

RE-ANALYSIS OF WINLINK OBJECTIONABLE TRAFFIC

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Gordon L. Gibby MD KX4Z

Introduction

I have previously reported that WINLINK has made available a console for an unprecedented, distributed, networked, multi-band, multi-modal receiver network, and that this has been instrumental in allowing interested volunteers to self-police amateur radio.¹ This created the first known objective measurement of compliance with FCC regulations in any portion of USA amateur radio. Further, I measured and reported an order-of-magnitude reduction in objectionable WINLINK emails, as judged by the WINLINK terms of service, which appear to be more stringent than FCC Part 97 regulations.

Method

Using the same techniques as I applied previously, on August 21, 2019, I searched for evidence of objectionable emails initially transmitted in the 21-day period of the record of over-the-air WINLINK messages² and counted them, then divided by ongoing traffic from actual usage data³ to arrive at the incidence. This established a 21-day sample period.

Data Discovered

Date of Objectionable Email	Date of WDT self-policing email	Nature of objection	Reported by
8/17/2019 N7NZC	08/18/19	weather information from FastSeas	kc4ran@gmail.com
7/22/2019 KJ4YHY <i>(before the 21-day observation period)</i>	07/22/19	weather service is a for fee service KJ4YHY subsequently pointed out that the weather subscription was a FREE Service which provided safety information not available in a standard GRIB. N5TW pointed out that the provider also has for-fee services, and asked that the participant use a "free weathergram item" rather than the unpaid subscription to avoid future conflict. NOTE: this got picked up because the	rkolarik@neb.rr.com

1 <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/107301549501394/IncidenceCalculationsExParte0730.pdf>

2 https://winlink.org/content/us_amateur_radio_message_viewer This remarkable screen is actually a distributed, networked, multi-modal multi-band, multi-frequency receiving system for over-the-air transmissions, with a 21-day storage.

3 <https://winlink.org/RMSChannels> ; Click on the "TRAFFIC" tab for current data. Data captured on 8/21/2019

		discussion lasted into the 3 week current period. The objection did not occur during the past 21 days and therefore this objectionable email isn't counted, as it wasn't within the emails of that 21 days.	
30 July KE7IAU	07/31/19	Ordering creamer product from chadwarehousemanager@gmail.com; emails related	winlinkabusereporting@gmail.com

Scan performed on August 21.

WINLINK RADIO DOCUMENTED TRAFFIC (Denominator) Within 21-Day Sample
AUGUST 2019 (to date): 30,238 (assuming the data are through 2 PM today, 8/21) this is approximately; 1,439 emails per day. (For Reference comparisons: JULY 2019: HF+VHF over radio = 45,459 (or an average of 1,466 emails per day))

RESULT:

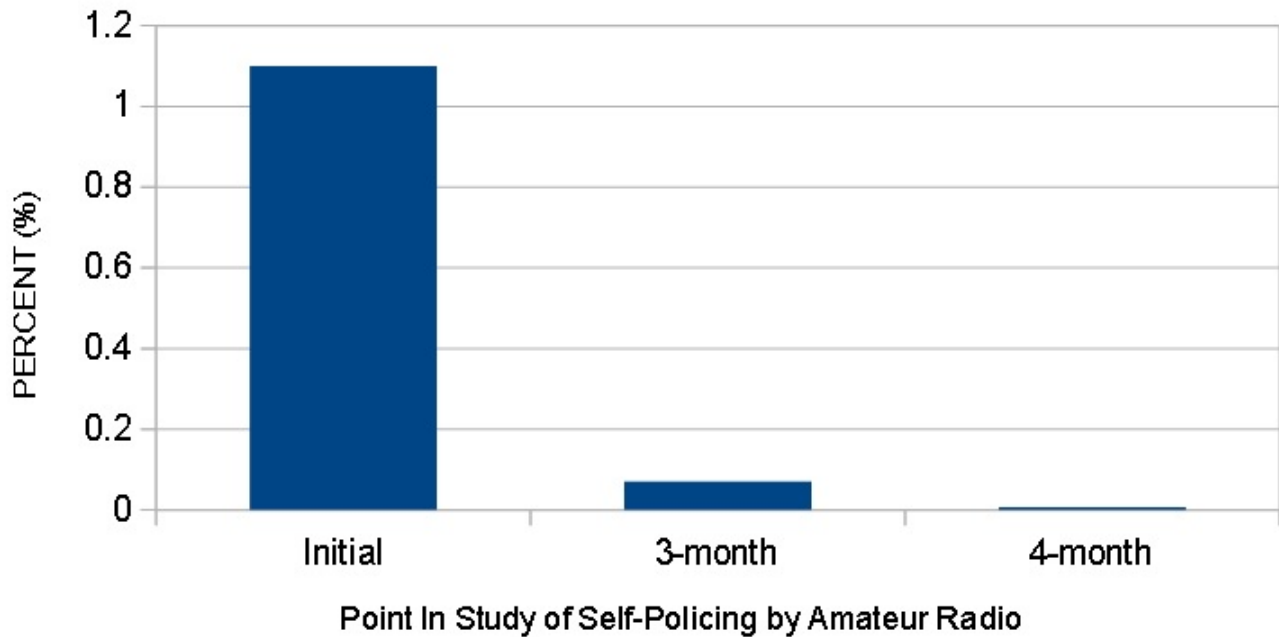
TWO objectionable emails of any sort were detected that were initially transmitted within the 21-day sample period out of 30,238 emails, or approximately 1 email out of 15,119. Thus the incidence of detected objectionable material by this technique is now:

0.000066

or just under 7/1000 of 1 percent. This indicates that the level of objectionable emails has been reduced by an *entire order of magnitude* from my measurement of July 22. (see: <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/107301549501394/IncidenceCalculationsExParte0730.pdf>)

This improvement is shown below as a chart::

Percent (%) of WINLINK Messages Deemed Objectionable (Judged by the WINLINK Terms & Conditions)



CONCLUSION

This is a remarkable achievement. The level of objectionable emails was originally measured (by best available data) at 1.1%. It is now approximately **two orders of magnitude lower**. This astonishing improvement is due to the unlikely collaborative effort of persons on all sides of current issues, and all of those persons deserve credit for their effort. It is likely multi-factorial. Pro-active measures have been taken by WINLINK administrators to prevent some issues with software.⁴ Effective observation by interested volunteers has resulted in polite but pointed communications with amateurs presenting traffic deemed objectionable, and this news has spread widely, making many more aware of the WINLINK Terms and Conditions, as well as FCC Regulations. See the Appendix for one such communication.

It is unlikely that there is any other portion of amateur radio with this level of documented improvement in compliance with FCC Regulations. The author is unaware even of any other portion of amateur radio that has *any objective quantified data* on levels of compliance.

⁴ For example, software to detect and prevent transfers that appear to violate international 3rd party requirements: <https://arrok.blogspot.com/2019/07/winlink-announces-third-party-traffic.html>

APPENDIX
Typical self-policing message from the WINLINK team

This is a friendly reminder from the amateur radio operators of the Winlink system that messages transported by amateur radio frequencies may not be used for transacting personal or commercial business like that in this message. The Winlink terms and conditions and privacy policy can be found here:

https://winlink.org/terms_conditions

This sentence from the Winlink Terms and Conditions of Use published on our website summarizes our position:

"Accordingly, YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO CONDUCT PERSONAL OR COMMERCIAL BUSINESS VIA A WINLINK COMMUNICATION OF ANY KIND. If you do so, it will be considered a violation of these terms and conditions."

Please acknowledge by reply that you understand and agree to comply with these terms and conditions. Our object is to inform and educate. Please comply.

Sincerely,

Tom N5TW
The Winlink Team