

Purpose and Background

These Guidelines apply to the Digital Traffic Network-Western Area (DTN-W), including Area, Region, or state MBO hubs, and Digital Relay Stations (DRS). Operations in the other areas may differ from these guidelines. All areas follow in general the revised "NTS Methods & Practices Guidelines," Chapter 6. This resource represents sound operating practices for all digital mode stations.

Monthly Reports

DRS and state hubs sysops send monthly reports to their Region Hub Sysop before the 6th of the month, consisting of a traffic count of sent and received for the past month. Regional Hub Sysop's must have their reports to the Western Area Digital Manager by the 9th of the month. The Western Area Digital Manager will file a consolidated Area report to the designated Radio Relay International (RRI) Recorder by the 10th of each month.

Attended and "Unattended" USA Scanning Operations

40 Meter P3 "unattended" scanning operations should be limited to the 7.100-7.105 MHz segment. "Attended" Pactor 3 and other digital modes (Pactor 1, Pactor 2, VARA, ARDOP) may operate outside that segment.

Winlink Character Limit for Attachment Names

The Winlink limit for Attachment names is fifty (50) character maximum, including spaces and file extension type. See Winlink FAQ 360.

Note: No "error message" is sent when the limit has been exceeded. The Attachment is just not received by the receiving station.

Routing Assignments

Digital traffic is routed by USPS ZIP Codes assigned to a designated Hub/MBO or DRS by the next higher Hub/MBO sysop in keeping with established DTN-W area, region, state, section boundaries. Assigned routing lists should be clearly denoted to each receiving station and in the records of the assigning station.

Polling Hub MBOs

1. Automated Hub/MBOs should avoid repeated polling of counterpart Hub/MBOs within an hour.
2. If a Hub/MBO has traffic that is the only time it should connect to another Hub/MBO and should format their forwarding files as such.
3. A state hub or Digital Relay Station (DRS) should only poll a Regional Hub to receive traffic no more than twice an hour, or if told that Region Hub has traffic.
4. DRS operators should be instructed on proper polling procedures, and never instructed to list traffic ("LT") when connecting to an DTN-W Hub/MBO.

5. When polling an HUB/MBO manually for traffic, enter "LM" - NOT "LT"

Forwarding Messages or Files

1. All forwarding files within the DTN-W MBO's in the Western Area will only connect and send traffic if they have traffic. This also applies to connections outside the Western Area.

2. State and Region Hubs may not connect to out-of-area Digital Hubs/MBOs unless they are instructed to do so by a designated local, county, state or federal official in an emergency or disaster. As well, State and Regional Hubs may not send WL2K messages to out of area stations unless they are instructed to do so by a designated local, county, state or federal official in an emergency or disaster. General routine message traffic should not be sent through the Winlink system but through regular DTN-W routing.

NOTE: Only in a proclaimed emergency or time of disaster can this rule be broken. During a proclaimed emergency, stations may contact any digital station to send and receive emergency traffic.

3. In an emergency, DTN-W stations are to advise the Regional Hub if #2 NOTE above is in effect. The Regional Hub will inform the Western Area Hub. The Western Area Hub is responsible for managing all available Western Area assets to support emergency traffic.

4. Health and Welfare traffic for the affected area will be held for 72 hours before being sent to reduce interference and maintain clear frequencies for emergency traffic unless told otherwise by either the Western Area Digital Manager (W-DM) or Alternate Area Digital Manager (W-ADM).

5. **Bulletins will only be forwarded** on VHF or Telnet, not over HF circuits. The mission of Western area digital stations is to only send and receive traffic.

Note: The DTN-W mission is to expedite emergency traffic; bulletins tie up frequencies which are then not available to process emergency or Health and Welfare traffic.

6. **During normal operations**, traffic will be sent to the proper Region Hub for distribution within that Region. If there is more than one station in a Region that receives traffic, it is the responsibility of the Regional Hub to divide the traffic among those stations either by zip code or by daily, weekly, or monthly appointment or a combination of all the before.

Note: All messages of a general nature will be sent "ST" send traffic messages of a personal nature will be sent "SP" send personal.

During normal operations, traffic will be sent to the proper Region Hub for distribution within that Region by RF only. The use of the WL2K system is not authorized to pass normal traffic inside nor outside the Western Area.

The WL2K system may be used in emergency to pass traffic to any station inside or outside the Western Area.

7. If a DRS cannot connect to the designated Region Hub or the alternate, outgoing traffic may be forwarded to another region Hub or alternate. If a DRS is unable to connect to the designated Region Hub or alternate over a reasonable period, the Region Hub sysop or the Area Digital Manager should be notified to make alternative routing arrangements. Normal everyday traffic should not be sent through the WL2K system and should only be used as a final effort to get traffic through. No station should ever send or receive WL2K Radiogram traffic from out of the western area. Nor should the route traffic to other Regions within the Western Area using WL2K traffic unless an emergency.

Note: Alternate Regional Hubs should follow the above statement above regarding the breakup of traffic for other Regions or Areas.

8. For "**HAM**" on "**TELNET**" over the WL2K System the forwarding protocol should be B2F. For forwarding over "**HF**" or "**VHF**" over the "**DTN-W**" **System** the forwarding protocol should be the same B2F.

Note: The use of the WL2K system is not authorized to pass normal traffic inside or outside the Western Area. The WL2K system may be used in emergencies to pass traffic to any station inside or outside the Western Area.

Manual Operations

Stations operating on HF with manual software such as Airmail, PACLink, or ARDOP, or VARA must listen at least 15/20 seconds on the frequency before transmitting or attempting to connect to their State or Regional Hub.

Out-of-Service Digital Station

If a DTN-W Digital station goes down for any reason that station needs to advise the Western Area Digital Manager ASAP. The Area Digital Manager will then advise all other stations in the Western Area as well as the other two Digital Managers, East and Central.

Coordination Software

The Area and Region Hub Sysops should have Anydesk and Zoom software to coordinate functions and activities. Alternates are not required to have said software, but it is highly recommended so they might join in Area conferences regarding the Western Area. Both software programs listed are free and can be downloaded from their respective sites on the internet.

Updates to this Document

Hub sysops and Digital Relay Stations operators are responsible for timely reporting to the DTN-W Area Manager of any proposed changes to frequencies, modes, times, or related services, particularly those that may significantly affect system operations.

These revised Guidelines are published in memory of Chuck Verdon, W5KAV, long serving DTN-W Manager and Western Area Hub/Sysop. Richard Fisher NS7K, Digital Traffic Network-Western Area Manager.

Note: Stations **SCAN** and frequencies are stated as **Dial USB** (Center add 1.5 KHz) and in **MHz**, unless noted otherwise.

NS7K UT Western Area Hub
 WRN-D Western Area Digital Manager
 Region 12 Hub
 UT Hub
 Hamshack Hotline 4518 OFF-LINE AT PRESENT
 NS7K@WINLINK.ORG
 3.5855, 3.5895 P123, VARA
 7.0934, 7.0989, 7.1009, 7.1020, 7.1034 RMS, 7.1044 P123, VARA
 10.1424 P123, VARA
 14.0944, 14.1034 RMS, 14.1089 P123, VARA
 144.97 MHz, Packet

----- **REGION 6** -----**CALIFORNIA**

K6YR
 Region 6 DRS/MBO
 7.1010 VARA

KQ6UP
 Region 6 DRS/MBO
 3.5855, 3.5895
 7.0934, 7.0989
 14.0964, 14.1020
 21.0920, P123, VARA

K9JM (Non-Scanning)
 Region 6 DRS
 3.5895, 7.1009, P123, VARA

HAWAII None

NEVADA None

Note: Stations **SCAN** and frequencies are stated as **Dial USB** (**Center** add 1.5 KHz) and in **MHz**, unless noted otherwise.

----- **REGION 7** -----

WESTERN CANADA

VE7GN BC
 Alternate WRN-D Area Hub
 Region 7 Primary Hub
 Western Canada Hub
 VE7GN@WINLINK.ORG
 Hamshack Hotline 4630
 3.5855, 3.5870, 3.5904, 3. 955 RMS, 3.6135 P123, VARA
 7.1015, 7.0989, 7.1009 RMS, P123, VARA
 14.1089, 14.0964 P123, VARA

WASHINGTON

AC7AI (Non-Scanning)
 Primary Western WA DRS/MBO
 AC7AI@WINLINK.ORG
 Polls Region 7 Hub Twice Daily
 3.5855, 3.5895, P123

N7JJ
 Alternate DTN-W State Hub
 N7JJ@WINLINK.ORG
 Polls Region 7 Hub Daily
 3.5860, VARA
 145.63 MHz

IDAHO

W7EKB
 ID Hub, DRS/MBO
 W7EKB@WINLINK.ORG
 3.5890, 3.5919, 3.5970
 7.1009, 7.1035, 7.1044
 14.1105 P123, VARA

OREGON

W7EES
 Oregon Hub, DRS/MBO
 [Supports 97.221 Channelization Plan]
 3.5880, 3.5970, 7.1000, 10.143, 14.1065, 21.0900, VARA, P123
 144.950 MHz, Packet
 430.550 MHz, VARA FM

Note: Stations **SCAN** and frequencies are stated as **Dial USB** (**Center** add 1.5 KHz) and in **MHz**, unless noted otherwise.

----- REGION 12 -----

UTAH

NS7K Utah Hub (see above)

N7IE

Alternate Utah Hub, DRS/MBO

N7IE@WINLINK.ORG

3.5895, 7.0934 P123

144.97 MHz Packet

W7VQ

UT DRS/MBO

W7VQ@WINLINK.ORG

3.5895, 7.0989 VARA

KD7UM

UT DRS/MBO

3.5895, 7.0989 VARA

K7BWO

UT DRS/MBO

3.5895, 7.0389 VARA

ARIZONA

K7OI

AZ Hub, DRS/MBO

K7OI@WINLINK.ORG

7.0934, VARA

145.030 MHz VARA FM

446.075 MHz VARA FM

W9GRG (Non-Scanning)

AZ DRS/MBO

W9GRG@WINLINK.ORG

3.59190 P123, 7.10240 P3 Only

W7PHX (Non-Scanning)

AZ DRS/MBO

35855, 7.0989 P123

Note: Stations **SCAN** and frequencies are stated as **Dial USB** (**Center** add 1.5 KHz) and in **MHz**, unless noted otherwise.

W7MIN (Non-Scanning)
 AZ DRS/MBO
 W7MIN@WINLINK.ORG
 AZ DRS/MBO
 3.5855, 7.0890 P123

COLORADO

WA0R
 Colorado Hub
 3.58550, 3.59037
 7.09976, 7.1029, 7.09434
 14.10425, 14.11325, P123, VARA
 145.050 MHz 1200bps
 441.075 MHz 9600bps

K0TER (Non-Scanning)
 CO DRS/MBO
 K0TER@WINLINK.ORG
 3.5895. 7102.40 P123 VARA

K0NTS (Non-Scanning)
 CO DRS/MBO
 3.5895, P123
 7.0934, 7.1034 RMS, P123
 14.0944, 14.1034 RMS, P123
 145.050 MHz 1200bps
 441.075 MHz 9600bps

WYOMING

WB7S
 WY DRS/MBO
 3.5895, 7.0934 VARA

NEW MEXICO

NM5PB
 Pactor 1, 2, 3
 NM5PB@WINLINK.ORG
 [Frequencies Unknown]

AG5S
 Pactor 1, 2, 3
 AG5S@WINLINK.ORG
 (Frequencies Unknown)

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