

EmComm Training Organization

ETO WL2K_NEARBY Winlink Catalog Request Mapping Challenge

Summary:

- This is just the summary of the instructions, the full instructions begin with Part 1 on page 3.
- This exercise is to be completed in **Two** parts.
 - It is best to perform **Part One** a day or two prior to the Winlink Thursday exercise date, but may be performed on the date of the exercise.
 - Instructions for Part One begin on Page 3.
 - **Part Two** should be performed on the date of the exercise. Please, no early or late submissions.
 - To be graded, Part Two must be performed and sent *between Thursday 00:00 UTC and Friday 06:59 UTC* on 12/15/2022.
 - Instructions for Part Two begins on Page 4
- Perform a Winlink Position Report
 - The purpose of this position report is to have recent position reports less than 10 days old in the Winlink User Position system. As more participants perform the exercise, there possibly may be more nearby hams to include in the mapping section of Part two.
- Generate and send WL2K_NEARBY Winlink Catalog Request located under the WL2K_USERS Category.
 - This returns position reports of the nearest 30 position reports in the Winlink User Position system.
- Retrieve the response from the Catalog Request
 - This will be a list of the current nearest 30 position reports in the Winlink User Position System.
- Create a Text File that contains just the header and list all the Calls, Distances, Positions, Report Times, and Comments of the 30 amateurs in your received list that will be attached to the message sent to the Clearinghouse.
- Use the Generate Maps feature to create a map from your catalog request response and save the map to a file which will be attached to the message sent to the Clearinghouse
- Create a new Winlink message, attach the generated map, and both crop and resize the map to 5 kb.
- Attach the text file containing the details of the list of nearby amateurs.
- Generate a Winlink Check-In message using this message with the two attachments.
- Send this message and its attachments to your ETO Clearinghouse.

Some reminders, especially for new arrivals to ETO:

- Read and Follow the Instructions **PRECISELY**. Details are sometimes missed in the reading, and some of our assignments can be difficult.
- Make sure you address the correct Clearinghouse for your geographic location (especially if you're temporarily in a different region).
 - Our Tactical Addresses are all formatted as "ETO-nn", where nn is *always* either a 2-digit number ("01", "03", ..., "10") or "CAN" for Canadian participants or "DX" for all others.
 - Make sure you type a ZERO, not the letter "O", in the 2-digit number.
 - If you don't know your Clearinghouse's Tactical Address, Use this web page to look it up: https://emcomm-training.org/More_Info.html#Maps
- Suggestion: put your own "normal" Email Address in the CC box, so that you receive a copy in your non-Winlink Email, as another confirmation that your Winlink message was sent out correctly.
- IMPORTANT! Always restart Winlink Express to ensure you have the current version, and the latest Template updates. The Winlink Development Team (WDT) is constantly updating both.
- ETO exercises are designed to be completed using the Winlink Express client, in a Windows environment. If you choose to use any other Winlink Client Program, "your mileage may vary," and your response may not be mapped or graded as Correct.
- Avoid common errors as outlined on our website:

https://emcomm-training.org/Winlink_Thursdays.html

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To learn more about Winlink Catalog Request Mapping, within Winlink Express, click on Help, and under the Search Tab look for "GPS GIS Mapping Enabled Forms Catalog"

PART ONE: *Part One is requested to be performed before the exercise date of 12/15/2022 if possible. Part Two is requested to be performed on 12/15/2022 if possible.*

1) Create a Position Report

- a) Within the Main Window of Winlink Express select *Settings* → *GPS / Position Reports...*
 - i) If you have a configured GPS attached to your computer and the GPS Status shows a changing value
 - (1) Click on *Use GPS Position*
 - ii) Otherwise
 - (1) Fill in the field labeled *Report Date/Time* using the **current** UTC date and time.
 - (2) Fill in Latitude and Longitude for your location.
 - (a) If you have a GPS Dongle
 - (i) Click on USE GPS Position Button
 - (ii) Click on Use Current Time Buttons
 - (iii)
 - (b) If you are manually filling it the fields:
 - (i) Click on Use Current Time Button.
 - (ii) Use either ±DD.DDDD, DD-MM.MMx, or DD-MM-SSx for the Latitude and Longitude text boxes
 1. The form will convert your entry to DD-MM.x format
 2. For entry of decimal degrees (±DD.DDDD) you will need the minus sign on the longitude if you are in the Western Hemisphere or on the latitude if in the Southern Hemisphere
 - (iii) Set speed and course to 0;
 - (3) Enter *ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Challenge Exercise* within the Comment text box..
 - iii) Click on *Post Report*
 - (1) This places your report request message in the Winlink Express Outbox
 - (2) You should have no need to edit this message.
- b) Send this report.
 - i) This helps populate position reports for others running this process as well as gives a default location for you for the Winlink.org site
 - ii) Open your favorite Winlink session mode (radio mode preferred), select your favorite RMS Station, and click on *Start*.
- c) Retrieve your acknowledgement message.
 - i) Open your favorite Winlink session mode (radio mode preferred), select your favorite RMS Station, and click on *Start*.
 - ii) If you get a duplicate position response. In the Validation step below check to see you have the correct comment and a close Lat and Long value. if you made a mistake. Try again with the current time, correct comment, and valid lat, long.

- d) Validate that report is correct
 - i) Check to see if your location shows up on Winlink's Position Reports page at <https://winlink.org/userPositions>.
 - (1) Zoom in on the map, you should see a marker at your location.
 - (a) Hovering over the marker will show the information sent along with the position report.
 - (b) Ensure your comment is "*ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Challenge Exercise*" and your position is close to what you expect.
 - (2) Drag the map around a bit and see who is around you.
- e) You are finished with Part One, wait till 12/15/2022 to perform Part Two.

PART TWO: All of Part Two is requested be performed between Thursday 00:00 UTC and Friday 06:59 UTC if possible.

- 1) **Validate Winlink Express Form setting is configured so XML file with form data is attached to the message**
 - a) Start Winlink Express
 - i) Close and restart if it is already running.
 - ii) Select *Settings -> Form settings...*
 - iii) Within the heading of *Sending Messages with Form Data*, make sure the Check Box **is checked** for the item *Attach XML files with form data to messages generated by forms*.
 - (1) If it isn't checked
 - (a) click within the checkbox.
 - (b) Click Save
 - (2) If it is checked
 - (a) Click *Cancel*
- 2) **Generate a "WL2K_NEARBY" Winlink Catalog Request**
 - a) Within the Main Window of Winlink Express select *Settings → Winlink Catalog Requests...*
 - i) If you get a message stating your catalog is stale and asking to update your catalog list, please do so.
 - b) In the "Categories" list select WL2K_USERS
 - c) Double Click on the WL2K_NEARBY
 - i) This will create a report request for the closest 30 Position Reports that have been generated in the last 10 days. This should be noted in the Selections groupings.
 - ii) Click on Post Request.
 - d) Start your favorite Winlink Session Mode to send the Catalog Request.
 - e) Wait a few minutes.

- f) Start your favorite Winlink Session Mode to receive the Catalog Request Response.
- g) Browse the report.
 - i) Double click on the received message to open the text message into its own window.
 - ii)

3) Create Text File of the Report

- a) Within the open INQUIRY: WL2K_NEARBY report window
 - i) Starting at the 16th line which should start with the word "CALL" - Left Click and select all the remaining records including the header of the detailed data in the report.
 - (1) The selection should include all non-blank records following the line stating "Only the latest report for each call within the past 10 days is listed."
 - ii) The following steps in step 3. are one in many ways to copy the contents to a named file. To meet the goal you just have to copy the above selected text and place only this text in a file named as specified within step 3) a) vi)
 - iii) Right click to bring up the context menu and select Copy selected text.
 - (1) If you get an error message, try the Copy selected text again.
 - iv) From the Operating System, open up a Notepad Session
 - (1) Start -> Run, the type in Notepad in the Open command text box.
 - v) Paste the copied report into Notepad.
 - (1) In the open Notepad Window, left click to bring up the context menu and select Paste.
 - vi) Save the file.
 - (1) From the Notepad Window Select File -> Save As
 - (2) Within the Windows Explorer menu change to a directory you use for saving temporary files.
 - (a) Note the directory you are using.
 - (3) Provide the File Name "<YOURCALL> Position Report 12-15-2022.txt", e.g. W7OWO Position Report 12-15-2022.txt.
 - (4) Click on the Save button.
 - vii) Since it always reports the 30 closest Position Reports, look at the file to see how far away are some of the stations reported. Count all stations that have the *ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Exercise* as their comment. The value you count will be entered in the comment section of the Winlink Check In form.

4) Generate the Map

- a) Within the Main Window of Winlink Express select *Message* → *Generate maps and CSV files for forms* (optionally, click on the Globe Icon in Button Bar)
- b) In the "Select from:" dropdown box, select *Nearest Position Reports*
- c) In the Map provider Select a map provider.
 - i) Select a Map, any one is OK.

- (1) Winlink Express is supposed to cache the map tiles it collects, this should allow you to view maps offline in locations you have previously viewed when Internet connection was available. *So try to stick to just one map provider once you start using these maps.*
- ii) Click on the *Display Map* button
 - (1) Use the Zoom In, Zoom Out buttons, right click and drag to scroll, and resize the window to get a good view of the positions reported to you.
 - (2) This should look similar to the map you saw in the Position Reports page of WInlink.org
- iii) Save picture as JPEG
 - (1) Click on the *Save as jpeg* Menu Item
 - (2) Move to the same directory you noted when you saved the "Position Report 12-15-2022.txt" file in step 3) a) vi)
 - (3) Provide the File Name "<YOURCALL> Position Report 12-15-2022.jpeg", e.g. W7OWO Position Report 12-15-2022.jpeg.
 - (4) Click on the *Save* button.
- d) Close the Map of Nearest Position Reports window.
- e) Close the Maps and CSV/KML Files Forms Window.

5) Create Check-In Message

- a) Create a New Message
- b) From the Winlink Main Window Select menu items *Message* → *New Message...*

6) Add Your Saved Map Image as an Attachment

- a) With changes the Winlink Development Team has made in the Standard Templates, Forms that now have the content flagged as read only, attachments can't be added after the template has been run
- b) Within the New Message Window containing your Check-In form information, select *Attachments*
- c) in the Attachments windows select *Add*
 - i) In the Explorer Window, select the jpeg picture file you saved within Step 4) c) iii)
 - ii) Click on the *Open* button.

7) Resize the picture to 5kb or smaller

- i) At this point, just your Position Report Map should be an attachment.
 - (1) Make sure your picture attachment is selected.
- ii) Click on *Edit/Resize-Image*
 - (1) To Crop the Image:
 - (a) Right click on the image and make a bounding box no bigger than needed to enclose all the displayed position pins
 - (b) Click on the *Crop* menu item.
 - (2) Click on the *Resize* menu item to begin resizing the image.
 - (a) In the Resize Image Window

- (i) In the *Desired size (kb):* field enter the number 5
 - (ii) Click on the button labeled *Change Size*
 - 1. Verify value in *Current file size (kb):* is equal to 5 or less
 - (iii) If *Current File size* in the image resize window is 5.10 kb or greater.,
 - 1. Try a smaller smaller number, like 4.9 in the *Desired size* field.
 - 2. Click on the button labeled *Change Size*.
 - 3. Validate again and repeat if necessary with a slightly smaller size.
 - (iv) Click on *Save* button
- (3) Click on menu item *Save Changes*.
- iii) Click on the Menu Item *Finished*.
- b) Verify that your file is the only attachment at this point in the processing.

8) Add Your Saved Position Report Text File as an Attachment

- a) The only attachment in the message should just be your cropped/resized position report map.
- b) Within the New Message Window containing your Check-In form information, select *Attachments*.
- c) in the Attachments windows select *Add*
 - i) In the Explorer Window, select the Position Report Text file you saved within Step 3) a) vi)
 - ii) Click on the *Open* button.

9) Use the Winlink Check in Template (Should be performed after all attachments have been added)

- a) With your new message that has the two attachments, select the Winlink Check In form.
 - i) From the Enter New Message Window select *Select Template*
 - ii) From the Template Manager Window select *Standard Templates* → *Mapping-GIS Forms* → *Winlink Check In.txt*
 - (1) The template will open in your browser
- b) Populate the template
 - i) Click on the *Setup* button.
 - ii) Enter “ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Challenge Exercise” in the popup window.
 - iii) Complete the information in the top portion of the form.
 - (1) Status should be set to *Exercise*
 - (2) Enter your ETO clearinghouse address in the *Send To:* field
 - (3) Use your call sign for the *Calls Signs of Initial On-Site Operator(s)* field.
 - (4) Use your name for the *Station Contact Name* field.
 - iv) Fill out all of the fields in the location section of the form.

- v) Enter your count from Step 3) a) vii) of the nearby stations that have “*ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Exercise*” as their comment.
 - vi) Click on the *Submit* button.
 - vii) Close the browser.
- c) Optionally, enter your internet email address in the CC: line.

10) Send the Check In Message

- a) Click on “Post to Outbox” on the menu bar.
- b) Check the Outbox folder of the Winlink Main window to verify your message is in the Outbox.
- c) Note your Message ID number.
 - i) This will be used in the optional Step 11 to verify that your message has been received by the CMS.
- d) Select your session type from the drop-down list to the right of the Open Session button.
- e) Click the Open Session Button.
- f) The Open Session Window will open.
 - i) Click Start to send your message.

11) Verify Message has reached the CMS (OPTIONAL - For US Radio Sessions Only)

- a) This step is optional, and is only to let you know that your message has been received by the Winlink CMS to be later picked up by your ETO clearinghouse. **It only works if you used a Radio Session Mode and was sent within the United States.**
 - i) This procedure taken from the July 28th Winlink Thursday Exercise and can be used to view your sent message.
- b) Using your favorite web browser, go to the Winlink.org website and login under the "My Account" tab.
 - i) The User ID and Password should be the same credentials you use within your setup of Winlink Express. After logging in, click on the "US Amateur Radio Message Viewer" link in the left column.
- c) On the page that opens, click on the button that is labeled "Open Viewer in a Separate Window" about halfway down the page. The viewer opens showing recent messages.
- d) Within the Message Viewer, to search by Message ID for a message sent earlier:
 - i) In the drop down box labeled "Filter Type" select the drop down option "MessageID".
 - ii) Type or Copy & Paste the Message ID you noted in step 10) c) into the "Search for:" text box.
 - iii) Click on the "Search" button.
 - (1) You should see your message and possibly the session where your ETO Clearinghouse picked up the message.
 - (2) If you don't see your message, first try waiting a bit longer and refresh your search. If your RMS station you select was experiencing an internet outage, it may take awhile for it to be sent. This may take more than an hour.

- (a) If you still do not see your message, review your session log. It is quite possible there is a message from the RMS Station explaining the Internet outage, you may want to recreate your message and send it via another RMS Station.

12) Scoring

- a) Attached JPEG file (40 points)
 - i) JPEG present – 10 points
 - ii) JPEG correctly named - <YOURCALL> Position Report 12/15/2022.jpeg – 10 points
 - iii) JPEG size less than or equal to 5 kbytes – 20 points
- b) Attached TXT file (40 points)
 - i) TXT file present (and not FormData.txt) – 10 points
 - ii) TXT file correctly named <YOURCALL> Position Report 12-15-2022.txt – 10 points
 - iii) TXT file has 31 records (header and 30 amateur radio callsigns) – 10 points
 - iv) TXT file line 2 (<YOURCALL>) has comment Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Challenge – 10 points
- c) Form is a correctly populated Winlink Check-In template as specified in step 8. (20 points)
 - i) Agency/Group name, step 9) b) ii), is ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Challenge Exercise – 10 points
 - ii) Comments match the count from step 3) a) vii) – 10 points

Sample ETO Winlink Thursday 12/15/2022 Exercise.txt File Contents

CALL	Dist(nm @ DegT)	POSITION	REPORTED	COMMENT
W7OWO	0.0 @ 000	45-17.80N 123-00.70W	2022/08/20 17:11	Winlink Thursday 09/29/2022 Challenge Exercise
KG7TDC	10.2 @ 126	45-11.77N 122-49.10W	2022/08/20 15:00	winlint ; APRS location Hubbard Oregon
KG7GDB	25.6 @ 186	44-52.32N 123-04.20W	2022/08/11 14:47	At the apartment. Brett, KG7GDB
AG7JJ	58.0 @ 319	46-01.64N 123-54.94W	2022/08/14 23:09	Test via W5MMB-10
K7RMZ	88.1 @ 036	46-29.00N 121-46.05W	2022/08/15 20:59	Bigfoot 200 - Twin Sisters Aid Station
K7TME	88.1 @ 036	46-29.00N 121-46.05W	2022/08/15 16:16	
N7EKB	96.5 @ 008	46-53.36N 122-41.40W	2022/08/17 05:11	https://n7ekb.net/ https://etc-ares.org/ N7EKB@winlink.org 2022-08-16
K7XTN	147.1 @ 011	47-42.04N 122-18.61W	2022/08/17 00:18	Back in Seattle after volunteering at Spencer Butte aid station for Bigfoot 200 race.
KI7VLV	153.1 @ 012	47-47.57N 122-14.33W	2022/08/18 03:48	146.520MHz Pull my finger. ;-) ;-) ;-)
KG7WFQ	157.8 @ 011	47-52.80N 122-17.58W	2022/08/15 02:54	
KG7LEA	164.3 @ 007	48-00.91N 122-31.94W	2022/08/15 16:45	Bigfoot 200 Johnston Ridge
KD7ZYW	165.6 @ 013	47-59.16N 122-06.64W	2022/08/15 14:08	
KM6GUO	231.2 @ 191	41-30.93N 124-02.20W	2022/08/18 06:49	
VA7CIP	275.1 @ 347	49-45.60N 124-33.86W	2022/08/19 23:19	Texada lsand boat club docked. Good run from Nanaimo
KN6PIF	313.6 @ 164	40-15.84N 121-05.26W	2022/08/20 16:22	+
AD5AO	381.5 @ 083	45-45.30N 113-57.24W	2022/08/14 21:20	continental divide
KB6YNO	422.6 @ 177	38-15.53N 122-37.16W	2022/08/16 01:31	Winlink 2000 HF/VHF station KB6YNO in Petaluma, CA
AE7ET	444.8 @ 161	38-14.08N 119-58.77W	2022/08/13 05:34	
KK6HVN	446.1 @ 177	37-52.27N 122-29.80W	2022/08/19 15:42	s/v Oso del Mar
NS7C	589.0 @ 169	35-38.39N 120-40.71W	2022/08/14 05:07	
AD7MQ	607.0 @ 082	45-46.60N 108-33.96W	2022/08/17 16:02	Fair Winds, smooth sailing
AJ6UE	629.7 @ 155	35-36.85N 117-40.01W	2022/08/20 15:42	
KF6AH	647.3 @ 169	34-41.31N 120-26.23W	2022/08/18 22:11	
K5HL	687.4 @ 321	53-36.49N 135-12.65W	2022/08/19 11:43	SV Raynad, St James Bay-West finger. Beautiful scenery and peacefully calm.
K6ALL	691.0 @ 161	34-19.46N 118-26.27W	2022/08/18 00:10	
N6ACS	694.6 @ 161	34-16.37N 118-23.35W	2022/08/15 20:04	
W0HM	695.7 @ 089	44-21.32N 106-41.34W	2022/08/18 17:30	
KM6DGC	696.1 @ 160	34-16.25N 118-17.50W	2022/08/17 01:13	Dongle would not enter position - se side bar on right
KM6JWV	697.8 @ 162	34-09.80N 118-36.92W	2022/08/18 20:46	What3 Words: basic.pretty.joined
N6ALR	703.9 @ 161	34-06.68N 118-23.26W	2022/08/16 03:27	No Comment

End of Challenge Exercise