

PacFORMS (Public) RELEASE NOTES November 22, 2009

PacFORMS Public Release, Zip file: PacINSTALL-22.zip

The PacFORMS system is a system where Web forms (HTML forms) have been generated from paper forms so that the information can be entered via a computer and ultimately be transmitted by Packet radio. Note that this is a "stand-alone" system that does NOT use the internet. The PacFORMS HTML files can be run on any PC (even Apple) using a browser. Since Packet radio is generally a slow speed link (like 1200 baud), the forms are set up to only send form-field IDs and the field entries as a text file. Then once sent, the Packet operator on the receiving end can "reverse" the process and put the text back into the HTML form. This process is accomplished by executing the program **pac-read.exe** either manually or through the Packet program Outpost (version 2.2.0c227 or later). The **pac-read.exe** program will only run on a Windows PC. The file generated by the pac-read.exe program is a stand-alone file and can be transferred to any PC that has a browser that recognizes JavaScript.

This version of the PacFORMS files contains all of updated form files. The forms contains JavaScript that, when submitted, will collect all of the form entries and do one of the two things, depending upon the Submit button selected:

- Selecting the Manual Submit button will cause a new window to open containing the ASCII answers entered into the form. This information can then be captured and saved to a text file (with file type "txt"). Directories *C:\PacFORMS\data\received* and *C:\PacFORMS\data\sent* are set up by the install program to be used for saving the text files. These text files can then be viewed in the original HTML form by executing the pac-read.exe file (click on the pac-read icon which has been installed on your desktop).
- Selecting the "Submit the Form to Outpost" will automatically send the ASCII answers directly to Outpost. Outpost, version 2.2.0c227 or greater, MUST be running for this to work. When received by Outpost, Outpost will recognize that it is a PacFORMS file and will ask the user if he/she wants to view the file in the original HTML form. If the answer is yes, the pac-read.exe program is automatically executed, the selected browser is launched with the form, and both the original text file and resulting HTML file are saved to the *C:\PacFORMS\data* directory. The ASCII text is saved in the Outpost Draft tray and is ready for transmitting via Packet radio.

The install package includes the full version of **pac-read.exe** (processes all forms) which will put the ASCII output from the HTML form file back into the form for saving and viewing at either end of the Packet transmission network. The HTML forms must be in the same directory as the pac-read.exe program. This is automatically set up when the **install-*.bat** file is used to install the file system.

Below is the full list of forms currently set up as PacFORMS.

File Versions Available in the Private Release

- **Santa Clara County Local Web Forms**
 - Message.html - Ver 2.1.5, 11/08/09, ICS 213 Message Form
 - City-scan.html - Ver. 3.4, 10/08/09, Santa Clara County "City Scan" Flash Report (See below that this form file replaces flash-report.html)
 - logistics-request.html - Ver. 2.3, 11/08/09, Santa Clara County Logistics Request Form
- **Reverse Read Program**
 - pac-read.exe - Ver. 3.9.6, 11/22/09, PacFORMS Reverse-read utility. All forms listed here can be processed. This version also works with Outpost version 227 or greater.

This Release of PacFORMS does the following:

- All of the forms now have a feature that eliminates some of the "packet" information on the front and end of the forms when the form is printed, thus making the form shorter for printing. When using Firefox 3.5.3 with the Print Setup options for "fit to Page Width" options checked, the width of all forms fits the page width. Except for form *Message.html* that prints 1.3 pages in length, all other forms print in one page.
- All the form fields of the forms have been modified so that the text entered into the fields is bolded. When the form is printed, the bolded fields stand out more and are more readable.
- All of the old forms will still work. This release basically adds the print feature described above and adds the three new forms.
- The install bat files will now add 2 new sub-directories under PacFORMS: *Docs* and *PaperForms*. The documentation will be copied into *Docs* and both Word and Acrobat versions of the paper forms (if they exist) will be copied into the *PaperForms* directory.
- The install files will also test to see if the *pac-read.ini* file exists in the *exec* sub-directory. If it exists, it will NOT be over written, thus preserving any changes you have made to it in earlier PacFORMS versions.

Previous Releases:

- Makes all forms compatible with release 2.2.0c227 or higher of **Outpost**, where the ASCII output sent to **Outpost** for any of these forms, can automatically be "reversed" (put back into the form for viewing) with the click of the mouse. The manual "reverse" with **pac-read.exe** is still available.
- Fixes some instructional text in the forms
- Replaces the form *flash-report.html* with *city-scan.html*. The new file, *city-scan.html* removes the character limit in the textareas and reduces the number of Incident, Location, and Status textareas to one. Pac-read.exe is also updated to reflect this. The file *flash-report.html* is retained in the \exec subdirectory for backward compatibility so that pac-read.exe will recognize both the old and new versions of this form.
- The install.bat file has been modified to create one desktop directory that contains all of the form file shortcuts and the pac-read.exe shortcut. It also uses the environmental variable %SYSTEMDRIVE% instead of C: as the location to generate the PACForms directory and subdirectories.

Installation Instructions:

- Copy PacINSTALL-pub22.zip to a new directory and unzip.
- There are 2 install bat files. File **install-Win98.bat** will work for Windows 98 operating systems. File **install-Win2KXP.bat** will work for Windows 2000 and XP.
- If the directory structure %SYSTEMDRIVE%\PacFORMS\... (or in the case of Windows 98, C:\PACFforms\...) exists and you want to save any of the contents, you may want to re-name the top directory. Files in this install package will overwrite files of the same name.
- Double click on the appropriate **install** file. That file will test to see if the %SYSTEMDRIVE%\PacFORMS directory structure exists. If it does not, that structure will be generated.
- Files from this package will be copied to the appropriate directory.
- A single Desktop Icon called PacFORMS (a desktop directory) containing all the form files and the file **pac-read.exe** will be generated.
- This release tests to see if file \exec\pac-read.ini exists. If it does, it is NOT overwritten, so the choices of browsers that you have made is retained.
- Two new subdirectories under C:\PacFORMS are generated: \Docs and \PaperForms. Directory \PaperForms contains the paper versions of some of the PacFORMS. Directory \Docs contains the

documentation that was previously written to the \exec directory. If this installation is an update on your computer, the documentation in the \exec directory will remain there, but may not be up to date.

- PacFORMS is now ready to use.

Pac-read.ini

File **pac-read.ini** contains editable instructions to **pac-read.exe** as to the directories where the HTML and executable files and the data files are saved. There is also a definition of the location of the browser to use. Microsoft Internet Explorer is the default, but Firefox and Netscape, ver. 9 standard installation locations are also indicated, but commented out with a # in column 1. If you edit that file, use WordPad or NotePad. If this file is NOT in directory **C:\PacFORMS\exec**, then the default values that are the same as the initial installed version of **pac-read.ini** are used. These default values are built into **pac-read.exe**.

Note, if the %SYSTEMDRIVE% is other than C:, file pac-read.ini should be edited to replace C: with the letter value of the system drive.