


ETC Release Note


Cobalt® Lighting Control System Software

Product Line:	Cobalt Lighting Control System
Description:	Version 7.3.1 System Software
Engineering Change Master (ECM):	500016374
Effective Date:	2016-11-10

Purpose

This version includes bug fixes for issues found since the v7.3.0 release. All users are recommended to update to this release as production schedules allow. For any questions relating to the contents of this release or the behavior of this software, please contact ETC Technical Services at the office nearest you. A list of ETC offices is given at the bottom of this page.

 **Note:** *Due to Motorized Fader Wing support enhancements, any button macros recorded prior to version 7.3 that include the master, flash, and/or encoder buttons on a Cobalt 10, Cobalt 20, and/or Motorized Fader Wing will need to be re-learned in version 7.3.*

 **CAUTION:** *Firmware updates were required on Cobalt 20 and Cobalt 10 consoles with version 7.2.0- if the firmware is not updated on all modules of these consoles, their facepanels will not operate properly. It is highly recommended that users of Cobalt 20 and Cobalt 10 consoles update to v7.2 first, then update all firmware, then proceed to update to v7.3.0. The firmware update process can take up to an hour. Please allow ample time when updating to version 7.2.0 to complete the firmware updates. See [Updating Firmware on a Cobalt 10/20](#) on page 4 for more information.*

Availability

You may obtain this release of software by downloading it from the Downloads section of the ETC Web site www.etconnect.com. Once downloaded and unzipped, the installer must be placed on a USB flash drive with enough space (approximately 229 MB).

Documentation

The current documentation is the Cobalt v7.3.0 User Manual. The online help system within the Cobalt family software has been updated with new content for the v7.3.0 release. Items are followed by "(7.3.0)" in the table of contents. ETC manuals can be downloaded free of charge from ETC's website at www.etconnect.com. They are available in portable document format (pdf), and viewable with the free Adobe® Acrobat® Reader™ v8.x and later. Please keep this release note with your user manual.

 **Note:** *The Cobalt Help Companion is currently only available on the consoles and PCs.*



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Compatibility

ACN

This software is compatible with all Net3™ products that meet or exceed ESTA ratified standard ANSI E1.17 2006 Architecture for Control Networks (ACN) and ANSI E1.31 Streaming ACN (sACN).

- **Net3 DMX/RDM Gateway** - Version 1.0.x and later software - for RDM communication, v5 and later software.
- **Net3 IO Gateway** - Version 1.0.x and later software.
- **Net3 Show Control Gateway** - Version 1.0.x and later software.
- **Net3 Remote Video Interface (RVI)** - Version 7.3.1 and later software.
- **CEM+** - Version 3.0 and later software.
- **CEM3** - Version 1.2 and later software.
- **Net3 Concert** - Version 1.1.2 or later software.



Note: *It is recommended that you download and update Net3 Concert after updating Cobalt.*

ETCNet2

This release, when running on Congo or Cobalt console or Light Server hardware (not with ETCnomad or ETCnomad Puck), is compatible for the exchange of EDMX and/or configuration information with the following ETC hardware and software:

- **Eos Lighting Control System** - Version 1.2.x and later software.
- **Net3 Four Port Gateway (ETCNet2 mode)** - Version 4.0.x and later software.
- **Net3 Two Port Gateway (ETCNet2 mode)** - Version 4.0.x and later software.
- **Obsession II Control System** - Version 5.1.x software.
- **Emphasis® Control System** - Version 1.4.0 and later software.
- **Network Configuration Editor (NCE)** - Version 4.0.x and later software.
- **ETCNet2 DMX Node** - Version 4.0.x software.
- **ETCNet2 Two Port Node** - Version 4.0.0 thru 4.1.x software.
- **Unison®** - Version 1.9.x software (For ETCNet2 compatibility).
- **CEM®+** - Version 1.x.x and later software (For ETCNet2 compatibility).
- **DimStat** - Version 3.1 and later software.



CAUTION: *Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac and PC) does not support the use of the ETCNet2 protocol. See the [Incompatibility](#) section.*

General Network

- **Cobalt ETCnomad (online, offline and client)** - Version 7.3.1 and later software.
- **Net3 Radio Focus Remote (RFR)** - Version 2.0 and later software.
- **iRFR** - All versions.
- **aRFR** - Version 1.0.2 and later.
- **Net3 Gateway Configuration Editor (GCE)** - Version 1.2.1 and later.
- **Concert** - Version 1.0.3 and later.

Additional Devices

- **Congo Radio Remote Focus Unit (cRRFU)**

Incompatibility

Cobalt software is incompatible with hardware and software running ETCNet2 software prior to those listed above.

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- ETCNet2 Video Node - Any software version.
- TT Radio Remote Focus Unit
- Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac Only) As Backup



CAUTION: *Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac Only) is incompatible as a backup. However it can function as a client.*

Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac and PC) is incompatible with hardware and software running ETCNet2 protocol.

Cobalt software is incompatible with hardware and software running ETCNet1. Cobalt software is incompatible with Avab IPX protocols on any hardware (Congo family hardware included).

Installation Instructions



CAUTION: *Owners of Congo family products (Congo, Congo jr, Congo Kid consoles and Congo Light Servers) running pre-v6.0.0 software should read this important information: [Running Cobalt software on Congo, Congo jr, and Congo Kid consoles and Congo Light Servers](#) on page 6.*

- 1: Download the Cobalt Family Software installer file from the Support section of www.etconnect.com.
 - 2: Unzip the software and place the Cobalt Family installer file "ETC_Cobalt_#.#.#.#.#_Lib_#.#.#.exe" on your USB flash drive in the root directory or a folder named SOFTWARE (not case sensitive). Please make sure the software file is not inside any other folder or subdirectory, as this will hide it from Cobalt's update function.
 - 3: Connect the USB memory stick to the console.
 - 4: Start the console and touch or click the System Settings option.
 - 5: Touch or using the trackball or an attached mouse, click the UPDATE tab. Using the drop down menu, find and touch or click to select the current software installer file. Touch or click the INSTALL button. This will run the selected installer.
 - 6: In the installer, accept the software license agreement and then follow the instructions in the installer.
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Note: *If you are reinstalling Cobalt, click the Repair option at the beginning of the installation process.*

Installation Instructions - Cobalt ETCnomad, Cobalt Offline Editor, and Cobalt Client

- 1: Download and unzip the Cobalt Family Software installer file from the Support section of www.etconnect.com.
- 2: Double-click the Cobalt installer file.
- 3: In the Installer, click the NEXT button at each step. Note: If you are reinstalling Cobalt, click the Repair option at the beginning of the installation process.
- 4: Click the FINISH button at the end of the installation process.

Installation Instructions - Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac Only)

- 1: Download and unzip the Cobalt Family Software installer file from the Support section of www.etconnect.com.
- 2: Double-click on the "Cobalt X.X.X.X.X.dmg" to mount the Cobalt Disk Image.
- 3: Drag "Cobalt" and "CobaltSettings" to the Applications icon.

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- 4: Install "ACN SLP" by double clicking on the package, and following the instructions.
- 5: Install "Dongle driver" by double clicking on the package, and following the instructions.
- 6: Close and eject the Cobalt Disk Image.

Updating Firmware on a Cobalt 10/20

- 1: Go to the System Settings from the Welcome screen and navigate to the Update tab.
- 2: Go to the Firmware Update field at the bottom of the tab.
- 3: Select one of the following modules* in the Detected Modules box, select which version to update to, then click UPDATE:
 - a: Cobalt Playback Board(1.0.1.9.0.6): Update to v1.0.2.9.0.7
 - b: Cobalt Face Panel(1.0.2.9.0.0): Update to v1.1.0.9.0.0
 - c: Cobalt Fader Board(1.0.2.9.0.12)**: Update to v1.0.4.9.0.16
 - d: Cobalt Independent Board (1.0.1.9.0.5): Update to v1.0.1.9.0.5
- 4: Power off the console for 5 seconds, then power back on.
 - *Each firmware update must be done individually, followed by a system power off and restart, before subsequent updates can be performed.
 - **Each Fader/ Display firmware (2 for Cobalt 10, 4 for Cobalt 20), must be done separately, followed by a system power off and restart.

Version 7.3.1 Information

Key Enhancements in v7.3.1

- Bug Fixes

Issues Corrected in v7.3.1

- RND 0038659 RDM: Patching RDM fixture causes crash
- RND 0038634 Console Mimic: Using arrows together with level wheel causes a crash
- RND 0038588 Mac: Update dongle driver to latest version
- RND 0038581 Device mode: Range does not work on MFW 10
- RND 0038552 Direct Selects: Replace does not replace channels contained in previous selection
- RND 0038551 Organizer: Organizer and U keys causes crash
- RND 0038541 Mac: Remove Copy / Paste and Delete options from Organizer drop-down menu
Workaround: Dragging an item to its parent item in the organizer will open the copy dialogue as expected. Items can be deleted/copied in their respective lists (preset list, sequence list, etc...)
- RND 0038445 Congo Sr: Alpha keyboard on Masters is not available
- RND 0038397 Device mode: Assigning parameters from the wheels is broken
- RND 0038373 Congo Direct Selects: Palettes do not work on Congo Direct Selects
Workaround: Palettes can still be applied using Masters or [#] [PaletteType]]]
- RND 0038043 Startup: Starting with a show file without master content does not clear the Master LEDs
- RND 0035992 Action Macros: GO PB,xxx doesn't run the crossfade if preset xxx already is in the B field
- RND 0001930 Mac version, Import Template Wizard causes hang

Known Issues Remaining in v7.3.1

- RND 0039218 Master Playback Wing: Content loaded to top bank will be copied on bottom bank
Workaround: This only occurs when different ranges with the same page assignment are on the main console. Changing the page on the bottom MPW master bank and returning to the original will set the content on the bottom bank correctly.
- RND 0038776 SLP: Cobalt on Puck does not start SLP
Workaround: Re-install GCE to reconfigure the services to allow Cobalt to interact with Net3 Devices.
- RND 0038046 In rare cases after installation, a blank black screen may be seen.
Workaround: Power cycling the console will allow Cobalt to finish installing correctly.

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Known Issues Remaining in v7.3.1

- RND 0037344 The combination of a Universal 2x20 and a 2x10 wing connected to a Cobalt 10 may cause a display issue on the wings.
- RND 0034865 ETCnomad for Mac is not recognized by console in Server or Backup mode
Workaround: There might be an old IP address stuck in the Cobalt.ini file. This prevents a proper network connection. You can remove this setting manually and it should work. The file is called cobalt.ini and is located in the /Users/xxx/Library/Application Support/ETC/Cobalt folder. Edit this file and remove the IPAddressPrimary and IPAddressSecondary entries.
- RND 0033453 Mac: Dialogs with channel view draws incorrectly
- RND 0032832 Following an image process, a reboot is required to update software, regardless of previous shutdowns (Console Only)
- RND 0027969 Reimaging a Cobalt 20 with v7.1.0.9.0.29 incorrectly swaps the IP addresses for each NIC.
- RND 0026996 Local I/O board relay is not supported
Workaround: Use a Net3 I/O Gateway.
- RND 0025948 Cobalt Offline for Mac: Cobalt Settings will not store properly on Macs where Eos Offline was installed previously
Workaround: If you encounter this problem, please see our Wiki article containing the steps to fix this on your Mac. <http://www.etcconnect.com/Support/Articles/Cobalt-Offline-for-Mac-Installed-after-Eos-Offline-for-Mac.aspx>
- RND 0025429 Import Organizer: Importing For Each Device type palettes doesn't set dependencies. Importing palettes that are referencing a specific template isn't recommended
- RND 0020606 Mac: TAB doesn't work to step through tabs after dragging and dropping tabs between the screen. Possibly after having an empty screen with no tabs.
- RND 0019283 Drag and Drop tabs to empty screens is not supported.
- RND 0015525 If the system gets into a state where all tabs and docks are closed it appears you can not get out of that state easily.
Workaround: PRESS C/ALT & TAB TAB (double tap TAB) to restore to default screen layout.
- RND 0012083 Independents: Pressing a momentary independent switch and pressing GO will cause the independent to latch on
Workaround: Use a master and its flash key instead of the independent switch.
- RND 0010809 Thru on Effect channels can give strange results if you have renamed normal channels to internal effect numbers
- RND 0010622 Channel Layout: Using effect channels in a layout and changing the channel count will not update the effect playback numbers in the layout
Workaround: If the channel count is changed, effect channels in layout may need to be updated.
- RND 0010381 REFRESH doesn't work when preset is manually loaded into A
- RND 0010352 Upgrading Congo Jr. to v6.0 from Image 5.0.1 / OS v 8.0 will cause unexpected master wing behavior
Workaround: Image console from build 5.1 /OS v 8.1 or later. Install Congo v6.
- RND 0010340 Goto List isn't refreshed when recording new presets in Build mode
- RND 0010312 CongoSettings - window can become hidden beneath main Congo welcome screen
- RND 0010222 Devices with assigned Scroller Rolls (like a Revolution) shows up as a scroller, not a device in the channel views
- RND 0010221 Client doesn't allow a Sr console to be used together with Ion/Jr modules
Workaround: Connect Sr and Ion/Jr modules to the Server
- RND 0001983 Illegal Midi Channel (0) Available
Workaround: Only set legal MIDI channels - 1-16.
- RND 0001828 With Channels Only mode active at startup, Congo/jr starts in Ch Only but displays as if in Masters Mode.
Workaround: Start in Masters Mode and then switch to Channels Only.

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Software Components

Cobalt Lighting Control System Software Components

Cobalt	7.3.1.9.0.40
Cobalt ETCnomad (Mac Only)	7.3.1.9.0.40
Cobalt Settings	1.3.0.9.0.2
Extended Library Version	12.2.4
Cobalt 10/20/Prog Wing Keyboard Master	1.1.0.9.0.0
Cobalt 10/20 Fader Display Unit	1.0.4.9.0.16
Cobalt 10/20 Independent Master	1.0.1.9.0.5
Cobalt 10/20/Prog Wing Playback Master	1.0.3.9.0.8*
Cobalt Prog Wing Encoder Board	1.0.1.9.0.9*
Cobalt 10/20/Prog Wing FS I/O (firmware)	1.4.2.9.0.5*
Cobalt 10/20/Prog Wing HS I/O (firmware)	1.0.0.9.0.10*
Cobalt Motorized Fader Wing FDU (firmware)	1.0.3.9.0.18*
Cobalt Light Server 10x2 Button (firmware)	1.1.0.9.0.1
Cobalt Light Server FS I/O (firmware)	1.4.2.9.0.5*
Cobalt Light Server HS I/O (firmware)	1.0.0.9.0.10*
Congo Facepanel (firmware)	1.3.01.9.0.001
Congo I/O (firmware)	1.6.0.9.0.5
Congo jr facepanel (firmware)	1.9
Congo jr FS I/O (firmware)	1.4.2.9.0.5*
Congo Jr HS I/O (firmware)	1.0.0.9.0.10
Congo Light Server (firmware)	1.9
Congo Light Server FS I/O (firmware)	1.4.2.9.0.5*
Congo Light Server HS I/O (firmware)	1.0.0.9.0.10*
Congo Kid (firmware)	1.9
Congo Kid FS I/O (firmware)	1.4.2.9.0.5*
Congo Kid HS I/O (firmware)	1.0.0.9.0.10*
Wes7 (RVI3)	4.0.0.9.0.1
Wes7 (Puck)	1.0.0.9.0.1
Wes7 (Cobalt 20)	1.0.0.9.0.1
Wes7 (Cobalt 20 UCB)	2.0.0.9.0.3
Wes7 (Cobalt 10)	1.0.0.9.0.3
Wes7 (Cobalt Light Server Q87)	2.0.0.9.0.1
Wes7 (Cobalt Light Server)	1.0.0.9.0.1
Wes7(Congo jr Aaeon)	7.0.0.9.0.2
Wes7(Congo Kid Aaeon)	7.0.0.9.0.2
Wes7(Congo Light Server Aaeon)	7.0.0.9.0.2

* - Updated with Cobalt v7.3 (There are no firmware updates with v7.3.1.)

Running Cobalt software on Congo, Congo jr, and Congo Kid consoles and Congo Light Servers

Cobalt software is compatible with Congo family products. The following limitations exist when using Cobalt software on these products:

- Channel count for Congo family hardware remains capped at 3,072 for Congo/jr/Light Server hardware, and at 512 for Congo Kid consoles.
- Output count for Congo family hardware remains capped at 6,144 for Congo/jr/Light Server hardware, and at 1,024 for Congo Kid consoles.
- New Cobalt masters modes are not available on Congo family hardware - this includes Expanded Masters, Expanded Effects and Expanded Sequences and Device mode.
- Multi touch functions are not supported on Congo Family hardware with XPe images.
- Avab IPX protocol is not supported in Cobalt software.

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CAUTION: *Cobalt Software v7.2.0 and newer requires I/O firmware versions 1.6.0.9.0.5 (Congo) and 1.4.1.9.0.3 (Congo jr, Congo Kid, Congo Light Server) or newer to allow DMX and RDM to function properly on the local DMX ports. The installation of this firmware is included in the Cobalt software installer. Please follow the installation instructions within the installer to ensure that the firmware is installed properly.*

Show File Compatibility

Using Congo v5.x and older showfiles on consoles running Cobalt:

- 1: For MIDI output to be routable to either the local MIDI-port or a network MIDI port, the syntax for the MIDI Action Macro was changed. The port number has to be specified in the Action Macro after the MIDI keyword, like this: MIDI x, data... x is 0 for the local MIDI-port (similar to the serial port) or > 0 for Net3 GW ports.
- 2: When using Channel Times, channel delays in% are now derived from the In time of the step instead of the In Delay. It now works in the same way as Attribute delays. Pre v6.x show files that use percent on channel delays need to be adjusted accordingly. No automatic conversion can be made.

Updating to Cobalt Software from v4.x or v5.x Software



WARNING: *IMPORTANT – Congo jr consoles running v4.x or v5.x and the update to Cobalt software. CHECK YOUR CONGO Jr CONSOLE HARD DISK IMAGE VERSION BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE UPDATE TO COBALT SOFTWARE. Please read the full information directly below.*

In some cases, upgrading a Congo jr console to Cobalt software from version 4.x or 5.x of software may cause a connected Master Playback Wing to stop working. If your console has **OS Version r8.0** installed, you will need to reimage your hard disk to get the wing working with Cobalt software. Please note, it is only this version of the image and the Congo jr console in combination with the Congo jr Master Playback Wing that is affected. Congo consoles and Congo jr with Universal Wings (2x20, 2x10 and 1x20) will work fine on the older OS version.

To verify which hard disk image is currently installed on your Congo jr console, please go to the Welcome Screen>System Settings (or Exit to System Settings from the Browser.) The currently installed image version is shown at the bottom of the first tab in the format "OS Version r#. #". If this displays OS Version r8.0 then you will need to re-image your hard disk in order to update to Cobalt software.

Reimaging a hard disk will erase show files stored on that disk. Before reimaging, please back up show files you want to keep by copying them to a USB memory stick. You can use the "Backup Show Archive" or "File Manager" tools on the Utilities tab of the System Settings to quickly copy all shows onto a USB stick.

If you need to re-image your Congo jr hard disk, please contact your regional ETC Technical Service office, shown at the bottom of the [page 1](#), to order an upgrade kit. These kits are free of charge and contain installation instructions and a USB stick prepared for reimaging your console. Please be prepared to provide your console serial number, a contact name, phone number and shipping address when you call or please include them in your email. Once re-imaged, the hard disk will be updated to the latest image and will already have Cobalt software installed. No further updates or installations will be necessary for this version.

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Notes About Updating Your Console Running v4.x or v5.x

Congo Console Video Issue

It is possible for older Congo consoles to experience a video settings problem immediately after reimaging the hard disk to a software version of Congo v6.x or Cobalt version 7.x. If you re-image an older Congo console and find afterwards that only one monitor is working, please power that console down and restart it. The video problem should clear itself after rebooting.

Net3 Services

A portion of the Net3 Services was not included with the Congo v5.0.0 Image. If an older console is updated and Net3 Services are required, please download the installer from the ETC Web site (directions for finding the installer are given below) and run the installer on your Congo console.

Net3 Services is installed as part of ETC Net3 Gateway Configuration Editor (GCE). To download this, go to <http://www.etcconnect.com/Products/Networking/Accessories/Net3-Gateway-Configuration-Editor/Software.aspx>.

Download and install this using the installation instructions for Congo v5.0.0 or newer to add Net3 Services to your console. See [Installation Instructions](#) on page 3 for more information.

Congo/Congo jr Console & Congo Light Server and Net3 RVI, running v4.3.4 software or older

Please contact your regional ETC Technical Service office, shown at the bottom of [page 1](#), to order an upgrade kit.

These kits are free of charge and contain installation instructions and a USB stick prepared for reimaging your console. Please be prepared to provide your console serial number, a contact name, phone number and shipping address when you call or please include them in your email.

Once re-imaged, the hard disk will be updated to the latest image and will already have Cobalt software installed. No further updates or installations will be necessary for this version.



Note: *In some cases the installer may not automatically find the I/O Board, causing the installer to hang while showing the I/O Updater dialog. If it appears that the installer has hung (wait 3 minutes), click **{Exit}** to close the I/O updater dialog. The installer will continue to run, but you will need to update the I/O firmware manually. After completing the installation of Cobalt, please go into the Systems Settings, then click the UPDATE tab and use the I/O Firmware Update utility to update the I/O board.*

Ensure that you choose the correct firmware file for the console you are updating:

- Congo: CongoIO_v1_6_0_9_0_5.SRC
- Congo jr/Kid/Light Server: CNGOJRIO_v1_4_2_9_0_005.SRC

When the firmware has been updated, please restart your console to ensure proper output of DMX.

Congo Facepanel Firmware Update Instructions

A new version of Congo console (not Congo jr or Congo Kid consoles) facepanel firmware was made available with the Congo v6.0.4 release. This version solves a rare master fader flicker problem and includes English, German and French keyboards on the Master keys. **It is recommended that all Congo consoles (not Congo jr or Congo Kid consoles) be updated with this firmware as soon as production schedules allow.**

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Required Files

Before starting the firmware update procedure, make sure the following files are located on a USB memory stick

Firmware_Downloader.exe	This application actually downloads the firmware
Congo_UL_1_3_01_09_0_01RC.SRC	This is the actual firmware file.

Facepanel Preparation

- 1: Begin with the console powered down.
- 2: Plug in an external USB Keyboard and mouse.
- 3: Hold down the [?] button on the face panel.
- 4: Power up the console.
- 5: Wait until CONGO logo disappears from the ML screen and gets replaced with a **“entering diagnostics mode”**, or the diagnostics mode itself appears.
- 6: Release the [?] button. Keep watching the console monitors.

Upload Preparation

In order to prepare the console for the firmware download, a windows file explorer session has to be started:

- 1: When the Congo desktop image appears on the monitor, immediately press and hold the ESC key on the external keyboard (not on the facepanel) until a Windows Explorer window appears on screen.
- 2: Insert a USB drive containing the unzipped firmware files.
- 3: Navigate to the proper directory on your memory stick (an attached memory stick usually shows up as drive E).

Firmware upload

- 1: Press the [?] button on the face panel repeatedly, until the message “Update Firmware [NO]” appears in the ML display.
- 2: Press the [Setup] button in order to change NO to YES.
- 3: Press the [?] button again in order to accept this.
- 4: Start the Firmware_Downloader.exe application.



CAUTION: *This application has to be started within 30 seconds after the completion of the above step.*

In the upload application a status line will be visible.

- Wait until the USB connection is established. This might take up to 30 seconds.
- After successful connection, the “file” button will be enabled.
- select the correct version of the *.src file, and press the download button.

After successful completion of the download process, restart the console to resume normal operation.

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CAUTION: *Do not turn off power to the console during the firmware operation.*

If power is lost in the middle of firmware upload, it is usually possible to re-start the upload from step 4 again. If this is not possible for some reason, the board has to be sent back to ETC for service.

If the firmware upload is initiated by accident, simply wait for a couple of minutes. The old firmware will still be present if the actual download process hasn't been started.

Restart the Console

Hold CTRL-ALT-DEL on the external or built-in keyboard. Click the Shutdown button in the dialog and select Shutdown or Restart. Then confirm the dialog to restart Congo.