

A3. API Documentation Linked from Roku Developer Email (A1)

Email Link: "New requirements added to ECP commands"

URL: https://developer.roku.com/docs/developer-program/dev-tools/external-control-api.md?lid=guu5b3t3ka6g&utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20250206-Developer-US-Newsletter_Q4_2024

External Control Protocol (ECP)

The External Control Protocol (ECP) enables a Roku device to be controlled over a local area network by providing a number of external control services. The Roku devices offering these external control services are discoverable using SSDP (Simple Service Discovery Protocol). ECP is a simple RESTful API that can be accessed by programs in virtually any programming environment.

As of Roku OS 14.1, the **Settings > System > Advanced system settings > Control by mobile apps** feature must be set to "Enabled" for a Roku device to receive the following ECP commands:

- keypress
- keydown
- keyup
- query/icon
- query/tv-channels
- query/tv-active-channel

In addition, the following ECP commands require the Roku device to be in **developer mode** and the **Control by mobile apps** setting to be "Enabled":

- query/chanperf
- query/r2d2-bitmaps
- query/sgnodes
- query/sgrendezvous and sgrendezvous
- query/registry
- query/graphics-frame-rate
- query/fwbeacons and fwbeacons
- query/app-object-counts
- query/channel-state
- exit-app

As of Roku OS 12.0, the "search" command is no longer available.

Support for sending ECP commands from within a Roku app has been discontinued. Apps may no longer include code in their app that is designed to issue any type of ECP command. **Static Analysis testing** has been updated to check apps for ECP commands. Apps that include ECP commands in their code will automatically be blocked from publishing to the Streaming Store.

In addition, ECP commands may not be sent from 3rd-party platforms (for example, mobile applications).

Key Quotes:

- "As of Roku OS 14.1, the Control by mobile apps setting must be Enabled for a Roku device to receive ECP commands" [*New requirement added*]

- "In addition, ECP commands may not be sent from 3rd-party platforms (for example, mobile applications)" *[Unchanged from previous documentation]*
- "As of Roku OS 12.0, the 'search' command is no longer available" *[New retroactive announcement of changes made in 2023]*

(copy for comparison):

Exhibit 4b: ECP - Roku API documentation

External Control Protocol (ECP)

The External Control Protocol (ECP) enables a Roku device to be controlled over a local area network by providing a number of external control services. The Roku devices offering these external control services are discoverable using SSDP (Simple Service Discovery Protocol). ECP is a simple RESTful API that can be accessed by programs in virtually any programming environment.

Support for sending ECP commands from within a Roku channel application has been discontinued. Channels may no longer include code in their channel application that is designed to issue any type of ECP command. [Static Analysis testing](#) has been updated to check channels for ECP commands. Channels that include ECP commands in their code will automatically be blocked from publishing to the Roku Channel Store.

In addition, ECP commands may not be sent from 3rd-party platforms (for example, mobile applications).

Channels may still include code for handling incoming ECP commands sent by the Roku OS for [deep links](#), [voice controls](#), and so on.

To further leverage ECP commands for testing a channel's performance and behavior, it is recommended that developers integrate [Roku's automation test software](#) in their test suite.