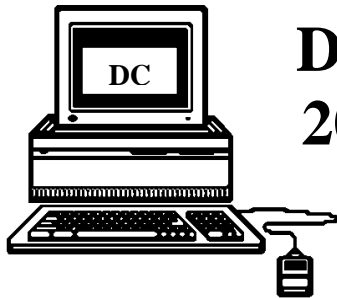


DIGICOM

The Newsletter of

The Midlands Packet User Group

DC64



Dec/Jan
2002/03

Node/BBS News

GB7MAX /BLOX Node

The BBS and the Xrouter Node are both working satisfactorily. BLOX now has an Internet connection.

GB7PMB

BBS is working satisfactorily on 2m and 4m. 70cms available on attended basis only at present. See later article.

GB7WV NODES

All nodes and the UI digipeater are working OK

DY and PP NODES

These nodes are working OK

G7BUG-8 NODES

The SALOP BPQ node is working OK.
The SALOP1 Xrouter node now has an Internet connection and is directly wired to the BPQ SALOP node, giving full connectivity via the radio ports.

Any feedback should be sent to Chris
G0CNG@GB7MAX

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2003 MEMBER'S MEETINGS

held in the Perton Centre near Wolverhampton until April 2003

January 6th 2003 Post Christmas Natter
Night from 20.00 hrs.

Feb. 3rd 2003 To Be Announced Soon.

March 3rd 2003 Pre-AGM Meeting.

April 7th 2003 AGM 2003

**The Chairman and
Committee wish all Maxpak
Members, their families and
friends a very Happy
Christmas and New Year.**

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

Greetings to all Members. May I firstly apologise for the late release of this Issue, due to pressure of work. Also may I take this opportunity to personally wish all Maxpak Members, their families and friends a very happy Christmas and New Year and a restful holiday break over the festive season. I, for one, am really looking forward to a fortnight away from School after a long and stressful Autumn Term.

2002 has been a very varied year for me personally. Without doubt, it has been dominated by the sad loss of my Mother at the end of June after losing a year long fight against ovarian cancer. It has been a testing time for my Dad, my Sister and of course myself, but we have kept going as normally as possible, exactly as Mum would have wished.

On a happier note, I was able to enjoy four weeks in VK Land during my Summer Break which proved to be the holiday of a lifetime.

2002 also saw the sad loss of Don, G3UQH, sysop of GB7PMB, the Shropshire BBS for many years. Thanks to my friend and Maxpak member Tony, G7BUG and also the help and support of the Ex Shropshire Packet User Group, GB7PMB is now up and running in Newport, Shropshire with Tony, G7BUG the new Sysop. I am pleased to report that after many teething problems which are bound to happen with any new venture such as this, GB7PMB is now going from strength to strength with some new users coming on line over the past couple of months, to whom we give a very warm welcome.

Late October and early November saw another milestone, the connection of BLOX and SALOP1 Xrouter nodes to the Internet with 24/7 service now available, thanks to Broadband. This is proving invaluable for rapid and efficient mail forwarding for GB7MAX and GB7PMB, as well as improved node links for DXCLUSTER users. In addition, User Telnet Access is NOW AVAILABLE on both systems. See separate article for full details and how to register.

Thanks to all those members and friends who took the time to say 'hello' to us at the recent MARS Kings Heath Rally which proved to be an enjoyable event.

Keep watching this space for announcements of changes to arrangements for Member's Meetings in 2003 after the April 2003 Annual General Meeting to be held on **Monday 7th April 2003 at the Perton Centre**. Put this date in your diaries now.

Finally, remember to keep visiting our Web-Site; address below.

Thanks once again are due to Joe, G4VYA for his sterling work in maintaining the Site.

73's, happy Christmas and New Year, until the next issue. Chris, G0CNG, Chairman.

www.maxpakgb.org.uk

Telnet access now available to GB7MAX and GB7PMB

If you use Winpack and you have access to the Internet, either via Broadband or a standard dial up connection, full user access to both Maxpak BBS's is NOW AVAILABLE via the TELNET option available in Winpack Version 6.80

You will need to contact Chris G0CNG via email (see address on page 6) for a Telnet password. Chris can remotely set up Telnet access on GB7PMB. If you currently use a password for accessing GB7MAX or GB7PMB via the radio ports then you continue to use this, in addition to the Telnet password.

The Fixed IP address of BLOX (GB7MAX) is **81.7.12.236 Port 23** and the IP Address of SALOP1 (GB7PMB) is **80.195.158.138 Port 23.**

Both systems are available on a 24/7 basis subject to availability of the Internet Connections.

Below are instructions for setting up Winpack to use TELNET Mode for Internet BBS access.

To use telnet in WinPack, you need to:-

- (a) Have a PC with a connection to the internet.
- (b) Have TCP/IP installed on the PC, bound to your internet connection and working properly. NOTE - in Win95, TCP/IP is not installed by default, you have to install it using Control Panel, Network, Add, Protocol.
- (c) Have access to a BBS that supports telnet connections. (All the following assumes that it's an FBB BBS.)

I cannot help you with any of the above!

Configuring WinPack To Use Telnet

This takes a lot longer to document than it takes to do it! If you are familiar with WinPack, have successfully configured it for use on RF, and have a reliable internet connection, you should have no problems getting a telnet connection to work. AN IMPORTANT POINT - You will get in a terrible mess with your bulletin list if you try to use the same copy of WinPack with one mailbox on RF and a different one via telnet!

It's much better to install a second copy of WinPack in a different directory.

In the following, when I refer to connecting to the BBS, I am assuming that your PC is already connected to the internet. With Win31 that is essential, with Win95 and later it is recommended, because WinPack is a 16 bit app, and will not start DUN as reliably as 32 bit apps do. For initial testing you MUST make sure your PC is already connected to the internet.

Step by step:-

1. Find out either the host name or the IP address of the BBS you are

going to use, and the port number. See above/below for GB7MAX and GB7PMB. Also, you will need to ask the SysOp, G0CNG for a password.

2. In "Comms Setup", select Host mode TELNET.
3. Make a manual test connection to the BBS via the Node as follows. The format for the connection is

C IP_address:port_number

Example for GB7MAX -

C 81.7.12.236:23

or, for GB7PMB -

C 80.195.158.138:23

You can key in the command in the WinPack command line.

4. When you succeed in making a connection, enter your CALLSIGN and TELNET password when prompted. You should now have the full Node sign on text on your screen.
Type BBS to connect to GB7MAX (or GB7PMB).
If you currently use a radio access password for BBS access (the five random numbers) you will now be presented with this, exactly as you would if you were logging in via radio. Enter the correct letters manually from your password matrix.
5. You should now be at the BBS Prompt.
Put yourself in expert mode on the BBS with the X command, and turn off paging using the OP command. Take note of the BBS prompt. Read a message and take note of the format of the message headers - From, To, Title, etc.
Disconnect with the B command.
Correctly configure Personal/BBS Info using the information collected in step '5'. Do this with care!
6. Edit the BBS.TXT script, and change it to something like this (example for GB7MAX using callsign G2XYZ and Telnet password abcdefg):-

HOTKEY F8

TITLE Telnet connection to GB7MAX

SEND C 81.7.12.236:23 (IP Address of BLOX / GB7MAX)

WAITFOR Callsign:

SEND g2xyz (Substitute with your Callsign)

WAITFOR Password:

SEND abcdefg (Fixed Telnet password issued by sysop)

WAITFOR ? for list of commands. (end of Node Connect text)

SEND C GB7MAX

WAITLINE GB7MAX-0> (only if you are using radio password access)

SENDPASSWORD (only if you are using radio password access)

WAITPROMPT (waits for BBS Prompt)

Or this example for GB7PMB using callsign G2XYZ and Telnet password abcdefg) :-

HOTKEY F8

TITLE Telnet connection to GB7PMB

SEND C 80.195.158.138:23 (IP Address of SALOP1 / GB7PMB)

WAITFOR Callsign:

SEND g2xyz (Substitute with your Callsign)

WAITFOR Password:

SEND abcdefg (Fixed Telnet password issued by sysop)

WAITFOR ? for list of commands. (end of Node Connect text)

SEND C GB7PMB

WAITLINE GB7PMB-0> (only if you are using radio password access)

SENDPASSWORD (only if you are using radio password access)

WAITPROMPT (waits for BBS Prompt)

Save the changes.

7. Make a test connection to the BBS using F2. If it doesn't work, or gets stuck, check your script, and also check "BBS prompt" in "Personal/BBS Info". Correctly setting the BBS prompt is the aspect of WinPack that seems to cause most problems. Mainly because some users don't read the help, and others offer incorrect advice! There is a BBS prompt FAQ at - <http://www.peaksys.fsbusiness.co.uk/faq/bbsprmp.txt>
8. In "Mail Options":-
 - (a) Uncheck "Use FBB unproto lists". If the BBS with which you are going to use telnet is a different one to the one you have been using on RF, and you're reconfiguring your existing copy of WinPack rather than starting again with a clean copy, then you need to get rid of any existing bulletins list. Changing the setting of "Use FBB unproto lists" is an easy way to do it. Also, you should delete LASTNUM.TXT in the WINPACK\BULLS directory when WinPack is not running.
 - (b) You can use compression, but the restriction on having to use Split Sessions still applies if you want to use compression in both directions. (That's a limitation of FBB, not of WinPack.) You might find that a better arrangement is not to use compression, or only use it for downloading - telnet is usually extremely fast!
9. Run an Auto BBS Session. WinPack should connect to the BBS, list the bulletins and disconnect.
10. "Read Bulletins", and work your way through all the options on the "Options", "Bulletin Columns..." menu. If you don't do this, then the auto-selection will never work.

That's it! WinPack should now work via telnet exactly the same as it works on RF. See HELP TELNET.TXT for fuller information.

(Parts of above extracted from Telnet.Txt by Roger, G4IDE)

MAXPAK modems price list for 2002

MAX-01 1200 baud PACKET MODEM
Baycom type modem (3 IC's), PCB, circuit diagram & parts list plus all the components required to populate the PCB.

Members price £36.00
Non members price £38.50
Ready built and tested modems available
£5.50 extra

**PRE DRILLED AND PUNCHED CASE
including installation kit etc.**

Members price £5.95
Non members price £6.50

MAX-02 1200 & 9600 baud MODEM.
This unit is available and comes complete with, PCB, all the components required to populate the PCB, full construction details and agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

Members prices
Kit including PCB £55.50
Kit including ext power kit £60.50
Retro fit power kit £ 5.00
Pre drilled case £11.00
Ready made and tested modems are available
for £11.50 extra.

agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

Non members prices
Kit including PCB £57.50
Kit including ext power kit £63.00
Retro fit power kit £ 5.50
Pre drilled case £11.50
Ready made and tested modems are available
for £11.50 extra.

agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

The MAX-01 has been tested with,
Windows 3.1x, Windows95, Windows98
and Windows ME
The MAX-02 will **NOT** work with Win 3.1x

MAXPAK who's who

2002 - 2003 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Chris G0CNG QTHR or @ GB7MAX
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Tel: 01922 494680

Secretary

Miles G4GSB @ GB7MAX
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Tel: 01952 585447

Acting Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Chris G0CNG
Details as above

SysOp GB7MAX, WV, MB7UV & DY nodes

Chris G0CNG
Details as above

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Hon SysOp GB7PP nodes

Mick G1DKI QTHR or @ GB7MAX
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