
OutpostPMX

Packet Message Manager

Installation Guide

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Foreword

This guide provides some brief instructions on how to install the OutpostPMX Packet Message Manager Application suite.

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Introduction

Thank you for downloading the OutpostPMX Suite.

OutpostPMX is a modern, cross-platform Packet Message Manager designed for Amateur Radio packet operators. It is the successor to the original Outpost Packet Message Manager and has been redesigned to operate on Windows, Linux, and macOS using a common source code base.

This guide explains how to install OutpostPMX for the first time and verify that the installation completed successfully.

Who Should Read This Guide

This guide is intended for packet operators who are installing OutpostPMX for the first time. No previous experience with Outpost or OutpostPMX is assumed.

System Requirements

Operating Systems

Platform	Tested and Confirmed	Expected to work
Windows¹	Windows 10 Windows 11	
Linux X86_64²	Ubuntu 22.04 LTS Ubuntu 24.04 LTS or newer openSUSE 16.0 Leap	• Ubuntu 26.04 LTS • Linux Mint 21 • Linux Mint 22 • Debian 12 • Pop!_OS • Zorin OS • other Debian-derived distributions
Linux ARM64	Raspberry Pi OS Bookworm (64-bit)	
macOS³	Intel: Sequoia on Intel Mac	• Intel: newer macOS releases • Apple chip: works, but... see note below.

NOTE:

1. Older versions of Windows (Windows 8.1 and earlier) are not supported by the current Python and Qt runtime modules used by OutpostPMX.
2. Linux Distributions not currently supported are:
 - AlmaLinux
 - Arch
 - Fedora
 - Kali
 - Manjaro
 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux
 - Rocky Linux

OutpostPMX source code is also available. Users of these and other Linux distributions can build native executables for their preferred platform using the **OutpostPMX Build Guide** (pending).

3. Apple Chip (M1/M2/M3/M4/M5). This release was confirmed working on a M4 system. However, it fails to run after test download due to no code certification and Apple notarization. This is in progress.
4. Other operating systems and versions may work. They just have not been tested.

Hardware Requirements

OutpostPMX system requirements are minor, and the application should work on any system with 250MB of free disk space.

Processor:	• 64-bit processor • 4 GB RAM or more • 250 MB available disk space • Internet connection (for updates and TELNET operation)
Interfaces:	One or more of the following: Serial Port: An available Serial Port for Serial or AGWPE interfacing, or USB port: Any compatible USB-to-Serial adaptor to connect to the TNC Network: Network interface for remote AGWPE or Telnet interfacing
Hard Drive:	Minimal; 250 MB should be more than sufficient to get started.
Peripherals:	Printer for message printing (if required)

Before You Begin

OutpostPMX is distributed as a portable application.

- No administrator privileges are normally required.
- No installer program is used.
- The application stores all user data separately from the application files.
- Upgrading usually requires only replacing the application directory.

Downloading OutpostPMX

Visit the official OutpostPMX website download page. Download the package appropriate for your operating system. See the Compatibility page on the OutpostPMX website for details.

Operating System	Package
macOS (Intel)	opmx-26082-macos-intel.zip
openSUSE Linux	opmx-26082-opensuse16-x86_64.tar.gz
Raspberry Pi OS	opmx-26082-rpios-arm64.tar.gz
Ubuntu Linux	opmx-26082-ubuntu22.04-x86_64.tar.gz
Windows	opmx-26082-win10-11-x86_64.zip

NOTE: the Package name format:

opmx: Short for OutpostPMX
version num: Compressed software version number. Changes with each release build.
O/S: Operating system
Architecture: CPU architecture (e.g., x86_64, arm64) or a user-friendly architecture name (e.g., intel, applesilicon)

Installing on Windows

1. Create a directory where you would like OutpostPMX installed. Use either the File Manager app or the cmd: line command.

Command line example: `mkdir C:\MyPrograms`

2. Download the current Windows release package from the OutpostPMX website.

3. Extract the ZIP archive into the directory you created, either by:

- a. right-click on the zip file and select **Extract All**.

Enter the directory `C:\MyPrograms` as the destination.

- b. use WinZip:

(NOTE: If you are missing the above "Extract All" option, it usually means that a third-party program (like **WinZip** or **WinRAR**) has taken over the .zip file association. Try this WinZip method.)

- i. **Right-click and hold** your .zip file.

- ii. **Drag the file** to your folder destination.

- iii. **Release the button** and choose **WinZip -> Extract to here**.

- c. use 7z (for 7-Zip): `7z x opmx-26082-win10_11-x86_64.zip`

4. Verify that the extraction created an OutpostPMX directory similar to:

```
C:\MyPrograms\  
  outpostpmx\  
    _internal\  
      outpostx  
      optermx
```

`outpostx.exe` on windows

`optermx.exe` on windows

(Optional) If the extract creates a directory named *outpostpmx-windows-x86_64*, It is OK to rename it to *outpostpmx*.

5. With File Manager, navigate to the OutpostPMX directory.
6. Double-click **outpostx.exe** or **optermx.exe** to start the programs.
7. (Optional) Create a desktop shortcut by right-clicking **outpostx.exe** and selecting:
 - Show more Options
 - Create shortcut

Repeat this for **optermx.exe**. Drag the shortcuts to the desktop if not already there.

No installation program is required.

OutpostPMX is designed as a portable application.

Installing on Linux

1. Find and run the **terminal** program.
2. Create a directory on your Linux PC where you would like to install OutpostPMX.

Example:

```
cd                                (move to your root directory)
mkdir -p ~/MyPrograms            (create an programs directory).
```

3. Download the current Linux release package from the OutpostPMX website.
4. Move to the installation directory.

```
cd ~/MyPrograms
```

5. Extract the release archive.

Examples:

```
tar -xzf opmx-26082-ubuntu22.04-x86_64.tar.gz
tar -xzf opmx-26082-opensuse16-x86_64.tar.gz
```

6. Verify that the extraction created a directory similar to:

```
~/MyPrograms/
  outpostpmx/
    _internal/
    outpostx
    optermx
```

7. Change into the OutpostPMX directory.

```
cd outpostpmx
```

8. If necessary, make the applications executable:

```
chmod +x outpostx
chmod +x optermx
```

Normally this step is unnecessary, but it does no harm if repeated.

9. Start OutpostX.

```
./outpostx
```

Installing on macOS

1. Download the current macOS release package from the OutpostPMX website.
2. Open your **Downloads** folder and double-click the ZIP archive.
macOS automatically extracts the archive into a folder named **OutpostPMX**.
3. Move the **OutpostPMX** folder to the location where you would like to keep it.
Examples:
 ~/MyPrograms
or
 Documents/Amateur Radio
4. Open the **OutpostPMX** folder.
5. Double-click **OutpostX** to start the application.

First macOS Launch

The first time OutpostX is started, macOS may display a security warning because the application was downloaded from the Internet and is not yet digitally signed.

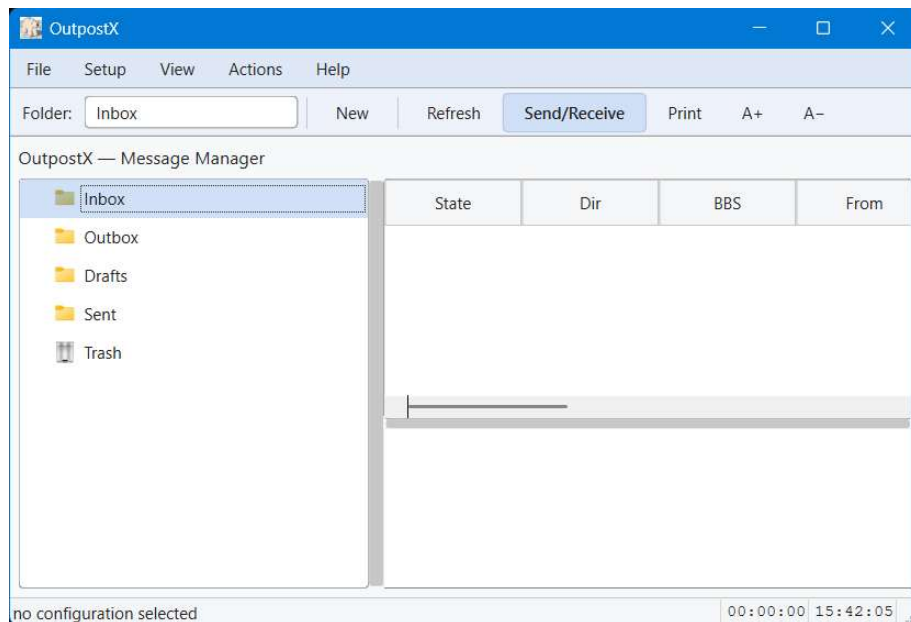
If this occurs:

1. Right-click **OutpostX**.
2. Select **Open**.
3. Click **Open** when prompted.

This confirmation is normally required only once.

Expected Result

The OutpostX main window should appear.



No additional installation steps are required.

First Startup

The first time OutpostPMX starts, it automatically creates its working data directory. This directory stores:

- Configuration information
- Message database
- Log files
- BBS specifications
- Sounds

No user action is normally required.

Each Outpostpmx application can access the data directory from either the Tools or Actions menu. Click on this menu item to open the platform-specific file manager application. Note the path to where the data is located.

Currently, the first time the program runs, it automatically creates the OutpostPMX data directory within your home directory.

Data Directory Locations

The default data directory depends upon the operating system.

Platform	Default Location
Windows	%APPDATA%/Outpostpmx
Linux	~/.local/share/Outpostpmx
macOS	~/Library/Application Support/Outpostpmx

Future versions may allow this location to be customized.

Upgrading

To upgrade:

1. Download the latest release and place it in the application directory.
2. Leave the existing data directory unchanged.

Your existing data will normally be preserved automatically:

- Configuration information
- Message database
- Log files
- BBS specifications
- Sounds

Uninstalling

To remove OutpostPMX:

1. Delete the application directory.
2. Optionally remove the data directory if you no longer wish to retain:
 - a. Configuration information
 - b. Message database
 - c. Log files
 - d. BBS specifications
 - e. Sounds

NOTE: Deleting the data directory permanently removes all stored OutpostPMX information.

Troubleshooting

If OutpostPMX does not start:

- Verify that the archive is extracted correctly.
- Confirm that all application files remain together.
- Verify executable permissions (Linux).
- Verify macOS security settings.
- Verify that your antivirus software has not quarantined any files.
- Consult the Troubleshooting Guide.

Next Steps

Congratulations!

OutpostPMX has now been installed successfully.

The next document to read is:

OutpostPMX Quick Start Guide

The Quick Start Guide walk you through creating your first Station Profile, connecting to a BBS, downloading messages, and sending your first packet message.

Need Help?

Here are a few things you can do now:

1. Join the Outpost Packet users group: users+subscribe@outpostpacket.groups.io.
2. Watch for additional documentation, release notes, and updates on the outpostpm.org website and OutpostPMX GitHub project page.
3. We welcome bug reports, suggestions, and feedback from the Outpost Packet community.