



# Packet Network Update

SCCo Packet Installer v73



Santa Clara County ARES®/RACES

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# Agenda

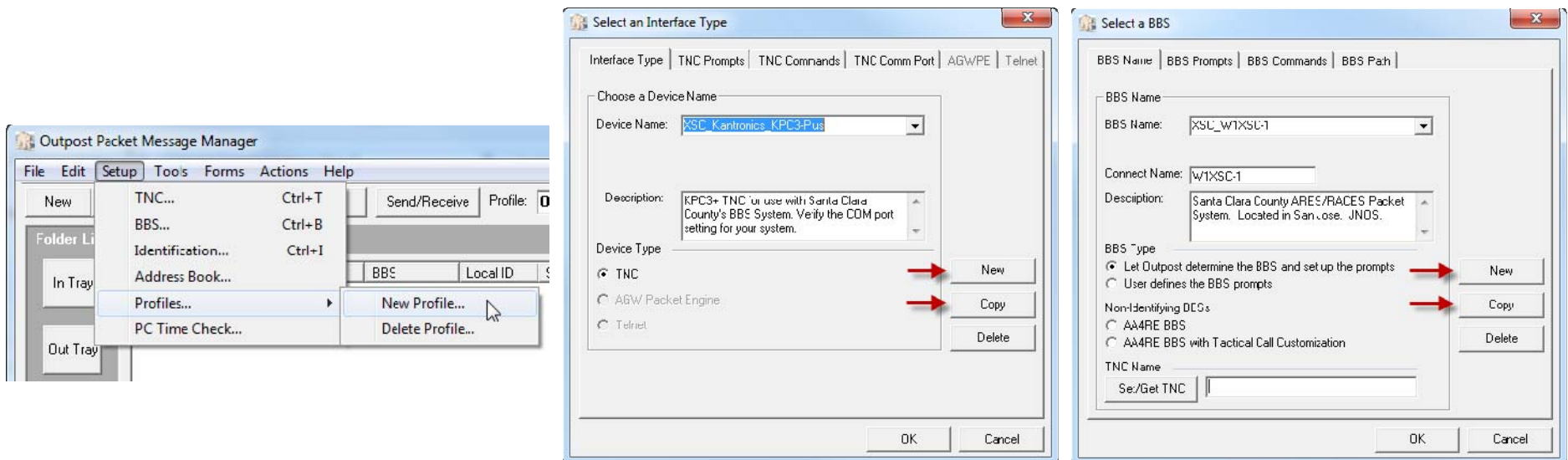
- Outpost Enhancements
- PacFORMS Enhancements
- Web Site / Documentation Updates
- Action Items
- Questions / Technical Support

Outpost v3.0.0

# **OUTPOST ENHANCEMENTS**

# Reminder: User-created Settings

- You may create your own profiles, TNC setups and BBS setups
  - Examples: Extra profile to select backup BBS and TNC; extra TNC setup to add XMITLVL for different radio; extra BBS setup for non-SCCo BBS
- New profiles are created with a copy of the existing settings
- For BBS and TNC setups, best to use the Copy function
- Previously: user-created BBS and TNC setups were lost during upgrades



# New: User Settings Maintained Across Upgrades

- User-created profiles, BBS setups and TNC setups are maintained across upgrades
- Some user-defined settings within the SCCo-provided setups are also maintained across upgrades:
  - COM port settings within the “XSC\_...” TNC setups
- Otherwise, the SCCo Packet installer overwrites the settings in the following SCCo-provided Outpost setups to ensure correct values:
  - “Outpost” profile
  - “XSC\_...” BBS setups (previously named “SCC BBS ...”)
  - “XSC\_...” TNC setups (previously named “SCCO\_ ...”)
- So, if you have other custom settings in these SCCo-provided setups, be sure to save a copy prior to upgrading

# Maintaining User Settings

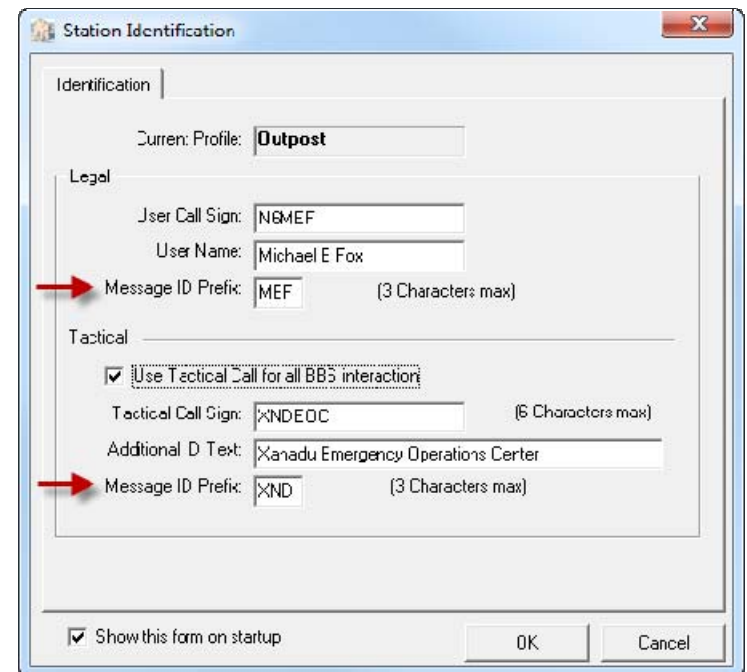
“With great power comes great responsibility”  
– Voltaire

## CAUTION:

- The maintenance and update of user-created profiles, TNC setups and BBS setups are the responsibility of the user
- Many settings affect how your station interacts with the shared radio channel or how your messages will be viewed by others. Take care when deviating from the standard.
- After upgrade, review all user-created configurations vs. the SCCo-provided standards to make sure you have the latest features and performance enhancements

# Setup > Identification Enhancements

- Previous
  - When switching between FCC call sign and tactical call sign, you had to remember to also update the Message ID Prefix
- Now
  - Two Message ID Prefixes
    - One for use with legal call sign
    - One for use with tactical call sign
  - Allows easy switching by just checking or unchecking “Use Tactical Call ...”

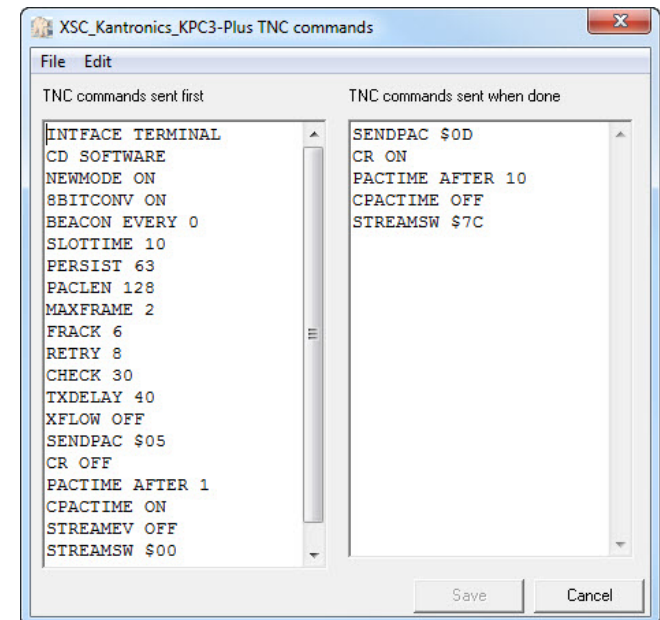
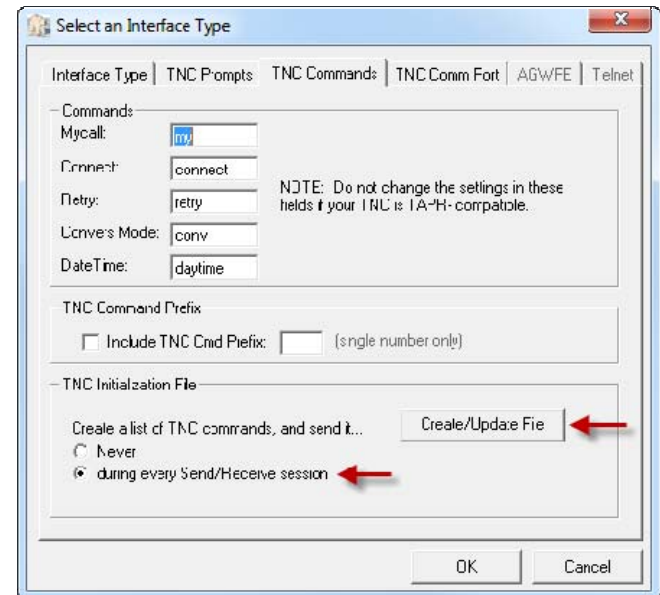


The screenshot shows the 'Station Identification' dialog box with the following fields and settings:

- Current Profile: **Outpost**
- Legal
  - User Call Sign: **NEMEF**
  - User Name: **Michael E Fox**
  - Message ID Prefix: **MEF** (3 Characters max)
- Tactical
  - Use Tactical Call for all BB5 interaction
  - Tactical Call Sign: **XNDEOC** (6 Characters max)
  - Additional ID Text: **Xanadu Emergency Operations Center**
  - Message ID Prefix: **XND** (3 Characters max)
- Show this form on startup
- Buttons: **OK**, **Cancel**

# Setup > TNC Enhancements

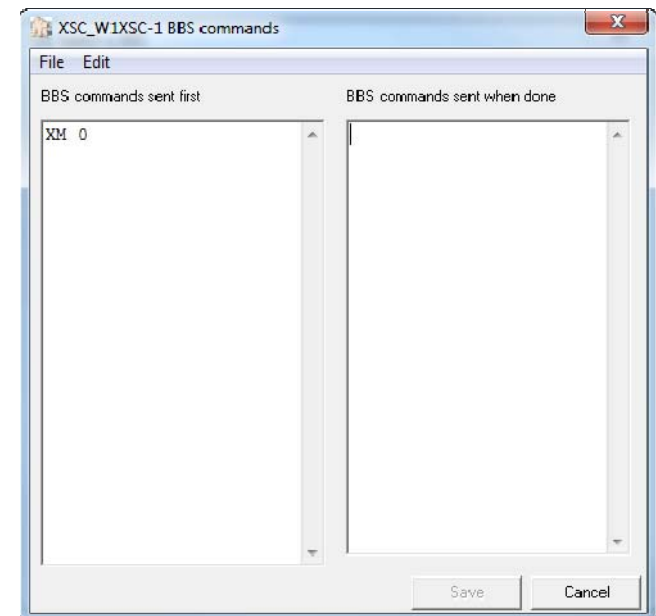
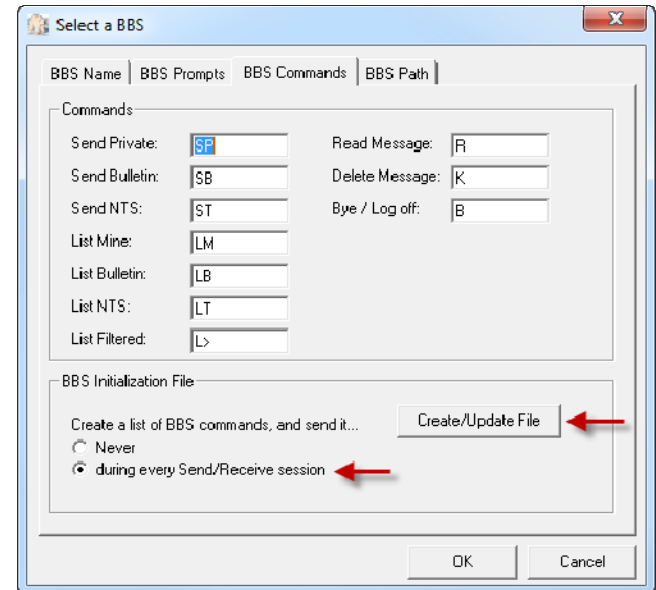
- Updated TNC initialization commands
  - NEWMODE ON
    - Helps ensure TNC returns to command mode after each session
  - CD SOFTWARE (Kantronics only)
    - Helps avoid squelch problems for new/occasional users
- New Kenwood TH-D72A configuration
- Also, not in Outpost, but TNC documentation has been updated for
  - Kantronics 9612
  - MFJ 1270/1274 B vs. C





# Setup > BBS Enhancements

- Frequencies are no longer part of the BBS descriptions; download the bulletin
- New BBS initialization commands
  - Similar to TNC initialization commands except
    - Contains BBS commands
    - Runs at start/end of the BBS session
  - For all “XSC\_...” BBS setups:
    - “XM 0” at start of session
      - Ensures that the “more” pagination mode is turned off in JNOS
      - The “more” mode is used when connecting manually to cause a pause at the end of each screen of data.
      - The “more” mode is not used by Outpost and can cause a session to hang, waiting on a response



# Enhanced Delivery/Read Receipts

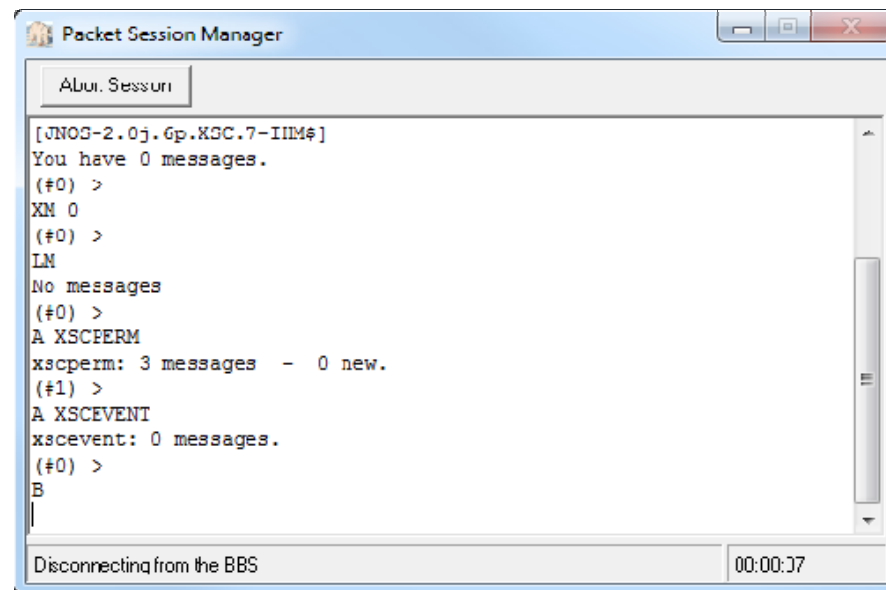
- Previous
  - E-mail user sends message to packet user (To: callsign@bbscall.ampr.org)
  - Delivery (and read) receipts sent back to e-mail were cryptic
  
- Now
  - E-mail user receives human readable receipts
  - “!LMI!” line is still part of receipt for Outpost backward compatibility
  - Outpost-to-Outpost receipts remain unaffected

```
!LMI!MEF-170P!DR!10/23/2014 9:45:13 AM
```

```
!LMI!MEF-170P!DR!10/23/2014 9:45:13 AM  
Your Message  
To: N6MEF  
Subject: Delivery receipt test message  
was delivered on 10/23/2014 9:45:13 AM  
Recipient's Local Message ID: MEF-170P
```

# Session Manager Improvements

- Session Manager window is displayed during Send/Receive session
- Previously
  - Session Manager ran in the foreground
  - Session Manager window opened in front and grabbed “focus”



# Session Manager Improvements (2)

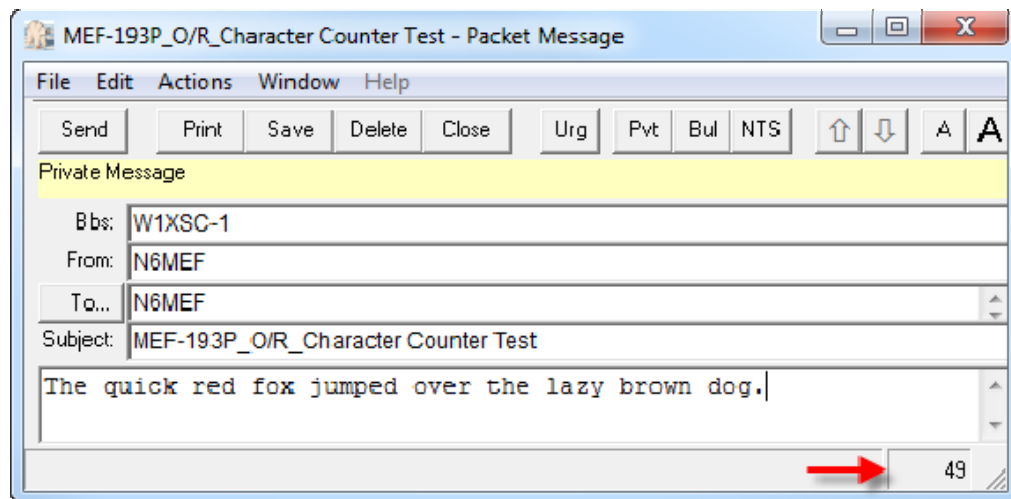
- Now
  - Session Manager runs in the background
  - The Session Manager window is pushed behind other Outpost windows and does not grab “focus”
  - Outpost main window status line displays session status:
    - Initializing the TNC, Connecting to ..., Initializing the BBS, Retrieving the message list, Retrieving messages, Checking message area ..., Disconnecting from the BBS



- Result
  - Users can continue working in Outpost while the session is running
  - Note: In this version, to continue working in another application you will need to click in that application’s window to re-grab focus

# Message Size Limit Increased to 65 kB

- Previously
  - Outpost imposed a 10k character size limit on messages
- Now
  - Message size limit has been increased to 65,535 characters
  - Character counter appears in bottom right of message window
  - Take care when preparing large messages!

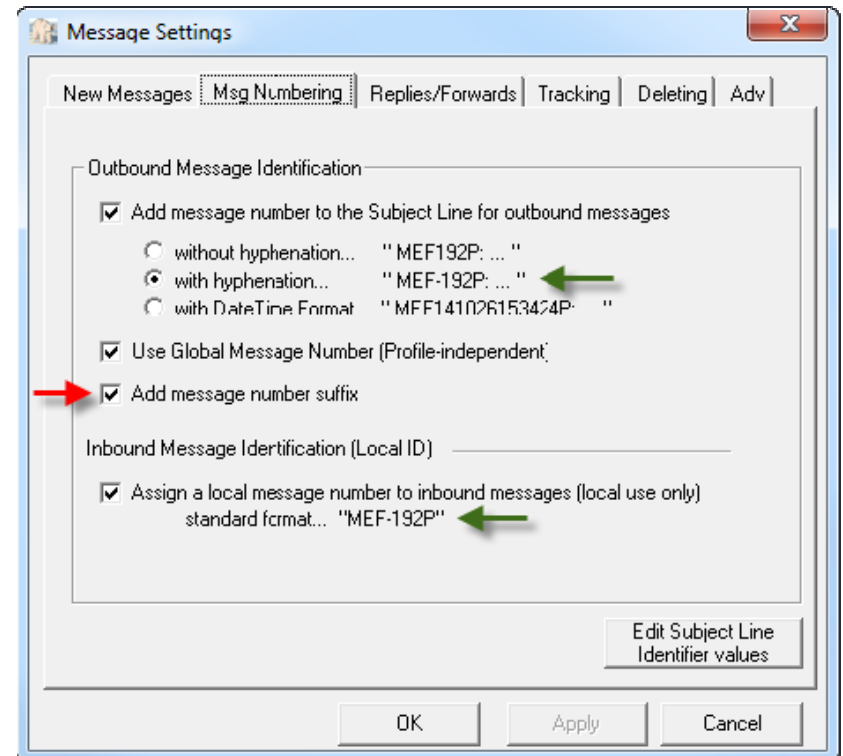


## Remember

- The RF channel is shared
- Just as with voice messages, limit packet message size to the minimum size required

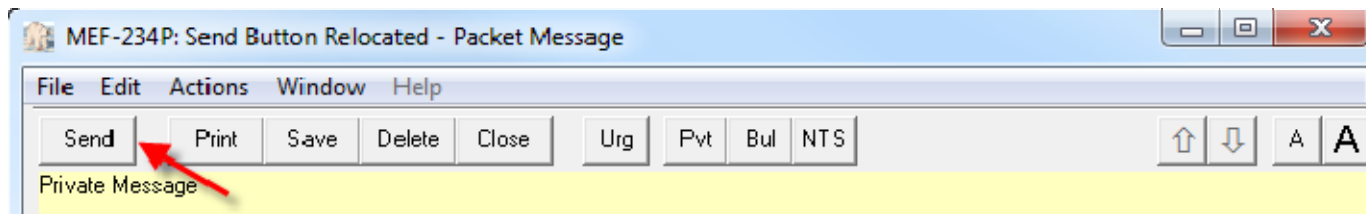
# “P” Suffix Applied to All Message Numbers

- Previously
  - The “P” suffix was added to message numbers generated by Outpost for all inbound messages and for outbound PacFORMS messages
  - The “P” suffix was not added to message numbers of outbound plain text messages
- Now
  - The “P” suffix is added to all message numbers generated by Outpost



# Improved “Send” Button Placement

- Previously
  - “Send” button on the message window was located between the “Print” and “Save” buttons
  - Some users were accidentally pressing “Save” when they meant to Send
- Now
  - “Send” button moved to left and separated by space



# Known Issues

- Global message number
  - Changes to global message number are not saved if set via menu path:  
Tools > Message Settings > Msg Numbering > Edit Subject Line Identifier Values > Report Settings
  - Workaround: Use menu path: Tools > Report Settings
- Printouts always go to system default printer
  - Workaround: Set default printer in Windows printer settings



# Other Enhancements and Bug Fixes

- A variety of other enhancements and bugs have been addressed
- See the README300.txt file for specific details
  - Shown at the end of the installation process
  - Outpost: Actions > View Outpost Data Directories > README300.txt

PacRELEASE 4.0

# **PACFORMS ENHANCEMENTS**

# PacFORMS Forms Changes

- PacFORMS release number incremented (4.0)
- For all packet users:
  - Minor typo-fix in Message, Logistics Request and City Scan forms
- For ECs, AECs:
  - RIMS forms have been removed
- For hospital net users:
  - Have Beds form has re-ordered items
  - Medical Facility Status form replaces the DEOC9 short and long forms
  - Resource Request form replaces the DEOC9A form

# PacFORMS Installer Changes

- Previously performed as part of SCCo Packet Installer
  - Added PacFORMS menu to: Start > All Programs >
  - Added PacFORMS desktop folder with links to C:\PacFORMS (if req'd)
- Neither of these is used anymore since we now launch PacFORMS from Outpost
  - Or, you can easily navigate to C:\PacFORMS
- Starting with this version
  - Start > All Programs > PacFORMS will be removed
  - PacFORMS desktop folder will not be updated
- Action for existing users:
  - Check to make sure you did not save anything useful in the PacFORMS desktop folder, then delete the folder

# **WEB SITE / DOCUMENTATION UPDATES**

# Web Site / Documentation Updates

- Main packet page
  - <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/packet.html>
  - Configuration and Setup Instructions
    - Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions (PDF)
    - Standard TNC Parameter Settings (PDF)
      - Updated for Kenwood TH-D72A, Kantronics 9612, MFJ 1270/1274 B vs C.
  - Client Software
    - Link to updated SCCo Packet Installer
- Activities Database (ECs and AECs)
  - <https://www.scc-ares-races.org/activities/events.php>
  - Left-hand navigation bar > EC / AEC Menu > SCCo Packet Installer
    - This is the same software as above
    - But it contains a few additional PacFORMS (such as hospital and mutual aid forms) which are intended for limited distribution

# **ACTION ITEMS**

# Action Items

- Download and run the installer
- Perform basic setup of “Outpost” profile
  - Setup > Identification (Call sign, name, message number prefix)
  - Setup > TNC (pick one)
  - Setup > BBS (pick one)
  - Tools > Report Settings (Global Message Number)
  - Perform a Send/Receive test
- Clear out and remove PacFORMS desktop folder (if it exists)
- Review any user-created configurations (profiles, TNC setups, BBS setups). Compare to the documented standards and make any needed updates.
  - Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions (PDF)
  - Standard TNC Parameter Settings (PDF)



# QUESTIONS / TECHNICAL SUPPORT

# Questions / Technical Support

- Yahoo group: scc-packet
  - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scc-packet>
- Currently over 180 members
  - Broad level of knowledge, experience, equipment expertise
- This is a closed group to avoid SPAM
  - You must join before you can send a message
  - When sending your join request, be sure to include the information requested. Instructions are on the main page of the group.