

Packet Network Update

Date: August 03, 2018

From: Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee

Subject: Packet Network Update – General Release of SCCo Packet Installer v139

Attention: All Santa Clara County Packet Users

This Packet Network Update contains important information which affects your ability to access and use the county packet network. This update covers the following topics:

- General Release of SCCo Packet Installer v139
 - Outpost Changes
 - PacFORMS Changes
- Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users
- Questions / comments / concerns

Please read this information thoroughly, take any required or recommended actions, and pass along to any packet users in your local area.

General Release of SCCo Packet Installer v139

SCCo Packet Installer version 139 has moved from pre-release to general release status. It is now the standard installer for use by all Santa Clara County Packet BBS Service users. The changes are summarized below.

Outpost Changes

The most important changes in Outpost for Santa Clara County users are as follows:

Auto-close Text Window for PacFORMS Messages

When open a received PacFORM, the text message window is automatically closed, reducing desktop clutter and improving productivity.

Locked Subject, Body Fields for PacFORMS Messages

When submitting a PacFORMS message to Outpost, the resulting text message window has a locked Subject and Body field, helping to prevent mistakes.

Warning for Incomplete Subject Line

A warning is generated for subject lines that are empty or contain only the message number, helping to prevent mistakes.

Usability Enhancements

Some of the many usability enhancements include:

- Session log now includes the Call Sign, TNC setup and BBS setup used
- A mouse wait spinner appears when Setup > Interface is loading
- A “Print Job Scheduled” pop-up window appears when printing, to let you know that the message has been queued
- The main Outpost status line now includes the Com port used

PacFORMS Changes

The following changes to PacFORMS are included in this release.

New OA Municipal Status Form

The Operational Area Municipal Status Form replaces the City Scan form.

Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users

The use of the integrated SCCo Packet Installer version 139 is now standard for all Santa Clara County BBS users. All users are expected to upgrade as soon as possible.

- 1) Visit the software download page:
 - <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/data/packet/client-software.html>
- 2) Review all the information there and follow the instructions to download and run the installer
- 3) Perform basic setup or verification
 - Setup > Identification (Enter/verify call sign, name, message number prefix)
 - Setup > Interface (Select/verify your TNC from the pull-down menu)
 - Setup > BBS (Select/verify your BBS from the pull-down menu)
- 4) Send and receive a test message to yourself
- 5) IMPORTANT: Review any other user-created configurations (profiles, TNC setups, BBS setups). Update any user-created profiles to the new SCCo defaults, such as turning off the message number separator. Compare all settings to the documented SCCo standards and make any needed updates. See the following documentation available on the Santa Clara County web site main packet page:
 - Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions
 - Standard TNC Parameter Settings

Questions / Comments / Concerns

That’s all for this update. If you have a question, comment or concern, it is likely that someone else does, too. So please post it to our packet discussion group. That way, everyone can see the question and the answer. URL: <https://scc-ares-races.groups.io/g/packet>