

# Outpost v3.3c081 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 3.3c081. 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 or internal changes (that may not be evident to the user, but contribute to improved supportability increased stability, or application performance).
- **Defect fixes:** A change that resolves a reported problem.

## 2. New Features

### 2.1. Outpost message client Add-ons

Outpost has supported user-created text-based messages since its inception. In 2007, the concept of Add-ons was introduced with PacFORMS, a fill-in-the-blank web-based forms where only the content was passed to and transmitted by Outpost. On the receiving end, the content was passed back and merged with the local copy of the PacFORMS. Since it is browser-based, all you needed to do is print and deliver it.

Add-ons are very powerful since they only pass the data, not the form itself. While the complexity of extracting the data and merging it back in is left up to the add-on developer, the benefits are huge. Local jurisdictions with specific information requirements can now define and build an html form, introduce it to field and EOC packet teams, and get it deployed. The result: packet teams can do “business in our served agency’s terms.”

Outpost has had add-ons around for a while including the ICS213mm and NTSmm programs. These were a bit more tightly integrated with Outpost requiring code changes whenever something new was added. This will always be inevitable. However, over the past 2 years, a more general add-on approach has been implemented that should reduce the need for customizing Outpost with every new add-on that comes along.

#### **What Changed:**

1. Outpost has been enhanced to accommodate an open API for building Add-ons. Several approaches can be taken depending in the programming skills of the add-on author ranging from developing C, VB, or Java programs to html with JavaScript pages.

**Migration:** None. If you do not use an add-on, there is nothing you need to do. Outpost will work as before.

**Documentation:** New documentation will be created on how to design and build an add-on. In the case of html pages, these will be good templates for creating your own. Also, a contributed

library of add-ons will be created for sharing ideas from anyone who wants to contribute one to the community.

### 3. Enhancements

**ER #1311: Scripting Tool silent operations.** This change allows Opscripts.exe to run quietly. When enabled, the scripting program will run quietly in the background without stealing the PC's focus.

**ER #1512: Launch on Arrival.** This is the first of two changes to address this enhancement. There are times when a user may want to automatically open a message upon its arrival. This change lets you set specific text expected in the message's From, Subject, and message body fields. When Outpost detects it, the message is automatically opened for the user to read.

**ER #1530: Message Listing Font Size.** This is something I've wanted to do for a while. This change adds an [A][A] font size control for the main Outpost message listing. Once changed and roughly the way you want it to look, you should restart Outpost.

**ER #1543: Outpost Docs.** This change adds links to the Outpost Help Menu to bring up the most recent Outpost documents. When you install Outpost, all the docs are downloaded (as before). Now, you can access them quickly from the Help menu.

**ER #1547: User Name Required.** The User Name is collected as part of the Setup > Station ID form and is used in on-line reports and the ICS309 Comm Log report. If the user leaves this blank, no name is available and the operator would need to fill it in manually. This change now makes the User Name field required.

**ER #1549: Encoding Option.** Adds an option to request base64 encoding associated with specific Add-ons.

**ER #1554: ICS309 Report Cleanup.** Tweaks on the layout of the ASCII and .csv output files for better readability by moving the "Excludes" and "Includes" lines to below the header.

**ER #1559: Alt911 Logging.** This change enhances the Alt911 Call Taking System Add-on with more logging if events.

**ER #1563: Notifications.** This change enhances the notification comments of telnet connect problems to help the user better understand what happened.

### 4. Corrections/Defects

**ER #1306: Printing and Line Wrap.** Most messages contain reasonable lengths for the TO: and Subject: fields. However, when you have multiple addresses in the TO: field or the Subject length is very long, no wrapping occurred. This change now wraps both fields so that all TO: addresses and the entire Subject is printed.

**ER #1457: Enhanced Message Service/Add-on.** Resolved the situation where add-on processing was not handling parameter strings that contained spaces.

**ER #1479: Opsessn grabs focus.** This was another one of those annoying problems. When you run a Send/Receive Session, the program, even if minimized, will steal focus from whatever else is going on. So, if you are in the middle of writing a message, the cursor is moved off that form. This is now (and finally) resolved. It can be set to show the Send/Receive session form or be totally hidden (Tools > Send/Receive Settings, Other Tab).

**ER #1532: Message Resend Error.** Once you send a message, you can initiate a Resend by opening the message in the Sent Folder, then Actions > Resend > Same Msg ID | New Msg ID. This fix corrected the handling when using any message ID format. HOWEVER, it assumes that the message ID format setting still matches the message ID format of the message you are trying to resend.

**ER #1540: Column Width on installation.** On an upgrade installation, the column widths of the main message form reverted to a default set of widths. This should have only been the case for a new installation. This is resolved up update installs retain the previously set widths.

**ER #1541, #1561: Field Change Detection.** Several fields could be changed but were not flagging a form change event. These changes resolves this.

**ER #1544: Station ID content.** The Station ID should be a Call Sign. However, some folks were entering <call>@<email domain>. This would cause Outpost to never match the connect name with the message to send. This change prevents the user from entering anything other than a call sign.

**ER #1545: Enhanced Message Service/Add-on.** Resolves the situation with addons not being correctly interpreted when a valid !bang-id! declaration was passed in an email to the BBS. This was causing extra trailing spaces introduced by email clients.

**ER #1552: Message Header Display issue.** Resolves an issue with correct representation if Base64 encoding when selected for a message.

**ER #1555: ICS309 & .csv handling.** Ics309clb allows the user to either print to a printer, a text file, or a .csv file. The problem was that stings with embedded commas were being interpreted as a column change in excel. This is now resolved for .csv output by surrounding each string in double quotes.

**ER #1556: ICS309 & Report format.** Ics309clb prints the message ID as part of the report. With the introduction of the Message ID suffix character, the Message ID was overflowing the printable space. This fix adjusted the static header to accommodate a message ID of the format: XXX-####P. If your numbering rolls over to 5 digits, it will overflow the field.

**ER #1562: Station ID Tab Logic.** This change corrects a logic problem where no BBS's are yet configured with a telnet login, but the change button is still enabled.