



Blink1Control — English User Manual

Overview

Blink1Control is a graphical user interface (GUI) application that connects real-world and online events to the blink(1) USB RGB LED notification light. It allows you to trigger color patterns on your blink(1) based on events happening on your computer or on the Internet. Blink1Control is event-driven and designed to be the primary user-level app for controlling blink(1).

Key features

- Event-based triggering of LED color patterns
- Supports a variety of event sources (local and networked)
- Create rules that map events to color sequences and patterns
- Time-based scheduled events
- Works with blink(1) versions using Blink1Control1 (legacy) and Blink1Control2 (newer)

Supported event sources

Blink1Control can receive events from multiple sources, including: - IFTTT channels (SMS, calendars, Twitter, and many more) - IMAP/Gmail email - URLs that return text or JSON payloads - Local files or scripts (batch files, shell scripts, external programs) - Skype account activity - Time-based events (scheduling)

Blink1Control versions

There are two main versions:

Blink1Control2 (recommended)

- Newer version with updated features and cross-platform builds.
- Downloads available for macOS, Windows, and Linux.

- Additional resources: blog post, screencast, and a dedicated help page.

Where to get it: Blink1Control2 releases are available on the project's GitHub releases page.

Blink1Control1 (legacy)

- Deprecated but still available for users who need it.
- Installers and zip packages exist for Windows and macOS.

Available installers / packages: - Windows 7+ installer (.exe) or zip package (run Blink1Control.exe inside) - macOS 10.8+ .dmg or zip (drag app to Applications folder or open the app bundle)

Installation instructions (Blink1Control1 — legacy)

Windows (installer) 1. Double-click the .exe installer and follow the prompts. 2. If required by your system, right-click the installer and choose **Run as administrator**.

Windows (zip) 1. Unzip the Blink1Control folder to a location on your hard drive. 2. Open the folder and double-click Blink1Control1.exe to run.

macOS (dmg) 1. Double-click the .dmg file. 2. Drag the Blink1Control1 app into your Applications folder. 3. Open the Applications folder and double-click the app to run. 4. If macOS blocks the app because it is from an unidentified developer, right-click the app and choose **Open** from the context menu.

macOS (zip) 1. Unzip the Blink1Control folder to extract the app bundle. 2. Double-click the Blink1Control1 application to run. 3. If you see an "Unidentified Developer" warning, right-click the bundle and choose **Open**.

Quick start — first run

1. Install Blink1Control for your platform (see above). For most users, Blink1Control2 (latest) is recommended.
2. Plug your blink(1) device into a USB port.
3. Start Blink1Control.
4. Blink1Control should detect connected blink(1) devices and allow you to create rules (event → color/pattern).
5. Create example rules such as: incoming email → pulse red; calendar reminder → flash yellow; successful build → blink green.

Creating events and rules

- In Blink1Control, add a new rule or event source.
- Choose the event type (IFTTT, IMAP, URL, file/script, Skype, time).
- Configure the event details (e.g., IMAP server and credentials, URL to poll, path to script, or cron-style schedule).

- Set the action: one or more color steps (RGB values), transition times, and repeats.
- Test the rule and save.

Using scripts and external programs

- You can make any local program or script trigger blink(1) by writing output to a file, calling the Blink1Control API, or invoking a command that Blink1Control monitors.
- Useful for integrations with build systems, monitoring scripts, or home automation.

Troubleshooting

- If Blink1Control does not detect your blink(1):
 - Make sure the device is plugged into a working USB port.
 - Try a different USB port or cable.
 - On Windows, ensure you have permissions or try running the app as administrator.
 - On macOS, allow the app in Security & Privacy if you get an “Unidentified Developer” warning.
- If rules aren’t triggering:
 - Verify event source configuration (IMAP credentials, IFTTT channel setup, URL response format).
 - Check any firewall or network issues blocking URL/IMAP access.

Getting help & support

- If you have questions, email: [blink1 at thingm.com](mailto:blink1@thingm.com).
- If you encounter bugs or issues, submit an issue on the project’s bug tracker (GitHub issues page).
- Additional documentation, screencasts, and the Blink1Control2 help page are available from the project’s website.

Downloads & resources

- Blink1Control2 downloads for macOS, Windows, and Linux are available from the GitHub releases linked on the project site.
- Legacy Blink1Control1 installers and zip files are also available for older systems.
- Visit the Blink(1) website for purchasing, resellers, accessories, and the project gallery.