



# The Case for Winlink

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# What is Winlink?

- ▶ Computer application for sending email via radio
  - ▶ All you need is a computer and a valid amateur radio license to obtain a Winlink email account



# Why Winlink?

- ▶ Designed for amateur radio
  - ▶ Active, expert development team
- ▶ Send email without local internet
- ▶ Broad radio functionality
  - ▶ HF, VHF, Mesh
- ▶ Many digital radio modes available
  - ▶ AX.25 Packet
  - ▶ Pactor I, II, III (and IV where legal)
  - ▶ VARA FM and VARA HF



# Why Winlink?

- ▶ Peer-to-peer operation (simplex) when infrastructure is down
- ▶ Robust error correction
  - ▶ If a message is exchanged it is error free
- ▶ Built-in templates for many functions
- ▶ Attachments
  - ▶ Text, Binary, Photos
- ▶ Abundant online help and tutorials
- ▶ It's free!
  - ▶ (\$24 donation eliminates registration reminders)



# When Would I Use Winlink?

- ▶ Exchange messages with family and friends during an emergency
  - ▶ Any email address
  - ▶ SMS text messages
- ▶ Access information
  - ▶ News, weather
  - ▶ Propagation forecasts
- ▶ Provide information
  - ▶ USGS “Did you feel it?” reports
  - ▶ Severe weather reports
  - ▶ Disaster reports
- ▶ Assist served agencies in a deployment
  - ▶ Hospitals, Red Cross, FEMA



# How Do I Get Winlink?

- ▶ Go to
  - ▶ <https://downloads.winlink.org/User Programs/>
- ▶ Download the zipped installer application
  - ▶ Winlink\_Express\_install\_1-5-30-0.zip
- ▶ Open the zip file and run the installer
- ▶ Start the RMS Express application and complete the setup
  - ▶ Settings | Winlink Express Setup
- ▶ See “Basic Configuration” under Help for more information



# Winlink Setup

## ► Settings | Winlink Express Setup...

**Winlink Express Properties**

**Call Signs**

My Callsign:  My Password:   
(Case sensitive)  Show password

Callsign suffix (optional):  (Used for country code)

Password recovery e-mail:   
(Non-Winlink e-mail address where lost password will be sent when requested)

**Auxiliary Callsigns and Tactical Addresses**

My Grid Square:

Winlink Express registration key:

**Service Codes**

(Use PUBLIC for ham call signs. Separate multiple service codes by spaces.)  
If you change service codes, you must update the list of channels.

**Contact Information (Optional)**

Name:

Street address 1:

Street address 2:

City:

State/Province:

Country:

Postal code:

Web Site URL (optional):

Phone number:

Non-Winlink e-mail:

Additional information (optional):

Recalculate HF path quality if SFI changes more than:

Keep logs for  weeks. Keep deleted messages for  days.

Display list of pending incoming messages prior to download

Warn about connections to stations holding messages

Allow diagnostic information to be sent to the Winlink Development Team

Automatically install field-test (beta) versions of Winlink Express



# Software (as of 8/5/2020)

- ▶ Winlink - version 1.5.30.0
  - ▶ [https://downloads.winlink.org/User Programs/](https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/)
- ▶ Soundmodem - version 1.05
  - ▶ <http://uz7.ho.ua/packetradio.htm>
- ▶ VARA FM - version 3.1.1
  - ▶ <https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>
- ▶ VARA HF - version 4.0.4
  - ▶ <https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>

