

Integrating CasaTunes and other iOS Apps

Seamless switching between CasaTunes and Home Automation Apps

Overview

The latest versions of the CasaTunes iPhone and iPad Apps (iOS Apps) provide for “launching” the CasaTunes App from another iOS App and to “return” control back to the iOS App without requiring users to **manually** switch between applications. This seamless integration is a great advantage to homeowners and integrators, as it allows them to **pick and choose** the best home automation and whole house music control solutions available.

This integration is made possible by application developers who implement support for **custom URL schemes** in their applications. The concept of a custom URL scheme is analogous to launching an application from the command line and specifying various optional parameters.

In order to support bi-directional control, that is, for a secondary App to launch CasaTunes, and for CasaTunes to return control the secondary App (by essentially re-launching the secondary App), the secondary App must also implement a custom URL scheme.

The good news is there are two popular control Apps available in the market today from Bitwise Controls and CommandFusion that can be integrated with CasaTunes. As new Apps become available, CasaTunes should work with these new secondary Apps as long as they allow homeowners and integrators to specify custom URL schemes to launch 3rd party Apps.

CasaTunes custom URL scheme

The CasaTunes custom URL scheme is defined as follows:

```
casatunes:///?key1=value1&key2=value2&key3=value3
```

Note 1: the “?” goes before the first key/value parameter and “&” before each additional key/value parameter

Note 2: The Key/Value parameters are optional, so if you simply specified “casatunes:///” with no parameters it would launch the CasaTunes App

The following options parameters can be specified:

Key	Value
Room	Specifies the room name or ID of the room you want to display
Source	Specifies the name or ID of the source to set for the selected room
Volume	Specifies the volume level for the selected room
Power	Specifies whether the power for the selected room should be “off” or “on”
BackURL	Specifies the custom URL to “launch” when you select to “return” back to the App that launched CasaTunes
BackTitle	On the iPhone/iPod touch, specifies the title to assign to the button that will “launch” the App specified by the BackURL parameter

It is probably easier to understand with some examples:

Example 1:

`casatunes:///power=on&room=office&source=1&volume=40`

Start the CasaTunes App and select the Office, power on the room, switch the source to the second source (zero based), and set the volume level to 40.

Example 2:

`Casatunes:///?BackURL=bwtouch://&BackTitle=Main`

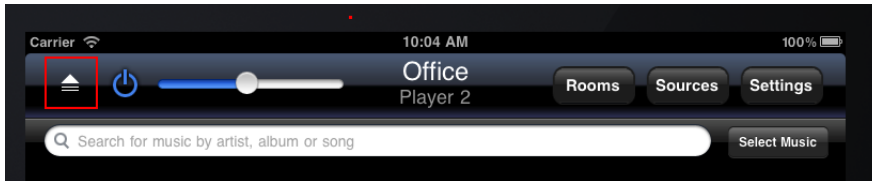
Enable the CasaTunes App to “launch” a secondary App (BitWise Controls) using the custom URL scheme, bwtouch://

Note 3: You can test and verify your custom URL commands by entering them in the Safari browser on your iOS device.

CasaTunes App

If you launch the CasaTunes App from a 3rd party App using a custom URL and you specify the “BackURL” parameter, then CasaTunes App will display an additional “button” which you press to launch the App associated with the value you specified for your BackURL key.

The button displayed is slightly different for the iPad and the iPhone. On the iPad the button is display next to the Power button and is available at all times.



On the iPhone, the button is displayed in the “Rooms” page and the button is labeled with the value of the BackTitle key you specified (in this example, main menu).

