

Packet Network Update

Date: October 27, 2014

From: Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee

Subject: Packet Network Update – New SCCo Packet Installer

Attention: All ECs, AECs, MACs and 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:

- SCCo Packet Installer Enhancements
- Web Site / Documentation Updates
- Training Net
- Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users
- Questions / comments / concerns

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

SCCo Packet Installer Enhancements

A new version of the SCCo Packet Installer will be released on Tuesday, October 28th. The new installer includes enhancements to both Outpost and PacFORMS. A brief summary of the most important changes for Santa Clara County users is outlined below:

Outpost Enhancements

User Settings Maintained Across Upgrades

User-created profiles, BBS setups and TNC setups are now maintained across upgrades. In addition, the global message number setting in the “Outpost” profile and the COM port settings in any of the SCCo-provided TNC setups are also maintained.

Dual Message Number Prefixes

Two message number prefixes can now be configured: one for use with the FCC call sign and one for use with a tactical call sign. This allows switching between FCC and tactical call signs by just checking a box.

TNC Setup Enhancements

A new TNC setup for the Kenwood TH-D72A handheld has been added. Also, the TNC initialization command list for all TNCs has been updated.

BBS Setup Enhancements

The BBS setups now include the ability to define BBS initialization commands. The setups for the Santa Clara County W[1-6]XSC BBSs include the "XM 0" command to turn off pagination.

Plain-text Delivery/Read Receipts

Delivery and Read receipts now include plain text so they are readable by people who sent an email to a packet user.

Session Manager Improvements

The Session Manager window now runs in the background, behind the main Outpost window. This allows the user to continue working in Outpost while the Send/Receive session is running. Also, the status line of the main Outpost window now displays session status.

Message Size Limit Increased

The maximum message size that can be sent/received by Outpost has been raised from 10,000 characters to 65,535 characters.

Configurable Message Number Suffix

The "P" suffix added to Outpost-generated message numbers is now selectable and is now applied to all messages. Previously it was not applied to outbound plain-text messages.

Improved "Send" Button Placement

The "Send" button on the message window has been moved and separated from the other buttons to make it easier to use.

PacFORMS Enhancements

Forms Changes

- For all PacFORMS users: A minor typo has been corrected in the Sender's message number field.
- For ECs and AECs: RIMS forms have been removed. They are no longer used.
- For Hospital Net users: The three hospital forms have been updated.

Installation Changes

The Start > All Programs > PacFORMS shortcuts have been removed. In addition, some users may have a PacFORMS folder on the desktop which contains shortcuts to the PacFORMS files. This folder will no longer be updated since PacFORMS are now launched from within Outpost. Users should clear out and remove the desktop PacFORMS folder.

Web Site / Documentation Changes

The new installer and the following documents will be updated on the Packet page of the SCCo ARES/RACES website (<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>) on Tuesday, October 28th:

- Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions (PDF)
- Standard TNC Parameter Settings (PDF)

Training Net

A training net will be held on Tuesday, October 28 at 2030 hours to review features in the new installer. Frequency information and a PDF of the presentation can be found on the Training page of the county ARES/RACES website:

<http://www.scc-ares-races.org/training.html#nets>

Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users

- 1) Attend the training net on Tuesday, October 28
- 2) Download and run the installer
- 3) Perform basic setup of the "Outpost" profile
 - a. Setup > Identification
 - b. Setup > TNC
 - c. Setup > BBS
- 4) Clear out and remove the PacFORMS folder on the Windows desktop (if one exists)
- 5) Review any user-created configurations (profiles, TNC setups, BBS setups). Compare to the documented standards and make any needed updates.
 - a. Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions
 - b. 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 the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the question and the answer. URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>