

Outpost v3.0 Release Content Description

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1. Introduction

This Release Content Description provides information about new or changed functionality that will be available in Outpost Packet Message Manager Release 3.0. This information is organized under the following sections:

- **New Features:** A new capability that did not exist in any prior version of Outpost in any form.
- **Enhancements:** A change to an existing feature that further improves the performance or usability of the application. Enhancements include minor changes, internal changes (that may not be evident to the user, but contribute to improved supportability increased stability, or application performance) and bug fixes.

2. New Features

2.1. ER#45, #225, #769: TNC Session runs asynchronously from Outpost

The following structural changes are introduced:

1. Moves the Outpost's TncSession Form into a separate program (Opsessn.exe).
2. Moves Notifications into a separate program (Opnote.exe) callable by Outpost.exe and Opsessn.exe.

With these changes, we get the following:

- The TncSession no longer grabs the window focus when it runs. If not configured for Minimize, will flash, and then move behind (no focus loss). When Opsessn.exe now runs, it temporarily pops to the front, then moves behind Outpost, however the cursor is restored to the location it was just before the run. While not perfect, it is a lot better than before.
- Opsessn can be set to run totally minimized (Tools > Send/Receive Settings, Other Tab) to make the above problem go away.
- Since we are all used to tracking how Outpost is doing, if Opsessn is minimized, it does report its status back to Outpost and is displayed in the Status bar at the bottom.

2.2. ER#683, #1093: Remove 10,000 character message limit

This is the first step to allow different message sizes to be passed by Packet.

The immediate use of this feature is in conjunction with the application note titled "[Poor Man's Attachments](#)". Ultimately, I want to have binary attachments with compression native within Outpost, while trying to remain compatible with the current operating requirements. As with real email, attachments do not guarantee high efficiency transfers all the time –word docs, spreadsheets, and images have very low compression ratios. The question will be how compatible do we need to be with the rest of the world? More details to follow.

This change also sets up the opportunity to move to real dynamic message folders instead of the current fixed folder scheme.

The message size is now presented on the bottom the message form so you know how big your message is at any point of the message creation process.

2.3. ER#749: Adds a BBS initialization command list

Similar to the TNC Command File feature where commands can be sent to the TNC before and after a TNC Session, this feature implements a similar capability for BBS commands. In most cases, there is no reason

to define additional BBS commands to be sent... in fact, Outpost requires the BBS to be configured a certain way for it to work. However, for power users that also manually connect to the BBS for some other purpose, there are some users that may benefit from reinitializing the BBS; JNOS users immediately come to mind.

3. Enhancements

3.1. Outpost

ER#322: TNC, BBS Data Structuring. This change takes the BSS and TNC data structures (TncInfo.dat and BbsInfo.dat) from a fixed record format to an ascii file format, one file per BBS or TNC entry. This supports a greater level of flexibility when changes are made, and adds a new level of flexibility when updates are applied.

ER#681: TNC, BBS Data Structuring. Individual TNC and BBS records can be exported, saved, and packet-mailed if necessary. While there are no programmatic controls to do this, the user can navigate to and manipulate the individual files.

Additionally, the following related changes are also implemented:

ER#1086: Data File Naming Constraints. With #681 (above), restricts the name of Address, TNC, and BBS names to characters that are valid file names. These names are directly used to create the file names with a .tnc, .bbs, or .addr file extension. This change ensures the file names are legal.

ER#1087: Trap for READ-ONLY files. Ensure we detect READ-ONLY files for the new TNC, BBS, and ADDR data files

ER#1090: TNC data consolidation. Moves the <tnc>.ini data file contents into the <tnc_name>.tnc data file.

ER#1090: BBS Path data consolidation. Moves the <bbs>.pth data file contents into the <bbs_name>.bbs data file.

ER#1111: Data File Naming Constraints, part 2. Allow mixed case for TNC and BBS Friendly name; reset valid characters to include "+~_.,;"

ER#928: Auto-SendReceive Timer. This fix resolves the situation where Auto Send/Receive and Timer triggered a SR session even if the previous S/R was not completed. Auto S/R with Timer will now skip the next S/R run if the previous S/R is not completed.

ER#987: BBS Path data change. Changes the BBS Path 'Port Number' field from an Integer to String*10 to accommodate JNOS 'p144' type construct.

ER#1068: Receipt Messages in full Text. Replaces the tag-formatted delivery and read receipt messages (!DR! and !RR!) with human-readable messages. This is useful when sending delivery and read receipts for messages that originated from other than Outpost, or are not using Outpost as their packet program.

ER#1083: Receipt Messages in full Text. Internal Code Cleanup; handling Enable Tactical Call handling for old AA4RE BBSs.

ER#1072: Reply-Only. This change is to make message Replies only go to the original sender plus the others that were copied in the original message, not yourself. This means that if you want a copy of the reply, you need to add yourself to the To: field.

ER#1089: Message Date Formats. This change is to handle more date formats. It is important for SMS messages coming in that do not format the date like other known BBS messages.

ER#1092: Printer Settings. Corrects the Printer handling for Landscape vs Portrait.

ER#1095: TNC Copies. Fixes situation when making a copy of a TNC setup, the TNC command file is not copied.

ER#1098: Message Tab Handling. Fixes Message Form Tab handling, it was not consistent with the rest of the app. Before, when looking at the Message form, TAB moved you from field to field, including the into and out of the body of the message. Now, this change now makes it so that once you tab into the body of the message, TAB helps formatting the text within the message, then use CNTL-TAB to get back out.

ER#1100: Dual Message ID Prefix. Adds a second Message ID prefix that is tied to the user Call Sign. Today, the subject line Message ID is set with 3 characters set on the Identification form followed by a number. These 3 characters are usually tied to the Tactical Call. This change adds a second 3 character prefix field that is tied to the user's call sign. So, if you choose use Tactical Call, you use the Tactical Call 3 character prefix. If you disable Tactical Call, you use the User call sign 3 character prefix.

ER#1101: Email address handling. Removes 8 character limit on @address component.

ER#1103: Message Spaces. Fixes leading spaces problem; leading spaces in a message are no longer stripped.

ER#1104: JNOS LM handling. This change is to JNOS so that the LM command is not send if "0 messages" string is found.

ER#1116: Missing RecvDateTime from Msg Export/Import. Corrects this deficiency.

... and no others