

ALC BranchTech Software Users Guide

1. Getting Started

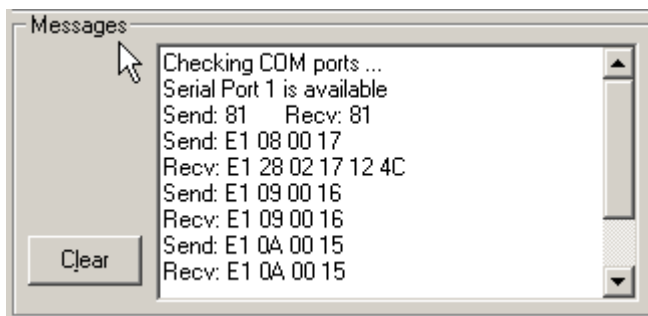
NOTE: To prevent communication failures, ensure that both ALC communication leads are disconnected from the lighting controller. Also ensure that the ALC Interface module (P/N 364396) is properly connected. Refer to *OnQ IS-0116* for connection details.

Find the ONQ-BranchTech Icon (Either on your desktop or from Start\Programs\OnQ\BranchTech)

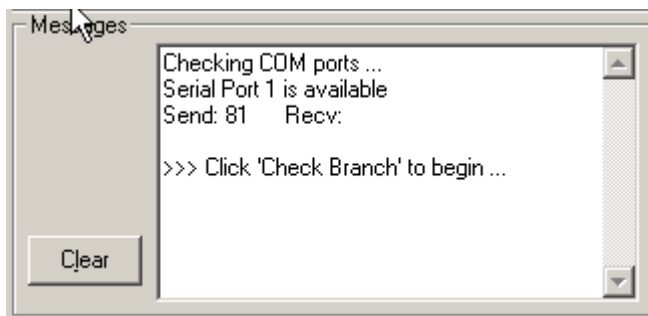


Once selected, the program will open and then identify open PC serial COM ports (COM1 and/or COM2) that are available.

When the BranchTech software is communicating with an ALC switch module, the actual Send and Receive message bytes can be viewed approximately as shown below:



If, however a shorter message is displayed:



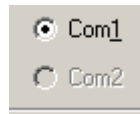
the correct serial COM port may not have been selected or the proper connections between the PC's COM port and ALC switches may not have been made. *Refer to OnQ IS-0116 for connection details.*

Verify:

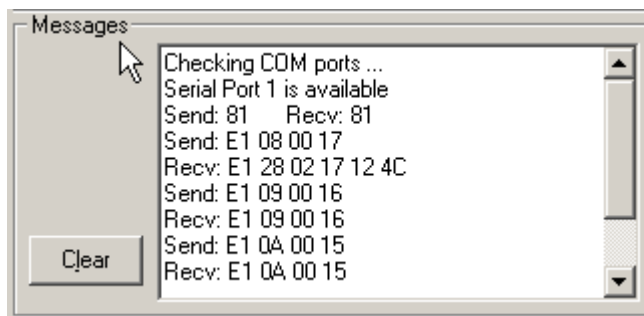
- a.) Selected PC serial COM port.
- b.) Connection to ALC Interface module.
- c.) Connections to ALC communication wiring.
- d.) ALC communication wiring is disconnected from the controller.
- e.) ALC Interface has power (a single green power LED will be lit)

Serial COM Port Selection

When the BranchTech program is started, it checks the computer to see if COM 1 and COM 2 are available. Any port that is unavailable will be grayed out.



The “Messages” box initially summarizes the results of the search for available ports.

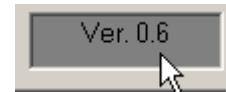


NOTE: The BranchTech software will not automatically select the COM port that has the ALC Interface module connected to it. If both COM ports are available, the BranchTech software will default to COM1. If the ALC Interface module is connected to COM2, then COM2 must be selected.



Software Version

The version of the BranchTech software is displayed in the field.



Exit

Closes the BranchTech software.



2. Operation

Node Summary

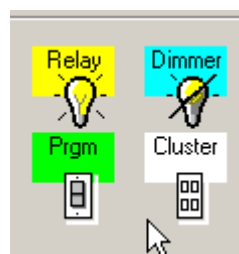
The Node Summary provides a visual reference to all active nodes (switch addresses). Nodes are colored according to their type. Click any node number to poll it. An arrow will be next to the address of the node that is current.



Node Legend

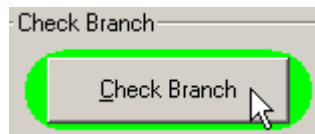
Each switch type will be identified by color according to the Node Legend.

- ALC Relay = Yellow
- ALC Dimmer = Blue
- ALC Program = Green
- ALC Cluster Switch = White



Check Branch

Once communication is established, click the **Check Branch** button to poll any of the connected ALC addresses.

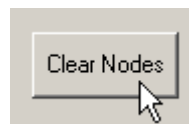


The BranchTech will then send and receive information that will identify communicating ALC switches on the branch.



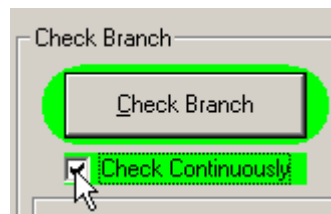
Clearing Nodes

Click the **Clear Nodes** button if you want to clear the current node information.

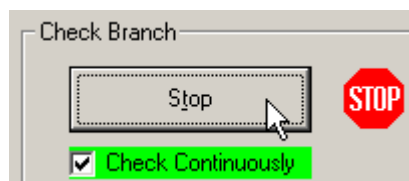


Check Continuously

Selecting **Check Continuously** and clicking the **Check Branch** button will cause the software to continuously check the branch for changes.

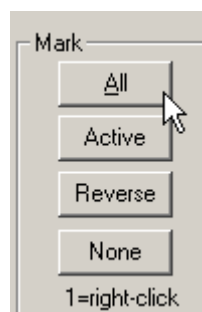


Press **Stop** to stop the software from polling the branch.



Mark

“Mark” is used to keep track of specific ALC switch nodes.



The **All** button will mark all nodes whether they are active or inactive.

The **Active** button will mark only the nodes that have been identified as active (communicating).

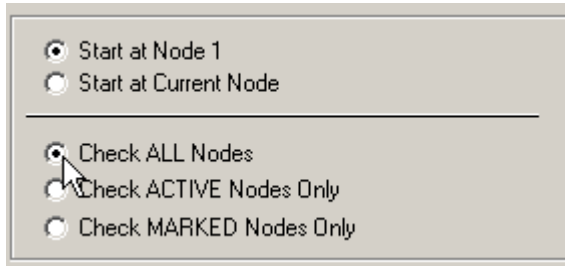
The **Reverse** button will unmark the nodes that had been previously marked or mark the nodes that were unmarked.

The **None** button marked will clear all marked nodes.

A single [right button] mouse click on any of the numbers in the Node Summary will also mark a node. Using the right mouse click again will unmark any marked node.

Check Branch Options

This option will allow the technician to either, Start at Node 1 or Start at Current Node for branch polling.

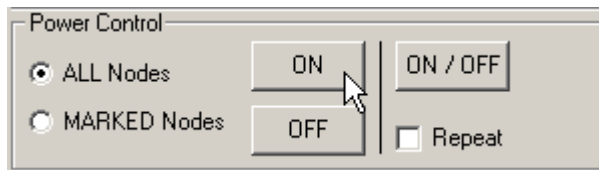


Other options include Check ALL Nodes to be polled, Check ACTIVE Nodes Only and Check MARKED Nodes Only

NOTE: Active nodes are switch addresses that have been identified and are communicating.

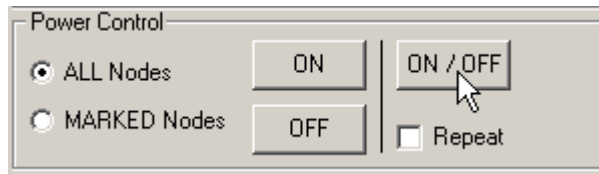
Power Control

This option allows the technician to turn **ON** or **OFF** all nodes or, nodes that have been marked. This will help verify that the switch is communicating with the controller.

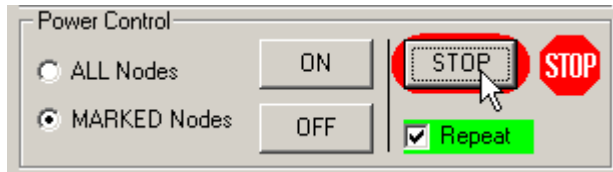


An **ON / OFF** command that will turn all nodes ON and then OFF may also be sent.

This is a convenience command. It saves from having to select ON and OFF while confirming switch operation.



Selecting the Repeat will repeat the ON / OFF command, causing ALL Nodes or only the MARKED Nodes to FLASH



Press STOP to discontinue.

Current Node

The arrow will show which node (switch address) is currently selected.



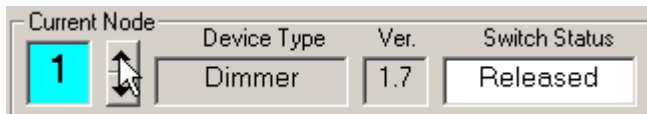
The current node will also be shown in the window under the Current Node



To select a different Node, simply click on a different number (1-31).



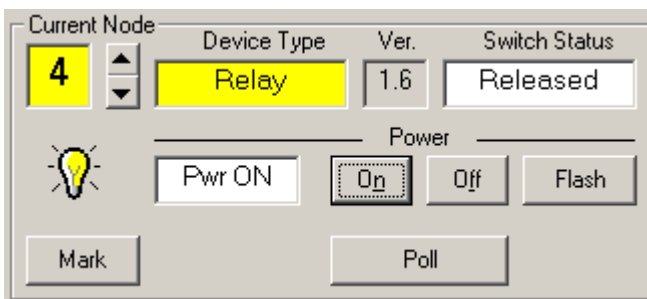
Or by clicking on the ▲ or ▼ arrows located under the **Current Node**.



When you select a node that is communicating, the software will show:

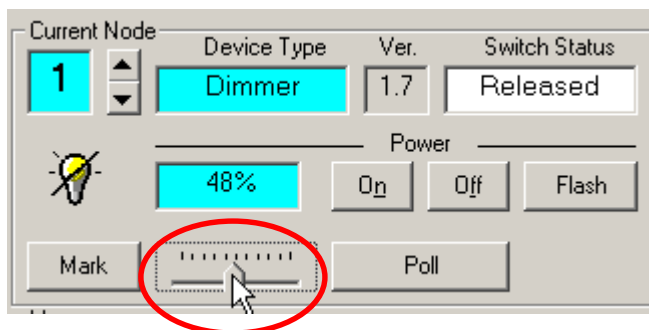
1. Device type
2. Firmware version of the switch
3. Local switch status
4. AC load Power status (ON or OFF)

NOTE: If the **Check Continuously** has not been selected, you must re-poll the switch to show a change in state if the switch is operated manually.)



Power Control

First select an already identified node. If it is a Dimmer switch, a Dimming Bar will appear between the mark and poll buttons. Use this to test the full range of operation with a dimmer switch

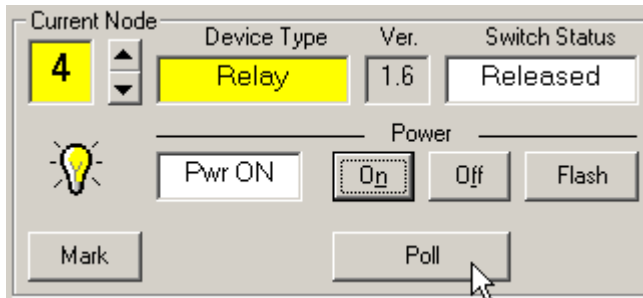


The Power area will also provide the current state or level (if a dimmer) of the current node.

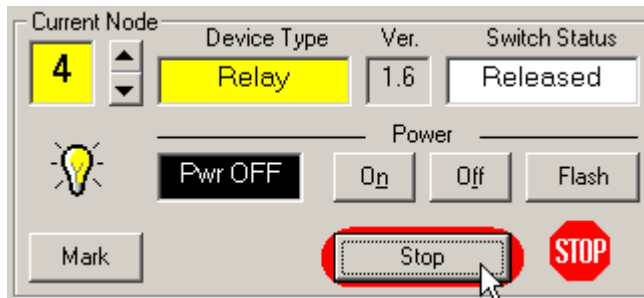
The technician can use the **Power Control** to test the node by turning it **ON** or **OFF** . The **Flash** command will cause the node to turn On/Off until either it is turned off manually or the **STOP** button is clicked.

This feature can be used to help identify a switch when its physical location is not known. Select the node, command it to flash and then walk through the house until the unit is located.

The **Poll** button will take a reading of the selected switch only! It shows the current state of the switch, and changes to reflect “real time” status as the switch is operated manually.



It will continue to poll the switch until the **STOP** button is pressed.



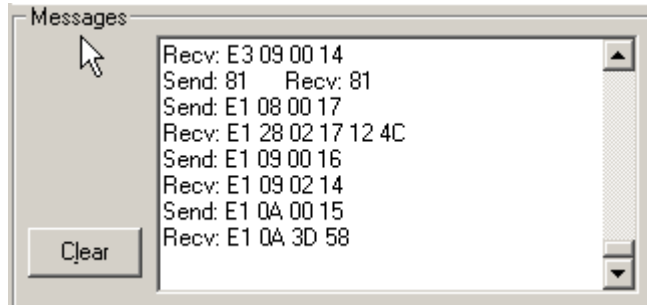
*The relay switch was manually pressed off in this example. It's new state is reflected by the **Pwr OFF** display. Notice that its changed state is highlighted in black.*

(Once you select **Poll** , it will change to **STOP** . When you select **STOP** , it will revert back to **Poll** .)

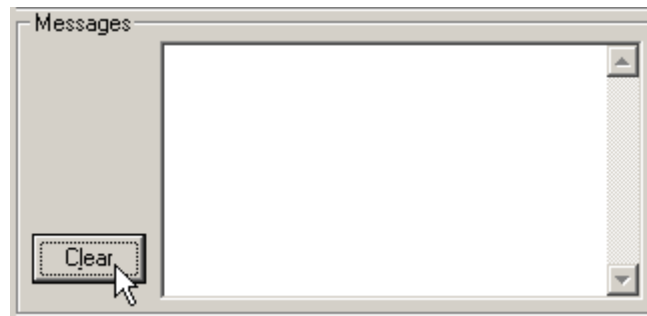
The **Mark** button will mark the node that's displayed in the **Current Node** box.

Messages

The “Messages” box will display the communications between the BranchTech (Send) and the node (Recv). Text may be edited by clicking in the message box.

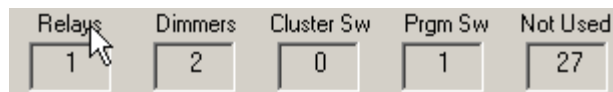
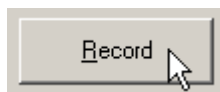


The **Clear** button erases all the text in the message box.



Data Grid

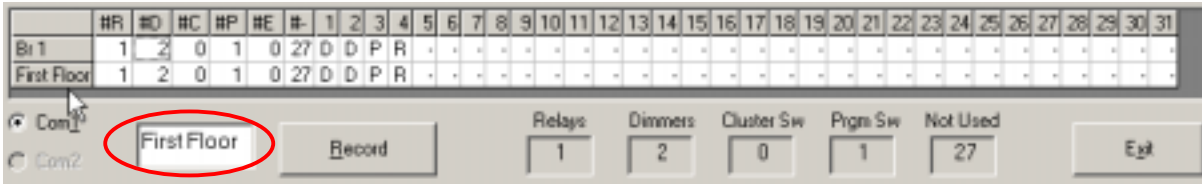
The **Record** button will write the branch device totals and the Node Summary to the data grid. It will also provide the identity of each Node.



	HR	HD	HC	HP	HE	#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Br 1	1	2	0	1	0	27	D	D	P	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

A mouse cursor is pointing at the first cell of the data row.

Any text typed in the label box is written in the first column of the grid and is used to specially identify that row of data. Rows are automatically added to the field as you click the record button.



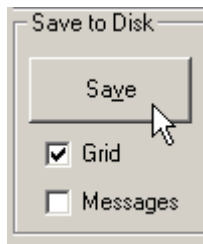
Use this to record changes to any nodes that are changed or replaced in the course of installing, testing and trouble shooting.

Branch Device Totals

Lists the number of each type of device found and those not used on the ALC branch. These numbers are set when the branch is checked or polled. This information will be recorded into the data grid when the button is selected.

Save To Disk

The **Save** button will allow all recorded information to be saved to a .txt text file. The file may be saved to any directory.



Grid and Message

Provides the option of saving only the information desired. Place a check mark in the box to select the information to be saved.

Grid will save only the information contained in the data grid.

Messages will save only the information contained in the message box.

Grid
 Messages Selecting both will save the information contained in both locations.