

OutPost Packet Terminal Program "How To" – Jerry N0MR

Download the program from the internet web page www.outpostpm.org. The file is called something like OP220C194.ZIP. This is version 2.2 and build 194 and may change as the program is updated. Put this file in a location such as My Downloads and create a subdirectory called OutPost under My Downloads. Also download the How To's file for lots of helpful hints.

Unzip the file and extract the files to the newly created outpost directory. There should be five files including the setup file. Connect your TNC to the computer and be sure you have communications with the tnc with your old terminal program.

Run the setup file. Follow the on screen instructions and accept the defaults. The setup did not create a desktop icon. Start the program from the start and programs then outpost.

A station identification window will appear. Put in your call and first name. Don't put anything in the tactical call area. Click on apply and then OK. The main OutPost screen will appear. On the left are the folders and the main screen is the message area.

At the top menu line, click on setup. On the interface tab, click on new, and enter the type of tnc such as KPC 3, and under description enter Kantronics KPC 3. Click on apply. The TNC Prompts and TNC Commands will be correct for Kantronics TNC's. In the TNC Comm Port tab, enter the comm port, usually com1, and the baud rate, usually 9600. Click on apply if necessary and then on OK.

Back at the main screen, click on Setup and BBS. On the BBS screen, click on new and enter the bbs connect name such as ISLBBS or KC9DMY-1. This must be a Kantronics type mailbox or a Telpac node. JNOS is not supported until the next version of Outpost. Then enter the Description such as Isle Packet BBS. Under the BBS type, be sure the button is selected for "Let Outpost determine the BBS and set up the prompts." Then click on apply. The BBS Prompts and BBS Commands tabs are already set up for Kantronics type BBS's.

Go to the BBS Path tab. If the BBS is a direct connection, be sure it is selected and click on OK and you are ready to go. Skip down three paragraphs.

If your BBS is connected via a list of nodes, first make connection through the nodes and copy the connect messages. Then, select the bottom button and click on Create/Update Path. Enter the node name such as WALES or N0MR-7. Enter the last 10 to 15 characters of the connect message. My complete message is Welcome to the WALES K Net node. So I use WALES K Net node. The port is generally zero for single port tncs. Under the Unsuccessful Connect Message, put 'RETRY'.

If this is the only node on the way to the BBS, click on OK and you are ready to go. If there are more nodes, click on Add and enter the information for all the nodes to the BBS. On the last step, click on OK. You can always go back and edit nodes and connect strings or add or delete nodes to change paths.

Under the tools menu, select send/receive settings. Select to get mail every 60 to 120 minutes and the program will connect automatically to the bbs, look for mail, and send

any waiting mail. You can select even faster times, but if everyone did 10 minutes, the bbs would often be busy. If you want to check or send mail at any time, you can click on the send/receive button at the top of the window.

To create a message, go to New. Fill in the call, subject and text. If you click on send the message will go to the outbox and will send out automatically the next time the program connects to the bbs. If you save, it will go in the Draft folder.

Any incoming mail will go in the In Tray. After reading you can archive the messages in the Deleted Msgs folder. All sent messages go in the Sent Msgs folder.

Outpost is quite a program. It makes packet as effortless as internet mail programs process e-mail. There are many more capabilities and more are being programmed.