

Learning the Winlink System & Winlink Express

Module 2: Installing Winlink Express,
Setting Up an Account and Sending &
Receiving Messages



Outline

- Overview
- Computer Requirements
- Download & Install Winlink Express
- Account Set Up
- Essential Features of Winlink Express
- Session Types
- Composing, Sending & Receiving Messages via Telnet
- Winlink Express Registration
- Autoupdate process
- Summary

Computer Requirements

- Windows 7 or later, 32 or 64 bit.
- Winlink Express requires Microsoft .NET Framework version 3.5 or later.
- Computer resource requirements are minimal although the virtual TNCs (Winmor, ARDOP or VARA) will require higher CPU speeds and memory. 1 GHz and 2 GB RAM are reasonable minimums as long as there are not multiple applications active.

Download & Install Winlink Express

downloads.winlink.org - /

12/14/2018 11:43 AM
12/15/2018 11:14 AM
8/2/2018 5:11 AM

<dir> [Sysop Programs](#)
<dir> [User Programs](#)
<dir> [WINMOR TNC](#)



downloads.winlink.org - /User Programs/

[\[To Parent Directory\]](#)

5/21/2018 5:55 PM	626	Latest VARA Modem download site.rtf
7/19/2018 5:23 AM	1846835	Paclink install 4-3-11-0.zip
5/21/2018 5:55 PM	1132	README Software Install Instructions.txt
7/22/2018 10:32 AM	919384	RMS Link Test install 2-0-19-0.zip
5/21/2018 5:55 PM	12176	SCS PTC-IIusb and end of PTC-IIusb IIpro IIex.pdf
11/15/2018 1:36 PM	1485	Standard Forms zip READ 1ST.txt
11/27/2018 10:44 AM	918005	Standard Forms.zip
5/21/2018 5:54 PM	3470858	V4Chat 1.0.4.0 Full Install.zip
12/14/2018 11:41 AM	22026821	Winlink Express install 1-5-17-0.zip
12/14/2018 9:14 AM	2177908	Winmor TNC install 1-5-12-0.zip
10/9/2018 11:32 AM	391213	WL2K FAQ.pdf



- Under “Downloads” go to “User Programs.”
- Download Winlink_Express_install_x-x-xx-x.zip file.
- Extract the file and then click on the install file.
- During installation, check the box to create a desktop shortcut. (Note, the desktop icon will be named “RMS Express.”)
- Complete the installation per the defaults. The program and all related elements will be installed in C:\RMS Express

Account Properties

Winlink Express Properties

Call Signs

My Callsign: [shaded] My Password: [shaded]
(Case sensitive) Show password

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

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

Auxiliary Callsigns and Tactical Addresses

[]

My Grid Square: [shaded]

Winlink Express registration key: []

Service Codes

PUBLIC
(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: [shaded]
Street address 1: [shaded]
Street address 2: []
City: [shaded]
State/Province: [shaded]
Country: [shaded]
Postal code: [shaded]
Web Site URL (optional): []
Phone number: []
Non-Winlink e-mail: [shaded]

Additional information (optional):
[]

Recalculate HF path quality if SFI changes more than: 30

Keep logs for 2 weeks. Keep deleted messages for 30 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

- Upon the completion of the installation, the “Properties” dialog will open. Fill out all of the information that is in the shaded areas.
- Details are on the next page.

Account Properties

- Your password may consist of letters (case sensitive), numerals and the symbols `.!@#$%^&*()_` between 6-12 characters.
- The password recovery email and non-Winlink email will likely be the same.
- Use your 6 character grid square. The grid square is used with the propagation estimation tool.
- The Winlink Express registration key will be discussed later.
- “PUBLIC” is the default service code. You can add other ham service codes (e.g. EMCOMM) if appropriate. Leave a blank space between entries. DO NOT mix service codes for ham and non-ham services e.g. SHARES or MARS.
- Fill in the contact information as appropriate.
- The items in the lower right hand corner are default settings; no need to make adjustments at this time.
- When done, ensure that you are connected to the internet and click “Update.”
- You should now see the main screen with your call sign in the upper left.

View Your Account on the Web

> [Log out](#)

> [Password change](#)

> [WebMail](#)

> [My Whitelist](#)

> [My blog](#)

> [Sysop's Message Monitor](#)

> [Station & System Activity Reporter](#)

> [Become an RMS sysop](#)

> [Sysop Software](#)

Registration keys

Express

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CALL SIGN

[View](#)

[Edit](#)

[Track](#)

Full licensed name:

Street address 1:

Street address 2:

City:

State:

Country:

Postal code:

E-mail address:

Grid square:

Phones:

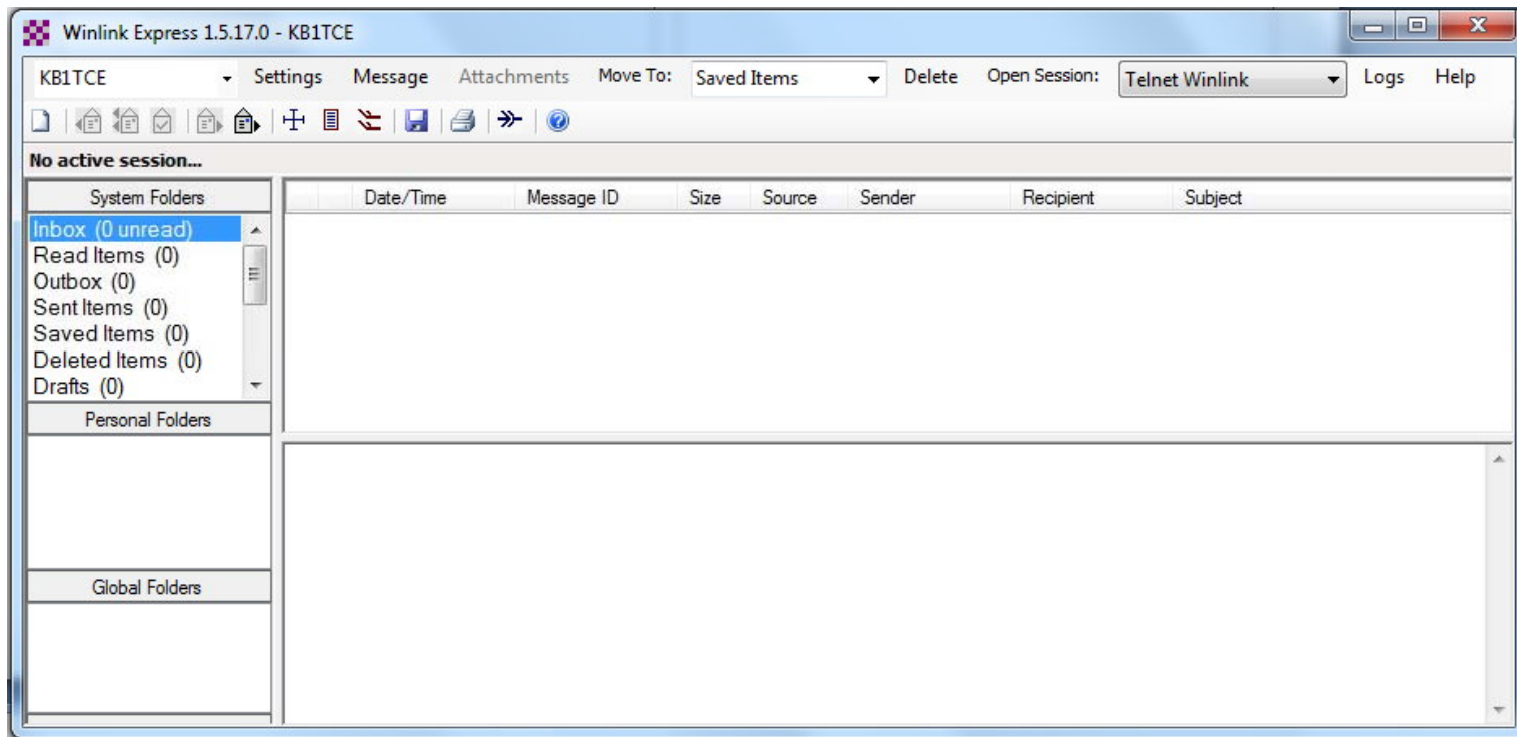
- Go to the Winlink site and click the "Account" tab
- Sign in with your call sign and password.
- You will see the information that you entered on the Winlink Express Set Up screen.
- You can edit your info from here as well as from Winlink Express.
- See next page for items on the left.
- Your account will expire if left inactive for more than 400 days.

Other Account Menu Items

Items on the left hand side of the Account page that you may find to be useful:

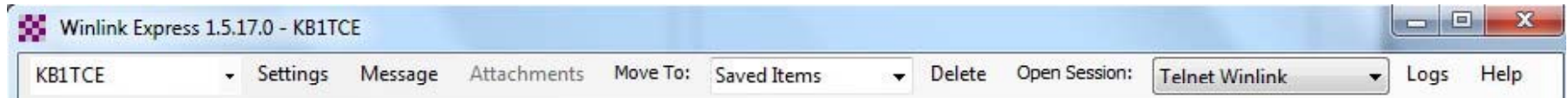
- WebMail: view and manage your messages that are on the CMS.
- My Whitelist: these are the commercial email addresses to whom you have sent Winlink messages.
- Registration Keys: Registering your account with the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (\$24) helps to support the Winlink system and eliminates the “nag” screen. More on this later.
- Other items on this menu are primarily for RMS operators (sysops).
- Now we’ll get to the process of sending a message through the Winlink system.

Winlink Express Main Screen



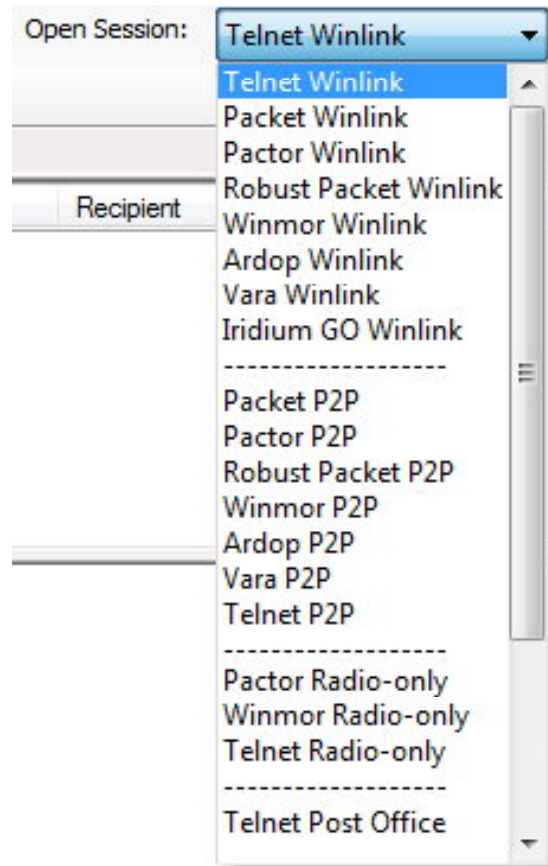
The main screen has the general appearance of any email client program. There are many options in the menu items along the top. For this module we will only be concerned with a few of these.

Main Menu



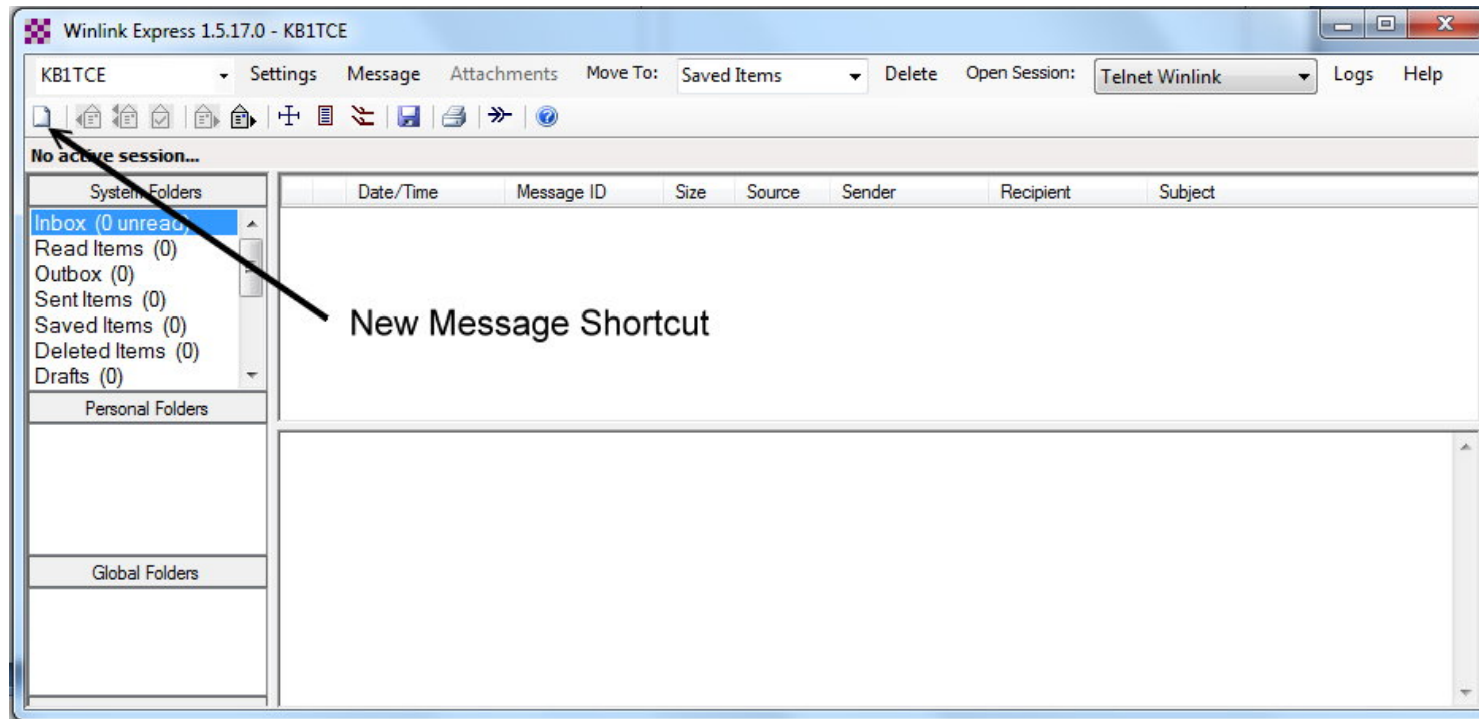
- The active call sign is at the left. With the drop down you can add additional call signs. Each addition will involve a new Setup screen.
- “Settings” has many options. The Set Up screen is under this tab.
- “Message” includes all items related to messages. “New Message” is the most often used item.
- There is a row of short cut icons below the menu bar. Mousing over each icon will reveal which function is associated with that icon.
- The session drop down is to select the session type. Upon installation, this should default to Telnet (internet).
- Other menu items will be discussed later.

Sessions



- This capture shows all of the session types. The first group is for the “normal” Winlink mode using the CMS. For now we will only be concerned with the Telnet (internet) session.
- P2P (Peer to Peer) is where one Winlink client connects directly to another Winlink client. RMS and CMS play no role.
- The Radio-Only network has a limited set of mode options at this time.
- Telnet Post Office is a repository for message exchanges between users. This function can be run on a LAN or wifi mesh network.
- Once a session type is selected (highlighted), click “Open Session” to bring up the session screen.

Sending a Message



From the main screen, click Message – New Message or the shortcut. This will bring up the message composition screen.

Composing a Message

Enter a new message

Close Select Template Attachments Post to Outbox Spell Check Save in Drafts

From: KB1TCE Send as: Winlink Message Request read receipt Set Defaults

To: WD10:

Cc: kb1tce@grubmail.com;

Subject: First Message

Attach:

Hello Richard. This is my first Winlink message.

73

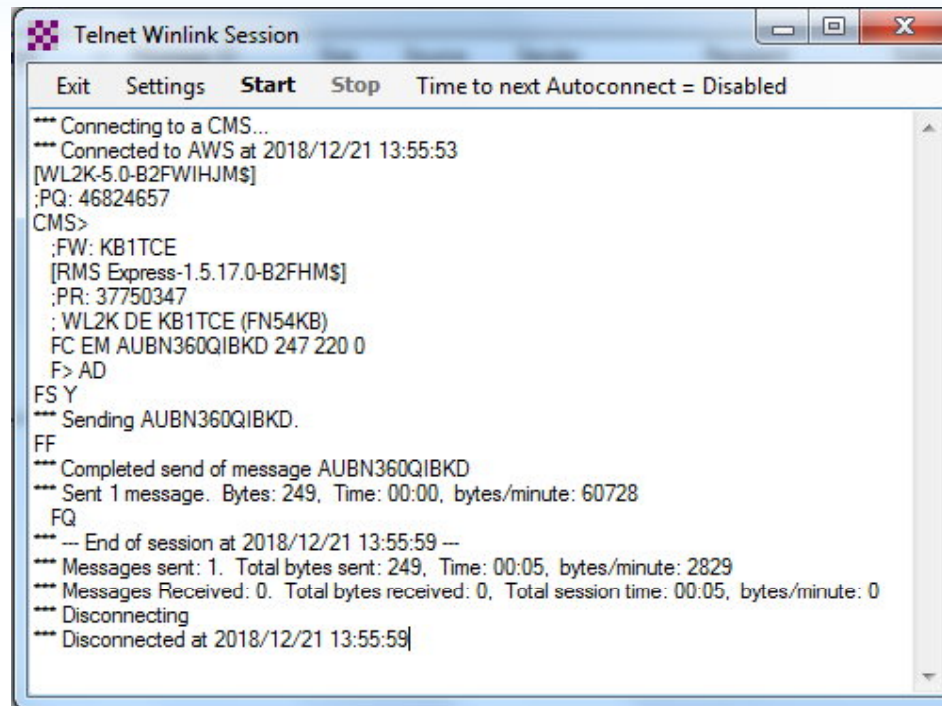
This will look familiar to anyone that has composed an email. Note that “Request read receipt” has been checked and the message will be sent as a Winlink message.

Addressing:

- For Winlink addresses, only the call sign is required. The “@winlink.org” is understood.
- For messages to a commercial email address, the address has to be complete. Read receipt does not work for messages to non-Winlink addresses.
- Multiple addresses on a single line are separated by semicolons.
- There is no Bcc. This is ham radio after all.

To queue for sending, click “Post to Outbox.” You can also place the message in the Draft folder for further editing or to delay sending.

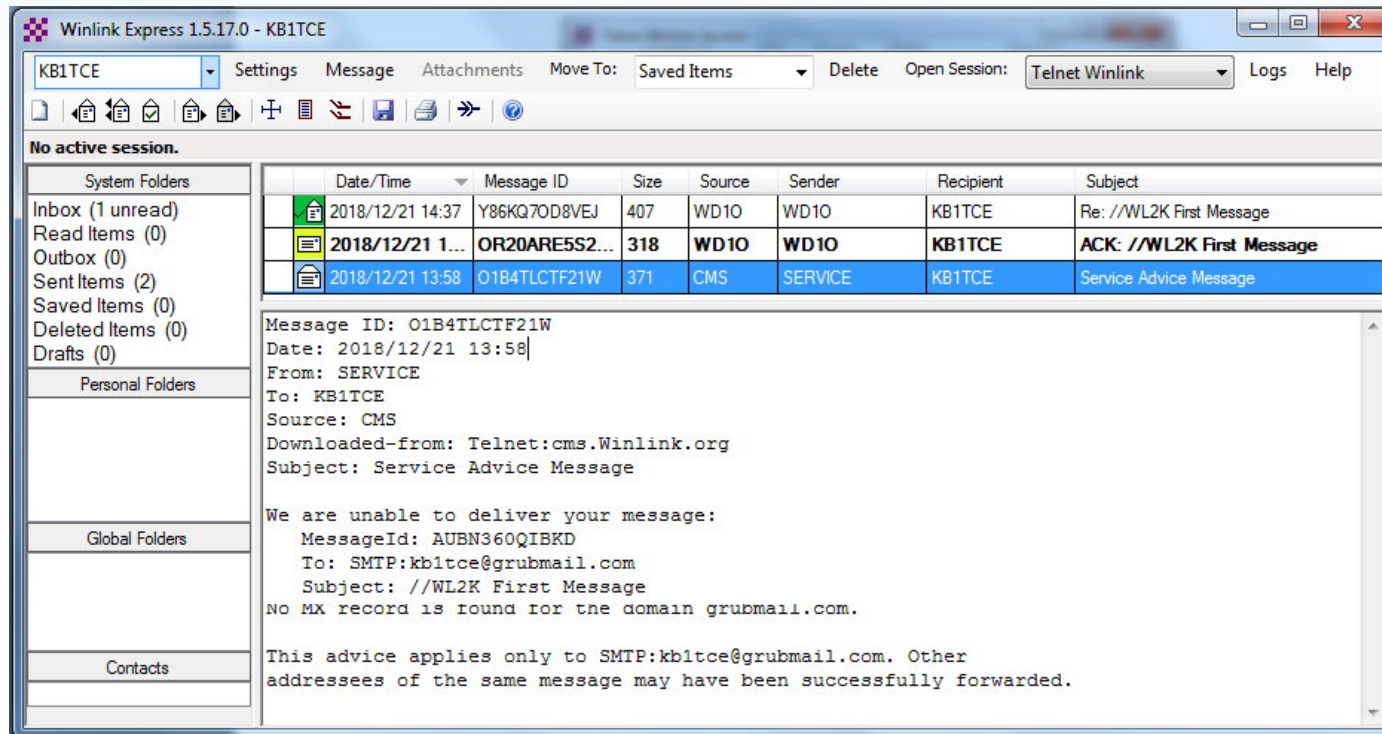
Sending the Message



```
Telnet Winlink Session
Exit Settings Start Stop Time to next Autoconnect = Disabled
*** Connecting to a CMS...
*** Connected to AWS at 2018/12/21 13:55:53
[WL2K-5.0-B2FWIHJMS]
:PQ: 46824657
CMS>
:FW: KB1TCE
[RMS Express-1.5.17.0-B2FHMS]
:PR: 37750347
: WL2K DE KB1TCE (FN54KB)
FC EM AUBN360QIBKD 247 220 0
F> AD
FS Y
*** Sending AUBN360QIBKD.
FF
*** Completed send of message AUBN360QIBKD
*** Sent 1 message. Bytes: 249, Time: 00:00, bytes/minute: 60728
FQ
*** -- End of session at 2018/12/21 13:55:59 --
*** Messages sent: 1. Total bytes sent: 249, Time: 00:05, bytes/minute: 2829
*** Messages Received: 0. Total bytes received: 0, Total session time: 00:05, bytes/minute: 0
*** Disconnecting
*** Disconnected at 2018/12/21 13:55:59]
```

- From the Winlink Express main screen, click “Open Session.” (The session type should be Telnet.)
- Click “Start.”
- You will see the session progress from initiation to disconnect as shown above. Note the sender information, Message ID and various statistics.

Message Replies






After a while, start a new Telnet session to see if you have received any replies. Three were received:

- One was a message from “Service” indicating that the message to the commercial email could not be delivered. This is because an incorrect address was used (on purpose).
- The second was a confirmation of receipt.
- The third was a reply from WD10.

Cautions When Sending Messages to Non-Hams

- When sending a message to a non-ham at their commercial email address (or to a ham who doesn't understand Winlink), be sure to point out the key rules of the road should they reply:
 - No commercial content
 - No profanity
 - Nothing that obscures the meaning of the message
 - Etc.

The Message List

	Date/Time	Message ID	Size	Source	Sender	Recipient	Subject
	2018/12/21 14:37	Y86KQ70D8VEJ	407	WD10	WD10	KB1TCE	Re: //WL2K First Message
	2018/12/21 1...	OR20ARE5S2...	318	WD10	WD10	KB1TCE	ACK: //WL2K First Message
	2018/12/21 13:58	O1B4TLCTF21W	371	CMS	SERVICE	KB1TCE	Service Advice Message

The message list contains all of the basic information for each message.

- The icon to the left has some information about the message. This can be viewed by mousing over the icon.
- The message size is the number of bytes, compressed. This is the size as transmitted.
- Source and sender may be different as shown in the SERVICE message. This is also seen with messages from tactical call signs where there might be multiple tactical call signs as senders, all under one source call sign.
- Note the “//WL2K” that is applied to the replies.

The left-most column is to indicated the presence of attachments. Attachments will be discussed in the next Module.

Message Received Acknowledgement

Here is the ACK with complete header:

Message ID: OR20ARE5S2TJ
Date: 2018/12/21 14:35
From: WD1O
To: KB1TCE
Source: WD1O
Downloaded-from: Telnet:cms.Winlink.org
Subject: ACK: //WL2K First Message

[message acknowledgement]

The following message was received by WD1O

Subject: //WL2K First Message
Sender: KB1TCE
To: WD1O
Received: 2018-12-21 13:55 UTC
Acknowledged: 2018-12-21 14:32 UTC
Message-ID: AUBN360QIBKD
Number of attachments: 0
Size: 254

Reply from WD10

Here is the message from WD10 with complete header (the original message was included at the bottom but deleted for this slide):

Message ID: Y86KQ7OD8VEJ

Date: 2018/12/21 14:37

From: WD10

To: KB1TCE

Source: WD10

Downloaded-from: Telnet:cms.Winlink.org

Subject: Re: //WL2K First Message

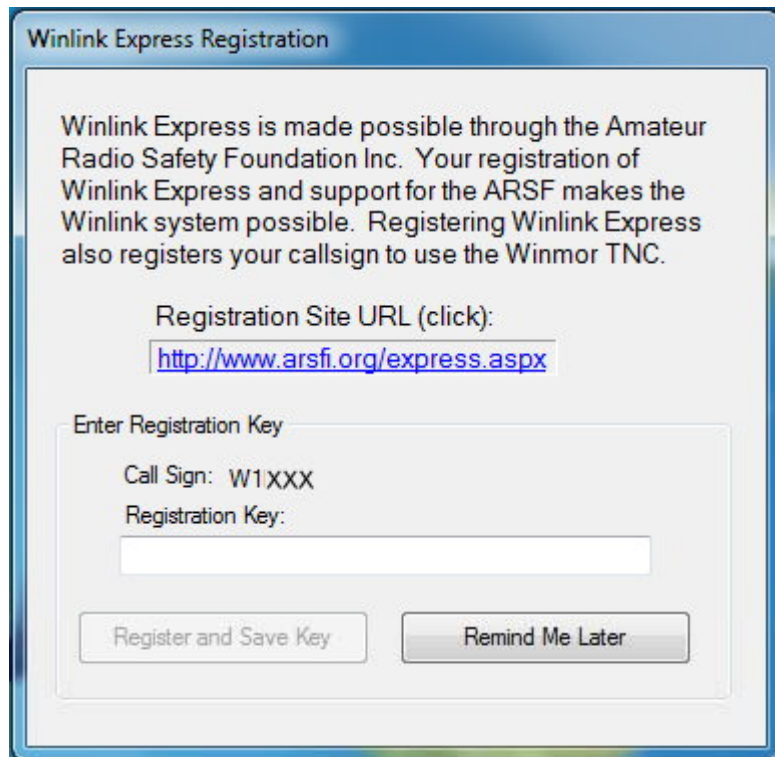
Steve

Message successfully received using Winlink Express, connecting via RMS node WD10-10 at 433.1 MHz

Richard

----- Message from KB1TCE sent 2018/12/21 13:55 -----

Registration



Winlink Express Registration

Winlink Express is made possible through the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation Inc. Your registration of Winlink Express and support for the ARSF makes the Winlink system possible. Registering Winlink Express also registers your callsign to use the Winmor TNC.

Registration Site URL (click):
<http://www.arsfi.org/express.aspx>

Enter Registration Key

Call Sign: W1XXX
Registration Key:

Upon starting Winlink Express when connected to the internet, you will be presented with a pop up box asking for Your registration key.

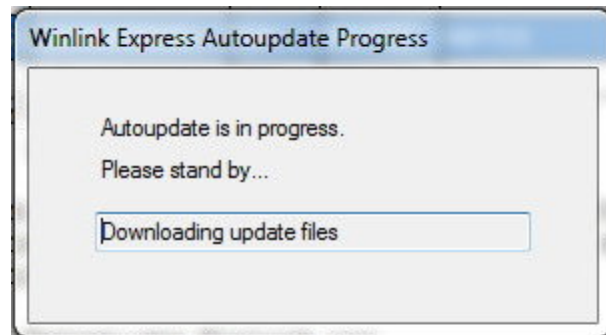
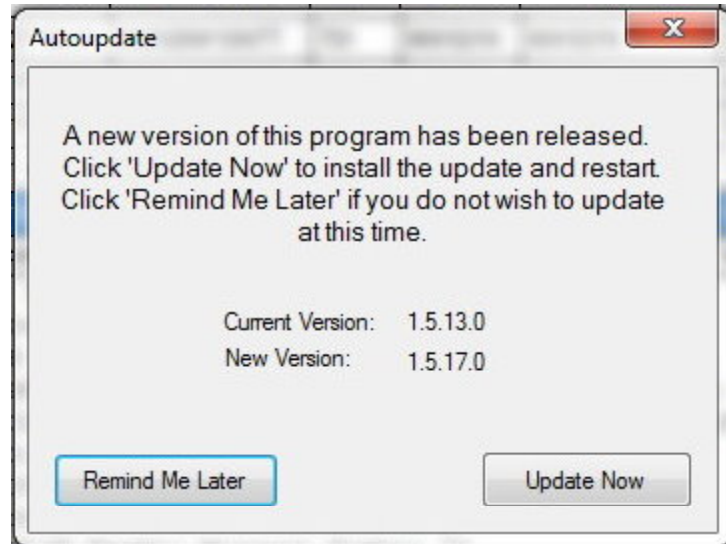
As noted, registration supports the AFSRI And the Winlink system in general.

The fee is US\$24 and has no time limit as long as your account is active.

The link is provided. You can also register via your Account page (see earlier slide).

With or without registration, there are no differences in the functionality of Winlink Express.

Autoupdate



While connected to the internet, if there is an update for Winlink Express or the included Templates, you will receive an update notice.

It is important for you to stay current with updates so, unless you are very pressed for time, press "Update Now."

You will then see a progress screen followed by a completion notice. During this process Winlink Express will shut down and restart with the updates installed.

If your version is several updates behind, this may take a couple of cycles.

You may also update by downloading the Latest installation file and performing a manual Update. Your data will not be lost.

Summary

This module has covered the process of installing, configuring and maintaining your instance of Winlink Express and the actions required to acquire your Winlink account.

Your first assignment is to send a message to someone you know who is a Winlink user (if you don't know any, feel free to send a message to KB1TCE). You should also send a message to your commercial email address.

Module 3 will cover message attachments and templates. RF capability will not be required.