

How to Join Winlink

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## Part 1 - Getting Started and Acquainted With Only a PC

Preview: You will download Winlink to your PC and use it over the Internet. This is called the Telnet Winlink mode.

Please make yourself a promise to switch to RF ASAP. Telnet Winlink by itself defeats the whole purpose of Winlink, which is *Global Email by Radio*.

1/ Download and install Winlink Express:

- [winlink.org](http://winlink.org)
- Click Downloads tab
- Click User Programs
- Click Winlink\_Express\_install....zip
- Install it

**Note 1:** Windows operating systems only - Windows 7 or Windows 10

**Note 2:** Winlink Express is also known as RMS Express, and will show as the latter on your desktop icon.

2/ When installation is complete, open RMS Express

3/ Click on Settings, then Winlink Express Setup

4/ Fill up the boxes

5/ When you think you are finished, don't forget to click "UPDATE"

**Note 3:** Registration Key is a long number you will receive upon making a small donation ~ \$25 to the American Radio Safety Foundation. You will be presented with an opportunity to do this. It is not mandatory, but please consider it. Winlink was built and is maintained solely by volunteers for the ARSF. It is now a twenty-year project. We can also contribute to the cause in this way. If no donation is made, you will be nagged at each opening of Winlink, but that is the only downside (except for the conscience).

*Caution: Try to remember to copy the long registration number, and paste it into your Winlink Express Setup page. If you forget to do this, do not worry. It can be picked up later on [winlink.org](http://winlink.org), My Account.*

6/ Now, in upper right hand corner, make sure Telnet Winlink is in the box. You may have to move the slider up to find it.

7/ Click on Message, New Message

8/ "To" should be some outside-Winlink email address of your own. Subject line and Contents of the message are unimportant.

9/ Click on Post to Outbox. You should see a "(1)" alongside Outbox, meaning one message ready to go.

10/ Click on Open Session

11/ Click on Start. You will see brief action, and then Disconnected.

12/ Close Winlink and wait for 15 to 30 minutes. Your account is being created. You will now have yet another identity, this known as ([Yourcall@Winlink.org](mailto:Yourcall@Winlink.org))

13/ Now test your new Winlink account... Open RMS/Winlink Express, Telnet Winlink, Message, New Message, To (complete it as you wish), Subject and so forth.

14/ Post to Outbox. You should see a (1) again at the Outbox, or more if additional emails were created and posted to Outbox.

15/ As before, and always in future, Open Session, Start... and your messages should zip away. Outbox will drop to nothing indicating successful send. Look for the message, wherever you sent it.

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Now, on Monday and/or Tuesday, you might want to check in to W4OT to the Winlink Nets. Simply open Winlink, and prepare an email to W4OT (which also has a Winlink account).

The subject should say Telnet, First Name. But if using RF already, it should say Packet Winlink, First Name. Or ARDOP, First Name. Or VARA, First Name - whichever is appropriate for the mode you are using.

The message body can optionally say your power and the RMS you used. Then follow the above steps to send your message.

Note 4: *Don't forget: We must always Post to Outbox, Open Session, Start. It is not one click "Send" like most email clients.*

Note 5: *Open Session, Start is also the way to pick up any messages sent to you, which will appear in Inbox.*

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You are encouraged to send a few messages to become better acquainted.

If you check in to W4OT, you may expect an acknowledgement. You will be joining about 15-20 YLs, OM and EOCs as of this writing.

More importantly, you're on the way to having Email by Radio when all else fails.

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Final comment regarding your email account on Winlink and "whitelisting"...

Those on Winlink only need to use another's callsign as the "To". No one outside Winlink can send you a message unless you whitelist them.

The easiest way to whitelist someone is to send them an email from Winlink, say, to your spouse. From then, your spouse can send messages to your Winlink email address.

No one else may send email to your Winlink email address.

Next: See Part 2 - Switching to RF