

# WINLINK RADIO Resources

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While pandemic mitigation continues to restrict planned training sessions, WKCARES members can make progress in taking the first steps to using Winlink by installing and registering the Winlink software. These initial steps are easy and allow everyone with a call sign, regardless of any type of radio to begin using Winlink. The only requirement is a computer, with a Windows operating system being preferred.

After installing and registering the software, the great majority of Winlink features can be practiced and can become routine procedures. Winlink features such as sending and receiving e-mail from individuals can be accomplished, regardless if they have an amateur radio license or not. Emails can have attachments such as images, database files, PDFs, and a variety of other formats. Most importantly for emergency communications is the large library of agency forms used by organizations we can expect to be called to assist in a deployment. Texting is also another important feature of the Winlink software as well as the ability to access your Winlink account from a cellphone or tablet for convenience. Did I mention virtually NO SPAM?

Learning the various features of Winlink can be accomplished using the 'TELNET Session' option that bypasses the radio altogether and relies only on an internet connection. Finally, there is a considerable amount of information online and the best place to start is the Winlink site: <https://winlink.org>. to download the software and to learn how to choose what configuration will best work for you when connecting your radio for HF and VHF/UHF. Please follow the steps below to get started.

## ***How to install Winlink***

- Slide presentation - <https://k4gar.com/community-service/winlink/winlink-setup-help/>
- Video - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-7mirT-kjfs84FQzLr-qv066Kl94rtYM>

## ***Next Steps***

Once you are comfortable using the Telnet session, it's time to connect your radio and pass traffic. Always keep in mind that when using Winlink through RF it is considerate to other operators to pass only what is necessary information (training, etc.), and to continue to use Telnet when possible. Also, the same HAM rules and regulations apply to e-mail sent through Winlink as voice traffic. The biggest decision will be deciding on what type of radio connection make: 1) to purchase a TNC/modem, 2) use only with a computer and radio cabled, or 3) combination of both.

Online information and various support groups will help guide you. Start with those listed on the Winlink.org website, which offer good current sources of further information. Here is a nice video explaining how to use only software as a TNC:

[https://winlink.org/content/using\\_sound\\_modem\\_tnc\\_vhf\\_packet\\_winlink\\_express\\_video\\_how\\_to](https://winlink.org/content/using_sound_modem_tnc_vhf_packet_winlink_express_video_how_to)

Future training sessions will be another source. Signalink, Kantronics, TNC3, Rigblaster, Pactor, there are many options to consider for a physical Modem/TNC. Finally, you may send questions to WKCARES@gmail.com and we'll do our best to help.