SHEET 2 OF 6

Tablet Setup, Android

PoE wall tablets · kiosk at port 8080 · always-on · auto-start · lockdown

Safety and use

- The tablet shows the family dashboard. It is a thin client. Everything it displays comes from the hub at `http://<HUB-IP>:8080`. If the hub, the network, or the PoE switch is down, the screen will not control the house.
- Most in-wall Android panels are powered by **PoE** from the switch. Put that switch on a UPS. See the battery-runtime chart in **Sheet 1, section 3**. A tablet used as the alarm keypad is useless in an outage if its PoE switch is dark.
- Use a licensed low-voltage or electrical contractor when the job requires one, especially for in-wall power, new Ethernet drops, or cutting into finished walls.
- Do not port-forward port 8080. Do not type PINs, camera URLs, or Wi-Fi passwords into a screenshot, a ticket, or a group chat.
- Keep the look clean: the kiosk is a full-screen dashboard, not a general-purpose Android tablet.

What this sheet covers

How to mount and power an Android wall tablet (PoE panel), point it at the hub's kiosk, keep the screen on, auto-start after a power cycle, lock the tablet down, and register it to a Composer tablet profile.

1. What you need

Item	Notes
Android wall tablet or panel	An Android panel with a PoE input and a current web browser. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Helix has not published an approved panel list. Ask Helix support which panel to buy before you order.
PoE switch port	802.3af is enough for a typical 8-inch panel. Confirm the panel's PoE class on the nameplate.
Ethernet drop	Same LAN (or a VLAN that can reach the hub on port 8080). Cat6 preferred.
UPS	On the PoE switch, and on the hub, router, and access points (Sheet 1).
Hub address	`http://<HUB-IP>:8080` or `http://helix-ch01.local:8080`. Prefer the reserved IP; some Android devices do not resolve `.local` names.
Composer access	`http://<HUB-IP>:8090`, so you can add a tablet profile and a pairing code.

Item	Notes
Optional kiosk launcher	A dedicated kiosk/launcher app, or Android screen pinning, so the user cannot leave Helix. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Helix has not named a preferred kiosk app. Use the panel maker's kiosk mode or screen pinning, and ask Helix support if unsure.

Plan one panel per main room, plus the kitchen, unless the job specifies otherwise.

2. Power, network, and mounting

1. Run a dedicated Ethernet drop to the tablet location. Do not share a dropped cable with a camera if the panel needs a full PoE budget of its own — **Beta – confirm with Helix support** give each tablet its own drop and PoE port unless Helix support confirms sharing for your model.
2. At the rack, patch that drop to a PoE port on the UPS-backed switch.
3. In the router, create a **DHCP reservation** for the tablet so its address stays put (useful for support, not required for the kiosk to work).
4. Confirm the tablet and the hub are on networks that can talk. The tablet only needs to reach `<HUB-IP>` port **8080**.
5. Power the panel from PoE and confirm it boots to Android.
6. Mount the panel in the manufacturer's in-wall or on-wall kit, level, at a height the household can reach. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Helix has not set a standard mounting height. Keep vents clear.
7. If the panel also has a DC barrel input, prefer PoE so the UPS at the switch keeps it alive. Do not double-power it unless the manufacturer says that is allowed.

3. Point the tablet at the kiosk

1. Connect the tablet to the **customer Wi-Fi only if it is not already on Ethernet**. Prefer Ethernet/PoE for wall panels.
2. Open Chrome (or the panel's system browser) and go to:

`http://<HUB-IP>:8080`

If Composer already has a profile for this tablet, use the link on that card, which looks like:

`http://<HUB-IP>:8080/?tablet=<id>`

3. Confirm the Helix kiosk loads (rooms, clock, weather, or the empty default if the project has not been sent yet).
4. In Chrome: ⋮ → **Add to Home screen / Install app**. Open Helix from that home-screen icon from now on, not from a loose browser tab.
5. If `.local` fails, use `<HUB-IP>`. Write the working URL on the job sheet.

4. Keep the screen on

The wall panel must not sleep.

1. Open Android **Settings → Display**.

2. Set screen timeout / sleep to **Never**, or to the longest time the panel allows, then also apply a kiosk or "screen always on" setting if the manufacturer provides one.
3. On some panels there is a vendor setting for "screensaver off," "always on when charging/PoE," or "digital signage / kiosk." Turn those on so the system cannot dim to black after a few minutes. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Menu names differ by panel and firmware; check the panel manual.
4. Set brightness to a level that is readable in that room by day and at night. Avoid auto-brightness if it hunts or goes too dark at night.
5. Turn off a screen saver that shows photos or a clock over the kiosk.
6. Confirm: wait several minutes, and after a poE hiccup, that the Helix dashboard is still visible without a tap.

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5. Auto-start after power loss

When the UPS runs out or the switch is rebooted, the tablet must come back to Helix by itself.

1. In the kiosk launcher, the panel vendor settings, or Android **Settings**, set Helix (the home-screen / installed PWA, or Chrome with the kiosk URL) as the **startup app**.
2. Disable "show lock screen at boot" if the panel would otherwise sit on a swipe or PIN after a power cycle. If you keep a boot lock for theft protection, the household must know it — and an alarm keypad that needs an Android unlock first is a poor design. Prefer kiosk mode with no lock screen. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Ask Helix support before turning on a boot lock.
3. Reboot the tablet (or unplug PoE for ten seconds and reconnect). It should return to the full-screen Helix kiosk without any installer taps.

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6. Lock the tablet down

Tips that keep the panel as a dedicated Helix screen:

1. **Kiosk launcher or screen pinning.** Use the vendor kiosk mode if the panel has one. Otherwise: open Helix, then **Overview / Recents → pin the screen** (Android screen pinning). Require a PIN to unpin, and do not use the same PIN as the Helix kiosk PIN.
2. **Hide or disable the navigation bar** if the firmware allows it, so a casual tap cannot open Settings.
3. **Remove extra home-screen apps** or move them off the default launcher. The family should not see Play Store, YouTube, or a web browser as the first thing on the glass.
4. **Turn off system update pop-ups** during commissioning, then apply Android and firmware updates while you are on site, and reboot back into kiosk mode. Unattended OS updates can leave the panel on a setup wizard.
5. **Turn off notifications** from other apps, Google, and the vendor launcher so they do not cover the dashboard.
6. **Disable Google / guest accounts** you do not need. If a Google account is required for the Play Store, use a job account, not a personal one, and lock the store afterward. **Beta – confirm with Helix support** Ask Helix support if a Google account policy applies to your job.
7. **Do not** show the Helix kiosk PIN, the Composer URL, or the tablet pairing code on a sticker on the bezel.
8. Set a unique owner-unlock PIN for the Android settings if the panel allows it, and record it only in the credential vault.

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7. Register the tablet in Composer

Each wall panel can have its own start room and tile layout.

1. In Composer go to **Tablets** and add a tablet. Name it for the room, for example `Kitchen wall`.
2. Set the default room and any per-tablet tile layout.
3. On the tablet, either: - Open the exact link from the Composer card: `http://<HUB-IP>:8080/?tablet=<id>` once, or - Open Helix menu (tap the Helix logo) → **This tablet** → enter the pairing code shown in Composer.
4. The assignment is stored in that tablet's browser storage. It will now open on its default room.
5. After you **Send to tablets** in Composer, pull down to refresh, or close and reopen the home-screen app, so the new layout appears.
6. To reset: open `http://<HUB-IP>:8080/?tablet=none`, or Helix menu → **This tablet → Unregister** (the kiosk must be unlocked).

Unlock with PIN (**This tablet**) shows every tile for 10 minutes. An orange "Unlocked · Lock" pill locks it again. Five wrong PIN entries lock the pad for 5 minutes.

8. Test

1. The dashboard fills the screen with no browser chrome.
2. After five minutes idle, the screen is still on and still on Helix.
3. After a PoE unplug/replug, the tablet boots back to Helix alone.
4. Changing rooms and opening a tile works.
5. The correct default room loads after a refresh.
6. Unpinning or leaving kiosk mode requires the Android PIN you set, not nothing.
7. On the UPS, killing wall power keeps this tablet on (Sheet 1 test).

9. Troubleshooting

Symptom	What to do
Page won't load	Ping `<HUB-IP>` from another device. Confirm port 8080, the Ethernet link, and that the tablet is not on a guest Wi-Fi that cannot see the hub. Try the IP, not `.local`.
Old layout after programming	Send to tablets in Composer, then close and reopen the home-screen app (or pull to refresh). A service worker can hold an old copy until the refresh.
Screen sleeps	Re-check timeout, vendor "always on," and that the panel still sees PoE power.
Comes up on the Android launcher after a reboot	Startup app is not set. Set Helix / the kiosk launcher as the boot app and test again.
`.local` **never works**	Expected on some Android builds. Use the reserved IP and a home-screen shortcut to `http://<HUB-IP>:8080`.
Tablet lost its profile	Browser data was cleared. Re-open the `?tablet=<id>` link or re-enter the pairing code.
Can't reach Composer from the tablet	That is normal if you only need the kiosk. Composer is port 8090 and is for the installer.

Next: if this house also has iPads, continue with Sheet 3. Otherwise start programming in Composer (Sheet 4).