such vehicles the "Exit" app is provided as part of the standard set of Cobalt Cube applications as shown in [Figure 48](#).



Note: The Exit app isn't visible from the home screen by default, but can be enabled like other apps, either automatically via activation code, or manually from the Cobalt Cube admin settings.

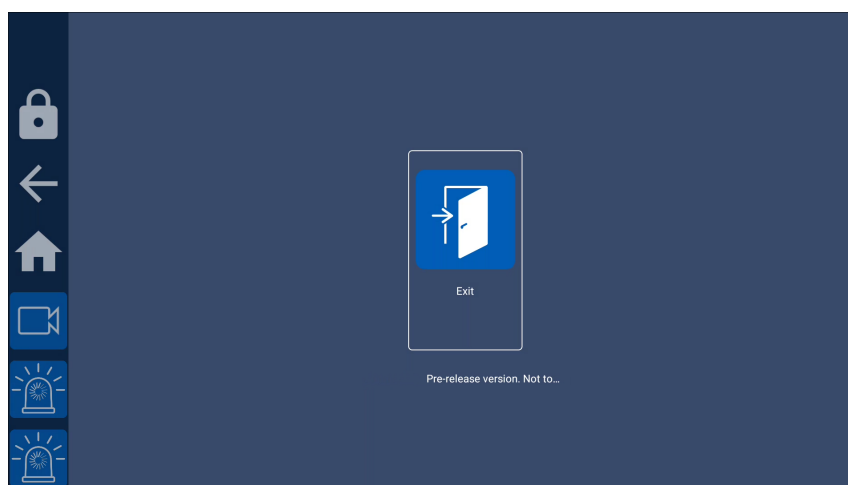


Figure 48: Cobalt Cube exit to vehicle menus

6 Updating the system

It is possible to update the Cobalt Cube system in the following ways:

1. Software update via a USB stick when having physical access to the Cobalt Cube.
2. Software update via an in-vehicle computer connected over Ethernet to the Cobalt Cube. The computer receives the update package over an internet connection and pushes it to the Cobalt Cube.
3. Software update via a direct internet connection to the Cobalt Cube. The Cobalt Cube receives an update directly from the OTA System Update Service via an internet connection.

For a detailed description of how to update the system please see the **System Update Guide**.

6.1 Activating new features

If new apps or features have been purchased, they can be activated using the “Upgrade” option in Cobalt Cube admin settings, under the “Advanced Settings” section. This is shown in [Figure 49](#). To enable the option, a storage device with an activation code should be inserted into the “HOST” port.

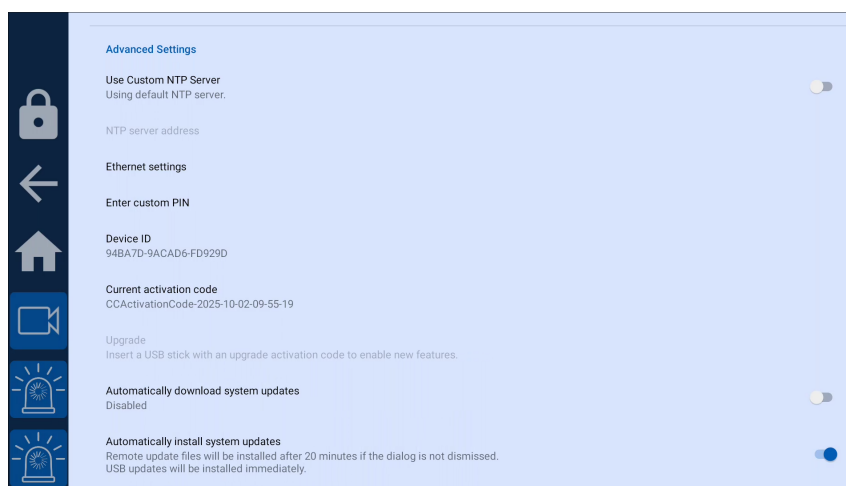


Figure 49: Upgrade option with no storage device inserted

When enabled, the upgrade option should appear as in [Figure 50](#).

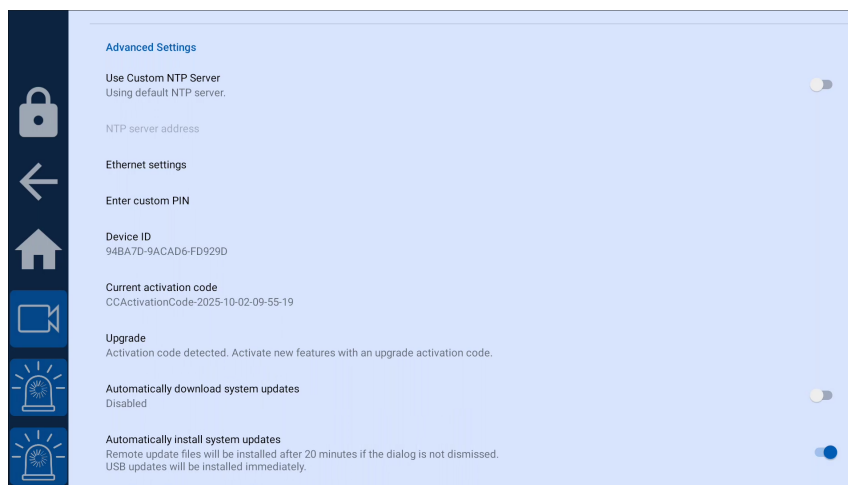


Figure 50: Upgrade option with activation code detected

Click the upgrade option to open the dialog shown in Figure 51. This should list the activation codes detected on the storage device. This will usually be only one. When the correct activation code is selected, click “UPGRADE”. This will apply the upgrade and activate any new purchased features.



Note: VNC Automotive recommends that the Cobalt Cube is restarted after upgrading the activation code to ensure all changes are applied.

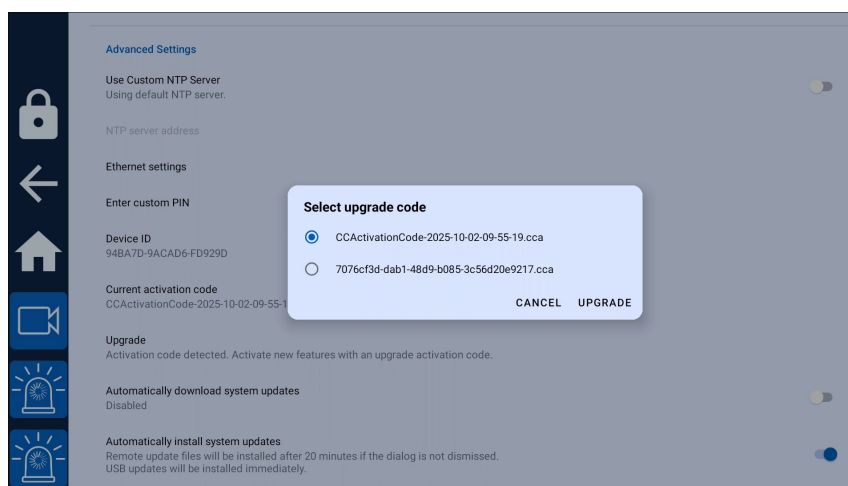


Figure 51: Upgrade option with activation code detected

Settings can also be applied in this step, to go along with any features that are activated.

7 System utilities

7.1 Extracting system logs

From time to time, inconsistencies or other undesired behaviour with Cobalt Cube may be noticed by users during normal operation. The device now comes with built-in system log capture. This is a tool intended to be used by technical support agents via suppliers or vehicle fitters so that detailed information about the state of the system at the present time, or over a historical period, can be extracted and sent away for analysis.

The built-in logger is a support feature and is not intended for vehicle users during day-to-day functioning of the Cobalt Cube. This section covers the Logging app, which allows the Cobalt Cube to save logs that can be sent to VNC Automotive in the event of an issue.

7.1.1 UI overview

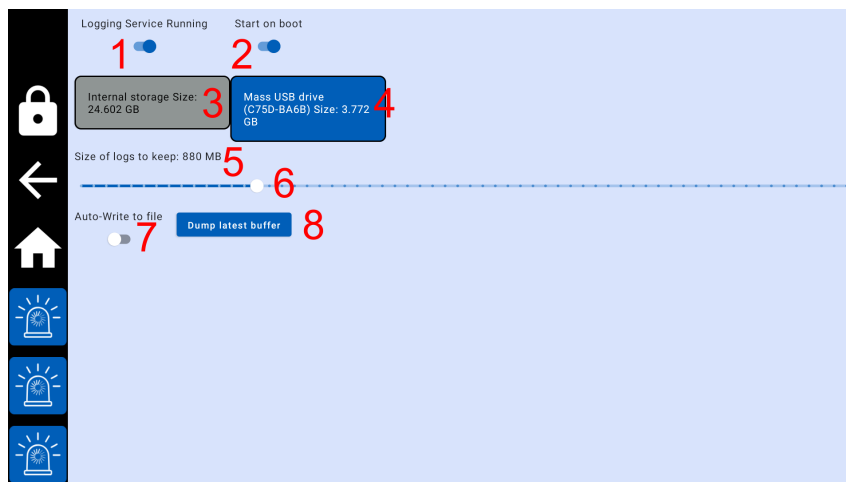


Figure 52: Logging app settings

1. Logging Toggle

- i. This toggles the logging feature on or off. When this is off, no logs can be written manually or automatically.
- ii. When this is on, the other logging features are available.

2. Start on Boot Toggle

- i. When this is enabled, Logging will start on boot using the same configuration as before the Cobalt Cube was rebooted.
- ii. When this is disabled, Logging will not start up automatically on boot.

3. Selected storage device

- i. The storage device highlighted in blue is where the log files will be written to. The size next to the device is the maximum space the log files can take up on the device.
- ii. Internal Storage corresponds to `/vnc/logging/`.
- iii. Devices are selected or unselected by tapping on them.

4. Other storage device

- i. The greyed-out storage devices are unselected and will not have any logs written to them.

5. Size of logs to keep

- i. This is the maximum size all the log files on a device will cumulatively take up. E.g., if this is set to 1GB then up to 1GB of log files will be written, before the oldest log files will start being overwritten to ensure the total size does not exceed 1GB.
- ii. The minimum size is 19MB.

6. Size of logs slider

- i. Moving this left decreases the size of logs to keep and moving it to the right increases the size of logs to keep.

7. Auto-write logs

- i. When enabled, logs will be written to the storage device every few minutes automatically without user interaction.
- ii. When disabled, logs are recorded only when user initiated, or when the Cobalt Cube disconnects from the vehicle's screen.

8. Dump latest buffer

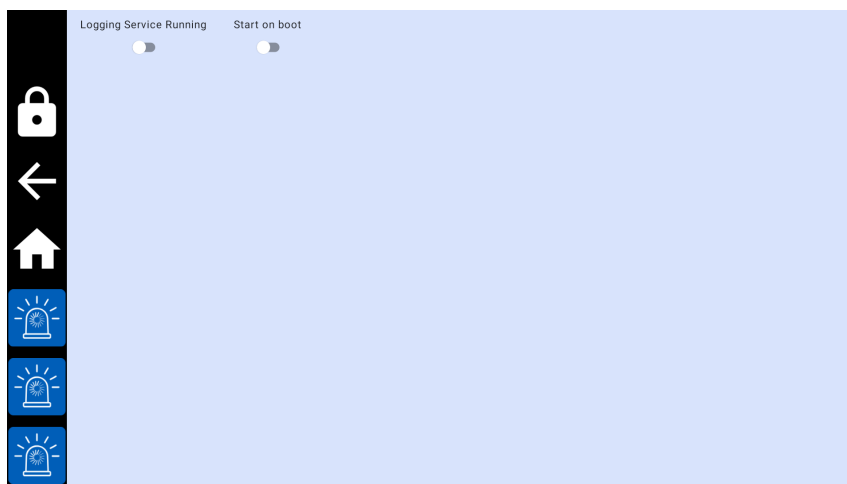
- i. This immediately writes a log file to the selected storage device.
- ii. When pressed a toast will appear indicating whether the writing was successful or unsuccessful.

7.1.2 Additional information

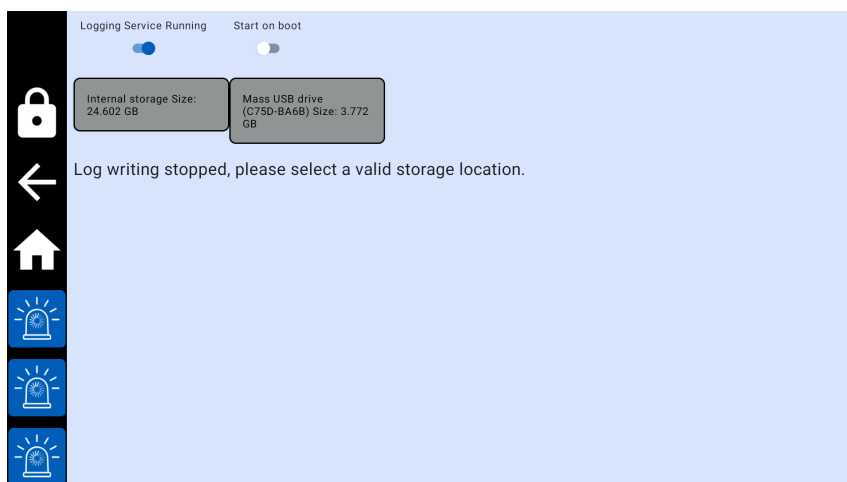
- It can take 1-2 minutes for Logging to start up after boot.
- Do not turn off the Cobalt Cube or remove the selected USB stick after manually dumping logs until the result has been indicated.
- If a valid storage device is not selected, the Logging service will be unable to save logs.
- The USB stick must have a minimum size of 19MB.
- On USB sticks the log files are written to `/Android/data/com.vncautomotive.logging/files/`.
- If a selected USB stick is removed, when it is reinserted it will automatically be selected again without any user input.

7.1.3 Enabling logging

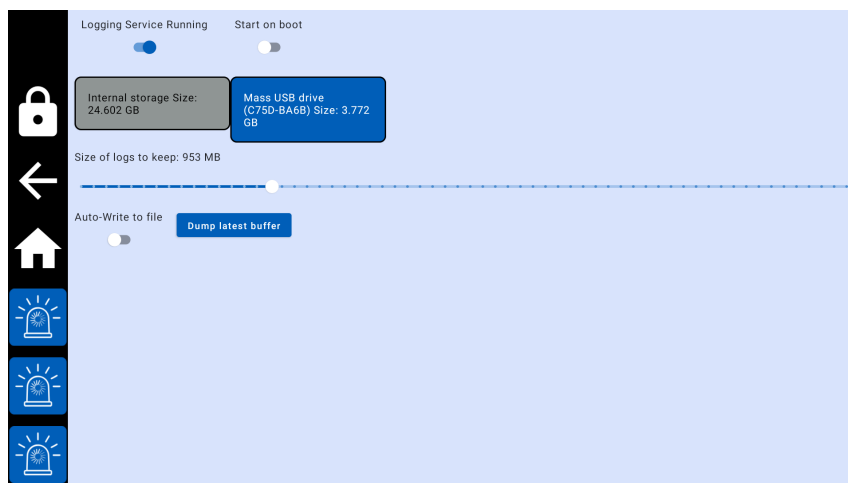
1) Enable the Logging service:



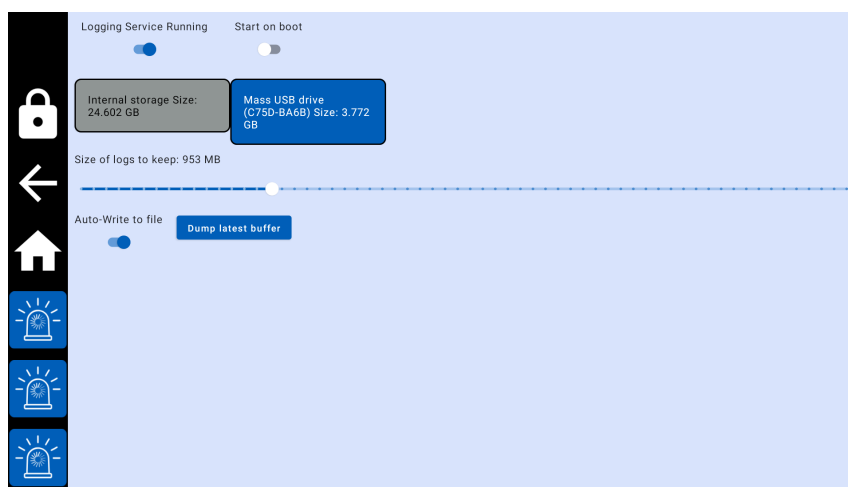
2) Select your preferred USB stick:



3) Adjust maximum size of total logs:



4) Enable auto-writing logs:



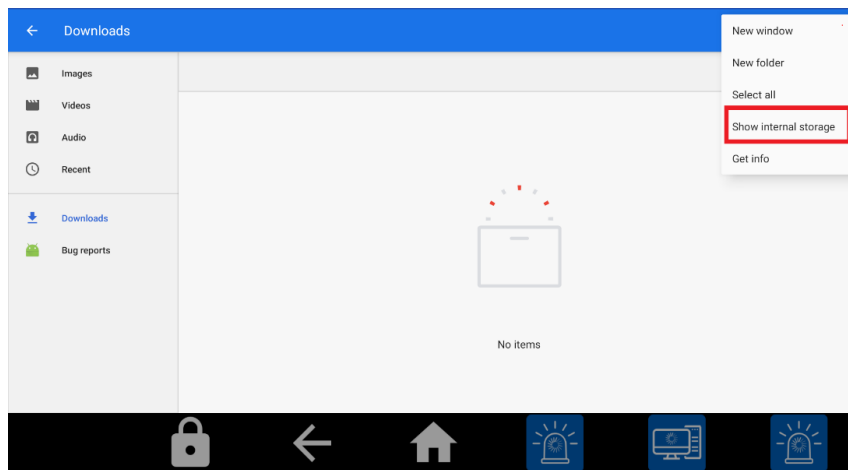
7.1.4 Enable user-facing log button

The Logging app can be added to the home screen or navigation bar (see [section 3.6](#) for details). When the app is on either the home screen or navigation bar, it functions like the “Dump latest buffer” button. So any user can initiate the writing of log files by clicking the app icon. Logging must be enabled and set up for this to work.

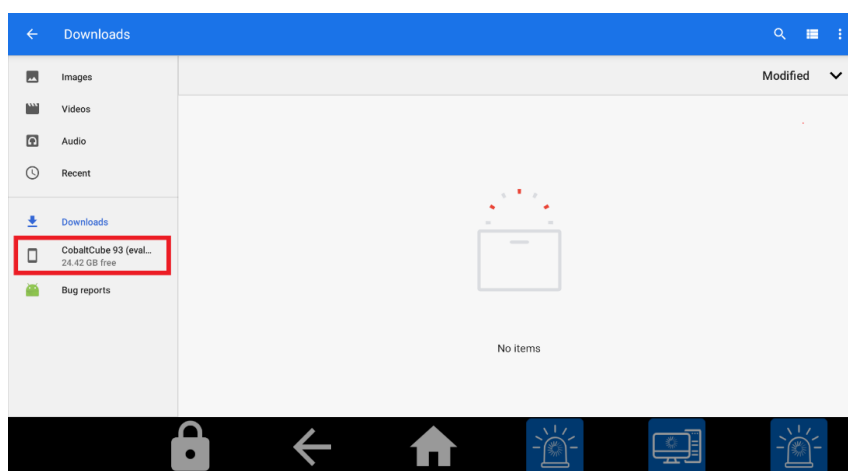
7.1.5 Extracting log files from the Cobalt Cube

When you are ready to retrieve the log files from the Cobalt Cube, they will need to be moved to a computer, so they can be transferred to VNC Automotive. If they were saved directly to a USB device, then it can be removed and plugged into a computer for transfer. If the logs were saved to the internal storage device, the following steps can be used copy the logs to an attached USB stick.

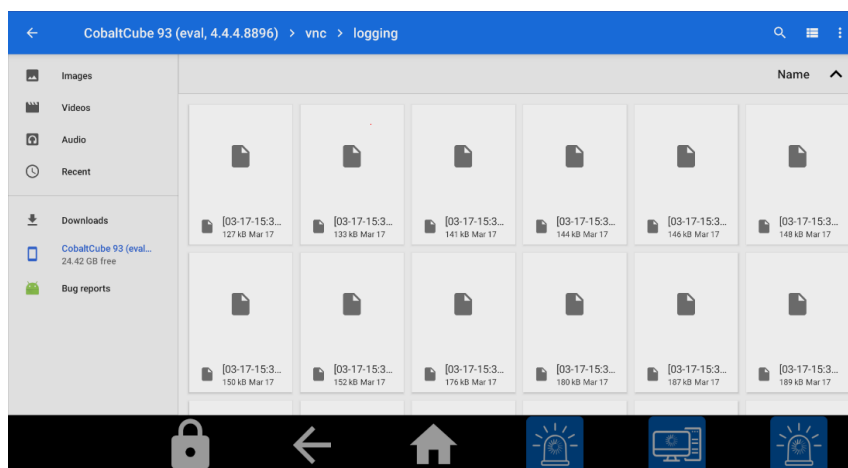
1. Logs stored in the internal storage of the Cobalt Cube can be found at `/vnc/logging/`. This directory can be accessed by opening the files app and clicking “Show Internal Storage”:



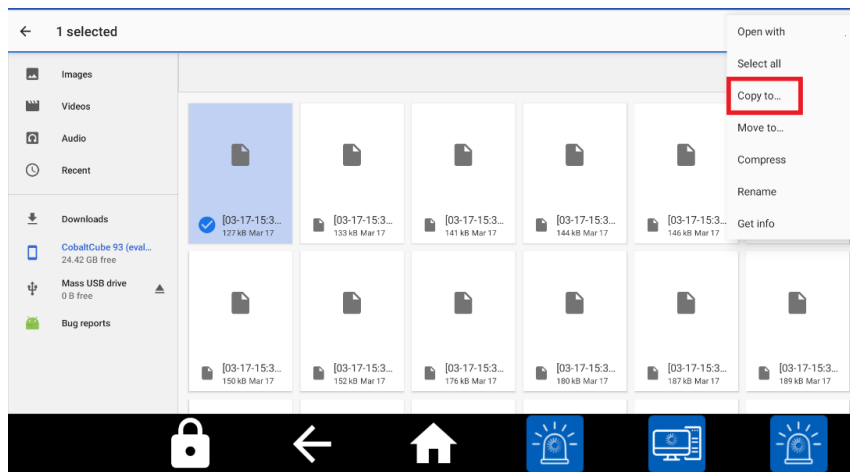
2. Select the Cobalt Cube storage device on the left-hand menu:



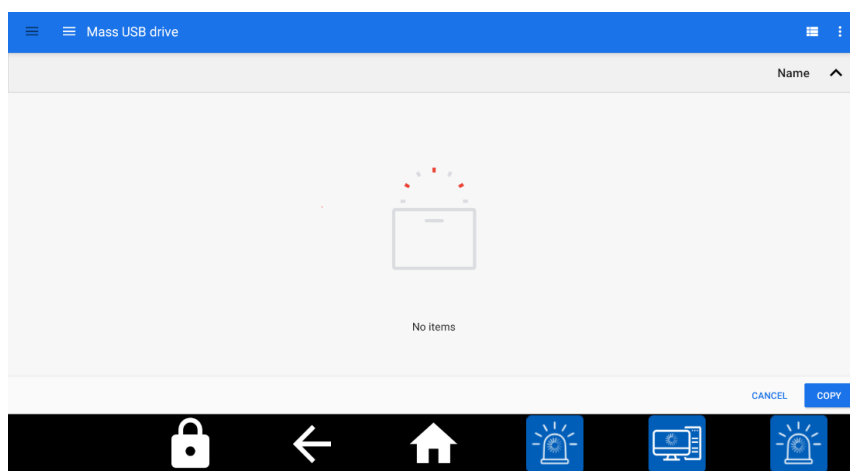
3. Navigate to `/vnc/logging/`:



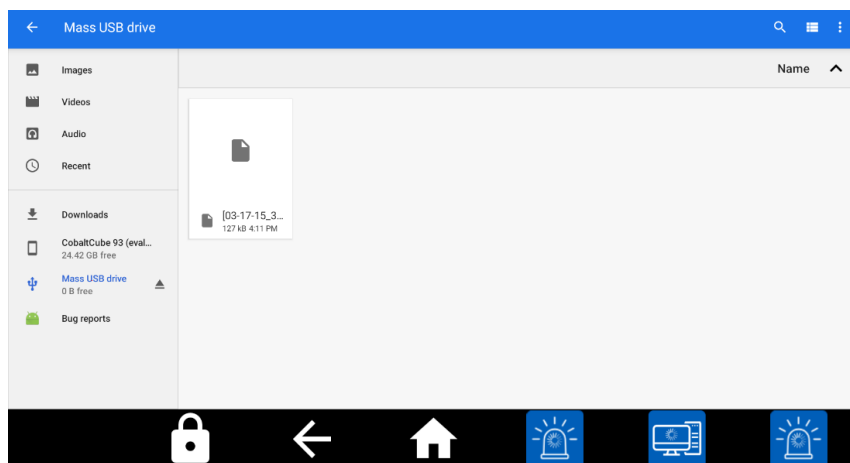
4. Long press to select the log(s) and select copy to in the menu at the top right:



5. Navigate to the USB stick and click copy:



6. Once the files have been copied, they will show in the USB stick:



7. The USB stick can then be ejected, and the log files can be sent to VNC Automotive for examination.

Let's discuss your project

As industry pioneers, we will help you cut through the complexity and deliver ingenious connectivity technology for the vehicles of tomorrow.

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technicalsupport@vncautomotive.com

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