CryptoTicr

Safety information

Power, the USB cable, where to put the ticker and how to look after it.

Power and the USB cable

The socket and the cable

The power socket on the back of the ticker is USB Type-C. The box holds a cable with a USB-A plug at one end, USB-C at the other and an on/off button in the lead, and a 110 V power adapter with a USB-A socket.

The adapter is a convenience. Any USB port that stays powered, on a computer, a TV, a hub or a phone charger, gives the ticker what it needs. A port that switches off when its computer sleeps switches the ticker off too.

How much power

About 0.2 amps at 5 volts, which is about one watt. It is built to stay on, day and night.

The button on the cable is the only switch. There are no buttons on the ticker itself.

The ticker measures its own supply

The ticker reads the voltage reaching it many times a second and judges it over each minute, so a single blip never counts. When the supply sags, from a thin or very long cable, a tired adapter, or a port shared with hungry devices, it shows `Power a bit low` or `Power very low!`. When it runs high, it shows `Power a bit high` or `Power very high!`. While it is fine, the power card reads `Power is good`.



The very-low and very-high readings matter more than a warning. At those levels the ticker can restart without warning, or damage its stored settings while it saves them. That is why the card's advice is a different power source, not a different setting: for very low, `Switch to a different USB power source.`; for very high, unplug it and use a different one.

During first-time setup a supply in that danger range shows a `Power` card among the setup cards. The whole feature is on The power check.

After a power cut

The ticker starts by itself when the power comes back, rejoins the Wi-Fi and carries on, with nothing lost. See After a power cut.

Placement and care



Within reach of the router

The ticker's Wi-Fi radio is small, so give it a clear path to the router:

- Keep brick, concrete and stone walls, floors, and big appliances out of the line between them where you can.
- Keep it a little away from metal, mirrors, microwave ovens, cordless phone bases and USB 3 drives or hubs, all of which get in the way of 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi.
- On a mesh system, near any of its units is as good as near the router.

The ticker tells you when the connection is struggling. Its signal card says `Weak Wi-Fi signal`, or `Wi-Fi drops out` when the link keeps dropping, and it repeats at most every 15 minutes. The settings page's advice for that case is the right one: `Moving it nearer the router, or a cheap 2.4 GHz extender, usually helps.` See The Wi-Fi signal check.

A good cable and adapter

The ticker measures its own power supply. A thin or very long cable, a worn adapter, or a USB hub shared with other devices can sag, and the ticker shows `Power a bit low` when it does. The adapter and cable from the box, into a wall outlet, are the known-good pair. See The power check.

Dry and out of the sun

The ticker is not waterproof. Keep it away from sinks, drinks and plant watering, and out of direct sun, which heats the case and washes out the screen.

Brightness

Set the brightness to whatever looks right in your room. The settings page gives the reasoning: `the screen's backlight is my biggest power draw and my main source of warmth, and electronics generally last longest kept cool, so mid-range makes a good everyday choice.` Quiet hours can dim it overnight by themselves. See Brightness and Nighttime quiet hours.

Cleaning

Wipe the screen with a clean, soft cloth, slightly damp with water or rubbing alcohol. A microfiber lens cloth is ideal. Press lightly: the screen is a bare panel set a little behind the window, not glass. Not paper towels or tissues, their fibers scratch its soft front film, and not glass cleaner, ammonia clouds it. A soft brush clears dust from the edge of the window. The case takes the same cloth with water alone, since alcohol can lift its printed marks. Unplug it first, and never spray anything onto the ticker.

Leave it on

It is built to run day and night and draws about one watt, so there is nothing to gain by switching it off. Switching it off loses nothing either: it rejoins the Wi-Fi and carries on. One caution: switching it off and on five times in a row, each within five seconds, is the factory reset, which erases its settings. See Can it stay on all the time?.