HOW TO INSTALL WINLINK EXPRESS

Thank you to Scott Currie NS7C for use of his slides in this presentation, additions by Mark Breakey KB7RHI and Dave Cherba WZ8T

Install Winlink Express (if not already installed) Download from:

https://winlink.org/

Go to the "Download" section:

In the Downloads section, select User Programs:

downloads.winlink.org - /

1/27/2025	2:36 PM	<dir>	Sysop Programs
1/14/2025	2:02 PM	<dir>	User Programs
12/13/2024	3:50 PM	<dir>	VARA Products

https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/

downloads.winlink.org - /User Programs/

[To Parent Directory]

4/21/2025	2:41 PM	4653987	Connection_Monitor_install_1-1-4-0.zip
6/3/2023	6:34 PM	1846835	Paclink_install_4-3-11-0.zip
6/3/2023	6:34 PM	1101	README_Software_Install_Instructions.txt
6/3/2023	6:33 PM	847697	RMS_Link_Test_install_2-0-24-0.zip
6/3/2023	6:34 PM	12176	SCS PTC-IIIusb and end of PTC-IIusb IIpro IIex.pdf
4/10/2025	3:41 PM	2509914	Standard_Forms.zip
4/28/2025	1:02 PM	40447931	Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0.zip

After the file is downloaded

- In most cases the file should be located in your downloads folder
- Often times it is possible to launch the program from the web browser once the download if finished
  - The various protection programs may complain about lack of safety and present the users with warnings that you have to explicitly approve to actually launch the install program
- Other times you may need to navigate to the downloads folder and launch using a right click and administrator privileges

Open file

22388 • Inbox | Fastmail
New tab
downloads.winlink.org - /User Pro
https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/
downloads.winlink.org - /User Programs/
[To Parent Directory]
5/5/2025 4:04 PM 4653830 Connection_Monitor_install_1-1-5-0.zip
6/3/2023 6:34 PM 1846835 Paclink_install_4-3-11-0.zip
6/3/2023 6:34 PM 1101 README_Software_Install_Instructions.txt
6/3/2023 6:33 PM 847697 RMS_Link_Test_install_2-0-24-0.zip
6/3/2023 6:34 PM 12176 SCS PTC-IIIusb and end of PTC-IIusb IIpro IIex.pdf
4/10/2025 3:41 PM 2509914 Standard_Forms.zip
4/28/2025 1:02 PM 40447931 Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0.zip
Downloads
Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0 (14).zip
Open file
See more

Extract
Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0 (8)
File
Home
Share
View
Compressed Folder Tools
Documents
Pictures
SEAPAC PICS 2025
SEAPAC PPT PICS 2025
System32
KOCH INDUSTRIES
FTM-400
Pics I love
Saved Pictures
Extract To
Extract all
Downloads › Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0 (8)
Search Winlink_Express_install_1-7-23-0 (8)
Quick access
Desktop
Downloads
Documents
Pictures
KOCH INDUSTRIES
SEAPAC PICS 2025
SEAPAC PPT PICS 20
System32
Dropbox
This PC
3D Objects
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Name
Type
Compressed size
Password p...
Size
Winlink_Express_install
Application
39,500 KB
No

Double click on the file

You may see this screen, select “Run”

Windows protected your PC
Microsoft Defender SmartScreen prevented an unrecognized app from starting. Running this app might put your PC at risk.
More info
Don't run
Inside the
File

You may receive a message from your anti-virus software preventing the install program from running. Choose the option to “Run Anyway”:

Click “Yes”

User Account Control
Do you want to allow this app from an unknown publisher to make changes to your device?
Winlink_Express_install.exe
Publisher: Unknown
File origin: Downloaded from the Internet
Show more details
Yes
No

Setup - Winlink Express version 1.7.23.0
Select Destination Location
Where should Winlink Express be installed?
Setup will install Winlink Express into the following folder.
To continue, click Next. If you would like to select a different folder, click Browse.
C:\RMS Express
Browse...
At least 86.6 MB of free disk space is required.
Next
Cancel

Allow the installation to create a desktop shortcut, press Next:

Setup - Winlink Express version 1.7.23.0
Ready to Install
Setup is now ready to begin installing Winlink Express on your computer.
Click Install to continue with the installation, or click Back if you want to review or change any settings.
Destination location:
C:\RMS Express
Additional tasks:
Additional shortcuts:
Create a desktop shortcut
Back
Install
Cancel

Once the installation completes, select the option to Launch Winlink Express and press Finish:

Check “ I Agree…” and click “Begin using program” after you scroll the text all the way down

Information to set up your account

- You have to be connected to the internet for account setup
  - This is just like another email account!!
- Your Grid Square
  - Amateur Radio Ham Radio Maidenhead Grid Square Locator Map
  - https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php
  - QRZ look up detail information
- A recovery email Account
  - (write it down somewhere safe which one you used)
- A password
  - (write it down somewhere safe)
- Your home address and phone number

QRZ grid square

Using the Address based lookup

Amateur Radio Ham Radio Maidenhead Grid Square Locator Map

Enter any address, city & state or zip: 3220 nw 127th st vancouver washington
or Enter any call sign: Data provided by QRZ.com
or Enter any a 4 or 6 character grid square:

Submit

Clear

?? How does this work? Why doesn't this work? ??

Latitude: 45.7137 / 45° 42' 49" N Longitude: -122.705 / 122° 42' 17" W

Grid: **CN85pr**

Show Map

When the Winlink Express Properties window comes up, complete the fields as shown below (using your own information). Be sure to include a recovery email address and include the EMCOMM Service Code. Create a secure password for your account, and do not forget your password! Press Update when complete:

Registration is optional via donation to the ARSFI. If you choose not to donate, press Remind Me Later (unregistered versions will see this message each time Winlink Express starts, but the program will function normally):

To complete the registration of a new user (call sign), you will need to create a new message and send the message through the Winlink System. Send a message to your personal email address. The content of the message is not important. For this message, you do not need to set up a radio connection. Instead, you will use your Internet connection to send the message. Using Winlink Express with an Internet connection is a good way to learn the program and does not require any additional equipment. However, in emergency communications, we cannot assume that Internet access will be available in the disaster area, so you should plan to add RF capability.

Use just like other email programs

- Click new message
- Fill in the TO, Subject, and text like any other email program
- Post to outbox
- Unlike other programs that periodically check your out and in boxes Winlink allows you to control when that is done using a communications session

On the main Winlink Express window, Message, then New Message:

On the new message window, fill in your personal email address in the To: field, and then place whatever you want in the Subject line and message body. When complete, press Post to Outbox:

Back on the main Winlink Express window, note that you have a message waiting to be sent in the Outbox. Select Telnet Winlink in the session type pull-down menu, the press Open Session:

Back on the main Winlink Express window, note that you have a message waiting to be sent in the Outbox. Select Telnet Winlink in the session type pull-down menu, the press Open Session:

On the Telnet Winlink Session window, press Start. This will establish a connection to the Winlink CMS servers and transfer your message. Once the session disconnects, you can close the Telnet Winlink Session window by pressing Exit. Note that the Outbox will now be empty.

What happens during a session

- The computer made a connection with the Winlink Email Server
- It checked to see if any email for you was currently waiting to be received
- It checked if you had email that needed to be sent
- All emails have unique SID that helps track them and make

Enhanced messages

- Because Winlink is used to provide concise information for emergency communication it has a collection of templates / forms that are preconfigured
- Can send attachments (120kb limit)
- Text only in the body of message

Use of templates

Example ICS 213

E-mail With or Without the Intern | winlink radio only mode - Search | ICS213 General Message | New tab

File C:/RMS%20Express/WZ8T/Temp/ICS213_Initial.html

Setup Click to add an agency or group name

General Message (ICS 213)

EmComm Training Organization

☑ THIS IS AN EXERCISE Load ICS213 INITIAL Data Form Instructions

1. Incident Name: Wish Creek Flood

2. To (Name/Position): Jim Grover / Public works Supervisor

3. From (Name/Position): Casey Farnworth / EOC Liaison

4. Subject: Sand Bags 5. Date: 2025-05-28 6. Time: 12:28

7. Message:

Need approximately 600 sandbags to redirect flood waters away from 1st street at Conway Blvd

8. Approved by: Bill Johnson 8b. Position / Title: Comptroller

Optional Location Coordinates

Latitude 45.729167 Longitude -122.708333 MGRS Ex:11SNR0184195204 Grid CN85PR

LAT/LON and MGRS default to the center of the grid square listed in Express Settings, unless a GPS is used or Lat/LON or MGRS are entered manually.
For Winlink mapping and CSV export you must enter a latitude and longitude.

Submit Save ICS213 INITIAL Data Reset Form Ver 43.48

Condensed format

Three types of messages

- Winlink Message – normal message sent to the Winlink Email Servers for delivery
- Radio-Only Message – Message is accepted at RMS service node and it is held locally for pick only. Not sent to Winlink Email Servers
- Peer-to-Peer – Used to send messages directly between two stations

Message types

- The message type will determine how the program processes messages from the outbox
- Peer-to-Peer will not send during a session with an RMS
- Winlink messages will not send with peer-to-peer contact

Using Winlink basic email

- Closed system that you can use to send/receive email to other Winlink registered users
- Send email to any email address via Winlink internet gateways
- Receive emails only from approved internet email addresses or messages with specific subject lines

Log in to your account

Acceptlist

WINLINK Global Radio Email®

My Account | Tools | News | Positions | User Programs | Book of Knowledge | Download | Support

ACCEPTLIST Manager

This form permits you to add or change internet-based addresses (name@domain.com) or entire domains (@domain.com) to your anti-spam accept/deny list (your "ACCEPTLIST"). You can also manage your list using your radio client with command messages as described in this article. This information is also found in the Winlink Catalog (available on-air as item SPAM.CONTROL in the WL2K_HELP category).

Accept List entries for WZ8T

Address: ☑ Allow Save

		Address	Allow
Edit	Delete	dcherba@comcast.net	☑
Edit	Delete	wz8t@comcast.net	☑

Sending to Winlink user from any outside email

How it looks on recieve

How to add a TNC and Radio

- Some radios have built in sound cards or TNC (Terminal Node Controller)
- For this example, the radio has a connector that can accept PTT, 1200 Baud audio in, 9600 Baud audio in, 1200 baud audio out and 9600 baud audio out
- The reason for the two rates is because normal audio has a limit of about 3khz and in order to get the radio to respond at 9600 baud it needs to by pass some of the normal audio processing circuitry

Basic Connection scheme

Direct serial data or USB to serial adapter or USB

Cable specific to radio and TNC type

Configuration Process

- Identify the serial port
- Configure Winlink with port number and TNC specifics
- Build or purchase the cable from TNC to Radio
- Purchase USB to serial adapter or cable

Use Device Manager

- Access control panel
- Select device manager
- Open the port devices
- Note the current devices
- Plug in the new device and note the port number

Control Panel

Device manager

Open session

Click Settings

Configure TNC

Drop down menus for selections

Note the text after update

Key indicators

- When you open a session look at the ready message
- If the serial port or device did not initialize the message will indicate the failure
- Watch the radio for TX during the session and listen for the received audio

Review

- How to install Winlink and create a Winlink account
- Sending your first message via telnet
- Templates and form use
- Types of messages (RMS, P2P,Ronly)
- Connection and configure A TNC