

Packet Network Update

Date: Sep 18, 2017

From: Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet Committee

Subject: Packet Network Update – General Release of SCCo Packet Installer v134

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:

- General Release of SCCo Packet Installer v134
- 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 v134

SCCo Packet Installer version 134 has moved from pre-release to general release status. It is now the standard installer for use by all Santa Clara County BBS users. The changes are summarized below.

Outpost Changes

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

Configurable Send/Receive Button

The action of the Send/Receive button can be set to Send/Receive, Send Only, or Receive Only. This is most useful in high-volume locations that use separate PCs for Send and Receive, such as the county EOC. The behavior can be overridden by the Action menu.

Configurable Message Number Separator

The “: ” (colon space) message number separator can now be turned off. When off, the cursor will be positioned immediately after the message number in the Subject line. This avoids the need to press delete twice to remove the “: ”, and insert a “_” (underscore) as the standard separator for Santa Clara County. The message number separator is turned off in the default SCCo Outpost profile included with the installer. User-created profiles will need to be manually updated. As a reminder, the “_” (underscore) character was selected many years ago after user testing because it did the best job of visually separating the message number from the rest of the subject line.

PacFORMS Changes

The following changes to PacFORMS are included in this release.

Longer Subject Lines

PacFORMS no longer truncates the subject line it submits to Outpost at 50 characters. PacFORMS will now send the entire subject line entered by the user to Outpost. Note that different BBSs can tolerate different lengths of subject lines. So, the subject line may still be truncated when transmitted to the BBS. The BBS software that we use, JNOS, can handle up to 120-character subject lines.

Updates EOC-213RR Resource Request Form

The EOC-213RR Resource Request PacFORMS has been updated to be consistent with the latest (6/17) version in use by county OES.

Action Item Summary for ALL Packet Users

The use of installer version 134 is now standard for all Santa Clara County BBS users. All users are expected to upgrade.

- 1) Visit the software download page:
 - <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet/client-software.html>
- 2) Review all the information there and follow the instructions to download and run the installer
- 3) Perform basic setup of the "Outpost" profile
 - Setup > Identification (Enter call sign, name, message number prefix)
 - Setup > Interface (reselect your TNC from the pull-down menu)
 - Setup > BBS (reselect 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 the scc-packet Yahoo group. That way, everyone can see the question and the answer. URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>