

First, to download the latest version of the Outpost Packet program, go to <https://outpostpm.org> – the program files, as well as links to documentation, are on that page. Note that Google Chrome will NOT permit downloads from this site. To get the programs, please use Microsoft Edge, Firefox, or another browser instead. This setup was used with the version noted above

Outpost was designed for the Amateur Radio ARES/RACES packet user community. The thinking behind it was to create an intuitive, easy-to-use program that lets ARES/RACES organizations focus on the "message," not the "medium," as they pass digital message traffic to and from an operational area BBS. Further details are on the site. The program runs on Windows based systems (I'm using it under Windows 11, 64-bit).

ICS forms (209 and 313) can be used with the program.

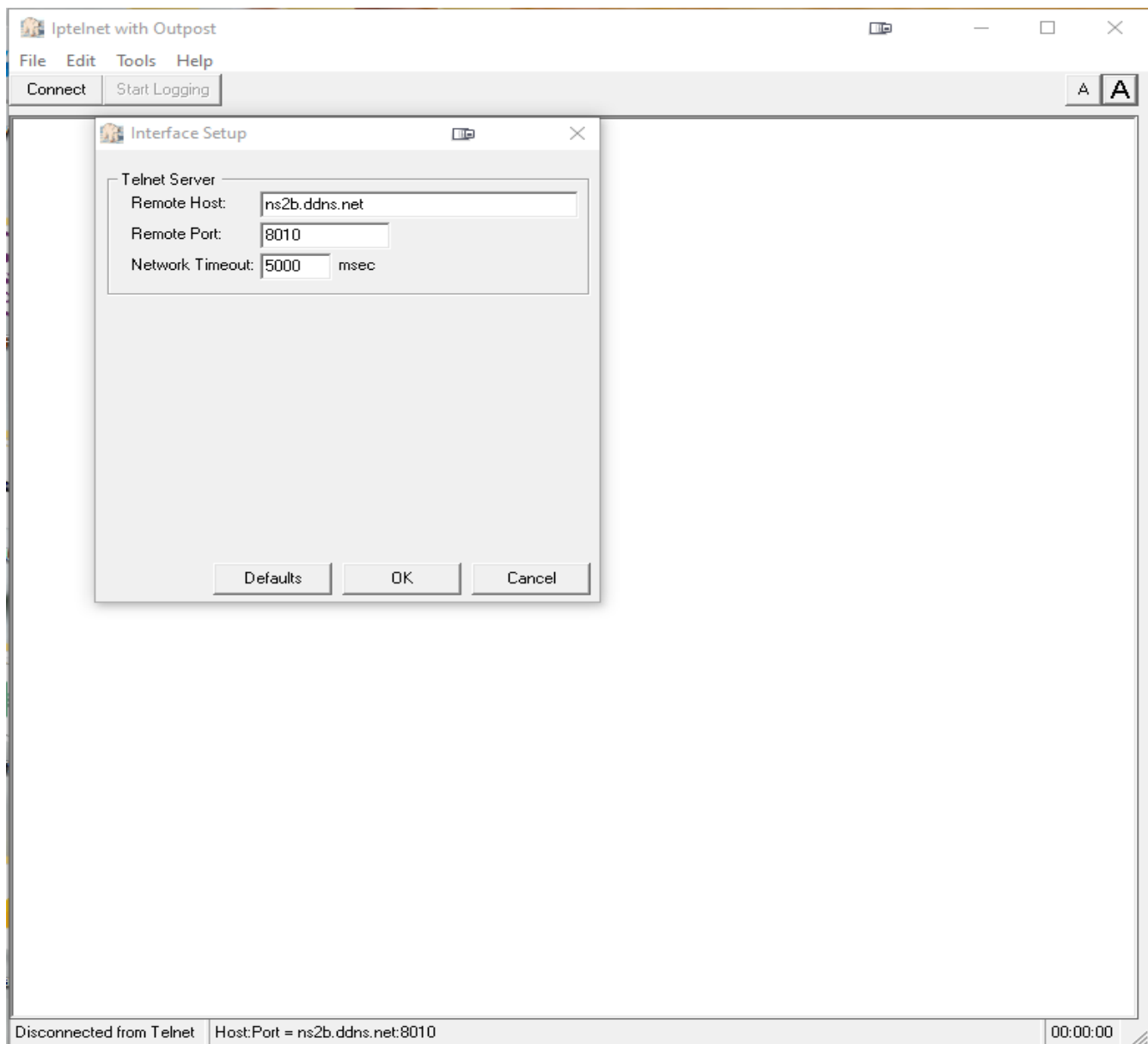
This PDF file will cover connecting to the NS2B BBS, for the PCL Net, and as a packet setup. The BBS itself is located in Penfield, New York, and features RF and telnet based access. Since I operate "internet radio" only, I'll cover "telnet" operations to the BBS. For details on connecting to the PCL Net, and its operation, download the file noted "The PCL Net", located at:

<https://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm> (look for the appropriate link).

This is also in the D-Rats file area for amateur radio station N5VLZ.

First, download and install the Outpost program. The 2 main programs that will be used with telnet operations are iptelnet, and the Outpost Packet client.

The first graphic below is the settings you'll need to program into the iptelnet program for the NS2B BBS.



That is the main setup to connect to the NS2B BBS, via the iptelnet program. You don't need to open the port in your computer router. Enter the data as shown in the screenshot above. This is what you'll use to connect to the NS2B BBS...although other options are available in the file "The PCL Net.PDF"

As a side note, the graphic to the left of the underscore, square, and X on the upper right of the display...is with the Display Fusion program. It allows working with multiple monitors, with several items open. Freeware and commercial versions are available at <https://binaryfortress.com/support>

To me, it's worth the registration cost, and it's a lifetime registration fee.

The following items are NOT covered in this PDF, but are covered in the Outpost Documentation...you can use default values for these:

File: New messages, importing and exporting messages, deleting all messages, printing the setup, or exiting the program.

Setup: Address Book, Profiles, and PC Time Check

Tools: Report Settings, Log Settings, General Settings, Script Settings, Scripts, Packet Session Counter Reset, Resetting and Packing of Columns

Widths and Forms, and Interactive Packet

Forms: ICS 309 and ICS 213 Forms.

Actions: Send and Receive, Opening Enhanced Messages, Force a 1 time bulletin retrieval, and viewing Outpost Data directories.

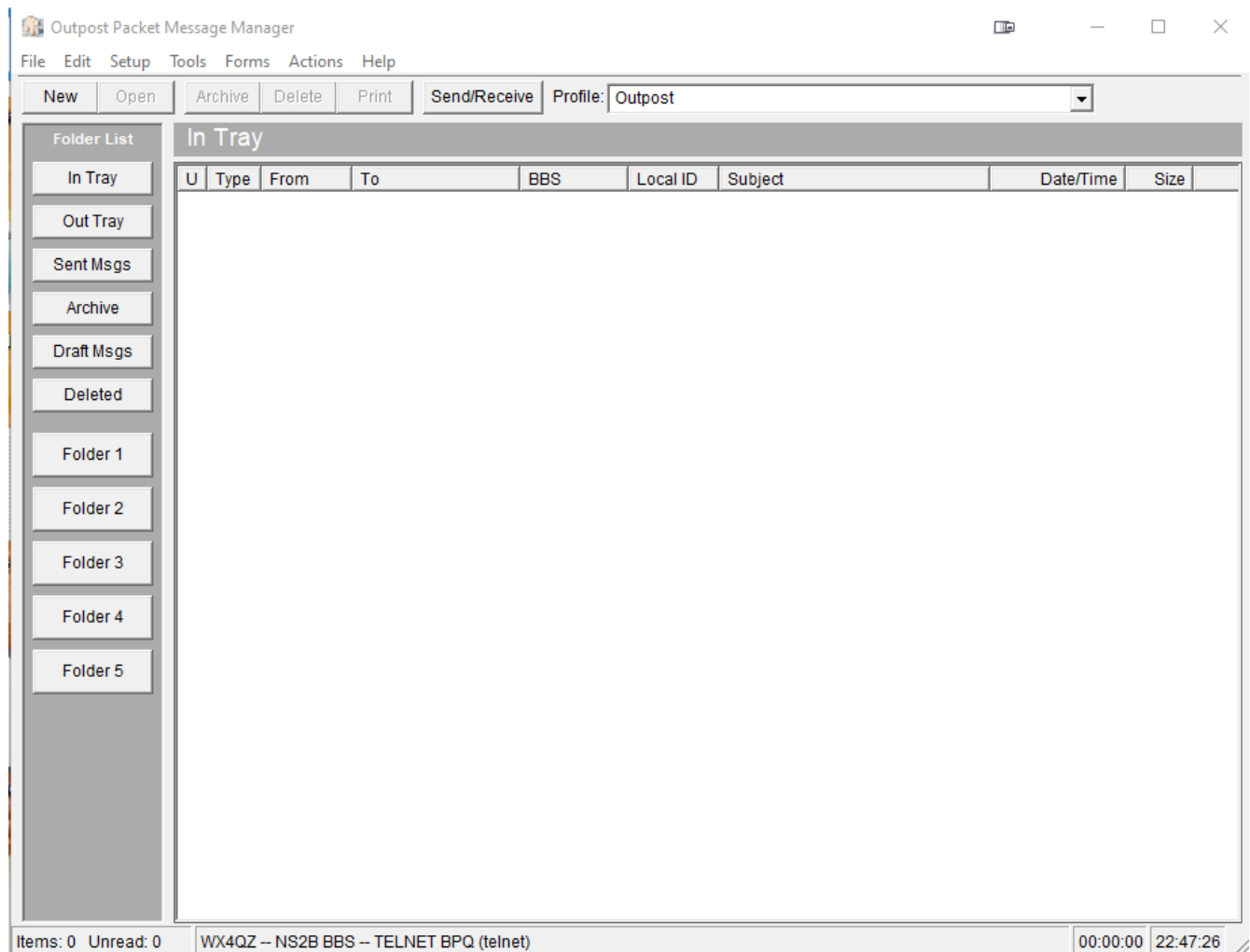
Next, load the main Outpost program. Once loaded up, this will be the first screen you will see. Again, I won't cover each item available, as that's in the main program documentation. However, I will cover the settings needed for the NS2B BBS, which are also covered in The PCL Net.PDF file.

As noted, these are all screenshots from my setup, so that's why you see my callsign (formerly WX4QZ, now N5VLZ). Once you set up your values, your callsign will show up, as the settings for the BBS...in this case, the NS2B BBS.

The numbers on the bottom right are the local time at the time of the screenshot. The 00:00:00 to the left of the time stamp is a timer, if you're doing an automated connection, which is covered in the documentation.

The NEW button allows you to compose a new message, and the Send/Receive button activates the program to send any outgoing messages, and retrieve any incoming messages by categories you have selected.

The In Tray covers messages in your In Box, and the Out Tray are messages you've created that haven't been sent yet. Sent Messages, Archive, Draft, and Deleted Messages are just as they describe. You can set up 5 different folders for various categories...this is covered in the main program documentation.



The first one to configure is Setup → BBS.

There are several options you have to do...the first one is on the next page.

First, under Name, choose NEW. Under the fields noted (BBS Name, Connect Name, and Description), enter the data as shown above. This step (NEW) should be used in all cases to create entries. The Set/Get TNC will be covered under Settings → Device Setup...which is later in this file.

As noted earlier, this is with Packet Via Telnet...so, there is no actual rig, TNC, cables, etc., with the setup. For areas with my callsign, you obviously would enter your data. Get with NS2B for your callsign and password info.

BBS setup for NS2B BBS

Name | Prompts | Commands | Init Commands | Retrieving | Path

BBS Name

BBS Name: NS2B BBS

Connect Name: NS2B

Description: NS2B BBS

BBS Type

☒ Let Outpost determine the BBS and set up the prompts

☐ User defines the BBS prompts

Non-Identifying BBSs

☒ AA4RE BBS

☐ AA4RE BBS with Tactical Call Customization

TNC Name

Set/Get TNC TELNET BPQ

New

Copy

Delete

OK Apply Cancel

This is especially helpful if you don't have a packet node or network within your area...or if you don't have a rig or TNC in your shack. This can be the case for folks who live with antenna restrictions or prohibitions, Home Owners Association (HOA) agreements, or CC&R's (Covenants, Creeds, and Restrictions). This is also helpful when HF conditions are deplorable.

I will note that you need a high speed internet connection...either DSL or broadband, as dial-up internet is far too slow. If you have a Verizon Mi-Fi device or a hotspot (cellphone or otherwise), you can use that...but I'd suggest having "unlimited", so you don't have to "worry about the meter running". Don't worry about "Prompts". Under Commands, and Init Commands.

These are noted on the next page.

BBS setup for NS2B BBS

Name | Prompts | **Commands** | Init Commands | Retrieving | Path

Commands

Send Private:	SP	Read Message:	R
Send Bulletin:	SB	Delete Message:	K
Send NTS:	ST	Bye / Log off:	B
List Mine:	LM		
List Bulletin:	LB		
List NTS:	LT		
List Filtered:	L>		

OK Apply Cancel

BBS setup for NS2B BBS

Name | Prompts | **Commands** | Init Commands | Retrieving | Path

Initialization Commands

☒ Never send BBS initialization commands

☐ Send BBS initialization commands for every Send/Receive session

Cmnds to send before Send/Receive	Cmnds to send after Send/Receive
<div></div>	<div></div>

OK Apply Cancel

Under Retrieving: Check with NS2B for a list of all bulletin categories. Then, under Path, is the screen for connecting to the BBS itself:

The screenshot shows the 'BBS setup for NS2B BBS' dialog box with the 'Retrieving' tab selected. The 'Name' tab is also visible. The 'Retrieving' section contains several checkboxes and a list box. The 'Path' tab is also visible.

Retrieving

Retrieve these Messages

- ☒ Retrieve Private Messages
- ☐ Retrieve NTS Messages
- ☒ Retrieve Bulletins
 - ☐ All new Bulletins
 - ☒ Selected Bulletins
 - Enter as a list of filter items (i.e.: QST, KEPS, ARES).
 - SK, TODAY, ALL
 - ☐ Custom Retrieval
 - Enter as a list of JNOS BBS Area and List commands
- ☐ Skip NTS Messages that I send
- ☐ Skip Bulletins that I send
- ☐ Keep messages on BBS; do not delete after retrieving

OK Apply Cancel

The screenshot shows the 'BBS setup for NS2B BBS' dialog box with the 'Path' tab selected. The 'Retrieving' tab is also visible. The 'Path' section contains several fields and buttons. The 'Access method' section has two radio buttons. The 'KA-NODE/Netrom Access' section has several fields and buttons.

Path

Access method

- ☐ Direct to BBS
- ☐ Via digipeater(s):
 - (enter digipeater names separated by commas)

KA-NODE/Netrom Access

Node Name: NS2B

Successful Connect Message: commands

Connect command: BBS

Connect with node/BBS name: ☐

Port number: 0

Unsuccessful Connect Message: fail

New Delete Move Up Move Dn

OK Apply Cancel

Station ID is WX4QZ

Identification | BBS Logins | Signatures

Current Profile: Outpost

Legal

User Call Sign: WX4QZ New

User Name: Daryl Delete

Message ID Prefix: 4QZ (3 Characters max)

Tactical

☐ Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction

Tactical Call Sign: <Choose/Create(New) Tac Call> New

Additional ID Text: Delete

Message ID Prefix: (3 Characters max)

☐ Show this form on startup OK Apply Cancel

Station ID is WX4QZ

Identification | BBS Logins | Signatures

Manage password access to specific BBSs

BBS logins for: WX4QZ New Change Delete

Log on as...	BBS Friendly Name
wx4qz	NS2B BBS

BBS Name: NS2B BBS

User Logon: wx4qz

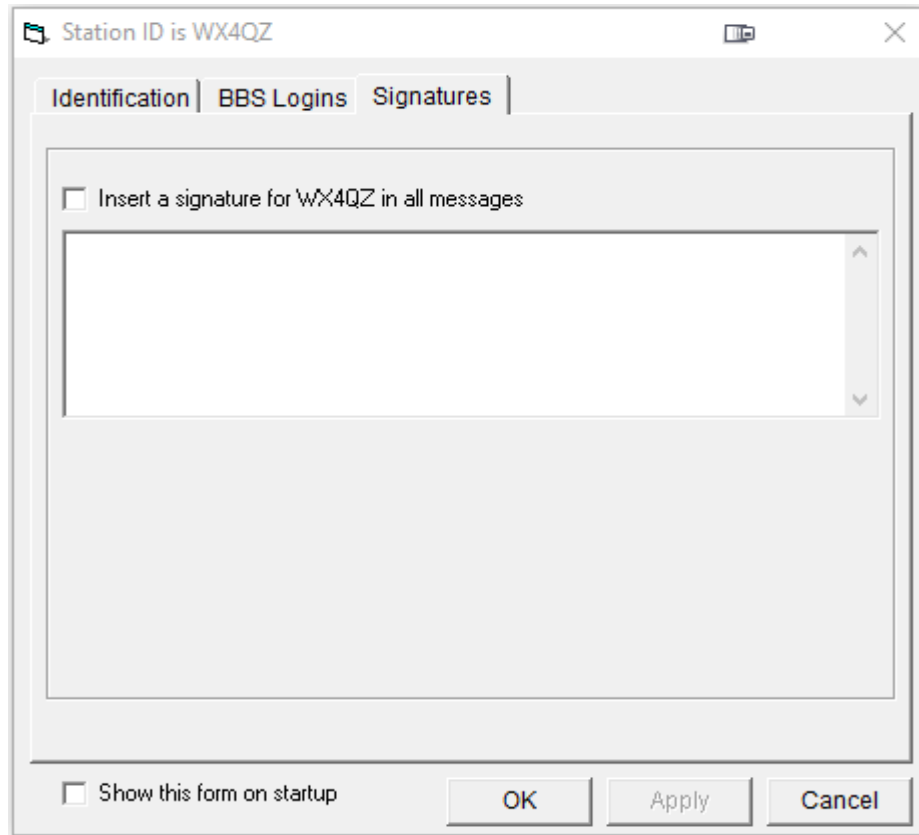
User/Connect: ***** Show

Winlink Acc't Password:

Description: Update Cancel

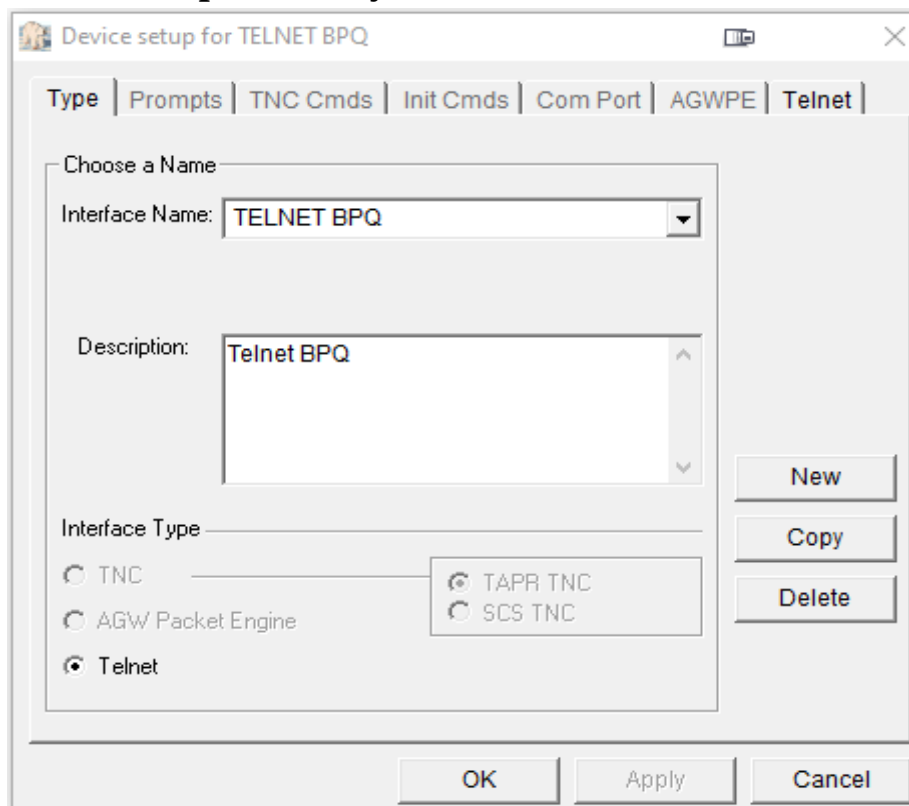
☐ Show this form on startup OK Apply Cancel

Obviously, enter your BBS, callsign, password, and if desired, a signature.



The image shows a window titled "Station ID is WX4QZ". It has three tabs: "Identification", "BBS Logins", and "Signatures". The "Signatures" tab is selected. Inside the window, there is a checkbox labeled "Insert a signature for WX4QZ in all messages" which is currently unchecked. Below this checkbox is a large, empty text area for entering a signature. At the bottom of the window, there is another checkbox labeled "Show this form on startup" which is also unchecked. To the right of this checkbox are three buttons: "OK", "Apply", and "Cancel".

Next, is the Device Setup, basically the Telnet BPQ TNC:



The image shows a window titled "Device setup for TELNET BPQ". It has several tabs: "Type", "Prompts", "TNC Cmds", "Init Cmds", "Com Port", "AGWPE", and "Telnet". The "Type" tab is selected. Inside the window, there is a section "Choose a Name" with a dropdown menu labeled "Interface Name:" showing "TELNET BPQ". Below this is a text area labeled "Description:" containing the text "Telnet BPQ". Further down, there is a section "Interface Type" with three radio buttons: "TNC", "AGW Packet Engine", and "Telnet". The "Telnet" radio button is selected. To the right of these radio buttons is a small box containing two more radio buttons: "TAPR TNC" and "SCS TNC", both of which are unselected. On the far right of the window, there are three buttons: "New", "Copy", and "Delete". At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: "OK", "Apply", and "Cancel".

Device setup for TELNET BPQ

Type | Prompts | TNC Cmds | Init Cmds | Com Port | AGWPE | Telnet

Telnet Server

Remote Host: ns2b.ddns.net

Remote Port: 8010

Network Timeout: 5000 msec

Logon Prompts

Logon: Callsign:

Password: Password:

NOTE: Logon and Password prompts are case sensitive.

OK Apply Cancel

Next, the Tools And Message Settings:

Message Settings

New Msgs | Msg Numbering | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Setting up a new message

☒ Set default to PRIVATE

☐ Set default to BULLETIN

☐ Set default to NTS

☐ Create and send NTS messages as Private messages

☐ Default Destination [] (Call Sign or Tactical Call)

OK Apply Cancel

Message Settings

New Msgs | **Msg Numbering** | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Outbound Message Identification

☐ Add message number to the Subject Line for outbound messages

☒ without hyphenation... " 4QZ100: ... "

☐ with hyphenation... " 4QZ-100: ... "

☐ with DateTime Format... " 4QZ201005232533: ... "

☐ Add message number suffix

☒ Add message number separator

Inbound Message Identification (Local ID)

☐ Assign a local message number to inbound messages (local use only)
standard format... "4QZ100"

Edit Subject Line Identifier values

OK Apply Cancel

Message Settings

New Msgs | **Msg Numbering** | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Replies and Forwards

☒ Set default to PRIVATE for replies or forwards

☐ Set default to original message type (excludes NTS) for replies or forwards

☒ Close original message on reply or forward

OK Apply Cancel

Message Settings

New Msgs | Msg Numbering | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Tracking Messages

- ☐ Always request a Delivery Receipt
- ☐ Always request a Read Receipt

Auto-Receipts

- ☐ Auto-Delivery Receipt: Always send back a Delivery Receipt after retrieving a message.
- ☐ Auto-Read Receipt: Always send back a Read Receipt after opening a newly arrived message.

OK Apply Cancel

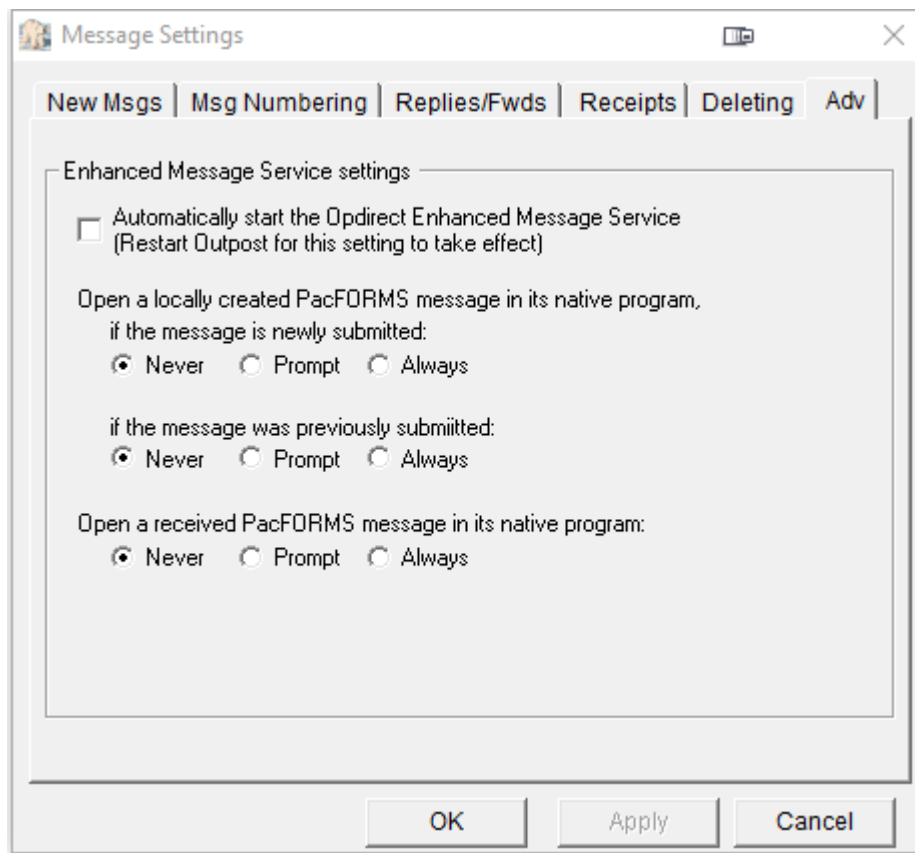
Message Settings

New Msgs | Msg Numbering | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Deleting Messages

- ☒ Prompt before permanently deleting a message

OK Apply Cancel



Message Settings

New Msgs | Msg Numbering | Replies/Fwds | Receipts | Deleting | Adv

Enhanced Message Service settings

☐ Automatically start the Opdirect Enhanced Message Service
(Restart Outpost for this setting to take effect)

Open a locally created PacFORMS message in its native program,
if the message is newly submitted:

☒ Never ☐ Prompt ☐ Always

if the message was previously submitted:

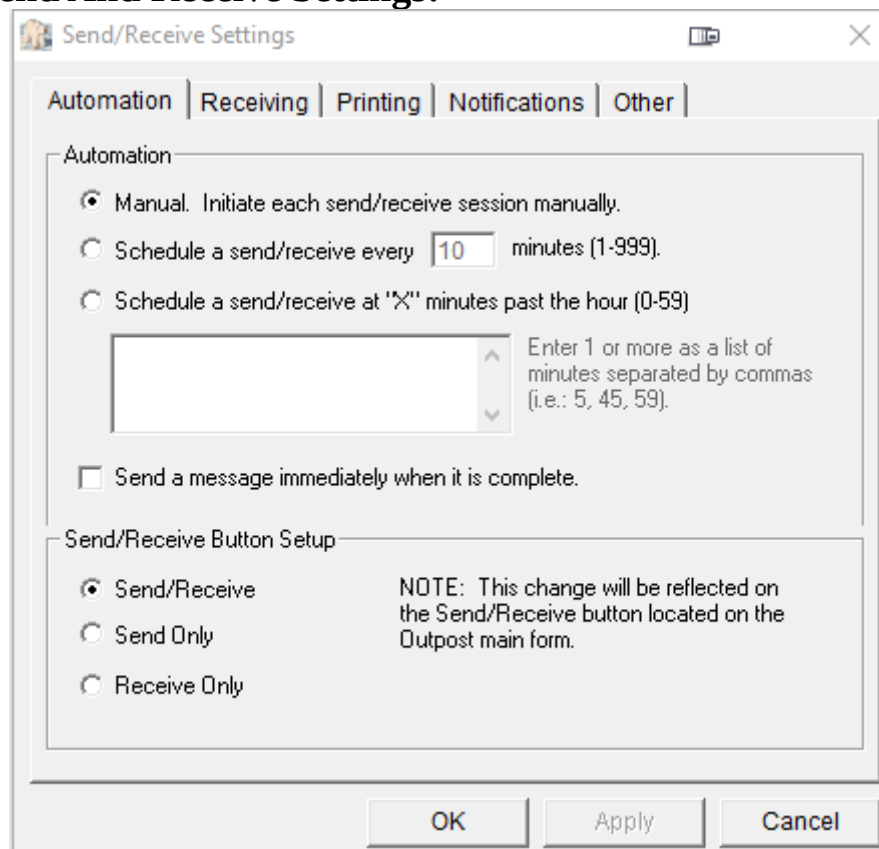
☒ Never ☐ Prompt ☐ Always

Open a received PacFORMS message in its native program:

☒ Never ☐ Prompt ☐ Always

OK Apply Cancel

Lastly, the Send And Receive Settings:



Send/Receive Settings

Automation | Receiving | Printing | Notifications | Other

Automation

☒ Manual. Initiate each send/receive session manually.

☐ Schedule a send/receive every minutes (1-999).

☐ Schedule a send/receive at "X" minutes past the hour (0-59)

Enter 1 or more as a list of minutes separated by commas (i.e.: 5, 45, 59).

☐ Send a message immediately when it is complete.

Send/Receive Button Setup

☒ Send/Receive

☐ Send Only

☐ Receive Only

NOTE: This change will be reflected on the Send/Receive button located on the Outpost main form.

OK Apply Cancel

Send/Receive Settings

Automation | Receiving | Printing | Notifications | Other

When Receiving Messages

☐ Play this sound on arrival: Browse Test

Once Retrieved

Immediately open the message where...

... the FROM matches one of these values (separate with commas)

... the SUBJECT matches one of these values (separate with commas)

... the BODY matches one of these values (separate with commas)

☐ ... the message is flagged as URGENT

OK Apply Cancel

Send/Receive Settings

Automation | Receiving | Printing | Notifications | Other

During the Send/Receive Session

Display Send/Receive notifications for:

☒ N0: Application errors

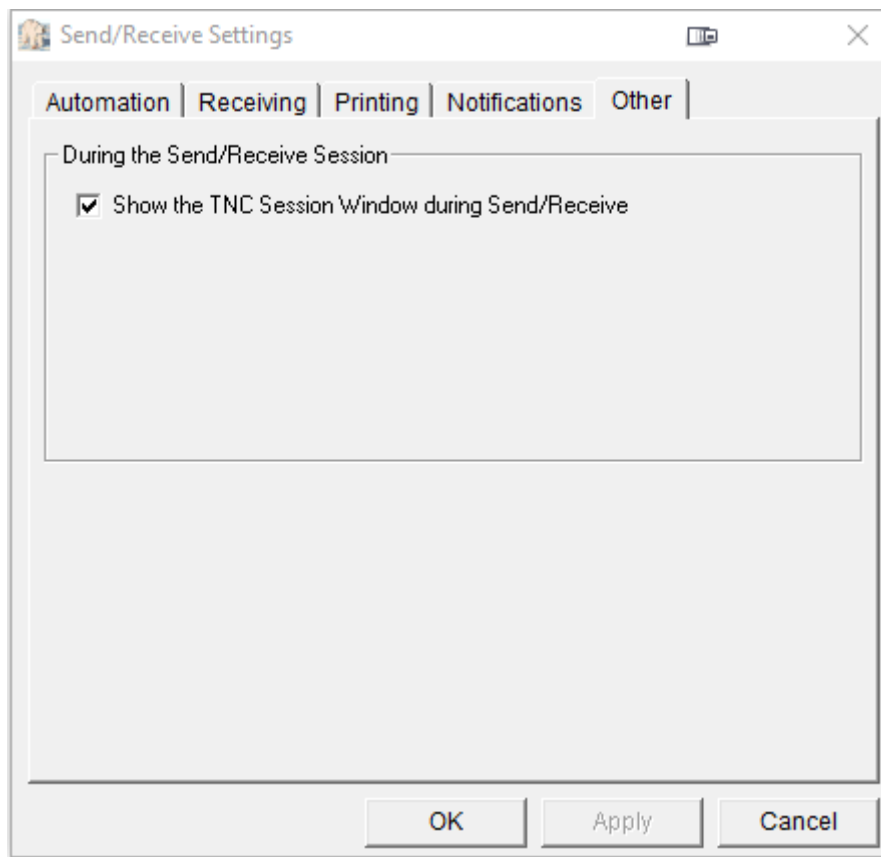
☒ N1: Problems that need immediate attention to proceed

☒ N2: Unexpected BBS disconnect problems

☒ N3: Other non-critical issues

☐ Play this sound on notification: Browse Test

OK Apply Cancel



Once you have all these setup, you should be able to connect to the NS2B BBS. If you can't connect, the system may be offline. As noted, you'll need to check with NS2B, to get your account setup with your callsign, and password, and you'll use your own data instead of mine.

Once you are in the system, you can use Outpost to connect to the BBS, send any messages you composed in a previous session (new or replies), as well as download new messages, which you can read and reply to. If you have the hard drive space, don't empty the Deleted Messages Folder. Otherwise, Outpost will think you never retrieved the messages, and will download them again.

Once you connect via the iptelnet client, enter your callsign and password, then type PCL to enter the net. The command /? will tell you what commands you can enter, such as setting your QTH. For more information on The PCL Net itself, download the file The PCL Net.PDF – and lastly, for a funny look at one of the original nets (when it was on the N0KFQ BBS), download The E.D. Net.PDF – all this is typed at the keyboard.

**You can obtain these from <http://www.wx4qz.net/elk.htm>
Daryl Stout, N5VLZ, Net Control/Scribe, The PCL Net**