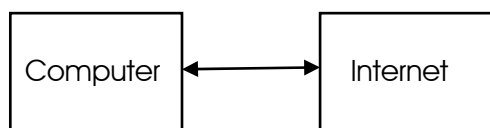


Winlink 2000 VHF

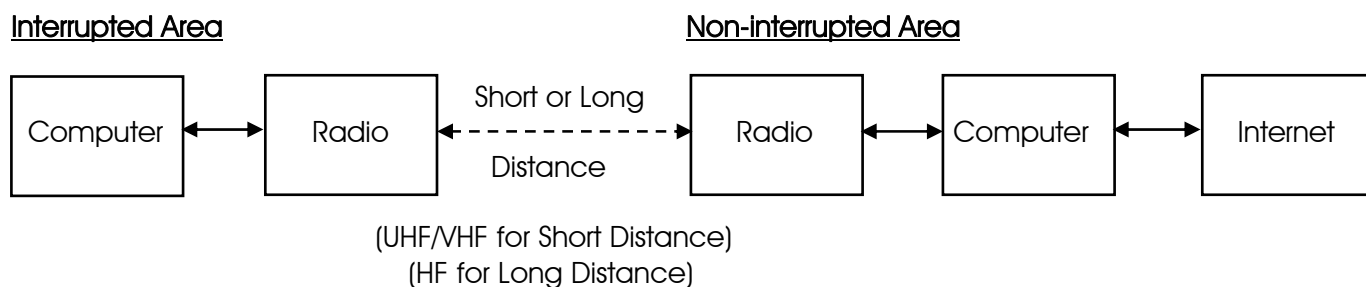
NYC - Long Island - Connecticut

Dr. John A. Allocca, WB2LUA, 3/6/10

Normal E-Mail Internet Connection:



Using Radio Communications During an Interrupted E-Mail Internet Connection:



Winlink 2000 is a worldwide digital amateur radio message transfer system. It provides E-mail transfer with attachments, map & text-based position reporting, graphic & text-based weather bulletin services, and emergency communications by linking radios to the Internet.

The Winlink 2000 system is currently being utilized for emergency communications where local or regional communications are disrupted, including the loss of the Internet, and where accuracy of information is important.

Winlink 2000 can be used by any licensed Amateur radio operator. The operator logs into one of the participating network stations using the "AirMail" software. Currently, Winlink 2000 has a flow of over 150,000 messages monthly into 41 participating stations from 5100 + users. The Winlink 2000 user must have a General Class or higher license to use HF radio.

Winlink 2000 may be very useful for emergency communications using the Telpac with Paclink email-based VHF/UHF radio Packet for "last mile" communications coverage. Airmail is used for greater distances using the HF radio link to Winlink 2000 and the internet.

"Telpac" stands for TELnet-PACket Bridge and it allows the Winlink 2000 operator to use the VHF/UHF Packet mode with the B2F protocol. Telpac is used by the Packet nodes to interface with the end-user, who is using Paclink or Airmail. Paclink utilizes Outlook or Outlook Express to provide the end-user with a connection to the Winlink 2000 system by way of Telpac.

Currently Active VHF Packet Winlink 2000 Gateways

As of 3/6/10

Log onto the packet station that is the nearest to your location. Then, connect to one of the gateways below. If you are close enough to a gateway, log on directly.

Hopping from node to node will slow the operation. From Northport, NY a connection needs to be made to the local WA2PNU digipeater, then to KC2COJ digipeater, then to WA2GUG-10 gateway. From Northport, it is a direct link to N1EZT-10 gateway in Stamford, CT or N1BDF-10 gateway in New Haven, CT.

RMS Packet Gateway Positions Map is found at <http://www.winlink.org/RMSPacketPositions>

WA2GUG-10
Far Rockaway, NY
145.090 MHz

K2YYD-10
Levittown, NY
145.090 MHz

KC2UCD-10
Smithtown, NY
145.070 MHz

KC2TGD-7
Montauk, NY
145.070 MHz

N1EZT-10
Stamford, CT
145.030 MHz

N1BDF-10
New Haven, CT
145.050 MHz

W1GTT-10
New London, CT
145.030 MHz

W1JPZ
Charles Town, CT
145.050

Airmail Software Protocols

Software: Download and install "Airmail" version 3.3.081 or later from <http://www.siriuscyber.net/ham>
Airmail software is NOT compatible with Kenwood built-in TNC's. It works well with the Kantronics KPC3+.

Note: the first time you log onto a winlink, your callsign and license may need to be verified.

Address Book Setup

Main page
Click on the black book icon (second from left)
Click New
Name: person's name
To: Their email address
Email gate: Email
Post Via: WL2K
Click OK

VHF Packlink Client Setup

Main page
Tools
Options
Modules
VHF Packet Client - check the block and click on the Setup button
From the Connections column:
TNC Type: select the TNC you are using - KPC-3 is at the bottom of the list
Com Port: Select your computers serial com port (usually Com1)
Baud Rate: Select the serial port baud rate (usually 9600)
Do not make changes in the Port Settings column
Check Show Hints
Check Terminal Window and Telnet Client
Check Show in Taskbar for Terminal Window and for VHF Packet Client and Telnet Client
Click Apply at the bottom
Click OK
Close Airmail and restart it.
Note: you cannot program multiple connections. You need to connect directly with a Telpac node.

Formatting a New Message for VHF/UHF Packet

Main page
Click on white page icon (third from left)
Click on a name from your address book
Click OK
Type a message
Click on the small floppy disk icon (6th from the left to save it)
Click on the mailbox icon to post it (7th from the left to say it is ready to send)
Now, click on the Inbox (on the left, you should see a mailbox with a blue arrow and the message)

Sending a Message Through VHF/UHF Packet

Set your radio for the appropriate frequency
Main page
Click on modules
Click on Packet Client
Connect To: Callsign of the Telpac Station
Connect As: Your callsign
Click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
Click on the green button and the message should go. Watch closely, it does not take long.

Example

145.030 MHz (Set your radio for the appropriate frequency)
Main page
Click on modules
Click on Packet Client
Connect To: N1EZT-10 (Callsign of the Telpac Station)
Connect As: WB2LUA (Your callsign)
Click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
Click on the green button and the message should go. Watch closely, it does not take long.

Sending a Message Through VHF/UHF Packet via Multiple Nodes

Set your radio for the appropriate frequency
Main page
Click on modules
Click on Packet Client
Connect To: Callsign of the first packet station
Connect As: Your callsign
Click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
Click on the green button
Once connected to the first packet station, Click on the Keyboard Icon (fourth icon from the left)
Using the connect command (c) in the lower window (C Callsign) to connect to the next node
If you need the connect to more nodes, use the above step repeatedly until you come to the Telpac node
Once connected to the telpac node, click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
The message should go. It may take a long time depending upon the number of nodes used

Example

145.070 MHz (Set your radio for the appropriate frequency)
Main page
Click on modules
Click on Packet Client
Connect To: WA2PNU (Callsign of the first packet station)
Connect As: WB2LUA (Your callsign)
Click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
Click on the green button
Once connected to the first packet station, Click on the Keyboard Icon (fourth icon from the left)
C KC2COJ to connect to the next node
C WA2GUG-10 to connect to the Telpac node
Once connected to the telpac node, click on the Handshaking icon (third from the left)
The message should go. It may take a long time depending upon the number of nodes used