

What is WinLink?



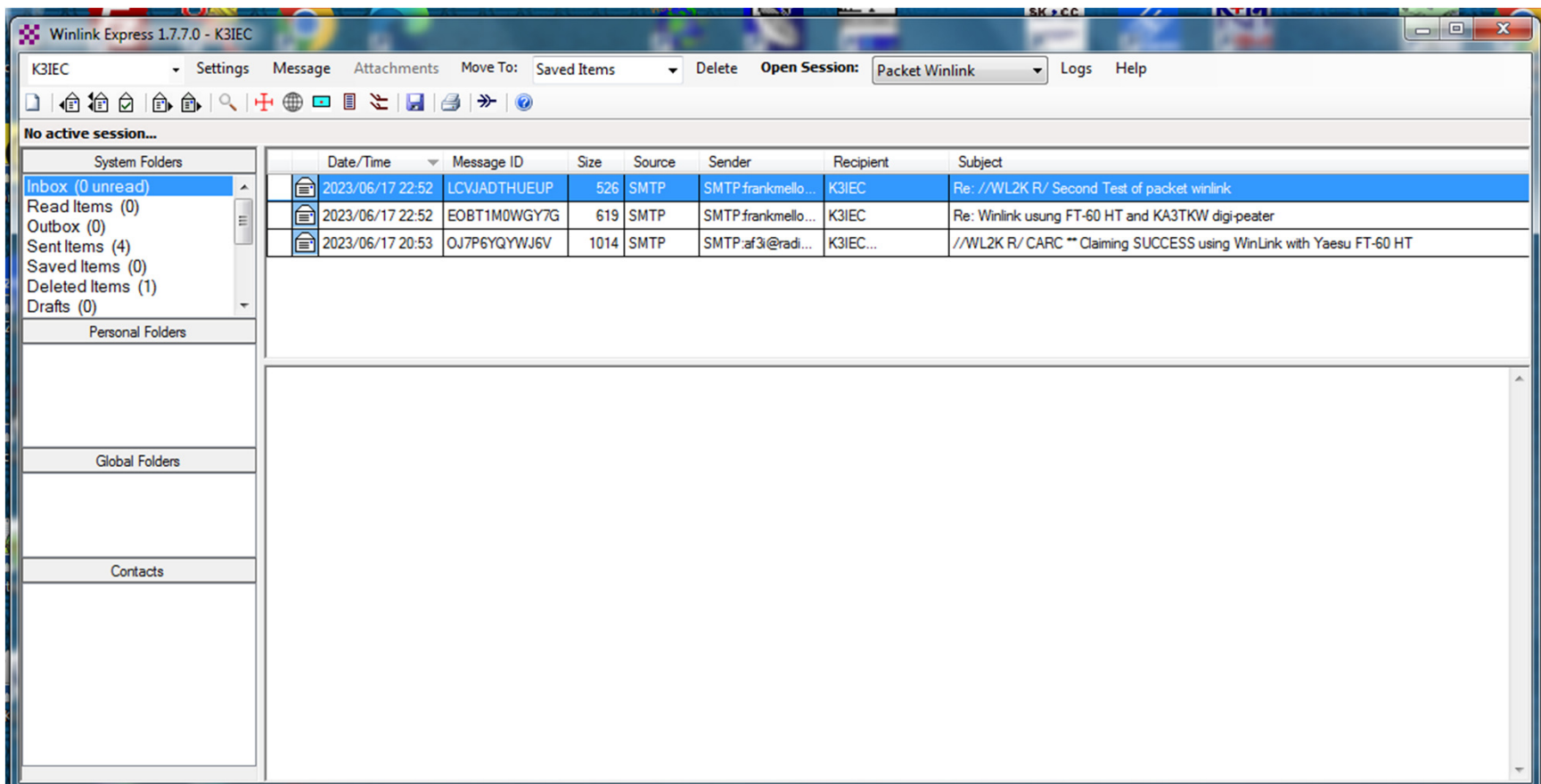
Winlink is...

- Personal Computer Software – eMail Client...
- Driven by Soundcard Technology
ARDOP, VARA HF, VARA FM, AX.25 Packet...
- For Licensed Amateur Radio Operators...
- Who wish to send and receive eMail messages via
Amateur Radio.

eMail Client View

If you can deal with AOL mail or Google Mail then you will feel “right at home” with Winlink Express eMail.

Inbox, Outbox, Sent, Drafts, etc.



How does CARC use Winlink?

- Field Day Bonus Points (100) are awarded for sending a RadioGram message to the ARRL Section Manager or Emergency Coordinator.
- Field Day Bonus Points (10 points each, up to 100 Total) are awarded for sending a RadioGram message to almost anyone else.
- How much effort would be required to make 100 Phone QSOs to earn 200 Field Day Points?

How does CARC use Winlink?

- Points Eligible Messages must travel at least “one leg of the trip” via Amateur Radio RF. The rest of the trip can go via *The Internet*.
- Your Addressee will soon find your message in his or her In-Box.
- See the sample message... if any of the message header will be confusing to your Addressee you may wish to add a line of explanation somewhere.

What does it take to do this?

- Signal Link sound card interface, or similar.
- Download and Install the Winlink Express software on your PC.
- Available at www.winlink.org
- Fill-in SETTINGS, Winlink Express Setup
- Make a Telnet Winlink connection using your Internet Service Provider.
- Winlink will attempt verification of your Amateur Radio License using automated methods through trusted sources. If automated methods fail you will be requested to provide proof of licensing.
- Winlink will assign a temporary password and place it in the Winlink Express In-Box. Read the eMail that was sent to you.
- Log-in to Winlink Express using the temporary password. Update your Winlink configuration with your own permanent password.
- Consider registering your account to support Winlink Development and to stop the reminder messages.

What else does it take?

- **Soundmodem application by UZ7HO**
- Download and install soundmodem114.zip
- <http://uz7.ho.ua/packetradio.htm>
- Settings
- **Easy-Term application by UZ7HO**
- Nice to have when you want to expand your packet radio usage.
- Download and install easyterm49.zip
- Settings

PC and Radio Hardware

- Setup – VHF in Metropolitan Area
- Windows PC (WIN 7, 8, 10, 11)
- Signal Link USB
- Handheld Transceiver, 5 watts, Rubber Duck
- Suitable Radio Interface Cable and “jumpers”.
- With this configuration, AF3I can connect from his home or from Chestnut Park (Carroll Twp).
- Add power and/or directional antenna if needed.

- If you already use a PC-Based soundcard digital mode then you are part-way to the finish line.

For example:

WSJT-X

PSK-31

FLdigi

PC and Radio Hardware

- Setup – HF
- Windows PC (WIN 7, 8, 10, 11)
- Signal Link USB
- HF Transceiver
- Suitable Radio Interface Cable and “jumpers”.
- Add power and/or directional antenna if needed.
- VARA Software Add-On. Licensed or Unlicensed.
“Unlicensed” imposes some speed restrictions.
Most users will not be aware of limitations.

What else does it take?

- I would like to call a friend....
- I would like to buy a vowel....
- There are nuances in the various settings.
- Recommend working with someone who has their environment up and running.

Operations, Part 1

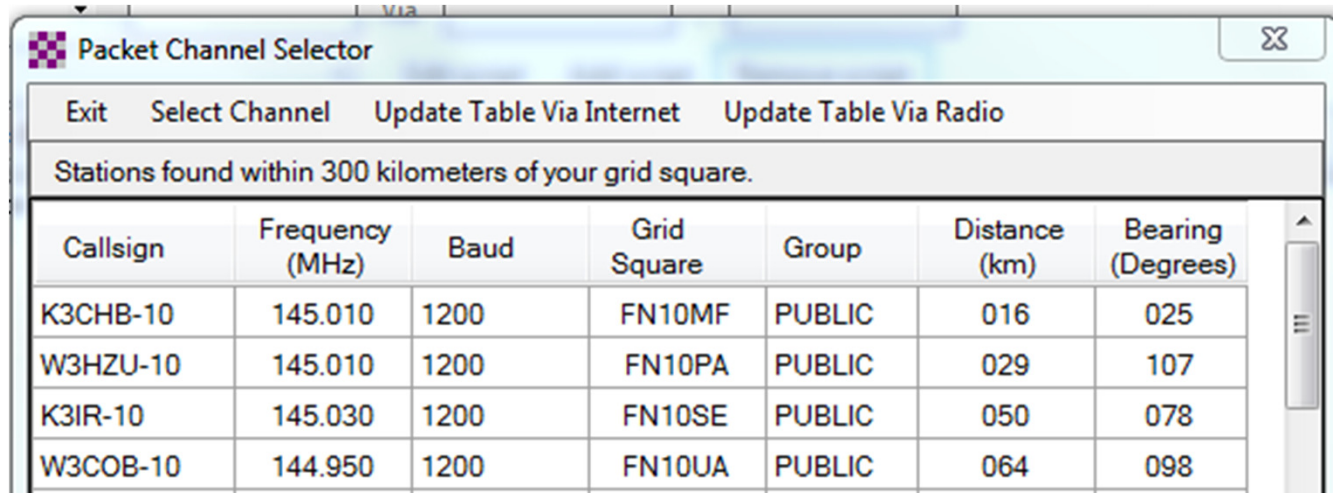
- Update Winlink software as needed.
- Update Winlink forms/templates as needed.
- Start the soundmodem app first.
- Next launch the Winlink Express app.
- Open a suitable session.
 - Telnet winlink -- entry level starting point
 - Then graduate to packet winlink for RF

Operations, Part 2

- Identify nearby packet channels
- Menu: Channel Selection,
Update Table via Internet
- W3HZU-10 on 145.010 MHz
- Digipeater KA3TKW
- Set your radio to the Packet Channel Freq.

Results – Packet Channel Selector

Stations near Grid FN10lc



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Packet Channel Selector". It has a menu bar with "Exit", "Select Channel", "Update Table Via Internet", and "Update Table Via Radio". Below the menu bar is a status bar that says "Stations found within 300 kilometers of your grid square." The main area contains a table with 7 columns: Callsign, Frequency (MHz), Baud, Grid Square, Group, Distance (km), and Bearing (Degrees). The table lists four stations: K3CHB-10, W3HZU-10, K3IR-10, and W3COB-10, all operating at 1200 baud. The grid square for all is FN10, and the group is PUBLIC. The distances and bearings are 016/025, 029/107, 050/078, and 064/098 respectively.

Callsign	Frequency (MHz)	Baud	Grid Square	Group	Distance (km)	Bearing (Degrees)
K3CHB-10	145.010	1200	FN10MF	PUBLIC	016	025
W3HZU-10	145.010	1200	FN10PA	PUBLIC	029	107
K3IR-10	145.030	1200	FN10SE	PUBLIC	050	078
W3COB-10	144.950	1200	FN10UA	PUBLIC	064	098

Message Skills

- Menu: Message, New Message
- Think about: Free Style Text eMail vs.
ARRL RadioGram Template
- Click Select Template
- Standard Templates, Radiogram
- To: You can type an internet email address.
Or, you can type a callsign if the recipient has a winlink.org account.
- Subject: For best results begin the subject with //WL2K R/ This overcomes the possibility of blocked message delivery if your addressee has not “whitelisted” you as a sender.
- When finished: Click Post to Outbox

Template Style Message Sample

FD Bonus Points call for NTS or ICS formatting

2 R K3IEC 8 DILLSBURG PA 1744Z JUN 20
ANDREW FORSYTH AF3I
CARROLL TOWNSHIP YORK COUNTY PA 17019
717 991 5354
AF3I ATSIGN RADIOCLUB DASH CARC DOT COM
OP NOTE SENT BY AMATEUR RADIO RF
BT

TEST MESSAGE FROM HOME USING
KENWOOD BASE STATION
BT
ANDREW FORSYTH
AR

The template did almost all the work of getting the format right.

Free Style Text Message Sample

Hi,

I could not get a Winlink connection when I visited Shaffer Park on Monday.

On my way home I stopped to buy groceries at the Weis Market at the corner of Simpson Ferry Rd and Wesley Drive. Unable to make a Winlink connection at that location.

When I reached my home I was able to make the Winlink Connection.

73 AF3I

RadioGram Template

Amateur Radio RADIOGRAM Text Creator Read Help and Instructions!							
Number <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SVC (Handler use)	Precedence R EMERGENCY P W <small>Emergency not in use at this time.</small>	Handling Instructions NONE HXA HXB HX Help <input type="button" value="ADD MORE HX INFO"/>	Station Of Origin <input type="text" value="K3IEC"/> <small>Change if not you.</small>	Check <input type="text" value="0"/>	Place of Origin <input type="text" value="ex. OWLS HEAD ME"/>	Time <input type="text" value="Optional"/> <input type="radio"/> Current UTC Time <input type="radio"/> Current Local Time <input checked="" type="radio"/> No Time	Date <input type="text" value="JUN 21"/>
TO: Name: <input type="text" value="FIRST AND LAST NAME MINIMUM"/> Call Sign: <input type="text" value="IF ANY OR KNOWN"/> Address: <input type="text" value="OPTIONAL"/> City / Town: <input type="text" value="VERIFY YOUR SPELLING"/> State or Province: <input type="text" value="ST"/> 2 Letter Codes Zip: <input type="text" value="USA/CAN"/> Country: <input type="text" value="OPTIONAL"/> Phone: <input type="text" value="555 555 5555"/> Extension: <input type="text" value="#s ONLY"/> E-mail: <input type="text" value="NEED EMAIL, PHONE, OR BOTH TO ENSURE DELIVERY."/> Op Note about this Radiogram: <input type="text" value="OPTIONAL - KEEP IT SHORT!"/>							
MESSAGE TEXT Check: <input type="text" value="0"/> RRC Message Numbering Help <div><small>SUGGESTION IS NO MORE THAN 25 GROUPS (WORDS)</small> <div></div></div> <input type="button" value="Click here to preview for accuracy BEFORE you SUBMIT"/>							
Signature (name) of person for whom message originated: <input type="text" value="PERSON WHO ORIGINATED THIS MESSAGE"/> Operator Note: <input type="text" value="OPTIONAL - KEEP IT SHORT!"/>							
>>> NOW CLICK HERE and select a Liaison Station <<< <input type="text" value="YOU MAY ENTER ANY ADDRESS HERE"/> <input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Reset Form"/> <small>Contact KB1TCE about this form: Ver 10.5</small>							

The End