

RMS Express Alpha/Beta Install instructions

- 1) Download the full install file RMS Express Setup.zip (the latest version will be posted on the Yahoo WINMOR Ftp site. It is a modest 1.6 Meg download and includes the latest help file.
- 2) Unzip the file to a temp directory and double click on Setup
- 3) If you have another version of RMS Express installed you will have to remove that first (Start, Control Panel, Add/Remove software). You won't lose any setup info you had.
- 4) If you try and install and get a warning that you need .NET 3.5 installed you can download that at the link below. Most newer computers and older ones if you have kept them updated will have .NET 3.5 installed.. Here is the link to Microsoft where you can download the bootstrap loader.

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=333325FD-AE52-4E35-B531-508D977D32A6&displaylang=en#QuickInfoContainer>

- 5) The RMS Express installer will install to any drive or directory but the default is C:\RMS Express. If you have re installed over an older installation (after the removal of the older version) your settings (as contained in the RMS Express.ini file) will *not* be lost.
- 6) You can create a desktop icon easily (there is some bug that won't allow the installer to do this reliably). Use windows explorer or my computer to browse the RMS Express install directory (default C:\RMS Express). Locate the RMS Express.exe file and right click and say "create shortcut here". Then right click on the created shortcut and drag to where you want (desktop, folder etc). Just drag the shortcut *NOT* the RMS Express.exe (the exe *MUST* be in the same directory as all the other support files you see.) You can launch RMS Express with a double click on the shortcut.
- 7) If the program launches OK you should have access to the help file. It is pretty complete...*try reading it first before asking for help please!*

Goals of the first phase of the RMS Express Beta testing.

These are roughly the goals and priorities for this initial Beta testing:

- 1) We first want to resolve any install or documentation/help problems. If you have an install problem be sure and include details of the problem and details on your computer and OS. Be sure and give the actual Revision of the OS. Service packs etc.
- 2) We want to make sure you can create/edit/post a message and send that message via Telnet to the Winlink CMS. This will get you familiar with the message editor and manager Vic has designed. It is pretty easy to use and avoids having to link RMS Express to a never ending list of Email clients (KISS concept!) Don't enable the Telnet Channel to auto forward on a schedule...it will send any pending messages in the outbox that you may have wanted to send via WINMOR.

- 3) We want to see if you can select and setup your sound card (or in the case of the Icom 7200 the sound card built in the radio). If you have difficulty or find the documentation lacking or wrong let us know.
- 4) Then we want to try and make a WINMOR connection via HF. Because there are currently no WINMOR enabled RMS HF stations you will have to make these initial connections peer-to-peer. The HELP explains this. Of course you will have to probably use email or the Yahoo WINMOR group to co ordinate frequencies, times and call signs.

Before broadcasting lots of connect requests make *ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN* you have the drive level set correctly. If it is too high you will splatter badly and the throughput will be poor. Better to be too low than too high. While there is NOT a monitor function in WINMOR (for good technical reasons... see the Help) you *will* be able to decode and monitor a connect request (see both the call sign of the person calling and the target call sign) and see the type of data frames (but not their content) being exchanged by other stations. This may help in establishing some connects. You must initiate a peer-to-peer connect by requesting a connect to a *specific* call sign...there is no such thing in WINMOR as a "CQ". Once a connection is established WINMOR will ignore any connect requests, ACKS, Data or control frames unless they come *from* the connected call sign (an important design feature). Read the help on establishing a HF connection. We can use either the Yahoo WINMOR group for coordinating peer-to-peer schedules or send schedule messages via the Winlink Telnet server.

- 5) For now we suggest leaving the bandwidth and mode options (in WINMOR setup) at the default values of 500 Hz and "Auto". Later we can try the faster wide band modes (you will need better signal strength of course) and a narrow band 200 Hz mode (slower but should get through in poor conditions). During alpha testing we have verified operation on all four WINMOR bandwidths. We would like to see some tests run under NVIS propagation conditions. (The 4FSK modes are targeted at those rather difficult propagation conditions).
- 6) We would like to request you NOT bombard use with any:
 - a. "wouldn't it be nice if..." Feature requests
 - b. "When can we start porting to Linux?..."
 - c. "Can you teach me about DSP? Type questions.
 - d. Will you write a driver for the XYZ radio?

...until we get items 1-5 above working and everyone up to speed doing some real testing. This may take some time to get the protocol fully debugged and optimized and we need that work done to finish the work and deployment of the RMS HF (the portals into Winlink 2000). For example there is currently *no* Radio control ...you'll have to set the dial manually... but at least it computes it for you!) It will come later. Also read the help about not trying to "tune in" a station by chasing it with the dial!

- 7) If you're having problems that aren't easy to explain try to duplicate them with the debug logging enabled. This log generates a LOT of data but is invaluable when you are tracking down a problem. The normal log does gather some useful statistics at

the end of every session. We will be using those to do some specific performance measurements and comparisons on the HF channel simulator.

- 8) Read the help file especially the Troubleshooting and Log pages. Don't waste time sending a message to us that says "it crashed" or "its broke"....specifics are the ONLY way we can improved and debug the software.

We have done some pretty extensive "Alpha" checkout along with many over the air connects so most of the really bad bugs should be cleared. Here is what we have done:

- Auto forwarded text messages with and without attachments
- Operate on all bandwidths (200, 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz)
- Operated on both fixed modes (4PSK, 8PSK etc) or Auto (Auto is recommended)
- Operated in channel conditions from > 12 db S/N to < 0 db SN including multipath (throughput will be proportional to channel quality, wideband modes require a stronger signal) A special thanks to Tad WA1FQO and Neil VE1YZ for their efforts during alpha testing.

OK Good Luck...Have fun. Don't be afraid to wring it out and post your comments.

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