WSJT-X Version 2 What's New

By Wes Atchison WA5TKU

History



- FT8 first introduced after June VHF contest 2017
- JT65 found to be to slow for signal variations of Eskip
 - Lots of incomplete QSO's
 - 60 second sequences did not handle signal fades well
 - QSO Length 4 to 5 Minutes or more
- FT8 adopted by HF and VHF ops rapidly
 - 15 second sequences handles signal fades well
 - QSO Length 1 minute or greater depending on band conditions

Compatibility



• WSJT-X v2.0.0

<u>https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html</u>

- The FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is not backward compatible with older program versions. The new protocols become the worldwide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to WSJT-X 2.0 by January 1, 2019. After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air.
- Actual Release Date was December 10, 2018

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Changes



- New FT8 and MSK144 protocols with 77-bit payloads permit these enhancements:
 - Optimized contest messages for NA VHF, EU VHF, Field Day, RTTY Roundup
 - Full support for "/R" and "/P" calls in relevant contests
- New logging features for contesting
- Integration with <u>N1MM Logger+</u> and <u>Writelog</u> for contesting
- Improved support for compound and nonstandard callsigns

Changes



- Nearly equal (or better) sensitivity compared to old protocols
- Lower false decode rates
- Improved color highlighting of received messages
- Improved WSPR sensitivity
- Expanded and improved UDP messages sent to companion programs
- Bug fixes and other minor tweaks to user interface

System Requirements



- Computer running Windows (XP or later), Linux, or OS X
- 1.5 GHz or faster CPU and 200 MB of available memory; faster machines are better Recommend Lots More Memory
- Monitor with at least 1024 x 780 resolution
- Computer-to-radio interface using a serial port or equivalent USB device for T/R switching, or CAT control, or VOX, as required for your radio-to-computer connections
- Audio input and output devices supported by the operating system and configured for sample rate 48000 Hz, 16 bits
- Audio or equivalent USB connections between transceiver and computer
- A means for synchronizing the computer clock to UTC within ±1 second





- SSB Radio in USB mode
 As Needed a Transverter
- PC with Sound Card or Dongle
- PC Clock Adjusted to +/-1 Second
- Radio/PC Interface
 - Isolated Ground Between Radio & PC
 - PC Controlled PTT
 - Adjustable RX and TX Audio Levels Best

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Equipment Requirements



- Radio Frequency Stability
 - G4WJS WSJT Yahoo Group
 - FT-8 <4 Hz/Minute –WSJT Yahoo Group
 - K1JT EMail
- <u>FT8:</u> Tone spacing is 6.25 Hz, and transmission length is 12.6 s. Drift in excess of ~3 Hz during a transmission will degrade decoding.
- Accuracy of frequency readout is not particularly important.
- <u>MSK144</u>: Drift is not generally a problem, since we're decoding meteorenhanced signals that last no more than a second or so. Accuracy of dial frequency is important, however. The receiving software is looking for a coherently decodable signal centered at audio frequency1500 Hz, with maximum search range +/- 200 Hz. Thus your USB "dial frequency" must be correct to within that tolerance.





- Dimension 4 v5.3
 - http://www.thinkman.com/dimension4/
- Meinberg NTP Software
 - https://www.meinbergglobal.com/english/sw/ntp.htm
- BktTimeSync
 - https://www.maniaradio.it/en/bkttimesync.html
 - Caution BktTimeSync uses Com1Port
- Have used all 3

FT8



- Adopted by HF Operators
 - Very Popular All Bands See Frequencies List In Setup Page
- VHF Operation
 - -6 and 2 Meters (50.313 and 144.174)
 - Works Great for Eskip and Tropo Scatter
 - Meteors Play Havoc With Decodes

Typical 20 Meter FT8





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- Power
 - FT8 has opened up DX to 100 watt stations
- Antenna
 - FT8 opened up new world for small antenna system station

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FT8





MSK144



- Meteor Scatter
 - -6 and 2 Meters (50.260 & 144.150)
 - Works Will with Eskip and Tropo Scatter Mixed with Meteors
 - US Convention Western Station Uses 1ST
 Sequence

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MSK144



- Power
 - -6 Meters
 - Common for stations to use 100 watts or less
 - Have worked 25 watts stations
 - Rocks Determine Contact more than power
 - -2 Meter
 - Power is better
 - Rock Pings shorter and fewer than 6 Meters
 - Estimate 10% or Less

Antenna



• 6 Meters

- Small antennas work best Wide Beamwidth
 - 3 to 5 elements
 - Aiming less critical
 - Lots of Rocks and longer bursts
 - Fraction of Second to Full 15 second sequence

2 Meters

- Trade off between gain and Beamwidth
 - Fewer Rocks and short Bursts
 - <250 ms not uncommon</p>



• Set the transmit levels so the entire chain from AF generation through to RF transmission is operating linearly.



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Transmitter Adjustment



 If you are routing transmit audio from the sound card to the front-panel microphone input on the rig, be sure to turn off the radio's speech processor and any audio shaping/profiling when using digimodes to avoid distorting your signal. Radios with a rear-panel line-level input especially for digimodes, or a special 'data' mode that automatically disables the processing (such as the K3), tend not to suffer issue. [Thanks for the tip Joe W4TV]

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Mode Information



Table 1: Parameters of the Slow WSJT-X Protocols

Bandwidths (BW) are for the narrowest submodes. S/N threshold is referenced to a 2,500 Hz bandwidth at a 50% probability for decoding of an unfading signal.

Mode	FEC type (n,k)	q m	Modulation	Keying rate, baud	BW, Hz	Sync energy, fraction	TX duration, s	S/N threshold, dB
FT8	LDPC(174,87)	13	8-FSK	6.250	50.0	0.27	12.6	-20
JT4	C(206,72)	12	4-FSK	4.375	17.5	0.50	47.1	-23
JT9	C(206,72)	13#	9-FSK	1.736	15.6	0.19	49.0	-27
JT65	RS(63,12)	66#	65-FSK	2.692	177.6	0.50	46.8	-25
QRA64	QRA(63,12)	66	64-FSK	1.736	111.1	0.25	48.4	-26
WSPR	C(162,50)	12	4-FSK	1.465	5.9	0.50	110.6	-28

#Modulation includes one additional tone used for synchronization.

Table 2: Parameters of the Fast WSJT-X Protocols

MSK144-Sh is the optional short-message format in the MSK144 protocol.

Mode	FEC type (n,k)	q m	Mod	Keying rate, baud	BW, Hz	Sync energy	Message duration, s
ISCAT-A	_	_	42-FSK	21.5	905	0.17	1.176
ISCAT-B	_		42-FSK	43.1	1,809	0.17	0.588
JT9E	C(206,72)	1 3#	9-FSK	25	225	0.19	3.400
JT9F	C(206,72)	1 3#	9-FSK	50	450	0.19	1.700
JT9G	C(206,72)	1 3#	9-FSK	100	900	0.19	0.850
JT9H	C(206,72)	1 3#	9-FSK	200	1,800	0.19	0.425
MSK144	LDPC(128,80)	11	OQPSK	2,000	2,400	0.11	0.072
MSK144-Sh	LDPC(32,16)	11	OQPSK	2,000	2,400	0.20	0.020

#Modulation includes one additional tone used for synchronization.

Useful Tools



Ping Jockey Central

http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk

- PJClient
 - <u>http://www.n5tm.com/pjclient-quick-start-guide/</u>
- Virgo
 - <u>http://dl1dbc.net/Meteorscatter/</u>
- DXMaps
 - <u>https://www.dxmaps.com/spots/mapg.php?Lan=&Frec=50&ML=</u>
 <u>&Map=NA&HF=&DXC=ING2&GL</u>=
- ON4TSKChat
 - <u>http://www.on4kst.org/chat/login.php</u>

Ping Jockey Central





PJClient Version 1.7.28.0

PJ Client



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Virgo





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DX Maps





ON4KST Chat



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MegaStar5 - Adobe virgo	17:43:33 OZ8ZS Henrik #70Mhz#	SP3RNZ Greg my new 2x19 elm for 70cm are now on 2nd small mast, need to add rotator after repair, and put up 23 cm ant to	1333 kwłby 50067 WKPK9E 599 1330 włim 50260 U WAŻAŁZ. JOHN 73 TNK 1320 kwłby 50210 U KMMWE 439 off the side 1323 włimd 50260 U KUBY 1323 włimd 50261 U KWH 1328 włody 50261 U WHMD 132 kwłody 50261 H WHMD	G4F0F 10010N Relit G4FX 10910D Chris G4RGK 10910N Dave G5KW 1090MM UKSMC G8EEM 1093MX Chris 6r (GDDTEP) 1074SD Andy TM	
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2.04 v1.3.2.8 TuneUp	17:39:22 SP3RNZ Greg	OZ8ZS Yes all OK, sleepy season. To cold for antennas and lot's of repair job to do. But ithers things FB, except of sad news abt Arvo.	1213 Kristi S0260 0 KSD Have R73 Trod 0936 yo8ssb 50280 0 9A2DI MSK 144 5dB	(IKSYJY) JN53PG Fabio IW1AZJ JN35UB Silvio MOCKM IO900T Kevin MM0AMW IO75EJ David NZTU EM95NN Lou	
PHD2 Log FocusPal AVG Internet	17:37:44 OZ8ZS Henrik #70Mhz#	SP3RNZ Greg all ok in Konin I hope		OH3BCX KP20XW Zaba-12 OH3BCX KP20XW Zaba-12 OH3DP KP10TT Hannu 4	
viewei 1.5.0 Security	17:36:31 OZ8ZS Henrik #70Mhz# 17:26:43 OH3DP Hannu 4m/6m	(SP3RNZ) Hi Greg			
n n n	17:26:20 OH3DP Hannu 4m/6m	Thanks for try, CUL Michael			
BktTimeSync New CCleaner	17:25:28 OZ1MFP Michael 4-6 m	Nothing i need to stop now tnx for test GE 73			
Astronom	17:25:26 OH3DP Hannu 4m/6m	(OZ1MFP) How copy Michael.			
PICkit C	17:12:22 OZ1MFP Michael 4-6 m	Ok ant to KP10			
	17:10:14 OH3DP Hannu 4m/6m	in KP10tt			
PICkit 3 v3.10 SDRSharp	17:10:00 OH3DP Hannu 4m/6m	70,174 MSK 2nd 15", CQ			
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Station Setup





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Additional Info



- <u>https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx-doc/wsjtx-main-2.0.0.html</u>
- <u>https://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/FT8_Ope</u> <u>rating_Tips.pdf</u>
- <u>https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Work_the_World</u>
 <u>part1.pdf</u>
- <u>https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Work_the_World</u>
 <u>part2.pdf</u>

Activity Night



- So We Want to Establish an Activity Night on 144.174 MHz?
 - Night Suggest Wednesday Night
 - Time 8:30 Local Time