PulseWorx and SimpleWorx: Which to use?

You are an electrician on a call with a potential job. Here are the kinds of requests you probably have heard many times.

Job 1: A business owner wants you to install a switch to control lighting in a remote building and running a control wire will be difficult and expensive.

Job 2: A homeowner with a theater room wants to integrate scene control lighting into the room experience.

Job 3: A homeowner wants to install controls for landscape lighting with a timer and a remote keypad. Running wires will be time consuming and an astronomical timer is needed.

Job 4: A homeowner wants to remotely control a load from a keypad in one part of the house. Fishing wires though many walls and under the house isn’t something that sounds like fun.

Job 5: A homeowner wants remote access to their lighting using a mobile platform.

How do you solve these sorts of problems? When you look at the PCS PulseWorx and SimpleWorx product lines you will see that either can solve many of these problems with minimal difficulty as both use the power line from the transmission of control signals. But which do you choose?

For an answer, ask yourself this question: Is this job primarily about point-to-point control or is it part of or the start of an automation system? For point-to-point control the answer is SimpleWorx. For lighting as part of an automation solution the answer is PulseWorx.

Let’s drill down into some of the features of both and see which better applies.

**Ease of hardware Installation: Best choice: Either**
Both SimpleWorx and PulseWorx are easy to install as there are replacement wall switches and plug-in modules. For setting up wired multi-ways switches there are SimpleWorx and PulseWorx slave switches. Both devices require a neutral wire to be available.

**Configuration post install: Best Choice SimpleWorx**
Once SimpleWorx devices are installed, linking controllers and loads is done by simple button presses. No software is needed. PulseWorx requires a software configuration tool to uniquely address each installed device and to build links between transmitters and receivers.
Configurability: Best Choice PulseWorx
PulseWorx devices are extremely configurable for all aspects of their use. For example, the action that a switch rocker takes on a single tap, double tap, hold, and release can be configured. For keypads an even greater level of configuration is available for the action of the buttons and the action of the button LEDs. There are no automation devices anywhere that are as configurable as PulseWorx devices. There are no user selectable configuration options for SimpleWorx other than setting up links between transmitters and receivers.

Dimming: Best Choice PulseWorx
SimpleWorx has no concept of dimming. Loads are turned on or off. PulseWorx offers the full range of 0-100% dimming.

Signal strength: Best Choice SimpleWorx
SimpleWorx is based upon the same industrial level signal transmission used by the PCS GreenWorx product line. As such it can transmit long distances without needing installation of a repeater or a coupler bridging both sides of the power panel. While PulseWorx also has excellent signal strength transmission, PCS does recommend a repeater when used in larger homes.

Speed of transmission: Best Choice PulseWorx
PulseWorx transmissions take place in half the time that SimpleWorx transmission take. This is probably not a problem in almost all applications but there is a noticeable difference between the two product lines when controlling a load from a keypad.

Landscape lighting system: Best Choice SimpleWorx
SimpleWorx offers, in addition to transmitters and receivers, a simple plug-in astronomical timer. This can create a stand-alone lighting system useful for applications like landscape lighting.

PulseWorx offers its PulseWorx Gateway product which, among other features is a stand-alone timer but also offers remote access from mobile applications to the lighting system.

Product line breadth: Best Choice PulseWorx
There are many different types of transmitters and receivers in the PulseWorx product line. The SimpleWorx product line, matching its primary use for point-to-point control, contains many fewer products with many fewer options.

So, knowing this what technology would you choose for the fie problems above?
Job 1: A business owner wants you to install a switch to control lighting in a remote building and running a control wire will be difficult and expensive.  
**Answer:** *SimpleWorx as it is just point-to-point control*

Job 2: A homeowner with a theater room wants to integrate scene control lighting into the room experience.  
**Answer:** *PulseWorx as it involves many different kinds of devices and almost certainly dimming.*

Job 3: A homeowner wants to install controls for landscape lighting with a timer and a remote keypad.  
Running wires will be time consuming and an astronomical timer is needed.  
**Answer:** *This could go either way but SimpleWorx would be the best choice as long as the requirements don’t expand.*

Job 4: A homeowner wants to remotely control a load from a keypad in one part of the house. Fishing wires though many walls and under the house isn’t something that sounds like fun.  
**Answer:** *SimpleWorx makes the installation very easy.*

Job 5: A homeowner wants remote access to their lighting from a remote location using a mobile platform.  
**Answer:** *PulseWorx as only that choice offers remote access using the Gateway product.*

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