



User Guide

SNAP Stick 200

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1. About Your SNAP Stick USB Wireless Adapter

The SNAP Stick 200 USB device is used to enable a PC to communicate with local SNAP nodes.

This device, based on the ATMEL ATmega128RFA1 hardware, is a USB dongle, about the size of a thumb drive. It is designed to act as a bridge between Synapse’s management tool, called Portal, or Synapse’s Internet connection capability, called SNAP Connect, and your other SNAP nodes.

Because it is based on the ATmega128RFA1, the SNAP Stick 200 has the same capabilities as the underlying hardware, relating to sleep options and radio rates as discussed in-depth in the SNAP Reference Manual.



The USB dongle form factor means that only one UART is available on the SNAP Stick 200. UART1 connects through the USB port. If you change the default UART (NV Parameter 12) to 0, you will not be able to communicate directly with the device, and will have to either need to use Portal to reset the device to Factory Default Parameters (NV Params) or use a different SNAP Device as a bridge and reset the default UART over the air.

Also because of the form factor, you do not have normal access to the GPIO pins on the SNAP Stick 200. The device was designed to primarily act as a bridge device. The only feedback available from the device comes in the form of a tri-color LED, controlled by pins 5 and 6, as shown in the following diagram:

LED State	Pin 5	Pin 6
Off	High (True)	High (True)
Red	Low (False)	High (True)
Green	High (True)	Low (False)
Amber	Low (False)	Low (False)

The SNAP Stick 200 includes an internal power amplifier. It also has a 32 kHz crystal, so for most efficient sleep state, you should use sleep mode 1. Note that there is no way to trigger an external wakeup signal to the device, so you should be careful to only use timed sleep.

2. Troubleshooting

In the realm of wireless communications, many factors can affect reliable data communications. This section lists a number of known factors and possible remedies.

If your question is not adequately answered here, visit the SNAP support forum on the Synapse Wireless website where you can post a question and interact with other SNAP users. The SNAP Support forum can be accessed at:

forums.synapse-wireless.com/forumdisplay.php?f=11

Signal Strength Problems

SNAP Sticks should communicate well when placed in near proximity of other SNAP nodes. However, they may not communicate well when moved farther apart which may introduce interference with other devices or obstacles such as metal walls. You can make several adjustments to remedy this situation:

- Try orienting the antenna of the other SNAP nodes into different positions. Since antennas work best when they are in the same spatial plane, essentially parallel to one another without being directly above or below each other, try to position the antennas of all your SNAP devices in the same orientation.
- There could be other interference problems in your vicinity such as large metal objects, dense foliage, and other objects that prevent signal transmission or attenuation (signal loss). Microwave ovens can cause interference problems. Try moving the units physically to another usable location to see if signal strength improves.
- Try changing the channel of each device. There are 16 separate channels (0 – 15) spread within the 2.4GHz frequency. Various other 2.4GHz devices, such as cordless phones and WiFi routers, may be flooding one channel, but not another one.
- Refer to the Advanced Management section for reference to the Synapse Portal® software. This software contains a Channel Analyzer tool that can help you determine which channel has the least traffic interference.

Poor Performance

If you believe your SNAP stick is not performing adequately, this could be caused by a number of factors, such as:

- Poor signal strength – try adjusting the antennas as described above.
- Premature sending of packets, holding on to packets for too long, or just dropped packets – try optimizing the UART parameters for your particular application. Review the UART parameters discussed in the SNAP Reference manual.

3. Regulatory Information and Certifications

RF exposure statement

This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance of 20cm between the radiator and your body. This transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

FCC certifications and regulatory information (USA only)

FCC Part 15 Class B

These devices comply with part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) These devices may not cause harmful interference, and (2) These devices must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause harmful operation.

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) (FCC 15.105)

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation.

If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Labeling Requirements (FCC 15.19)

This device complies with Part 15 of FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

If the FCC ID for the module inside this product enclosure is not visible when installed inside another device, then the outside of the device into which this product is installed must also display a label referring to the enclosed module FCC ID.

Modifications (FCC 15.21)

Changes or modifications to this equipment not expressly approved by Synapse Wireless, Inc. may void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

Declaration of Conformity

(In accordance with FCC 96-208 and 95-19)