Outpost v3.3 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 3.3. 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. ER#1431: Extend SCS Tracker DSP TNC Support

We haven't added a new interface since AGWPE went live. So, it was great to get the request to see how to incorporate the SCS Tracker DSP TNC.

It turns out that the SCS Tracker TNC does have an AX.25 mode for plain ascii packet. This is good. However, there a few differences with how Outpost gets a TAPR TNC's attention and how you talk to a SCS Tracker. On top of that, there is a difference in the commands that get sent to this TNC. Fortunately, Outpost already had a method for sending a user defined list of TNC commands, but that was not sufficient to get it to work out of the box.

This change allows Outpost to interact with the SCS Tracker DSP TNC in its native ascii packet mode.

What Changed:

1. Outpost's Setting > Interfaces form; minor change differentiates a TAPR TNC (what we have today) from an SCS TNC.
2. Outpost's Session Manager logic to accommodate the special way to get the SCS tracker's attention.
3. A SCS_Tracker_DSP.tnc file will be installed with this release. Unless you are intimately familiar with the SCS Tracker TNC, other than the comm port, DO NOT MAKE ANY CHANGES.

Migration: A full installation will install the SCS_Tracker_DSP.tnc file. Or, you can send me an email and I will send you this file and show you where to put it.

Documentation: Screen shots updated as appropriate.

Related: none

2.2. ER#1453: Add JNOS Secure Login support

Similar to Winlink, telnet access to the JNOS BBS can be configured to require a secure login. This only applies to telnet access, not a RF connection. This feature helps guard against internet sniffers from recovering your password that is sent in clear text.

While this capability is enabled by the sysop, there is no other action the user must take other than properly setting up the JNOS telnet login.

What Changes:

1. Outpost Session Manager implements the JNOS secure login handler.

Migration: No data migration is required.

Documentation: none

Related: none

2.3. ER#1412: Base64 message encoding

Have you ever sent a message and it always gets screwed up because of some embedded binary character? Or possibly your BBS imposes a line length constraint and truncates your message, sometimes in mid-word? Then you may want to look at this feature.

When set for a message, this feature will transform the text message using Base64 encoding. All ascii and binary characters are encoded and repackaged into the message. On the receiving end, the message is decoded and restored. While this may sound good, this comes with a size penalty. Base64 encoding adds another 1/3 of the size to the message. So, a 600-character message turns into an 800-character message.

Is this legal? Per the FCC Rules part 97.113(a)(4) "No amateur station shall transmit: […] messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning, …" Given the examples above, that is obviously not our intent. The Base64 specification is a standard, open, and well-publicized spec used for encoding. AX.25 packet is still transmitted clearly over the air with the sender and receiver identifiable. Someone could monitor, copy, reassemble, and Base64 decode an encoded packet message. This is a good discussion on encoding and encryption in Amateur Radio here.

What Changed:

1. Outpost > New Message Form > Actions adds a *Base64 Encode* option.
2. Outpost Session Manager implements the encode/decode functionality.

Migration: No data migration is required.

Documentation: none

Related: none

3. Enhancements

ER #<12 changes>: Enhanced Message Service. Following the introduction of EMS and Addon support over the last 2 releases, these 12 changes further refine this functionality based on some real-world applications being developed. I hope to get one or two of these released separately to the community.

ER #1434: Scripting. When Opscripts writes a message to Outpost, automatically refresh the display so it shows up.

ER #1462: Profile Saving. Adds a Profile Save option to explicitly save it.

ER #1463: Profile Changes. When exiting or changing profiles and it is set to NEVER (save your changes), pop up a message stating it was not saved.

ER #1464: One-time Bull retrieve. If you choose one-time bulletin retrieve, ALWAYS get it regardless of whether "Send Only", "Receive Only", or Send/Receive is set (Tools > Send/Receive Settings > 1st Tab).

ER #1486: Force Bull retrieve. Warn that you can't choose the Force One-Time Bulletin Retrieve option if the Bulletin option is not checked in the Settings > BBS > Retrieval form.

ER #1489: Address book. Various Address Book changes including removing the distinction between single user and a distribution list. Allows spaces in addresses.

ER #1500: Subject Line. Ensures the use of only Printable characters in the Subject Line. This addresses the situation where individuals were cutting and pasting text with CRLFs into the subject line.

ER #1511: Winlink. Adjust Outpost to accommodate the new WL2K/CMS message header format (additional blank line).

ER #1512: Open on Arrival. Automatically open a received message that matches specific characters or words in the From, Subject, or message body.

ER #1514: CNTL-A. Implement CTRL-A to select all the messages in a folder.

ER #1516: Multi-message printing. Supports selecting several messages from the main folder, and then printing them all at once.

4. Corrections/Defects

ER #<10 changes> Enhanced Message Service. Several issues that were uncovered since the initial release.

ER #1441: Srnote.tmp. Resolves the situation so creating the Srnote.tmp file (holds the last outcome of the Send Receive Session for Opscripts) now works correctly.

ER #1452: Folder Checks. Adds internal checks to limit access to named folders.

ER #1458: Mouse Behavior. Resolved situation where moving or archiving messages, the mouse gets reset to center of the form.

ER #1468: TAC Calls and Printing. Resolved the situation where the Session Number was not incrementing correctly.

ER #1469: Same Subject. Resolved situation when opening up multiple messages with the same subject line, the first one opens up, but subsequent ones neither open up a new window nor updated the content of the single window open.

ER #1470: Out Tray Messages. Resolved situation where on closing a message opened from "out tray" a new message is created within "out tray" even if the message was moved to "sent messages" by a send/receive session.

ER #1474: Form opens behind the main. Resolved (hopefully) the situation where a message form continues to open behind the main Outpost form.

ER #1477: Draft Messages. Mark messages in the Submitted state as DRAFT… must be highlighted in Blue.

ER #1478: Opscripts Geometries. Resolves the situation to preserve program geometries so opening Opscripts, moving it, closing it, and then reopening it opens in the last location.

ER #1480: Date Format. Resolves the situation where reoccurring JNOS bulletins were retrieved with ever send/receive. Now handles all Windows date formats.

ER #1483: Placing Draft Messages. Resolved so when pressing message Save should put the text message in the DRAFT Folder, not Sent.

ER #1484: TAC Calls and Printing. Resolved the situation where Outpost is configured to use a tactical call sign, the printout banner still shows the FCC call sign at the top, instead of the tactical call sign.

ER #1485: Printer Assignment. Resolves so that the selected printer persists from one message to the next.

ER #1502: Same Subject. Resolved File Save so that if the message subject contains an extension, it is not replaced with a .txt.

ER #1506: Shutdown Logic. Adjusted shutdown logic order to check for open forms first and allow for a Shutdown cancel.

ER #1531: Form OK. Resolved the use of a form's OK button so that, if no change on that form, it will now cause a Profile to be flagged as unchanged.

ER #1535: PC Time Changer. Resolved long day, date string not fitting in the Date field of the PC Time changer program.

ER #1536: Notification form. Resolved so that Outpost now closes the notification window on shutting down.

ER #1539: Printer Error. Added trap of run-time error '482' Printer error when printing to an incorrectly configured "Microsoft Print to PDF" printer.