

FT8 Best Practices, Tips, and Tricks

Hamfesters Radio Club

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Topics We will Cover

- The importance of digital modes
- Software considerations
- Hardware considerations
- Sharing a virtual serial port
- Using a logging server
- FT8 Operating best practices
- FT8 Tips and Tricks

The Importance of Digital Modes

- Why should you care about digital modes.
 - Fun and technically challenging to learn.
 - Often can overcome poor propagation.
 - Often can cut through the noise.
 - Most are open source and open hardware.
 - Significant opportunities for experimentation.
 - Many say that CW was the first digital mode.
 - They are vital for passing emergency traffic.

The Environment for Our Discussion

• Hardware

- Any computer (x86, x64, ARM, ...).
- ICOM IC-7300, SDR, or a radio w/ a stable oscillator.
- 2X USB A Male to B Male (host) Cable.
- A powered USB hub.

• Software

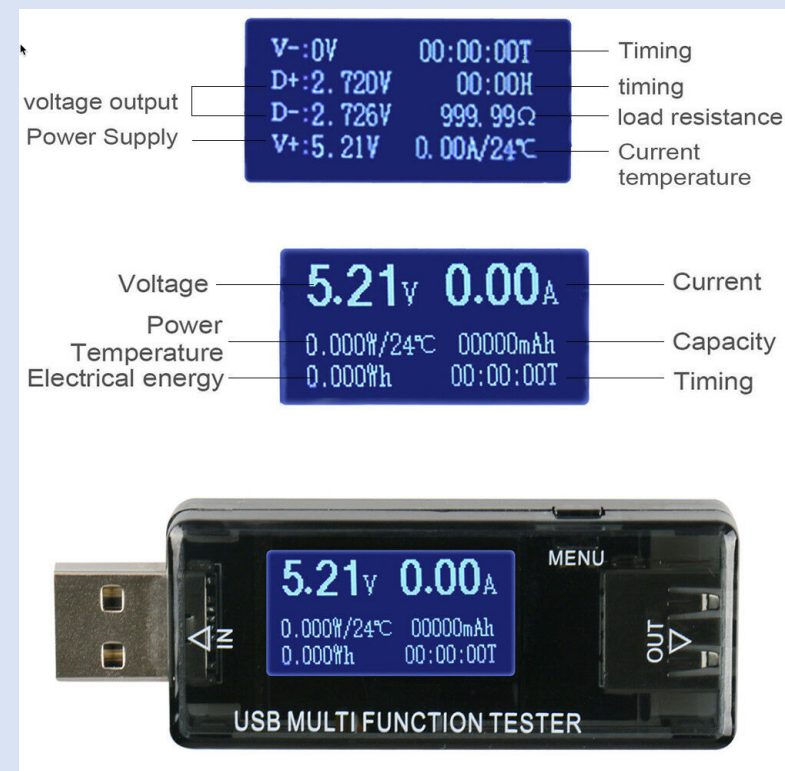
- **Windows**, **Mac OS**, or **Linux** operating system.
- A USB device driver. Other radios may or may not require a driver.
- **ICOM Rig Control and Remote**. Build in feature w/ Flex and ...
- Virtual Serial Port Sharing. Not required, but nice to have.
- **N3FJP Amateur Communications Log** (or your favorite).
- **WSJT-X 2.2.2+** and **JTAlert-X 2.16.8+**

Hardware Considerations (1)

- **Not all USB Hubs and Ports are equal.**
 - Each USB Hub has a maximum voltage and current rating.
 - Each USB Hub has a device driver.
 - As does each Port on the USB Hub.
 - Each USB Port has a device driver.
 - The device drivers defines the current and voltage constraints for the given USB profile (protocol and port architecture).

Hardware Considerations (2)

- **Although you can directly connect your radio to the computer, you shouldn't.**
- **Powered USB Hubs protect both**
 - Against over current or voltage when multiple devices are plugged into a single USB HUB.
 - They electrically or optically isolate the radio and computer.
- **You can measure the current and voltage loads.**



Using a Powered USB Hub



USB B Female

USB B to A Male

Computer

USB 3.x Ports

COMv1

USB A to B Male

You can attach the Powered USB HUB to your bench or computer case using commercial grade Velcro.




Powered USB Hub

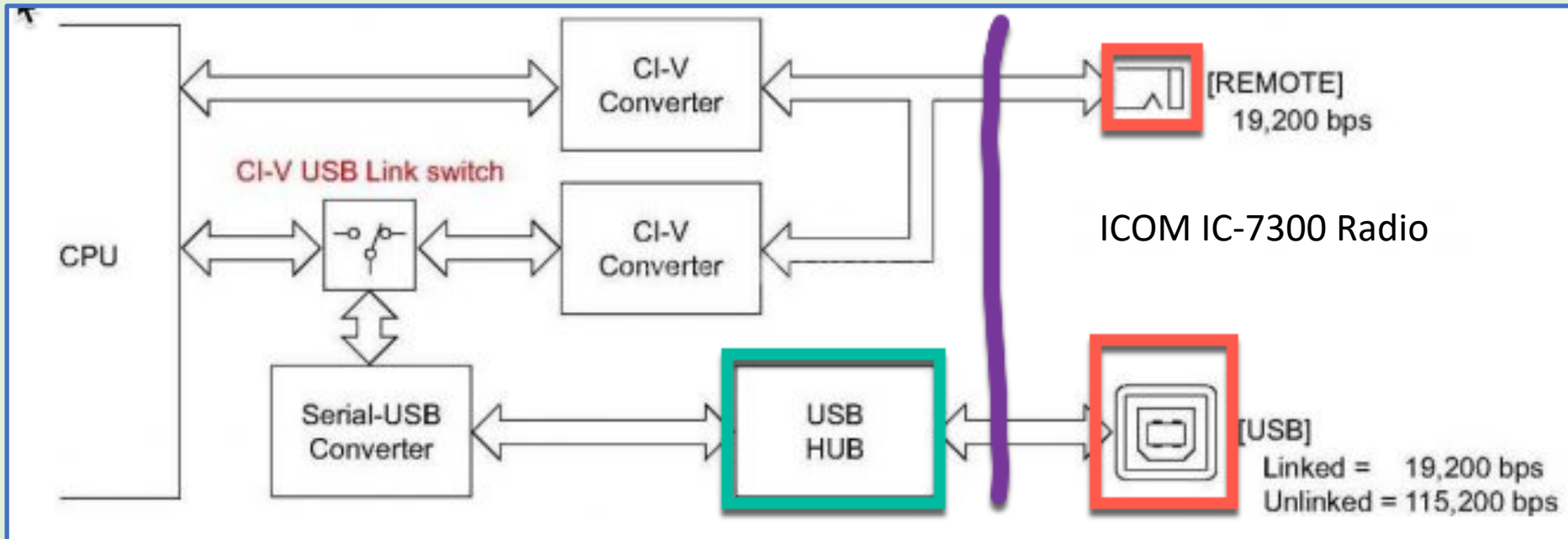


Power Supply

Hardware Considerations (3)

Computer Maximum Voltage	For USB 2.x 5.0V (+0.25V -0.60V) 5.0V (+0.25V -0.55V)	For USB 3.x 5.0V (+0.25V -0.60V) 5.0V (+0.25V -0.55V) 20.0V (PD)
Computer Maximum Current	0.5A It is important to test all communications modes over your USB connection. As the current drain will vary.	For USB 3.0 0.9A For USB 3.0 Battery Charging (BC 1.2) 1.5A For USB C 3.1 or 3.2 3A For Power Delivery (PD) up to 5A
Radio Maximum Current	 A black USB detector device with a digital display. The display shows 5.03 in red and 0.03 in blue. The device has labels for 'OUTPUT I', 'USB Detector', and 'OUTPUT II'. There are also symbols for voltage (V) and current (A).	The ICOM IC-7300 Only draws between 0.03A to 0.07A at 5V.

The CI-V Protocol



The above drawing shows the computer on the left and the connections to the radio on the right. Typically 19.200 bps is the default baud rate. Especially if the radio's link is enabled. There is one catch; however, if you want a virtual Panadapter you must use the radio's unlinked mode and operate the radio at 115.200 bps.

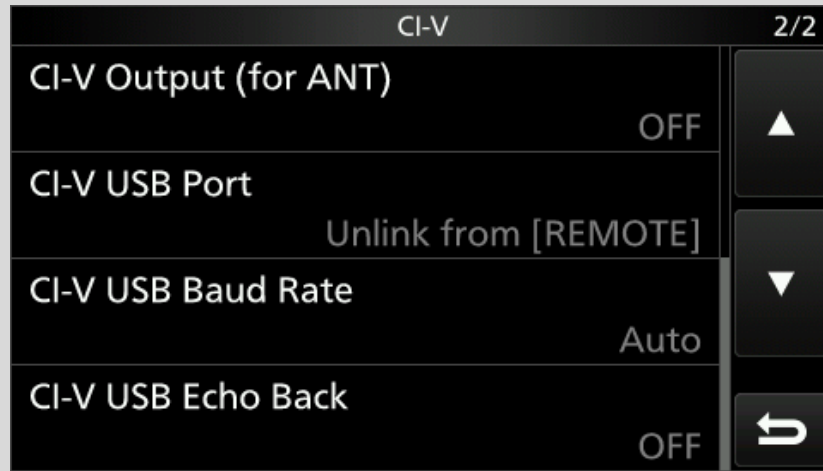
Configuring the ICOM IC-7300 (1)



Configuring the ICOM IC-7300 (2)



Set AGC Fast (default) or off.
Set Notch to Automatic Notch (AN).
Enable Noise Reduction as needed.
On 80 you may need to use a Pre-Amp

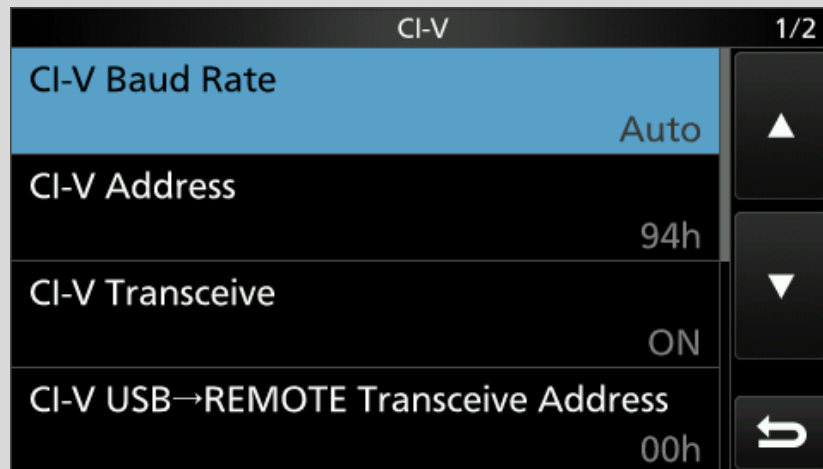


CI-V USB Port - Unlink from [Remote].

CI-V USB Baud Rate – Auto

CI-V USB Echo Back – Off

CI-V Baud Rate – Auto



CI-V Address – 0x94

Configuring the ICOM IC-7300 (3)

SET 1/2

- Tone Control/TBW
- Function
- Connectors**
- Display

CONNECTORS 3/4

- DATA MOD** USB
- External Keypad
- CI-V
- USB Serial Function

In Connectors
Data MOD should be set to - USB

CONNECTORS 4/4

- RTTY Decode Baud Rate 9600
- USB SEND/Keying**

USB SEND/KEYING 1/1

- USB SEND RTS
- USB Keying (CW) DTR
- USB Keying (RTTY) DTR**
- Inhibit Timer at USB Connection ON


In USB Send/Keying


USB Send – RTS
USB Keying (CW) – DTR
USB Keying (RTTY) – DTR

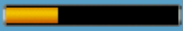
Inhibit Timer at USB
Connection - On

Configuring the ICOM IC-7300 (4)

CONNECTORS 2/4

ACC/USB IF Output Level  50%

ACC MOD Level  40%

USB MOD Level  30%

DATA OFF MOD

MIC,USB

←

In Connectors

ACC/USB IF Output Level **50%**

ACC MOD Level **40%**

USB MOD Level **30%**

Data off MOD **MIC/USB**

CONNECTORS 1/4

ACC/USB Output Select AF

ACC/USB AF Output Level  50%

ACC/USB AF SQL OFF (Open)

ACC/USB AF Beep/Speech... Output OFF

←

ACC/USB Output Select – **AF**

ACC/USB AF Output Level – **50%**

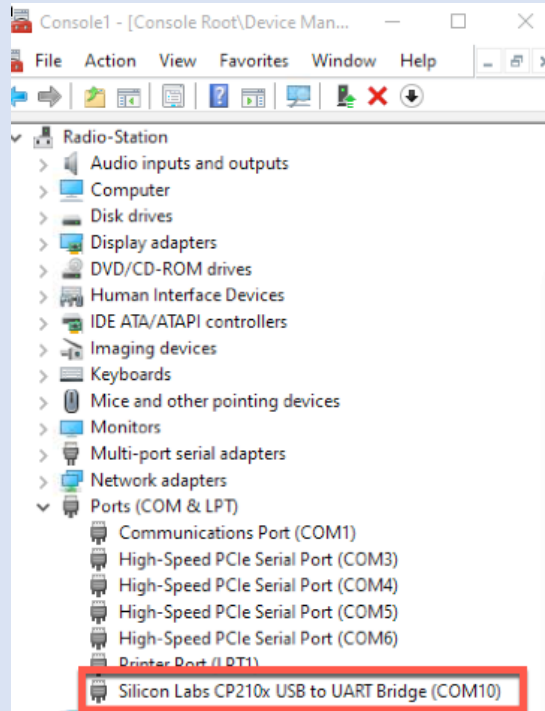
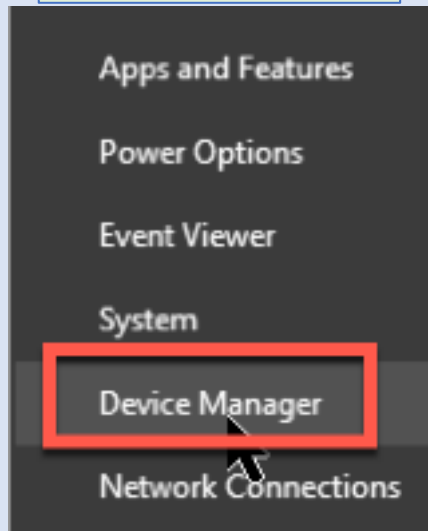
ACC/USB AF SQL – **Off (Open)**

ACC/USB AF Beep/Speech Output – **Off**

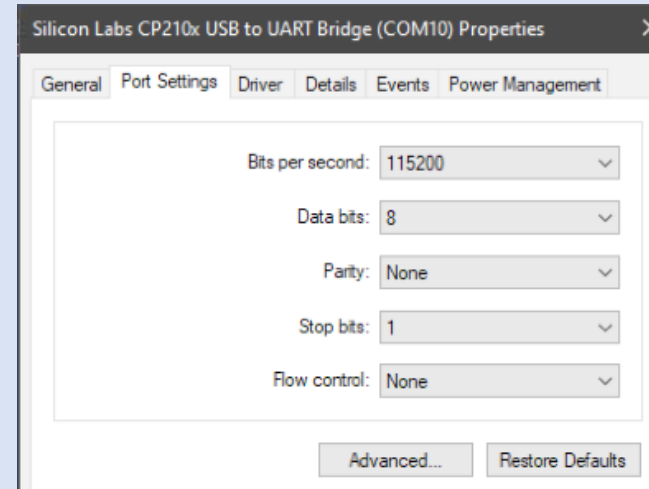
Configuring Your Computer

Windows 10

Right mouse the
[Start] button.



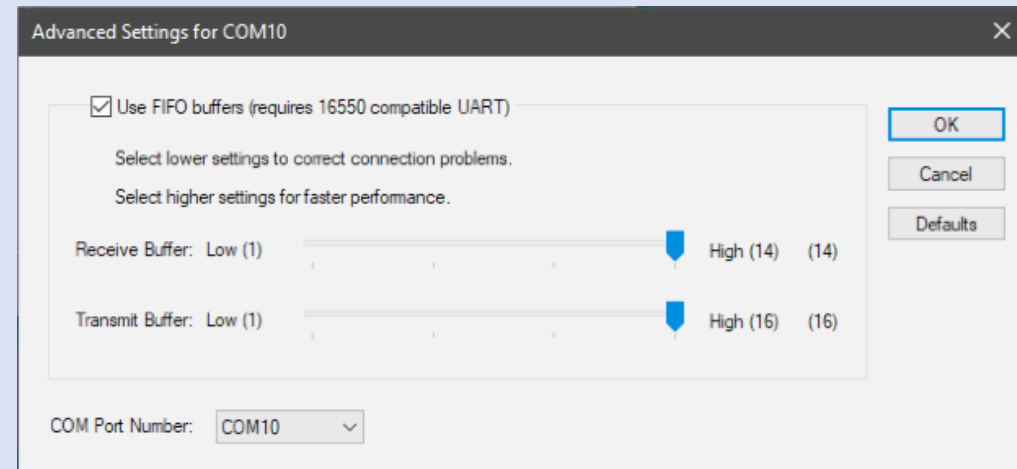
The Silicon Labs CP210x is what
our physical COM port is.



Use a baud rate
of 115,200 bps

8 None 1

No flow control



Virtual Serial Interfaces

- Allow two or more software packages to share one physical USB / serial interface.
- Each physical USB / Serial port will have an associated COMx.
- Each virtual USB / Serial Port will have an associated virtual COMv port (i.e. COMv1).

Virtual Network Interfaces

- **Allow 2 or more software packages to communicate with each other.**
 - **On the same computer**
 - **Or over a network.**
- Use standardized Internet Protocols (IP).
- They Communicate over ports using either:
 - TCP provides error detection & correction.
 - UDP provides no guaranty, but is fast.

**ICOM IC-7300 or
Other Software
Defined Radio**

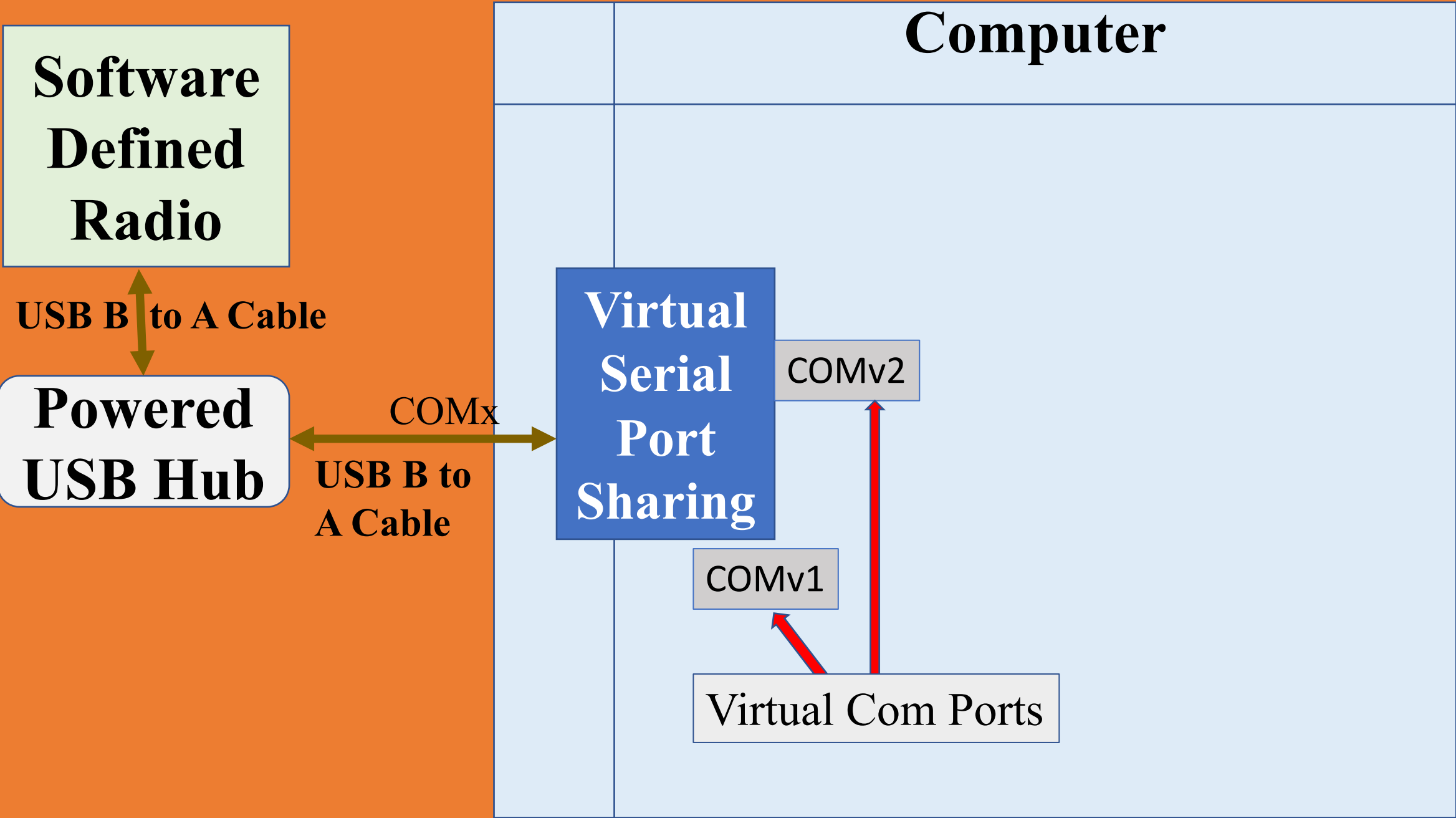
USB B to A Cable

**Powered
USB Hub**

COMx

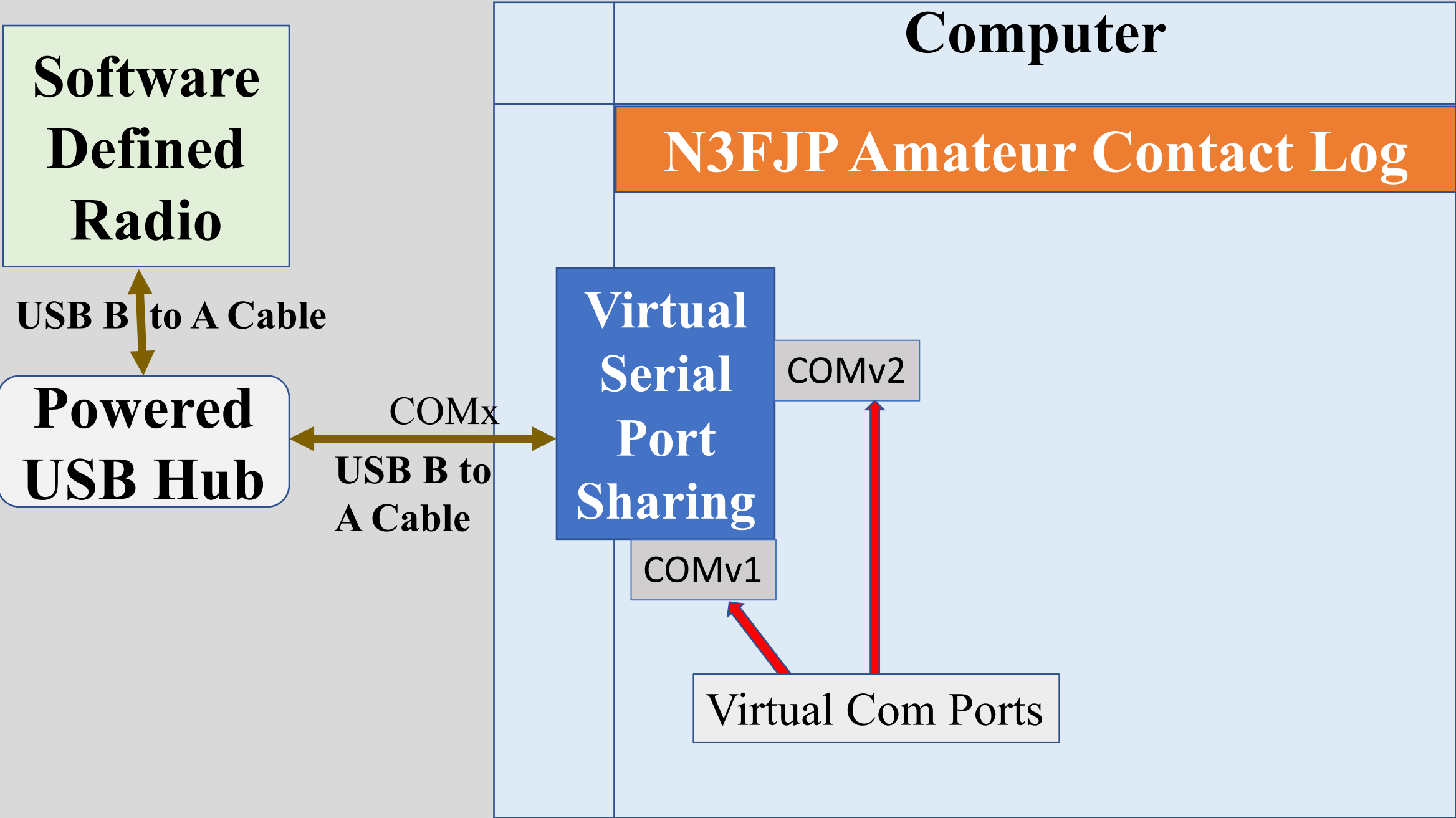
**USB A to
B Cable**

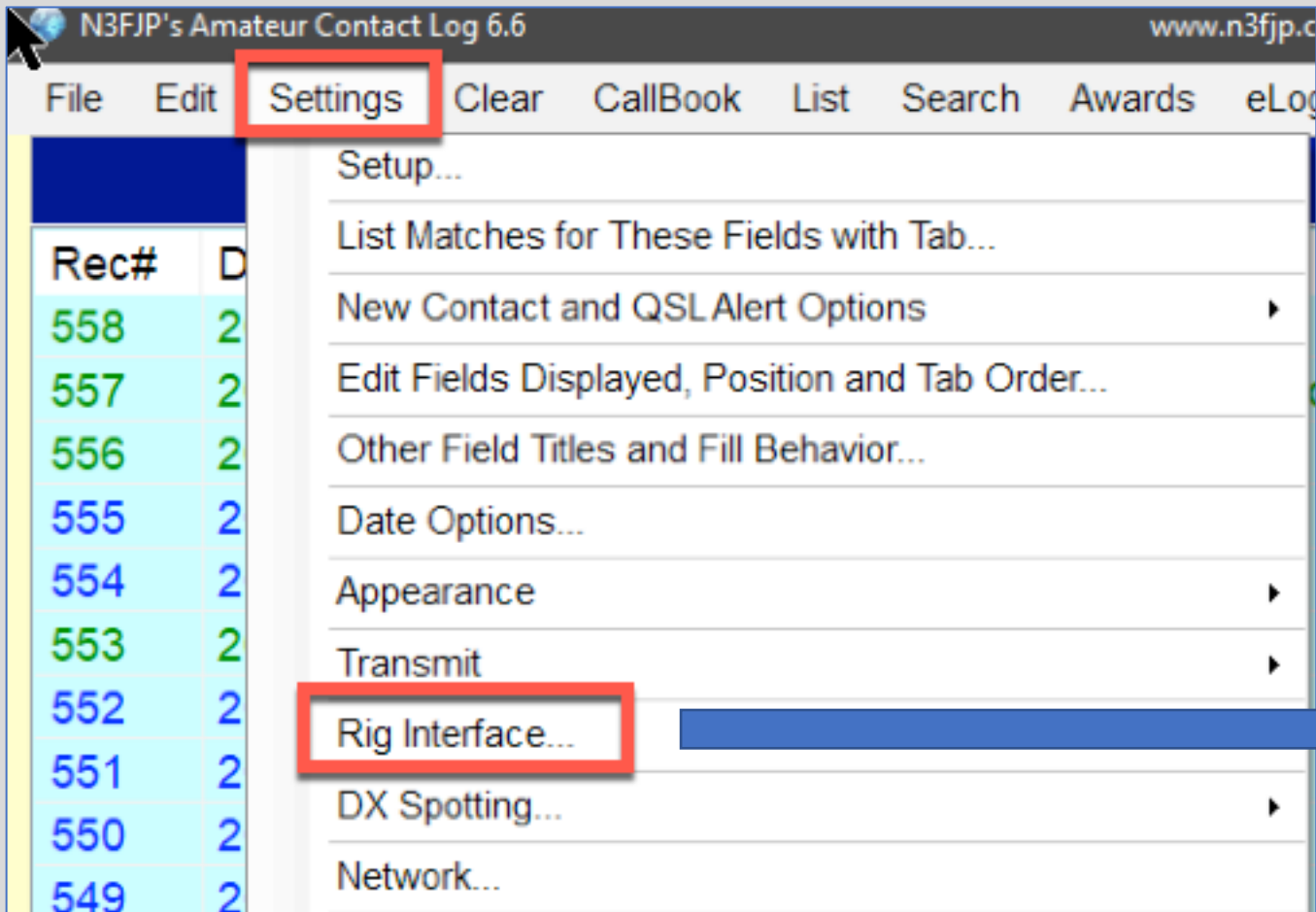
Computer



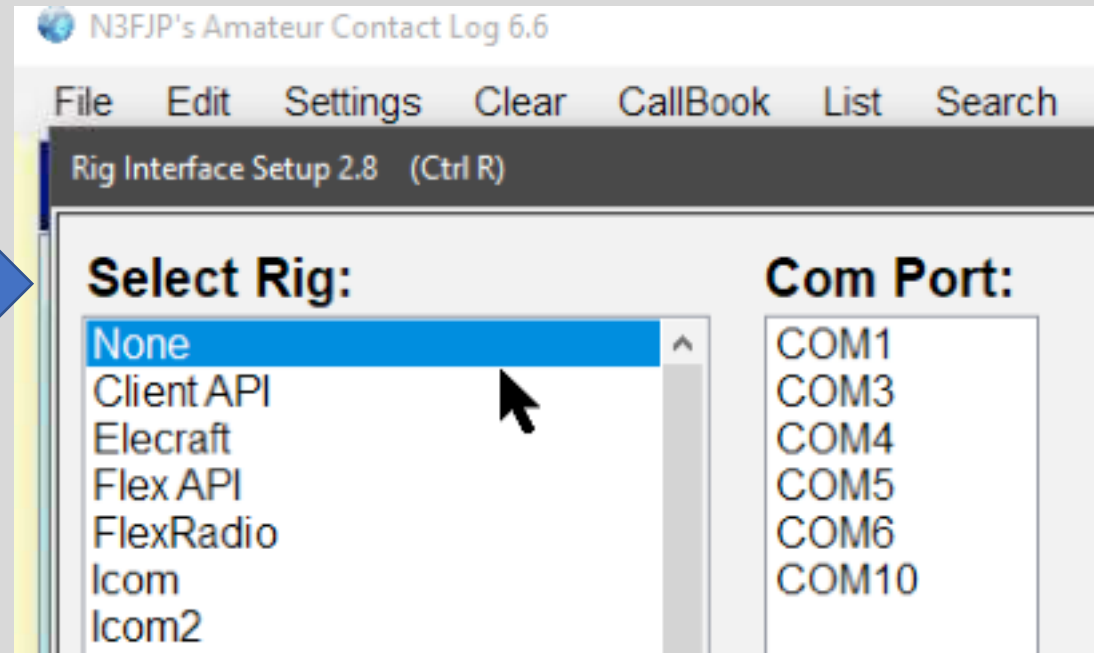
N3FJP AC Logging Server

- N3FJP Amateur Contact Logging Server
 - Allows connections from multiple clients
 - Listens on UDP port 1100
 - Can automatically upload contacts to:
 - LotW
 - Club Log
 - QSL.CC
 - Can proxy queries for amateur radio callsign DBs.





We don't want N3FJP's AC Log software to control our rig.



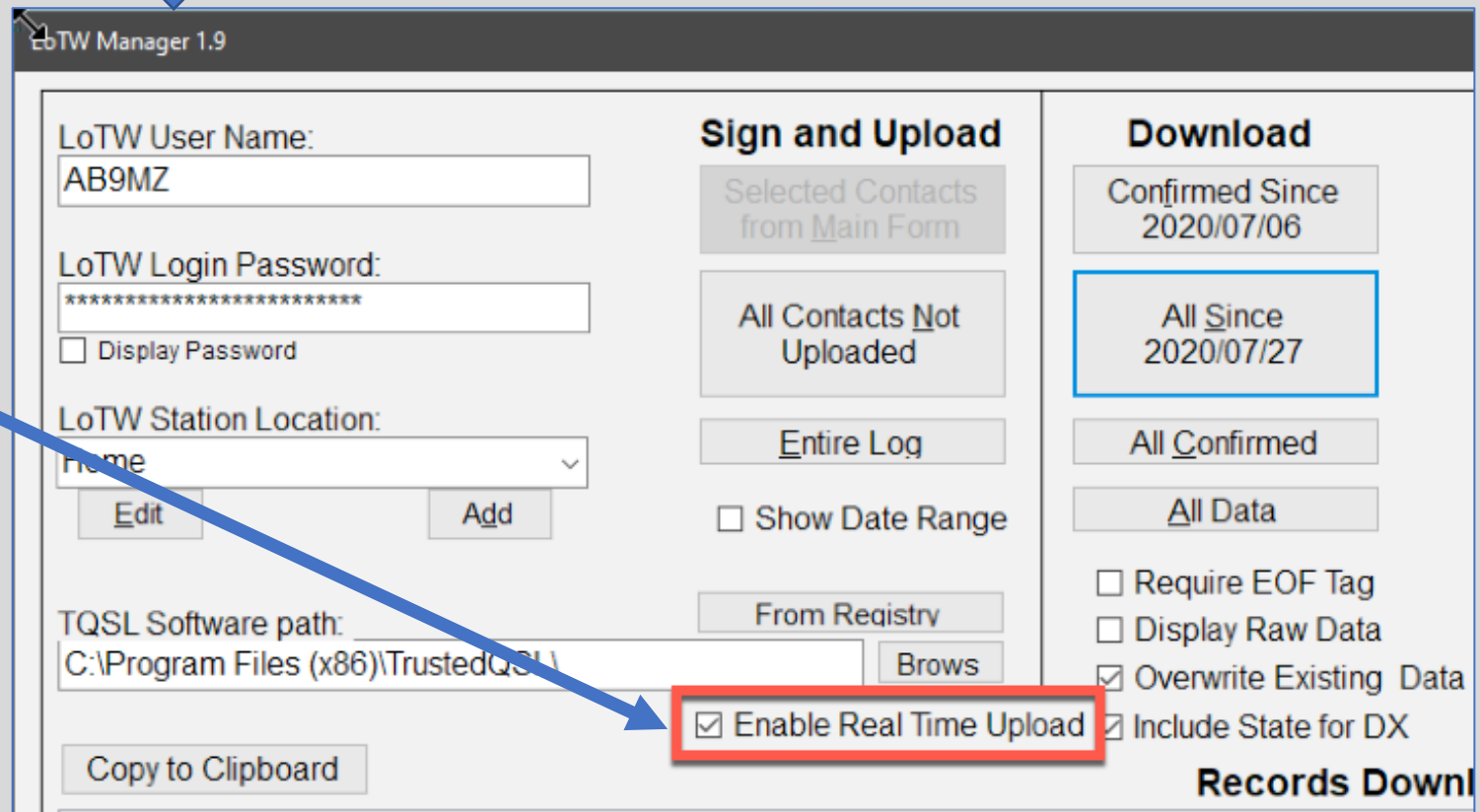


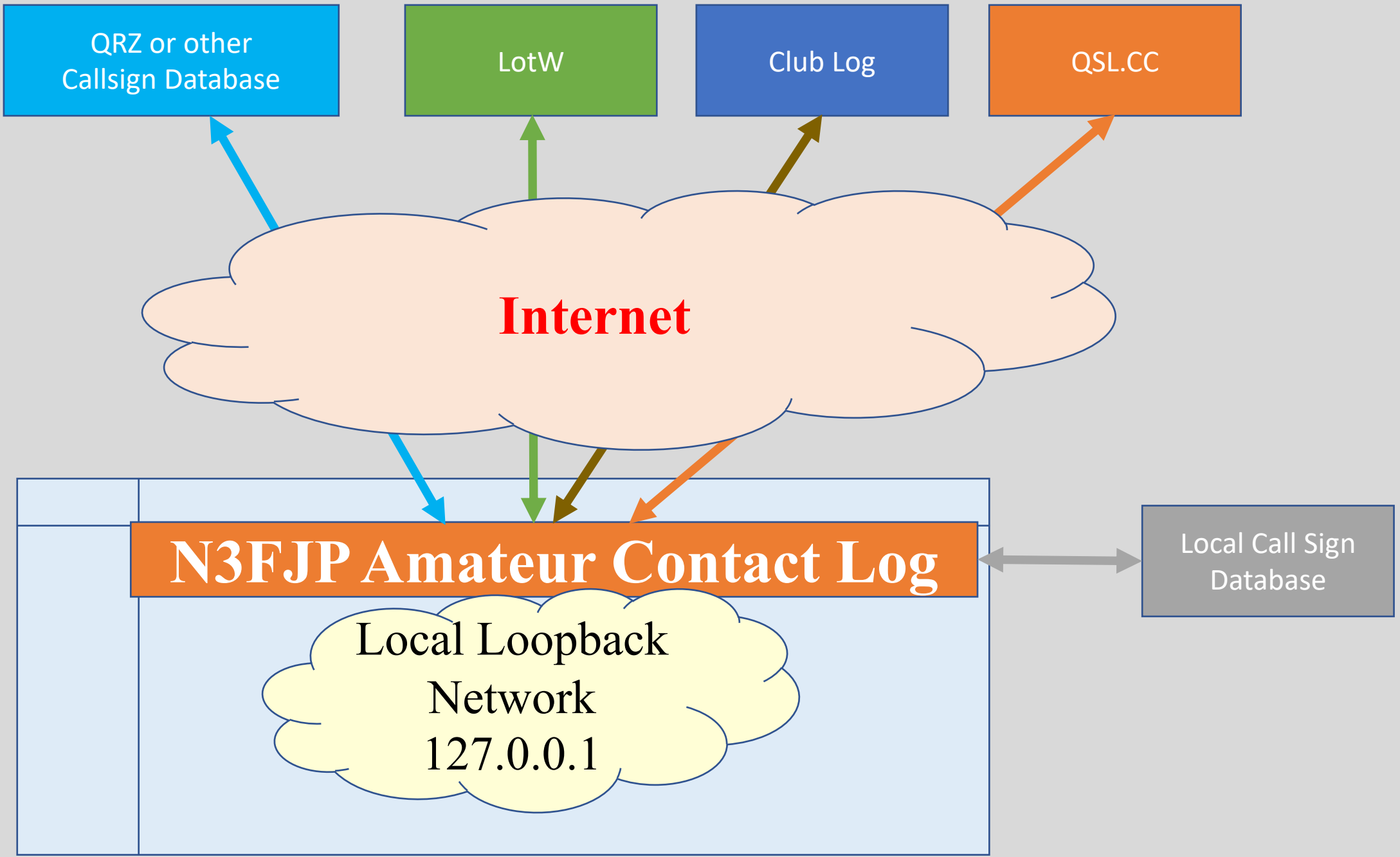
Setting up Club Log or eQSL.cc is about the same effort as LotW.

You need to have installed tqsl from the ARRL's Logbook of the World website and successfully uploaded at least one QSO before checking the "Enabling Real Time Upload" checkbox.

I wrote an article for Hamgab years ago on setting up LotW. I am updating that article to appear in the October 2020 Hamgab.

I am willing to help If anyone needs help setting up LotW.





QRZ or other
Callsign Database

LotW

Club Log

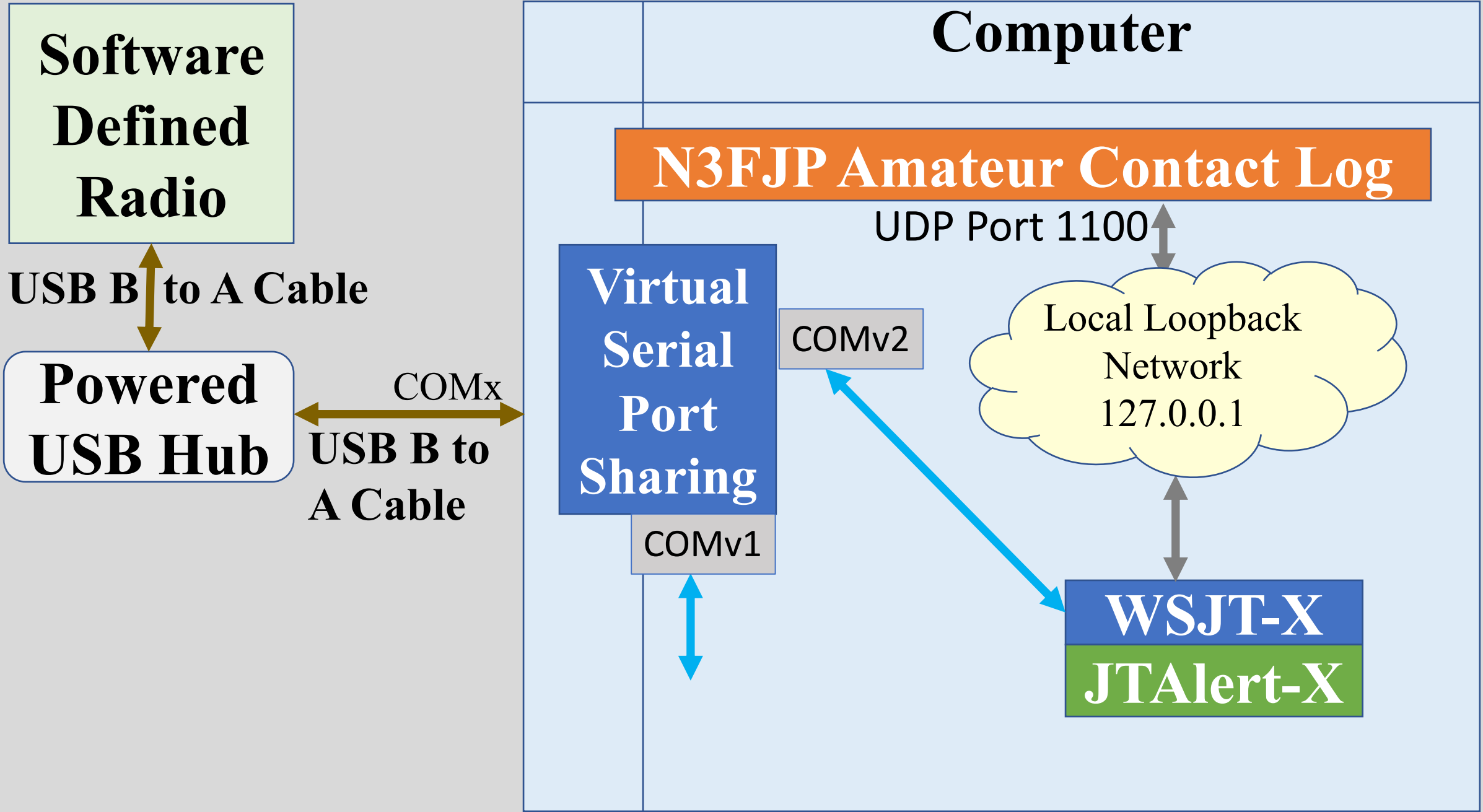
QSL.CC

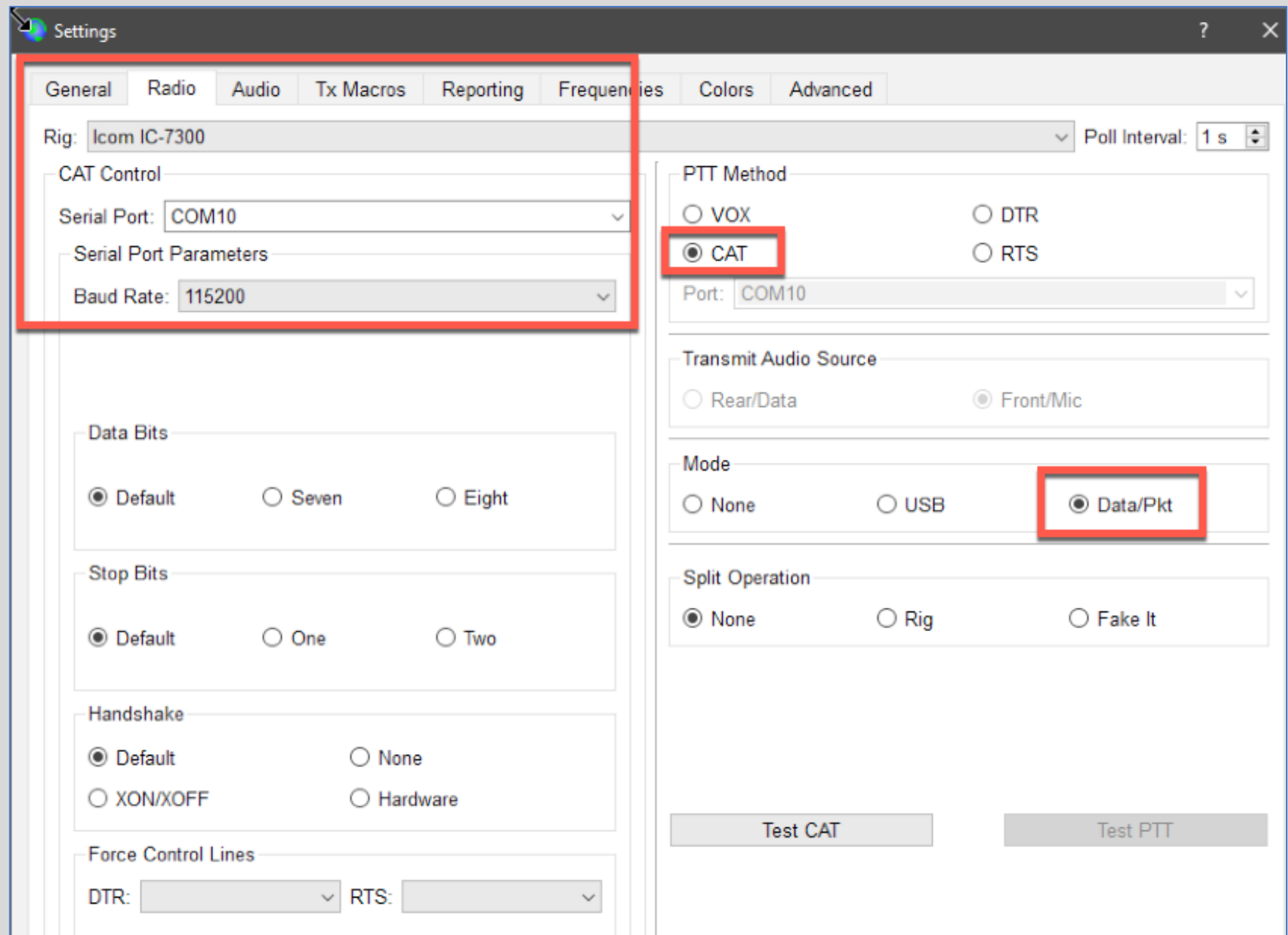
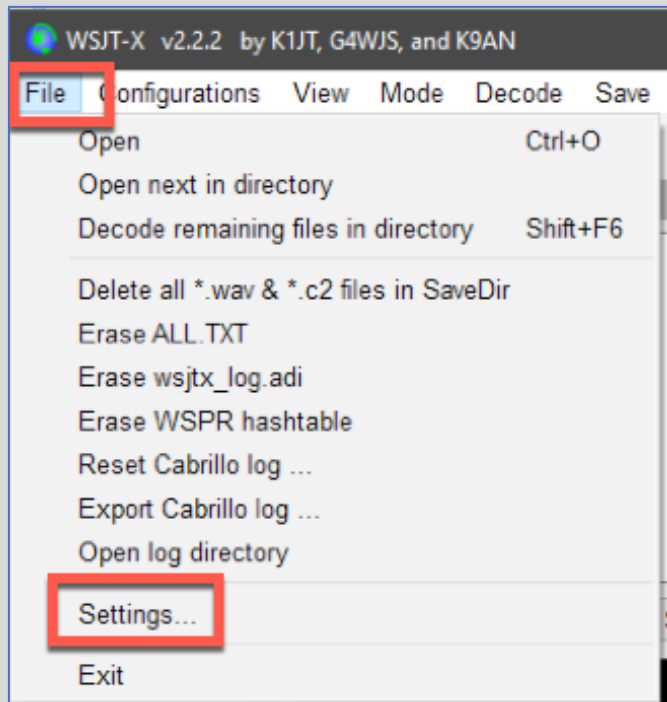
Internet

N3FJP Amateur Contact Log

Local Call Sign
Database

Local Loopback
Network
127.0.0.1





Settings

General Radio Audio Tx Macros Reporting Frequencies Colors Advanced

Logging

Prompt me to log QSO Op Call: AB9MZ

Log automatically (contesting only)

Convert mode to RTTY

dB reports to comments

Clear DX call and grid after logging

Network Services

Enable PSK Reporter Spotting

UDP Server

UDP Server: 127.0.0.1 Accept UDP requests

UDP Server port number: 2237 Notify on accepted UDP request

Accepted UDP request restores window

Secondary UDP Server (deprecated)

Enable logged contact ADIF broadcast

Server name or IP address: 127.0.0.1

Server port number: 2333

Check "Prompt to log QSO" for routine contacts. Or if you are in a contest then check "Log Automatically. If in a RTTY contest you can check that box as well.

If you wish to push your QSOs to "PSK Reporter Spotting, you can enable it and check all the boxes on the right.

JT65 VHF/UHF/Microwave decoding parameters

Random erasure patterns: 6

Aggressive decoding level: 1

Two-pass decoding

Miscellaneous

Degrade S/N of .wav file: 0.0 dB

Receiver bandwidth: 2500 Hz

Tx delay: 0.2 s

Tone spacing

x 2 x 4

Waterfall spectra

Low sidelobes Most sensitive

When you are participating in special contests you will want to check the "Special operating activity" checkbox. Remember to uncheck it after the contest is over.

Special operating activity: Generation of FT4, FT8, and MSK144 messages

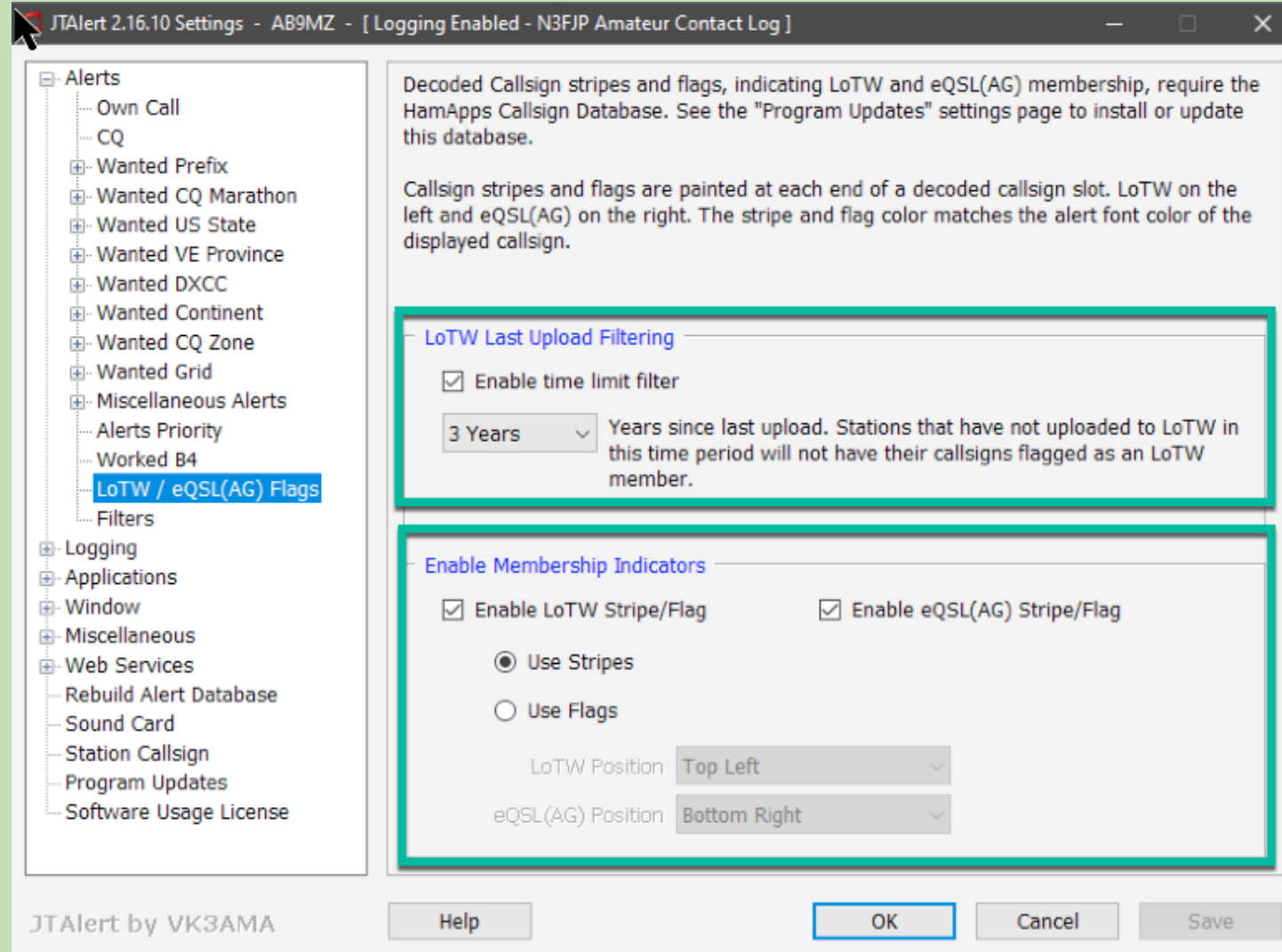
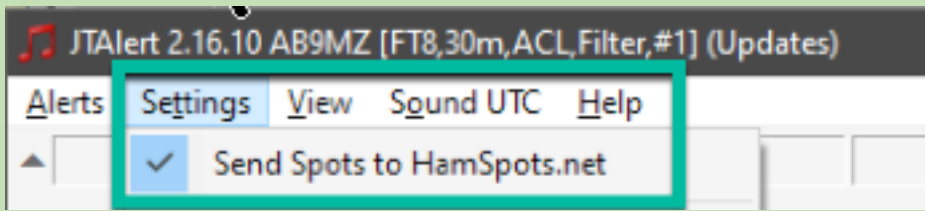
Fox Hound

NA VHF Contest ARRL Field Day FD Exch: 1D IL

EU VHF Contest RTTY Roundup messages RTTY RU Exch:

WW Digi Contest

JTAlert-X



- Alerts
 - Own Call
 - CQ
 - Wanted Prefix
 - Wanted CQ Marathon
 - Wanted US State
 - Wanted VE Province
 - Wanted DXCC
 - Wanted Continent
 - Wanted CQ Zone
 - Wanted Grid
 - Miscellaneous Alerts
 - Alerts Priority
 - Worked B4
 - LoTW / eQSL(AG) Flags
 - Filters
- Logging**
 - Last QSO API
 - Log B4 Database
 - Standard ADIF File
 - DXLab DXKeeper
 - HRD V5/V6
 - Log4OM V1
 - Log4OM V2
 - ACLog**
- Applications
- Window
- Miscellaneous

Logging Enabled - N3FJP Amateur Contact Log

Confirmed / Worked Bands Display

Confirmation Card eQSL LoTW

Check QSO Log Record

5 secs Delay time after QSO logged to check record written to log file.
On slow decoding PCs it may be necessary to increase this value if JTAlert incorrectly reports log failure.

Logging Options

- Log without submode [Mode = JT65A or JT9-1]
- Log full name returned from XML lookups
- Log full QTH returned from XML lookups
- Log propagation data, SFI, A-index and K-Index
- Mark QSO upload to LoTW as "Requested"
- Mark QSO upload to eQSL as "Requested"
- Remember QSL Request setting across logging and restarts
- Restore Comments from last JTAlert session
- Don't log value in JTAlert Time field

- Alerts
 - Own Call
 - CQ
 - Wanted Prefix
 - Wanted CQ Marathon
 - Wanted US State
 - Wanted VE Province
 - Wanted DXCC
 - Wanted Continent
 - Wanted CQ Zone
 - Wanted Grid
 - Miscellaneous Alerts
 - Alerts Priority
 - Worked B4
 - LoTW / eQSL(AG) Flags
 - Filters
- Logging
 - Last QSO API
 - Log B4 Database
 - Standard ADIF File
 - DXLab DXKeeper
 - HRD V5/V6
 - Log4OM V1
 - Log4OM V2
 - ACLog
 - Log "Other" fields
- Applications
- Window

Enable ACLog Logging

Enable sending of new DX Call when first detected

Clear ACLog fields prior to logging

ACLog configuration

Automatic configuration Manual Configuration

Automatic configuration (ACLog only)

These values are automatically determined by reading the ACLog configuration file during JTAlert startup.

Log File TCP Port

Manual Configuration (ACLog & Contest logs)

PC IPv4 Address TCP Port

Log File

Log Type

- Wanted Continent
- Wanted CQ Zone
- Wanted Grid
- Miscellaneous Alerts
- Alerts Priority
- Worked B4
- LoTW / eQSL(AG) Flags
- Filters
- Logging
 - Last QSO API
 - Log B4 Database
 - Standard ADIF File
 - DXLab DXKeeper
 - HRD V5/V6
 - Log40M V1
 - Log40M V2
 - ACLog
 - Log "Other" fields
- Applications
- Window
- Miscellaneous
- Web Services
- Rebuild Alert Database
- Sound Card
- Station Callsign
- Program Updates
- Software Usage License

Additional Log Fields (Other Fields)

Other8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable logging QTH to this field
Other7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable logging QSLMSG to this field
Other6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable logging WSJT-X gridsquare to this field
Other5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable logging WSJT-X contest exch rcvd to this field
Other4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable logging WSJT-X contest exch sent to this field

You can change the Otherx field. Field you wish to use.

- Other4
- Other1
- Other2
- Other3
- Other4
- Other5
- Other6
- Other7
- Other8

These settings are subjective. If you like more details in your logs then consider leveraging this additional logging into AC Log.

You can rename any fields in AC log. Notice I renamed "Other8" to "City".

Initials	IOTA	ITU Zone	Lighthouse	Mode (tst)
GDR		11		DIG
Other4	Other5	Other6	Other7	City
		EN61cn	FT8 Sent: -24 R	

Call	Date	Time On	Band	Mode	Power	RST Sent	RST Rec	Country
9Y4DG	2020/08/19	00:07:45	30	FT8	50	-24	+02	Trinidad & Tobag
Name Rec	State	County Rec	Frequency	Grid Rec	Other	Time Off	QSL Rec	QSL Sent
			10.136576	FK90		00:08:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rec Conf By	Sent Conf By							
	E							

Comments

FT8 Sent: -24 Rcvd: +02

You can switch from "More" to "Less" depending on how many log fields you wish to see.

Less Cancel Done

Age	ARCI	Category	Check	Class	Contest ID	Continent	County Sent	CQ Zone
						SA		09
DXCC ADIF #	Fists	Grid Sent	IARU Zone	Initials	IOTA	ITU Zone	Lighthouse	Mode (tst)
90				GDR		11		DIG

Name Sent	Operator	Other2	Other3	Other4	Other5	Other6	Other7	City
	AB9MZ					EN61cn	FT8 Sent: -24 R	

PC Name	Precedence	Prefix	Points	Prop Mode	QTH Group	Sat Name	Section	Serial Rec
Radio-Station		9Y4	0					
Serial Sent	State Pr Cont	State Pr Cnt #	Station	Trans ID #				
		Trinidad & Tobag	Radio-Station		10 - 10			

Default to Full Form on Open

Less Cancel Done

WSJT-X Modes

Modes in WSJT-X

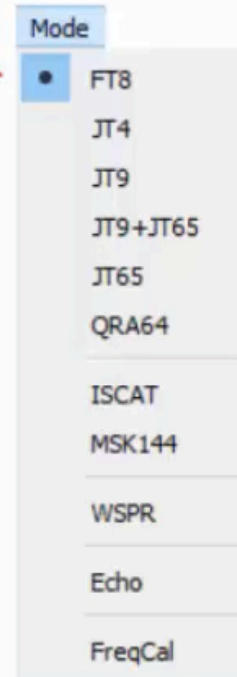
Scatter → “Fast”

- MSK144
- JT9 E-H
- ISCAT

QRP, EME, ... → “Slow”

- FT8
- JT4
- JT9
- JT65
- QRA64
- WSPR

Echo



Why multiple modes?

Different propagation modes require different protocols.

...and many different applications.

QRP Dxing

Certificate Hunting

- ARRL International Grid Chase

VHF Contesting

Meteor Scatter

Moon bounce

Asteroid bounce

Airplane bounce

All modes use a fixed length block.

WSJT-X FT8 Operating Screen

The screenshot shows the WSJT-X v2.2.2 interface. At the top, there are menu options: File, Configurations, View, Mode, Decode, Save, Tools, Help. Below the menu is the 'Band Activity' window, which is a table with columns for UTC, dB, DT, Freq, and Message. It lists various stations and their activity. To the right is the 'Rx Frequency' window, which shows a list of received messages with columns for UTC, dB, DT, Freq, and Message. Below these windows are several control buttons: 'Log QSO', 'Stop', 'Monitor', 'Erase', 'Decode', 'Enable Tx', 'Halt Tx', 'Tune', and 'Menus'. The 'Enable Tx' button is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the buttons is the 'Operating Band & Frequency' section, which shows the current operating band (30m) and frequency (10.136 000). Below this is the 'Operating Band' section, which shows a frequency scale from 0 dB to -80 dB. Below the frequency scale is the 'Monitor Button' section, which shows the current mode (FT8) and the last transmission (NG4C AB9MZ R+07). Below the monitor button is the 'Mode' section, which shows the current mode (FT8) and the last transmission (NG4C AB9MZ R+07). Below the mode section is the 'Waterfall and Spectrum' section, which shows a waterfall plot of the current frequency range (1600 to 3500 kHz) and a spectrum plot. At the bottom right, there is a 'QSO Confirmation Box' dialog box, which is a small window with a title bar 'WSJT-X v2.2.2 by K1JT, G4WIS, and K9AN - Log QSO'. It contains a list of QSOs with columns for Call, Start, and End. The first QSO is NG4C, FT8, 30m, +07, +03, FM16, and it is currently selected. The dialog box has 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
180115	-24	0.1	540	~ K1BZ N4OMJ R-11
180145	9	0.2	887	~ AB9MZ NG4C RR73
180145	10	0.1	953	~ N1PUA W1MI -16
180145	11	0.1	1847	~ OZ5NJ W1JN -06
180145	-1	0.2	1626	~ N4SRN N8CQD R-07
180145	0	0.1	1146	~ KC0LR WB0MH +00
180145	0	0.1	2121	~ KB9A NOVFJ 73
180145	-24	0.1	540	~ K1BZ N4OMJ 73
180145	-13	-1.6	1475	~ CQ K1DLM FN43
180145	-23	0.9	630	~ N4MIK KR0P +02

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
180002	Tx		500	~ CQ AB9MZ EN61
180015	-1	0.2	886	~ CQ NG4C FM16 U.S.A.
180037	Tx		500	~ NG4C AB9MZ EN61
180045	10	0.0	887	~ CQ NG4C FM16 U.S.A.
180100	Tx		500	~ NG4C AB9MZ EN61
180115	7	0.2	887	~ AB9MZ NG4C +03
180130	Tx		500	~ NG4C AB9MZ R+07
180145	9	0.2	887	~ AB9MZ NG4C RR73
180200	Tx		500	~ NG4C AB9MZ 73

Band Activity

Operating Band & Frequency

Operating Band

Monitor Button

Mode

Waterfall and Spectrum

Received Window

FT8 Dialogue

Tune

Enable Tx

QSO Confirmation Box

FT8 Xmit and Recv Cursors

Transmit Cursor

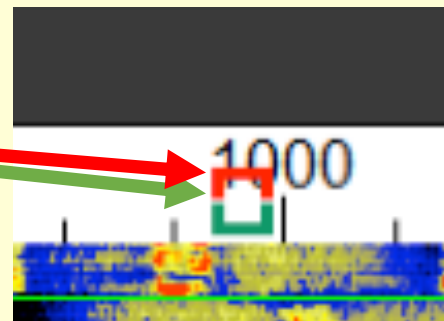
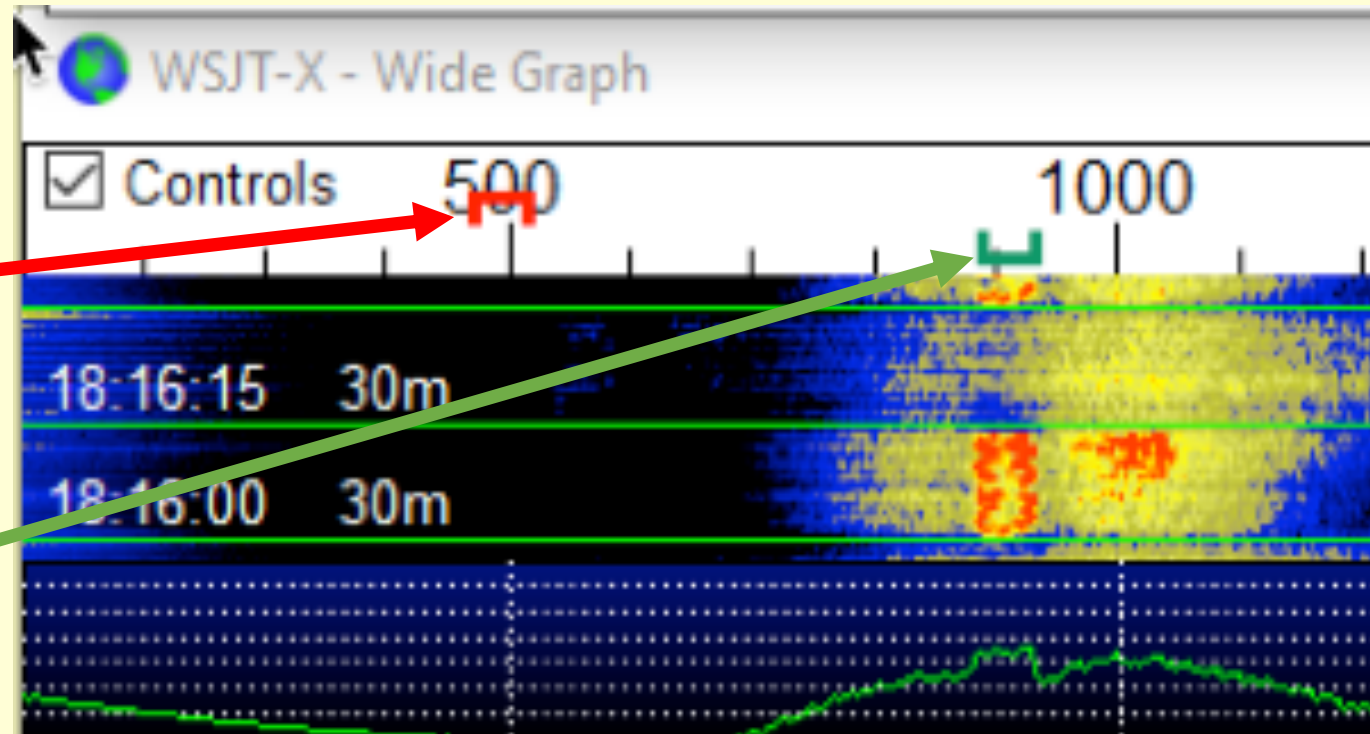
Set using
<Shift><Left Mouse Click>

Receive Cursor

Set using
<Left Mouse Click>

Both Cursors

Set using
<Ctrl><Right Mouse Click>



Low Signal Mode Best Practices (1)

- Study your propagation reports.
- The exception is when they are in fox / hound mode.
- Or if DX target is using the special DeXpedition mode.
- Learn to use <F5>, the chat mode in JTAlert-X to request a do over if something went awry.
- You may hear them, but they may not hear you.

Low Signal Mode Best Practices (2)

- ALC **Minimum** / maybe one-bar.
- AGC **Off** or **Fast**.
- ACC/USB AF Output Level **40%**.
- Set RF Gain should be set **relatively low**.
- Squelch must be **wide open**.
- Set Power at **30 Watts** to start
- Increase RF Xmit power as needed.

Low Signal Mode Best Practices (2)



On the IC-7300 you click Functions, Then press and hold AGC. Then rotate the VFO counter-clockwise to make the "Off" option visible.

FT8 Tips and Tricks (1)

- Avoid calling a person already in a QSO.
- If you see someone calling a station you want, look it up & generate the exchange sequence.

J68ml ab9mz -10

- Pounce when QSO ends.

WSJT-X v2.2.2 by K1JT, G4WJS, and K9AN

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
213015	4	0.1	1604	~ EALFCR NY4FD EM70
213015	-8	0.2	2201	~ IU1MQR K2PL RR73
213015	-23	0.1	2434	~ FT5PA FT5MOR FT5CF
213030	16	0.1	2096	~ W9AMV PZ5RA -08
213030	24	0.1	1571	~ SV1LIP N4RF -08
213030	5	0.6	811	~ JA0FIL ST5PA -24
213030	2	0.1	999	~ S79VU W1KOK -07
213030	10	0.1	1495	~ KF0BAY WB5BHS -23
213030	-9	0.3	396	~ RA9FOX K3NT EM13

FT8 Tips and Tricks (2)

- Contest stations often filter above the 1st KHz.
- Transmit in the 1st KHz, that is where they listen.
- Place your transmit cursor in the 1st KHz.
- The “receive cursor” will move to where they Xmit.
- Often moving your Xmit cursor over the Recv cursor can snag a tough contact.

Time is critical for Weak Signal Modes

095045	-15	0.9	1962	~	JR3BOT	VK6IR	R	539	0045
095045	-14	1.5	2026	~	CQ	RU	YB6HAI	NJ93	CQ Zone
095100	-12	-0.0	882	~	JI4WAO	YC1JGE		539	0038
095100	6	-0.0	1106	~	BI8DHZ	JA0EVI		RR73	
095100	6	-0.0	1106	~	JI4WAO	K7VAP		549	WA
095100	-15	1.5	2025	~	JI4WAO	YC1JGE		539	0038

Run a time server on your radio shack's computer

See August Hamgab for my article on time.

Quick NTP Status

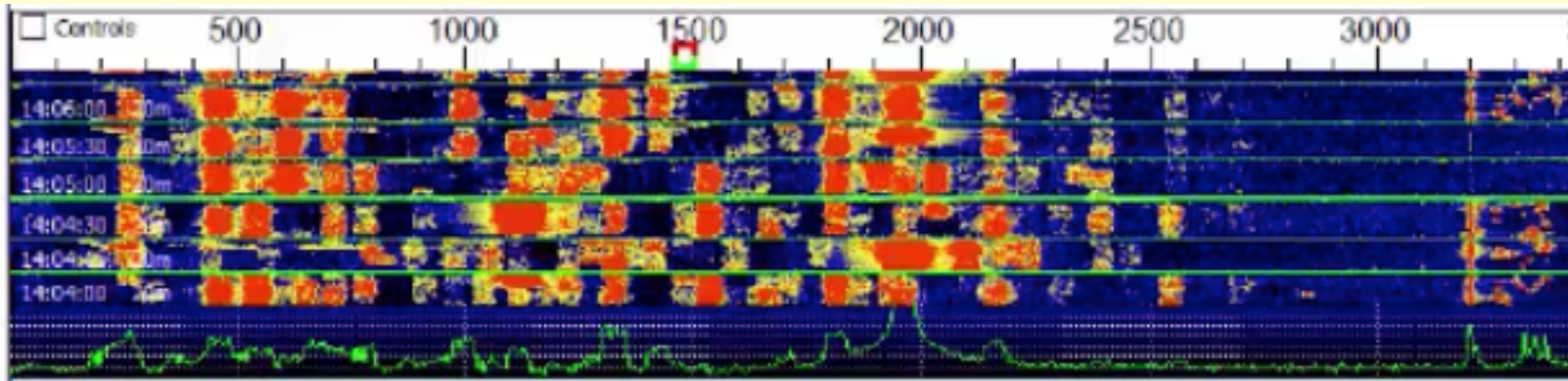
Checking current status of NTP service with ntpq -p

remote	refid	st	t	when	poll	reach	delay	offset	jitter
LOCAL(0)	.LOCL.	12	l	125	64	2	0.000	+0.000	0.000
+karhu.miuku.net	207.197.87.124	4	u	54	64	3	56.987	-1.111	15.821
*christensenplac	209.51.161.238	2	u	56	64	3	48.633	+0.838	16.818
+at10.fairy.matt	130.207.244.240	2	u	55	64	3	38.593	+4.545	16.809
-time-b.bbnx.net	.GPS.	1	u	55	64	3	194.666	-7.301	41.163

(Auto-Refresh every 10s --- CTRL+C to Cancel)

Find a space and stay there to Xmit

FT8 uses 50Hz bandwidth.
FT8 is a low signal not a low power mode.
It can decode signals as low as -28db.



Decode Enable

Tx even/1st

Tx 500 Hz Hold Tx Freq

▲ ▼

Rx 900 Hz

Report -15

Auto Seq Call 1st

15 Seconds

15 Seconds

15 Seconds

15 Seconds

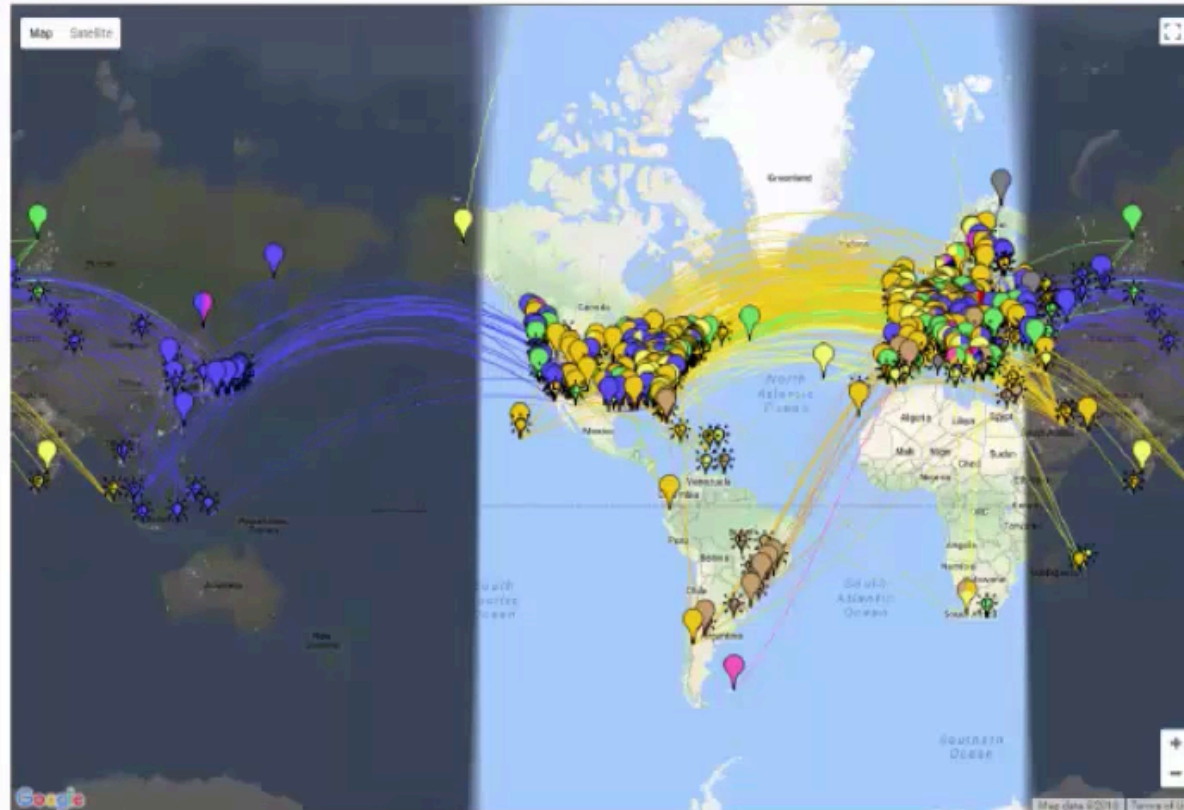
FT8 Uses Time-Division Multiplexing

PSK Reporter: FT8 Usage

PSK Reporter: FT8 usage

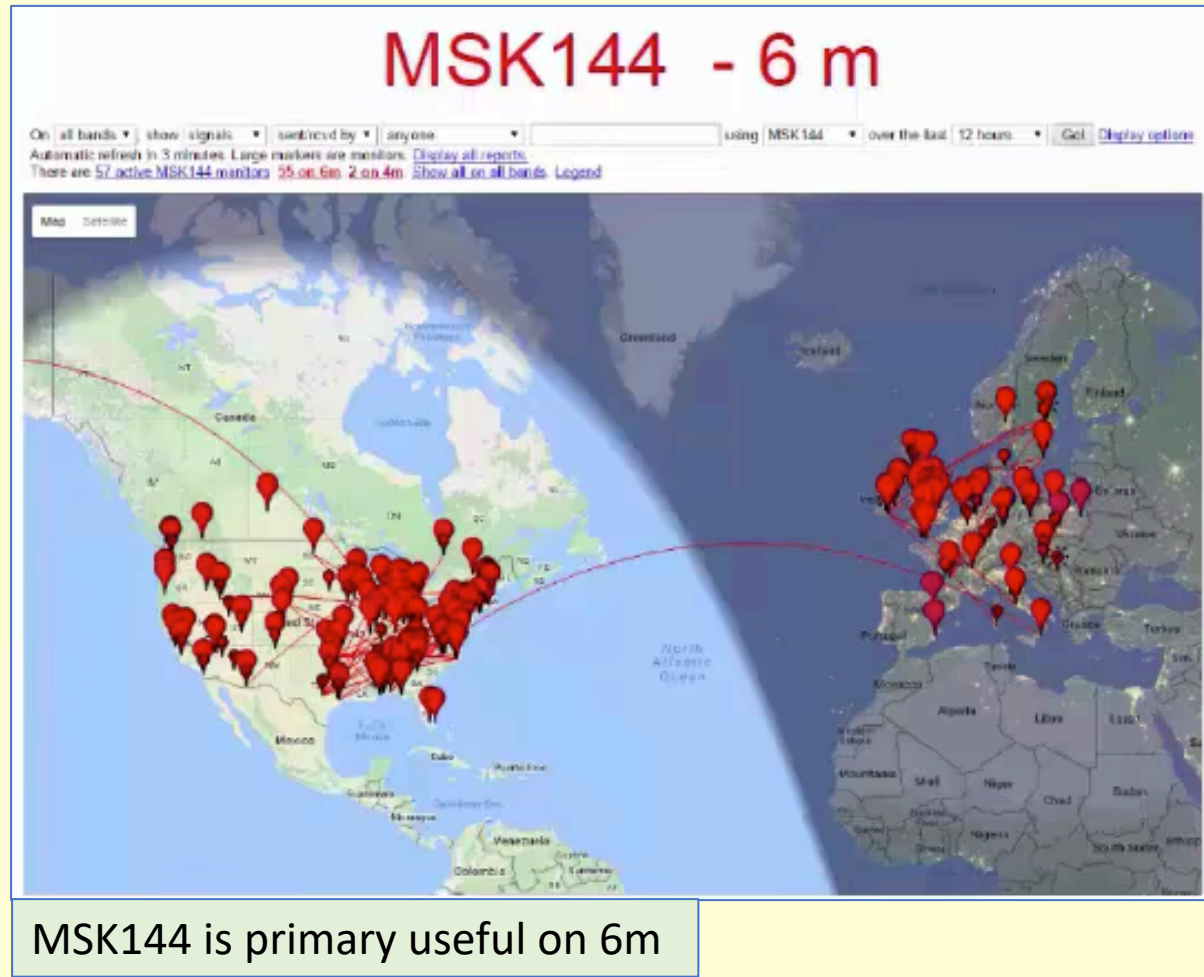
2638 FT8
monitors

On all bands show signals sent/rcvd by anyone using FT8 over the last 30 minutes [Go!](#) [Display options](#)
Automatic refresh in 5 minutes. Large markers are monitors. [Display all reports](#)
There are 2638 active FT8 monitors: 162 on 20m, 612 on 40m, 769 on 30m, 245 on 15m, 200 on 10m, 76 on 8m, 47 on 2m, 30 on 10m, 25 on unknown, 17 on 12m, 15 on 6m, 12 on 50m, 11 on 16m, 1 on 4m. [Show all on all bands](#) [Legend](#)



[System statistics](#) [Comments, problems etc to Philo Gladstone](#) [Online discussion](#) of problems/issues [Reception records](#) 2,981,569,138 [PSKREPORTER.INFO](#)

Map Showing MSK144 on 6m



Weak Signal Minimal QSO

Weak-signal minimal QSO,
with structured messages

CQ K1ABC FN42

K1ABC W9XYZ EN37

W9XYZ K1ABC -22

K1ABC W9XYZ R-19

W9XYZ K1ABC RRR

K1ABC W9XYZ 73

Find a space and stay there to Xmit

Calls and locator:

KA1ABC WB9XYZ EN37

$$28 + 28 + 15 + 1 = 72$$

Free text:

TNX BOB 73 GL

$$71 + 1 = 72$$

WSJT-X Features



WSJT-X Features

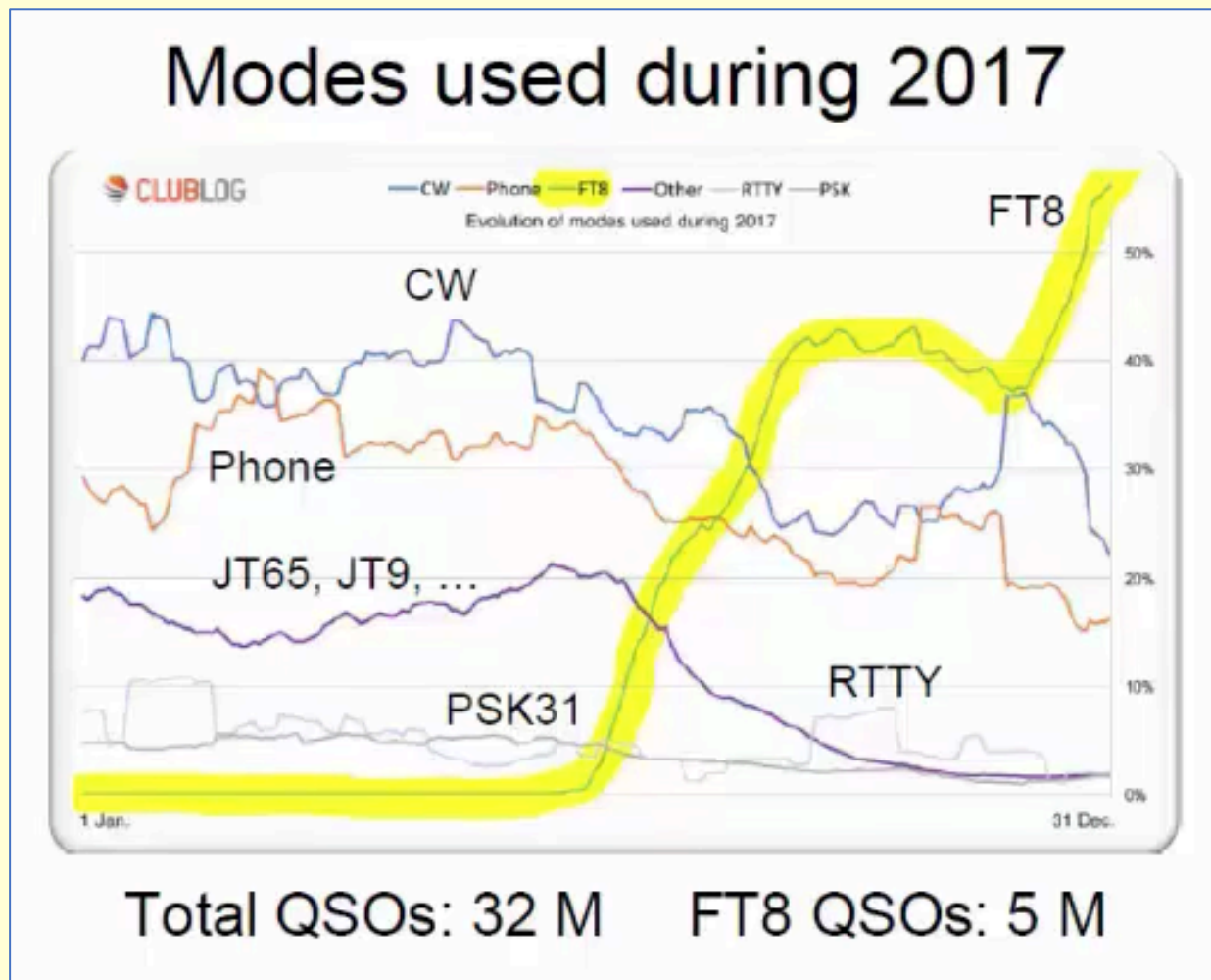
- All platforms: Windows, Linux, OS X, ...
- Rig control for nearly all modern radios
- Error-free communication (minimal QSOs)
- State-of-the-art decoders
- Decoding at S/N = -20 dB and below...
- Accurate frequency calibration

Weak-Signal S/N Limits

<u>Mode</u>	<u>(B = 2500 Hz)</u>
SSB	~+10 dB
MSK144	- 8
CW, "ear-and-brain"	-15
FT8	-21
JT4	-23
JT65	-25
JT9	-27
QRA64	-27
WSPR	-31

From the MicroHam Conference in May 2018

Data from ClubLog



Recent FT8 Usage Stats from 2018

Recent FT8 Usage Statistics

- Spots per hour: 200,000 – 650,000
- Active monitors in any hour
 - Midweek: ~ 2500
 - Weekend: ~ 3700
- Active transmitters in any hour
 - Midweek: 2000 – 5000
 - Weekend: 3500 – 7500
- Top number of DXCCs reported
 - 24 hours: 164
 - 7 days: 221

WSPR – Weak Signal Propagation Reporter

Typically 1mW to 5W

Run WSPR for a week before a contest
To get a good idea of the propagation.

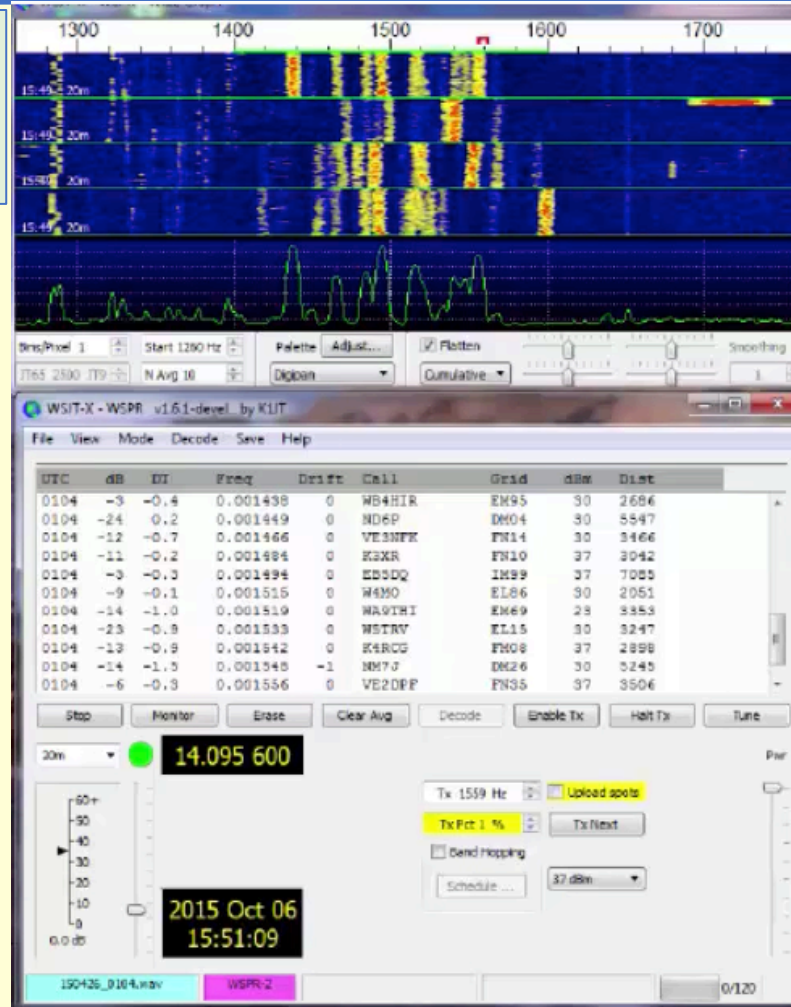
WSPR

“Weak Signal Propagation Reporter”

- Pronounced “whisper”
- Low-power, one-way mode
- 2-minute Tx, randomized T/R cycle
- Example message: **K1JT FN20 37**
- 4-FSK modulation: BW = 6 Hz
- Spots optionally sent to wsprrnet.org
- ~ 1500 stations participating, avg day
- 965 million spots archived, since 2008 !

WSPR Operation Screen

WSPR are two minutes long.
Transmits for 25% of the time and
receive the rest of the time.



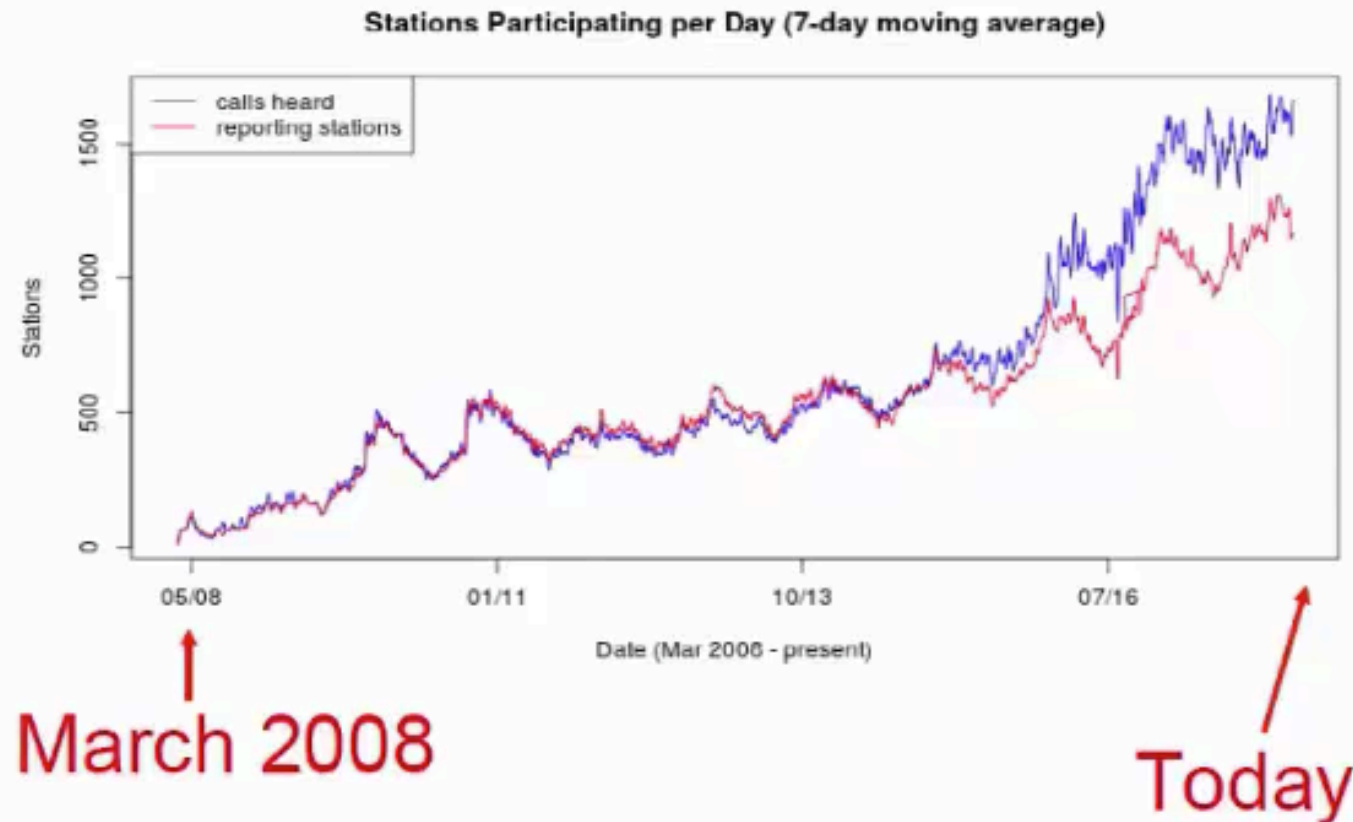
My Raspberry Pi WSPR 20m Transmitter

Left is my Raspberry Pi WSPR 20m Transceiver.
Right is a close up of the transceiver module.



WSPR Statistics Per Day from March 2008

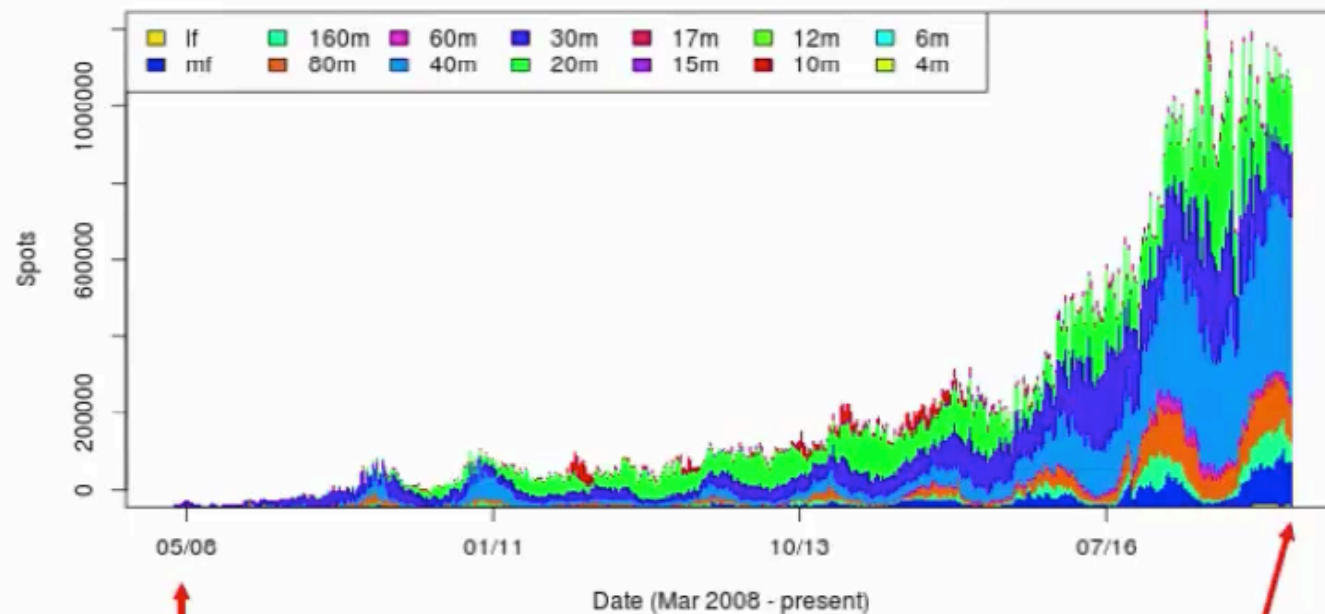
WSPR stations per day



WSPR Spots Per Day from March 2008

WSPR spots per day

Spots per Day (7-day moving average)

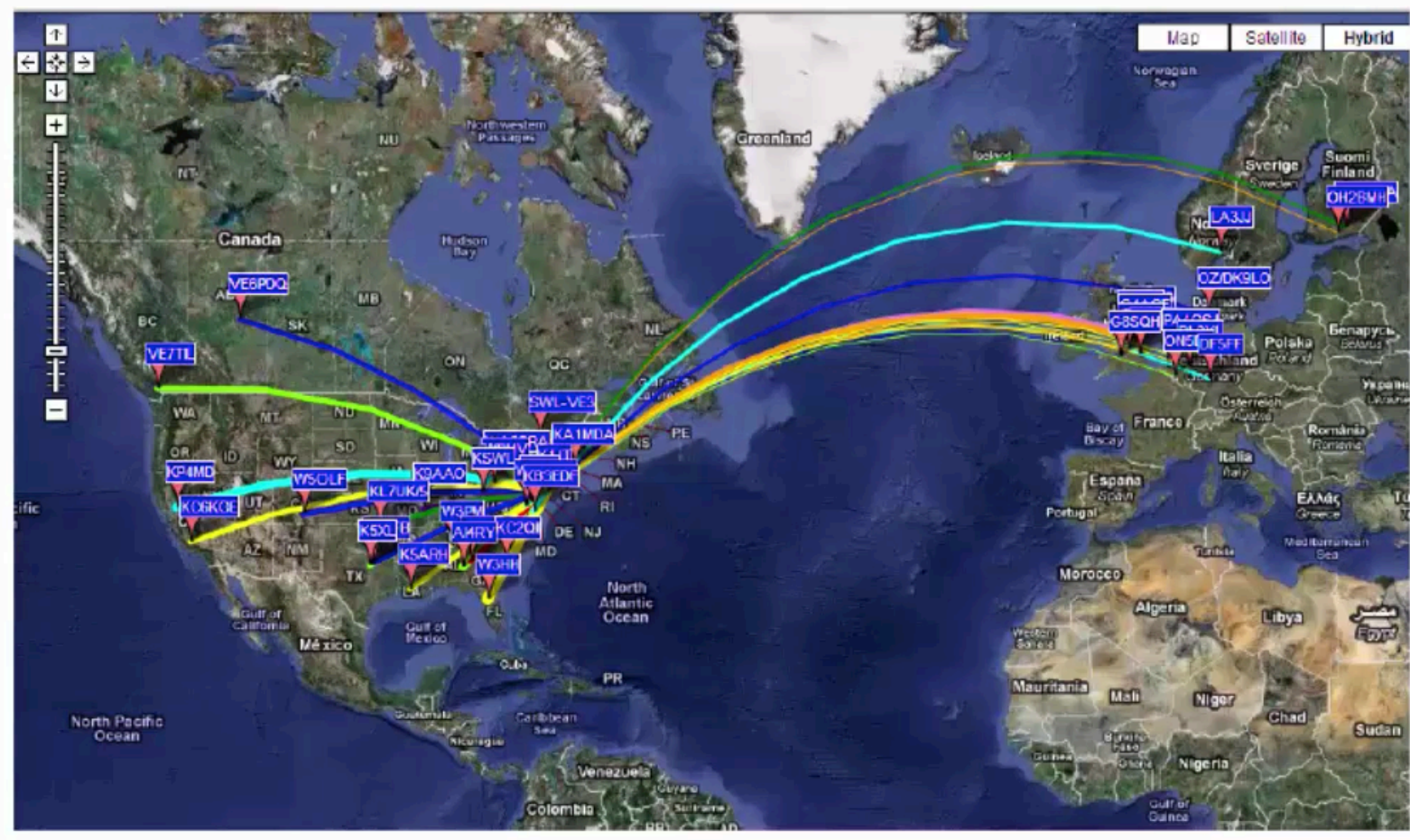


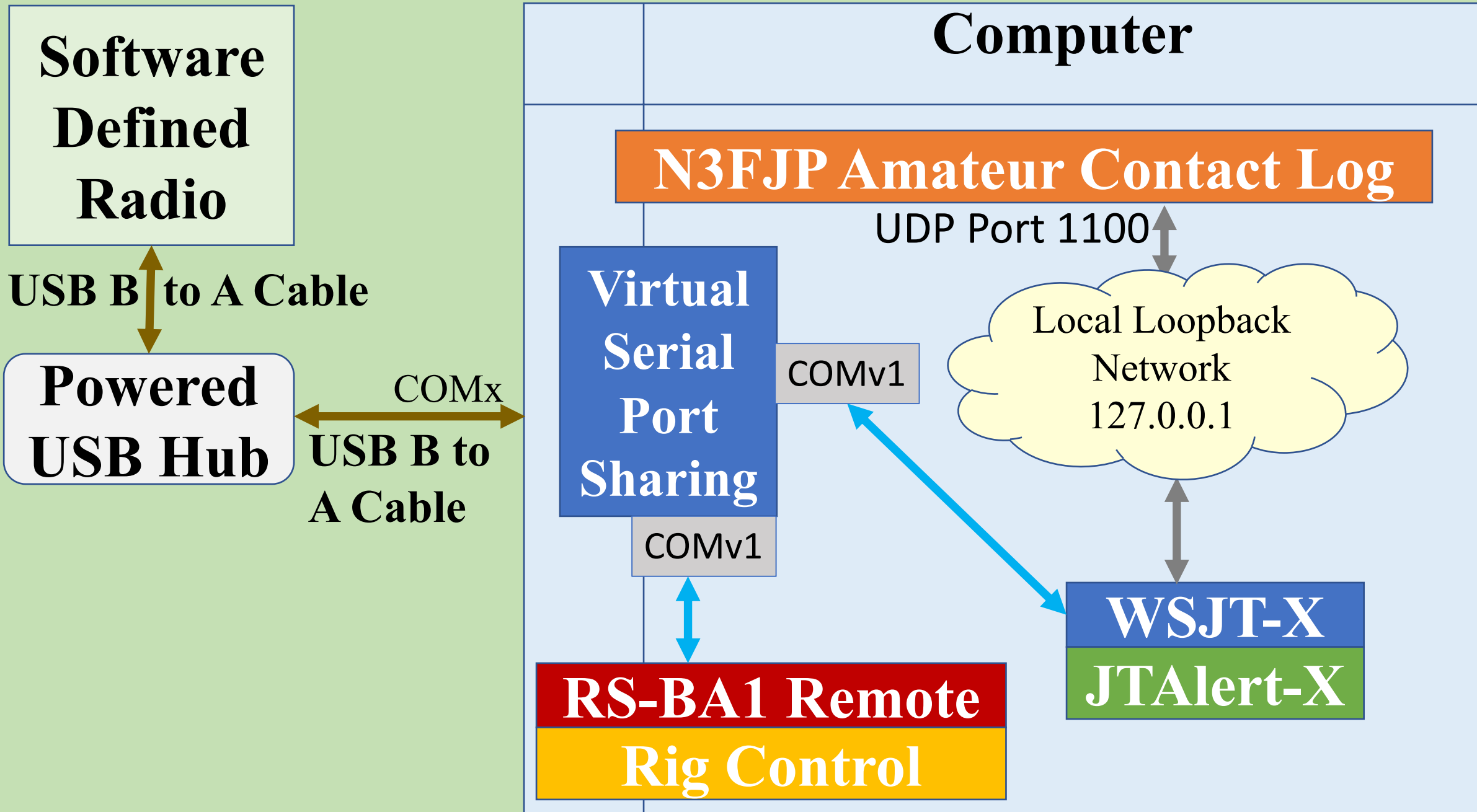
↑
March 2008

↑
Today

WSPRnet Map Selected by Callsign

WSPRnet map: selected callsign





N3FJP AC Log Resources

• Youtube videos

- A whirlwind tour of ACLog.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHqJWAm0-ZI>

• Web resources

- <http://n3fjp.com/>
- <https://www.n3fjp.com/aclog.html>
- <https://www.n3fjp.com/guide.html>

• PDFs

- <http://www.n3fjp.com/KD5KC-ACL.pdf>

ICOM IC-7300 Resources (1)

• ICOM IC-7300 Manuals

- <http://www.ogdenarc.org/downloads/IC-7300%20Quick%20Start%20Guide.pdf>
- http://logqslbyc.com/qsl/icom/IC-7300_Servicio.pdf
- <https://wa7ewc.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/icom-ic-7300-presentation.pdf>
- https://www.icom.co.jp/world/support/download/manual/pdf/IC-7300_ENG_Full_6a.pdf

• ICOM IC-7300 Drivers and Firmware

- <http://www.g3nrw.net/ic-7300-files/IC-7300%20TechNote%20-%20CI-V%20Controls%20Big%20Picture%20v1.0.pdf>
- https://www.icomjapan.com/support/firmware_driver/2417/

ICOM IC-7300 Resources (2)

• ICOM RS-BA1 Remote / Rig Control SW

- https://www.icomeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RS-BA1_Ver2_ENG_IM_2.pdf
- <https://www.manualslib.com/manual/1312523/Icom-Rs-Ba1.html>
- https://www.classicinternational.eu/_clientfiles/info_extra/icom_rsba_quickguide.pdf
- <https://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/hf/rsba1/default.aspx>

• ICOM VC-28 Remote Encoder

- <https://www.icomjapan.com/support/manual/1483/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOlhznMaPlo>

JTAlert-X Resources

• Youtube videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWIFsxdEVU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5pcUNII68o>
- <http://radio.pk2.se/JTAlertXsettings/jtalertxsettingsloggingaclog.html>

• Web resources

- <https://hamapps.com/>
- <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/dxlabwiki/GettingStartedwithK1JTModesWithJTAlert>

• PDFs

- <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/JTAlert.pdf>

WSJT-X Resources

• Youtube videos

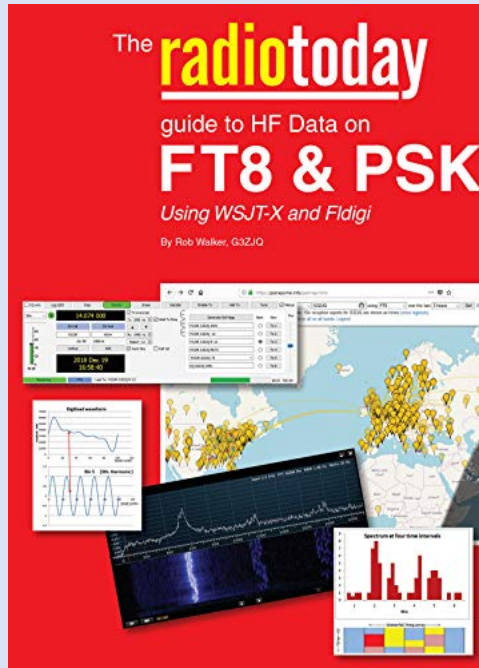
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=233HQs_8JGQ
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkqaCGIe9P0>

• Web resources

- <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>
- <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjt-doc/wsjt-main-2.2.2.html>
- <https://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt/>
- <https://www.g3lrs.org.uk/training/guide-to-wsjt-x.html>

Digital Mode Books

- https://www.amazon.com/radioday-guide-data-FT8-PSK-ebook/dp/B07NNZ49MF/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=ft8&qid=1599246297&sr=8-1



Time Management Resources

- See my article in the August 2020 Hamgab.

More Digital Resources

- Joe Taylors talk at MicroHam Conference
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=233HQs_8JGQ
- Digital Modes History Part 1 and Introduction
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAUhl9BjDlo&t=927s>
- Digital Modes History Part 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdJFWG3Ek4M&t=28s>
- General Lesson 6.1, Basics of Digital Modes (G22)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA2ULCtHLxQ&t=559s>
- General Lesson 6.2, Character-based Modes (G23)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCS1R6lk2cg&t=1104s>
- General Lesson 6.3, Packet-Based Modes and Systems (G24)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOYidPOjSPE&t=58s>
- General Lesson 6.4, Receiving and Transmitting Digital Modes (G25)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Sv6wLOErEQ&t=38s>
- General Lesson 6.5, Digital Operating Procedures (G26)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aa6XcKjRaho&t=174s>
- Digital Modes Identifier
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwkz0GNpA0I&t=122s>
- Icom 7300 N3FJP ACLog WSJT X JTAAlert Rig Control And Logging
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn9m-6J9EG0>

?S