Preparation Guide to Emergency Comms and Networking using Amateur Radios (HAM)

CISCO Live

Jimmy Alignay
Solutions Engineer, @jimmyalignay

Cisco Webex App

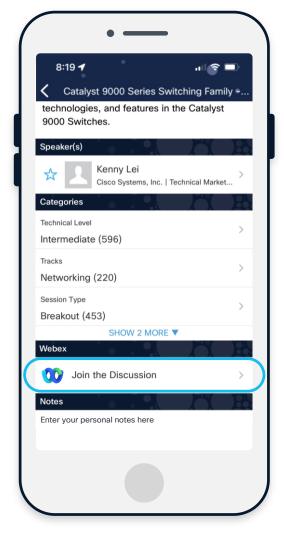
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click "Join the Discussion"
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 13, 2025.



https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ ciscolivebot/#BRKGEN-1012

Agenda

- 01 EMCOMM
- 02 Amateur Radio (HAM)
- 03 Packet Radio Networking
- 04 Use Cases
- 05 FREE IPv4 Address Space+Special Bonus



What is your current level of involvement with Amateur Radio?





Objective: Mission for Today

- 1. Importance of EMCOMM
- 2. Introduction to Amateur Radio
- 3. Discuss Packet Radio and it built the foundation of networking solutions used today.
- 4. Your use case.

EMCOMM "How are you gonna call"

EmComm, short for emergency communications, is a program where Amateur Radio operators can assist through maintaining communications before, during and after emergencies and disasters.

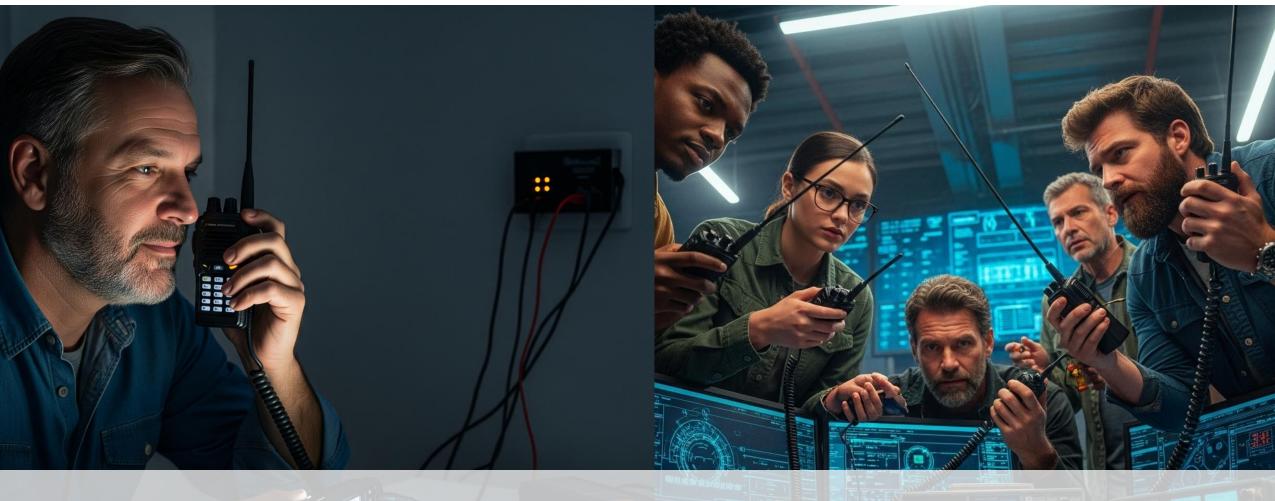
https://gtarc.org/emcom/









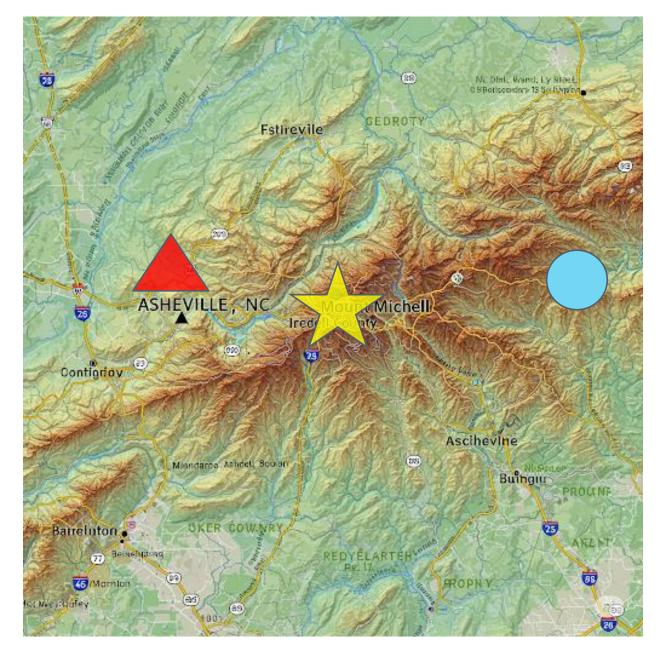


Cyberattacks, Electronic/Space Warfare, Vulnerabilities



Amateur Radio key mode of communication

Hurricane Helene 2024



BRKGEN-1012 13

Amateur Radio key mode of communication

Hurricane Helene 2024



Ø

Lindsey, if you can find a Ham radio operator that can reach the Mt. Mitchell repeater at 145.190 Mhz they can do wellness relays. You will need their addresses. You can ask them for a wellness check on the Charlotte NC K4ITL Memorial 145.350 Repeater FaceBook group.

https://x.com/Woody_Grandpa/status/1840369232665616497

Amateur Radio key mode of communication

Hurricane Helene 2024



IMMEDIATE NEEDS for "We The People Mission" Distribution Point

Please note: Items CAN NOT be delivered by Amazon at this time.

Do not ship items to the airport – this is a DROP OFF ONLY zone.

- VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEERS
- · Buddy heaters
- Propane 20 lb size
- · Propane adapter hose for buddy heaters
- · Generators 3000w
- · Generators (any size)
- Extension cords (especially 12 gauge grounded)
- Dehumidifiers
- Antacids
- Chainsaws (150 chainsaws needed) these items will need bar oil, oil/gas mixture (as per manufacturer), and a tourniquet
- Engine oil (10w30)
- Damp Rid
- Cold weather gear like long johns (think outdoor protection)
- Kerosene
- Gas
- Due to your generous support, we are currently overstocked with diapers, formula, socks, water, and radios.

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Hurricane Helene 2024 Lessons Learned

People

Local community self-reliance and volunteerism are paramount, filling critical gaps when official aid is delayed.

Process

Basic radio proficiency, including manual programming, is essential, and willingness to adapt rules for real-world emergencies is crucial

Technology

Individual radio, antennas, and portable power. Simple 5W HT (handy talky)

Enable wifi calling, Alternative to MFA texting (Cisco Duo)

Florida Statewide Amateur Radio Network

- The Statewide Amateur Radio Network (SARnet) is a network of linked UHF voice repeaters that serves the State of Florida.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has partnered with the amateur radio community to use their radio systems throughout the state as part of a test bed to support the FDOT's research
- In exchange for supporting this research, the amateur radio community can talk across the state using the same amateur radio equipment they use everyday
- Others: New York, Empire State Network;
- Source: sarnetfl.org

EMCOMM Mobile Components (Example)



Radios & Gear

- VHF/UHF Radios
- HF Radios
- Digital Radios
- Portable Antennas
- Smart devices, PC, Mac



Modes & Protocols

- Voice: Analog & Digital
- Data: Foundational
 - Packet Radio (AX.25)
 - APRS
 - Apps Messaging

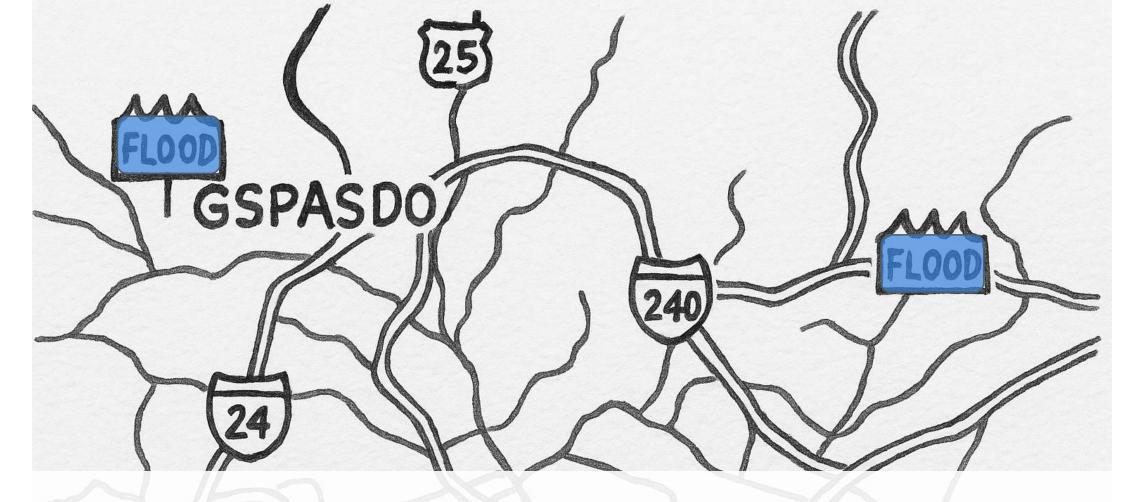


Power

- Power Generation
- Battery Systems
- Fuel & Solar Panels

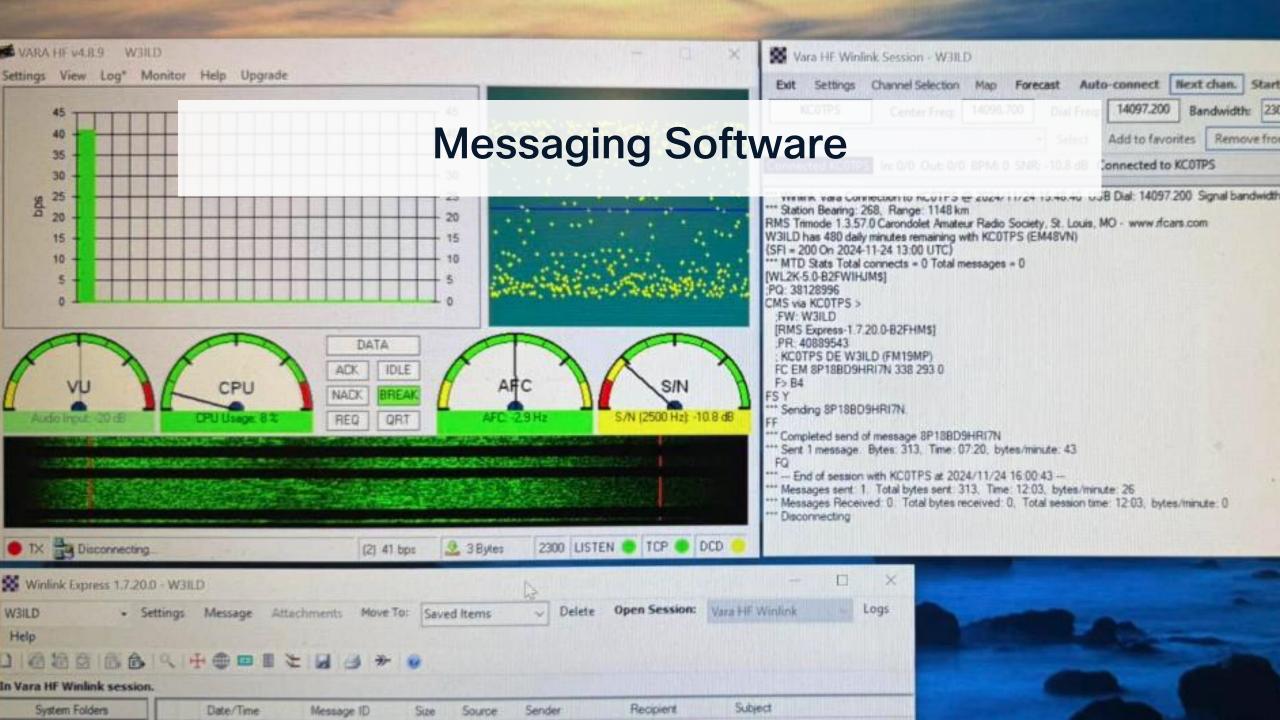
Mobile HT Radios Power

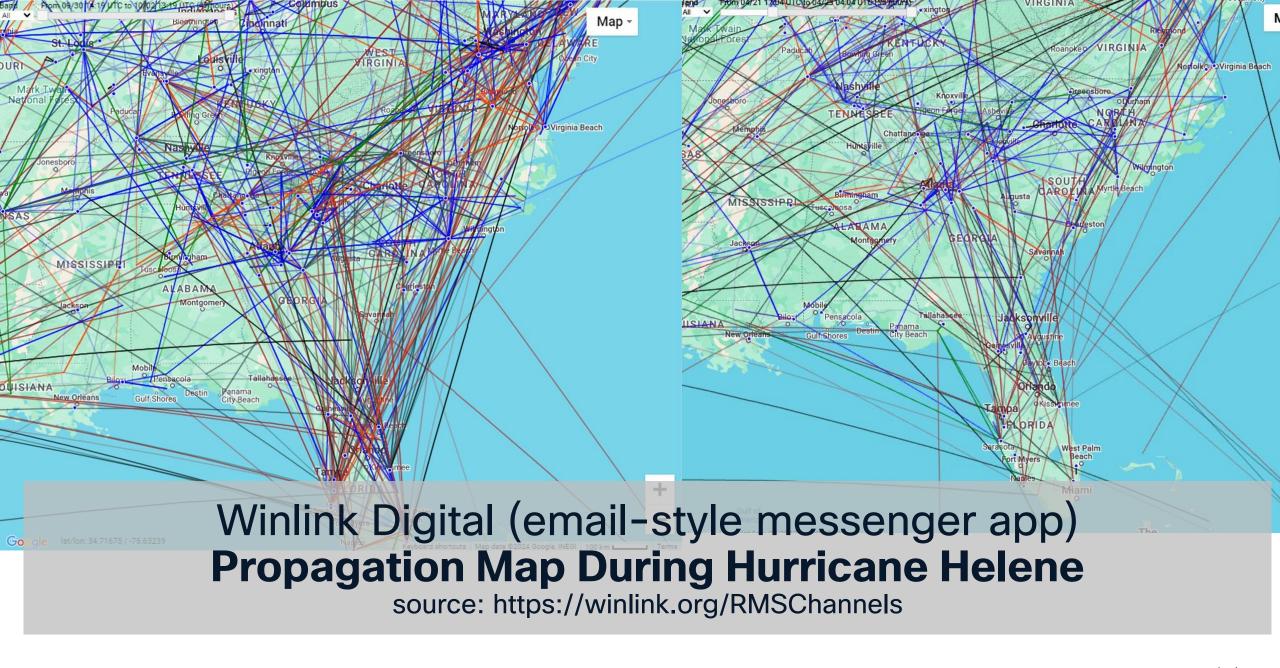




Protocols Packet Radio & APRS showing flood areas







Local Civilian EMCOMM

100% Volunteers:

First responders, EOC, Hospitals, Local & National Agencies

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service - RACES

Government-backed service defined in FCC Part 97, specifically section 97.407.

Activated by local civil defense officials who support government agencies during emergencies subject to specific FCC rules.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service-ARES

Sponsored by American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and licensed HAM operators who register their qualifications and equipment. ARES have a greater flexibility.

National/Federal Agency Programs

SKYWARN

National Weather Service

Volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Emergency Services

Over 19,000 CAP members are trained in the using radios

Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS)

Department of Defense (DoD) programs with U.S. Army, Air Force, Coast Guard

Program that trains, organizes and tasks volunteers

SHAred RESources (SHARES) High Frequency

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

HF use with interop for national security and emergency preparedness missions to communicate when landline and cellular communications are unavailable.

Examples of Non-Governmental, Non-Profit, Commercial Organizations

National Organizations

- American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology (DST) team use a team of ham radio operators
- The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services
- Southern Baptist Disaster Relief
- IEEE MOVE International (move.ieee.org)
- Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDC) (Itdrc.org)

Enterprise Organizations w/ Response Teams

- Cisco Crisis Response (CCR) a dedicated team of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) / Emergency Communications specialists.
- Erricson Response Team

Introduction

Jimmy Alignay Cisco Solutions Engineer

jaaligna@cisco.com

Social Media @jimmyalignay

- 30+ Yrs = Cisco Engineer (17+Yrs Cisco SE)
- 20+ Yrs = Amateur Radio HAM, W3ILD
- Volunteer = Fire Dept, Pickleball Coach & Referee
- Impactful events in my life...
 - Father was a 9/11 Survivor
 - Lead Network Architect for Army National Guard during Hurricane Katrina





What types of disasters have you experienced that disrupted of critical services in your community? (Select all that apply)





Amateur Radio How are you gonna call?

Amateur Radio (Ham) is a personal radio service authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Governed by Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations

Fun Facts about Amateur Radio

- 1901 Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian experimenter, transmitted the Morse Code letter "s" from Newfoundland to England
- 1909 **"HAM"** Origin theories...
 - Hamming it up
 - "Am" Amateur
 - Acronym for the initials of 3 College students from the Harvard Radio Club, Hyman-Almy-Murray
- 1912 Congress passed the first laws regulating radio transmissions in the U.S
- Call Sign Unique identifier assigned by the FCC to amateur radio licensees. Consists of a combination of letters and numbers. For example, mine is W3ILD

Source: https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service/operator-class

FCC Rules & Guidelines

US Rules & Regulations

The Amateur Radio Service is governed by Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

Operators

No age limit. Anyone interested in becoming an operator just needs to pass a competence exam & file with the FCC.

Foreign amateurs can operate in the US under reciprocal agreements.

https://www.fcc.gov/general/internat ional-agreements

BRKGFN-1012

Guidelines

Amateur Radio operators cannot accept payment of any type for operating their radio, whether money or other goods or services.

https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service

Purpose & General uses (FCC Part 97.1)



Radio & Tech

Advancement of the radio art and technology.



Communications & Technical Skills

Advancement of radio skills in both the art of communication and technical art.



Train All Levels

Provide a trained reservoir of operators, technicians and electronics experts.



Promote Goodwill

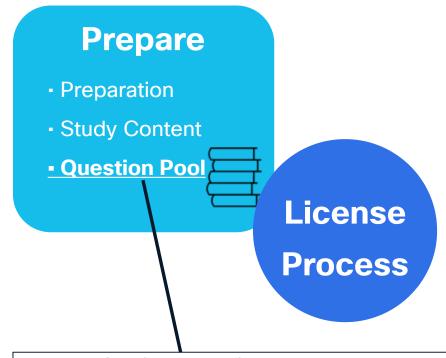
Promote and enhance international goodwill.

Source: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-97

FCC Three Operators Classes:

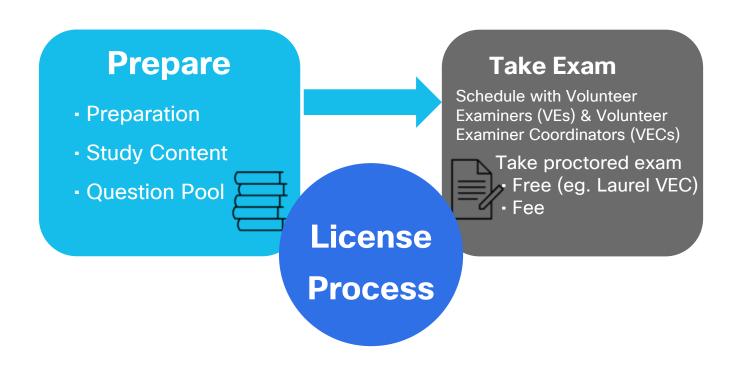
- Technician: Base-entry, may transmit on channels in any of 17 frequency bands above 50 MHz with up to 1,500 watts of power
- General: Authorizes privileges in all 29 amateur service bands
- Extra: Includes additional spectrum in the HF bands

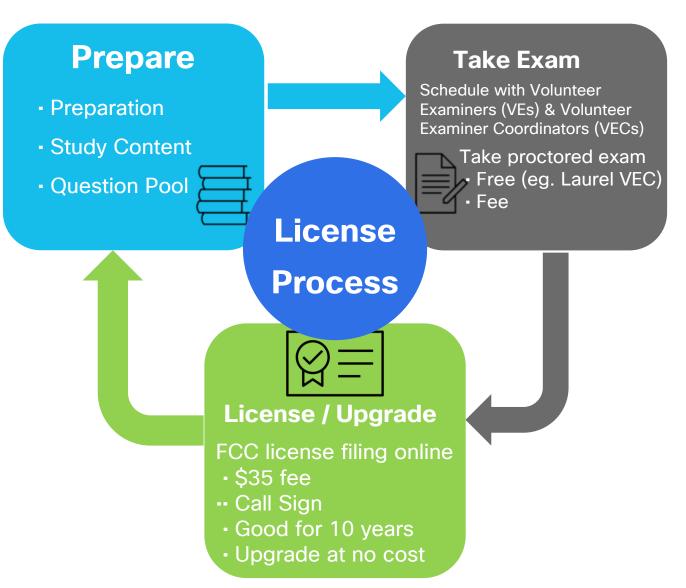
Source: https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/amateur-radio-service/operator-class



National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) manages Question Pools developed and maintained by the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the NCVEC by FCC instruction and Part 97 Rules & Regulation: Sec. 97.523 Question pools All VECs must cooperate in maintaining one question pool for each written examination element.

https://ncvec.org/index.php/amateur-question-pools





Amateur Radio Things you can do!



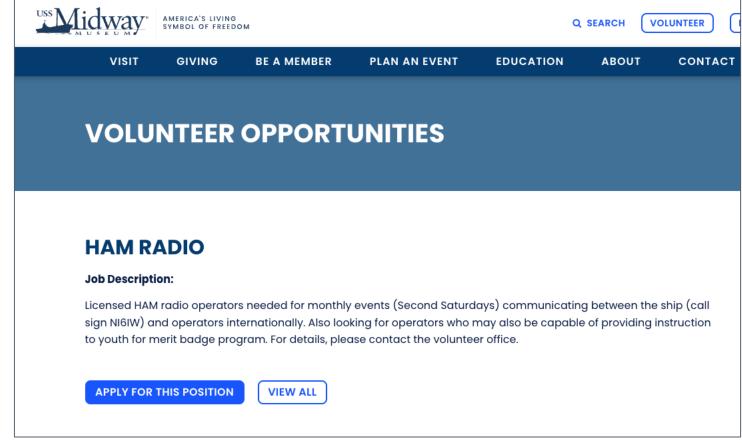
Maximum of 1500 watts peak envelope power (exceptions)



Frequency Privileges
VHF/UHF/Microwave 2.4/5.8 GHz



EMCOMM, Contests, Dx'ing, Go Portable: Parks, Summits, Islands, Ships On-the-air



https://www.midway.org/volunteer-post/ham-radio

Balance power & Capabailities



Packet Radio Networking How are you gonna call?



Which of the following networking technologies have you personally configured or used?



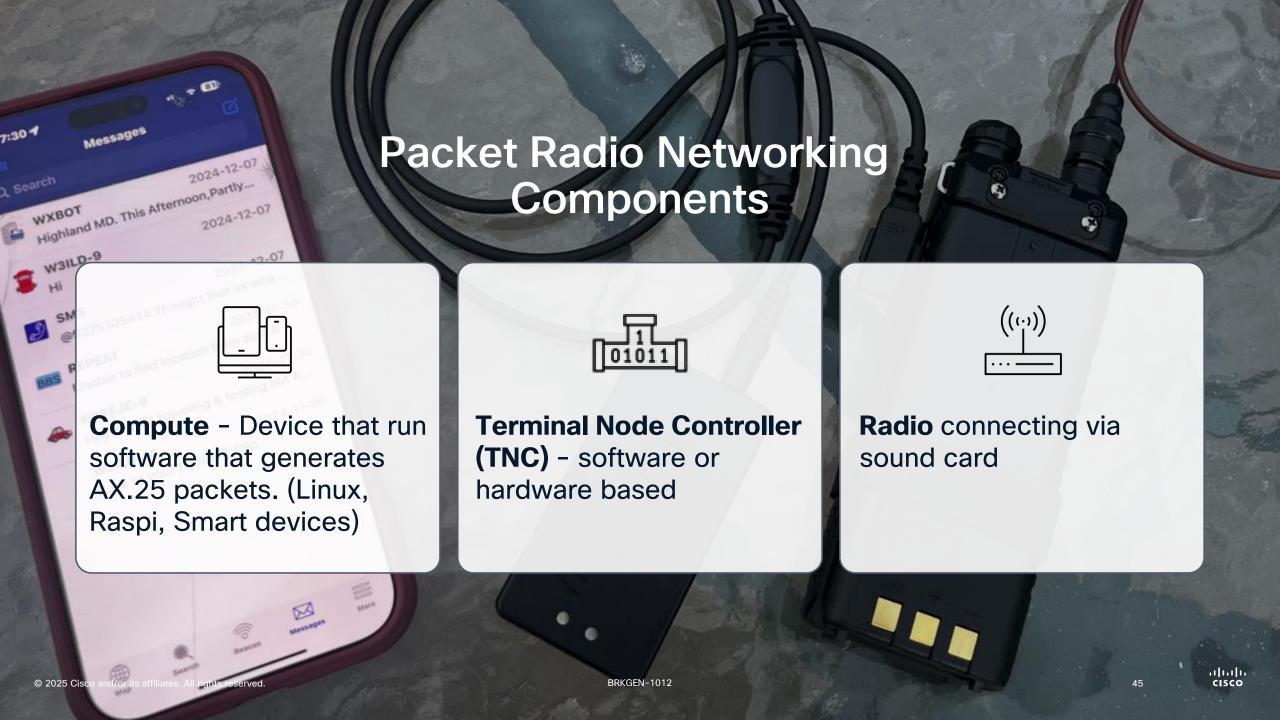




Packet radio is a system of digital communication where data is transmitted over radio waves in discrete blocks called "packets".

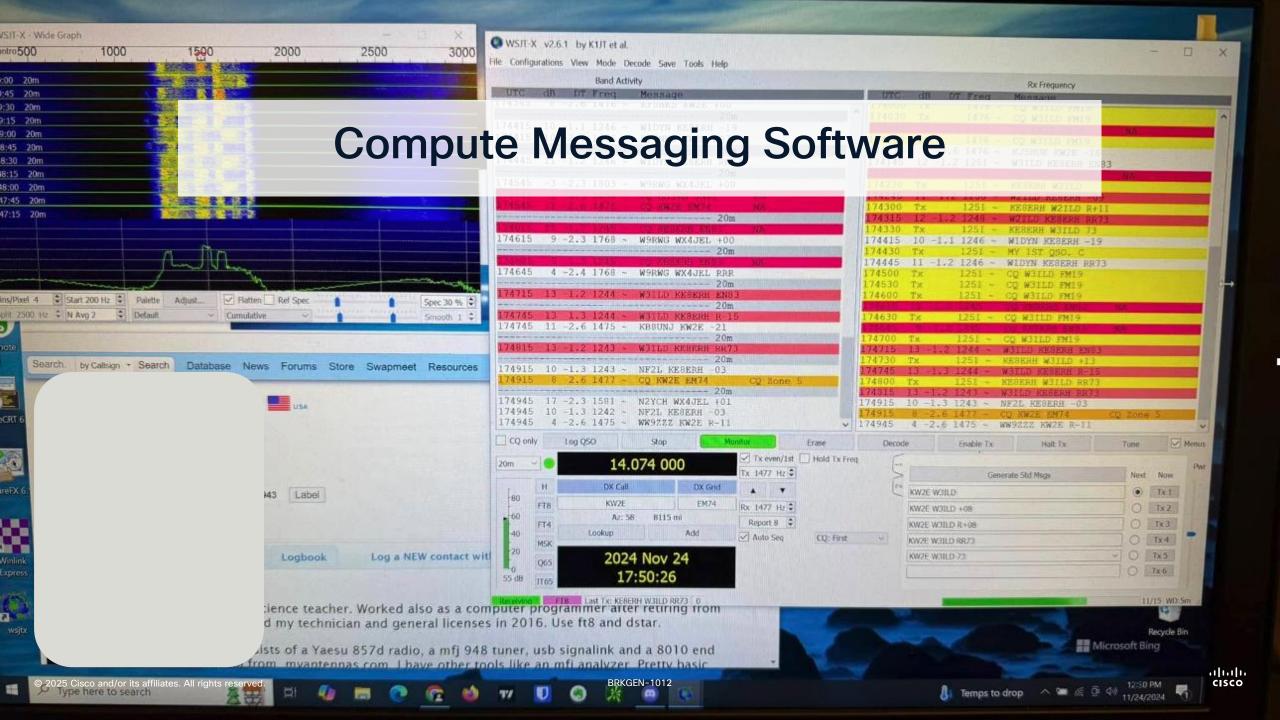
- It's a form of packet switching, where data is broken down into packets, sent independently, and reassembled at the destination.
- In amateur radio, packet radio allows for data transmission, including digital communication and the creation of networks, even in the absence of internet infrastructure.













Radio & Gear

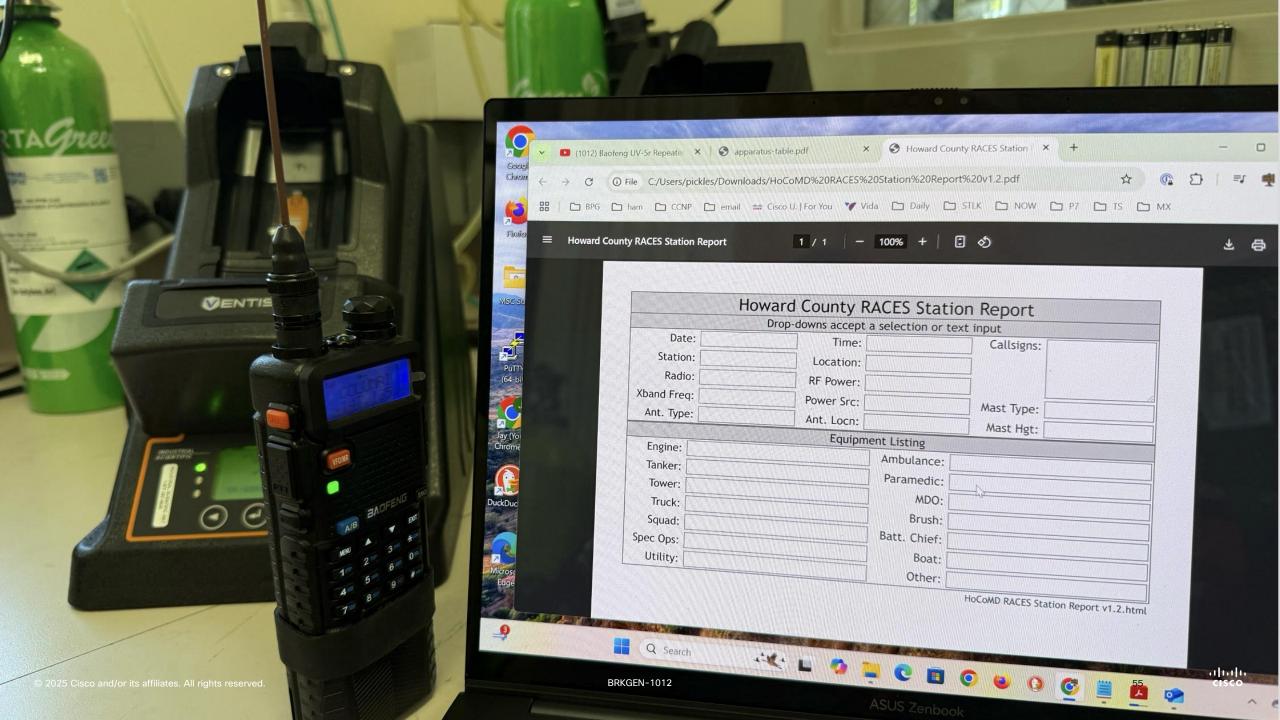
Sound card





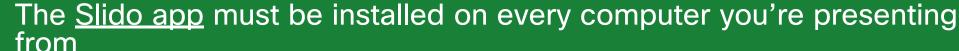






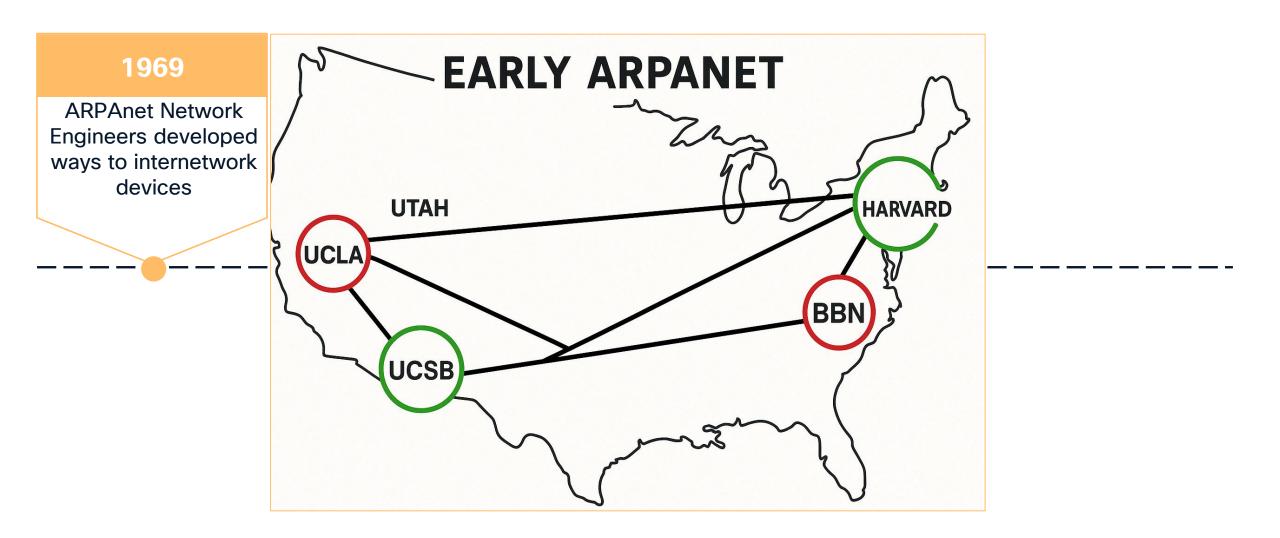


Importance of local volunteerism, how are you involved in your community? (Select all that apply)









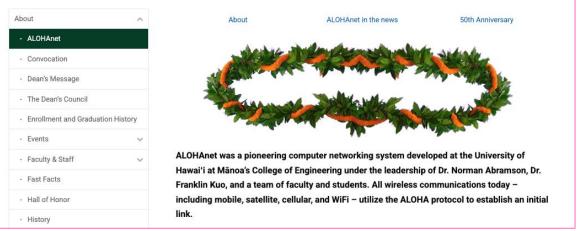
1969

ARPAnet Network
Engineers developed
ways to internetwork
devices



ALOHAnet = 1st wireless packet radio network Dr Abramson @ University of Hawaii

1970



https://www.eng.hawaii.edu/about/history/alohanet/

ARPAnet Network Engineers developed ways to internetwork devices Robert Metcalfe spent time on his dissertation in Hawaii that led to his creation of Ethernet Step 3 BPA 1, Kep 3 BPA 2, Kep 3 BPA 4, Kep 4 B

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https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/enterprise-networks/what-is-ethernet.html

https://ethw.org/Oral-History:Robert_Metcalfe

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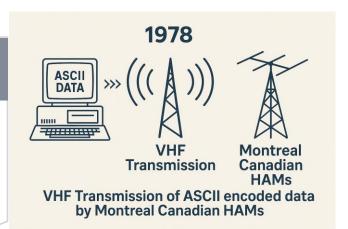
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DAPPA, PRNET, ARPANET

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Network 44 = Block 44 44.0.0.0/8 reserved for Amateur Radio Packet Radio Network (AMPRNet)

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How prepared do you feel for emergency communications?









Physical Layer (Layer 1) Radio

Radio is similar to network cabling in our OSI Model

RF Engineering + Complexity



cisco

#CiscoCert Shortcuts

Build your self-study plan with help directly from Cisco.

Join CCNA Prep and gain access to exclusive preparation resources.

LAYER	APPLICATION/ EXAMPLE	CENTRAL DEVIC PROTOCOLS	E	DOD4 MODEL
APPLICATION (7) Serves as the window for users and application processes to access the network services.	End User Layer: Program that opens what was sent or creates what is to be sent	User Applications SMTP		
PRESENTATION (6) Formats the data to be presented to the Application layer. It can be viewed as the "Translator" for the network.	Syntax Layer: Encrypt & decrypt (if needed)	JPEG/ASCII/EBDIC/ TIFF/GIF/PICT		Process
SESSION (5) Allow session establishment between processes running on different stations.	Synch & send to ports (logical ports)	Logical Ports RPC/SQL/NFS/ NetBIOS names	G A	
TRANSPORT (4) Ensures that messages are delivered error-free, in sequence, and with no losses or duplications.	TCP: Host to Host, Flow Control	TCP/SPX/UDP	T E W	Host to Host
NETWORK (3) Controls the operations of the subnet, deciding which physical path the data takes.	TCP: Host to Host, Flow Control Packets: "letter", contains IP address	Routers IP/IPX/ICMP	A Y	Internet
DATA LINK (2) Provides error-free transfer of data frames from one node to another over the Physical laver.	Frames: "envelopes", contains layer 2 address (ex MAC address)	Switch Bridge WAP PPP/SLIP		
PHYSICAL (1) Concerned with the transmission and reception of the unstructured raw bit stream over the physical medium.	Physical structure: Cables, hubs, etc.	duH Rase		

Data Link Layer (Layer 2) AX.25 v2.2

AX.25 Amateur Packet-Radio link-layer protocol

Open-source Protocol created for Amateur Packet Radio.

Amateur X.25 – it's a modified version of X.25 protocol by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT)

X.25 is an International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) standard for packet-switched data communication in wide area networks (WANs). Predecessor to protocols like Frame Relay and ATM.

OSI Model

illiilli CISCO

#CiscoCert Shortcuts

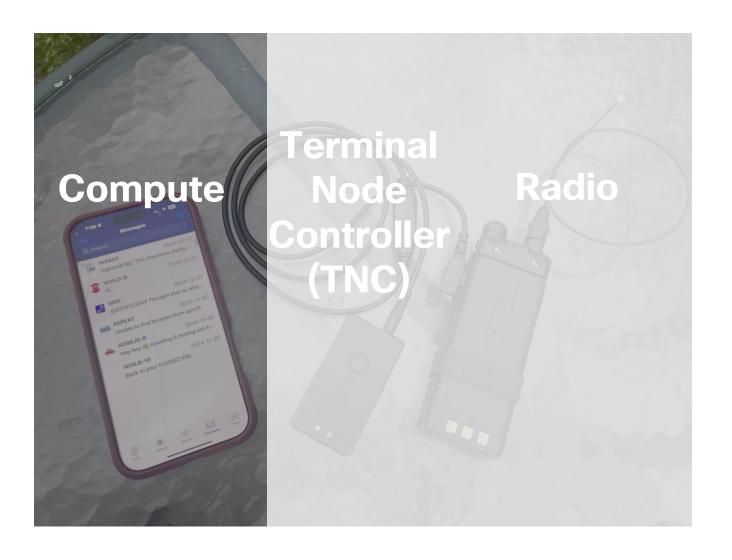
Build your self-study plan with help directly from Cisco.

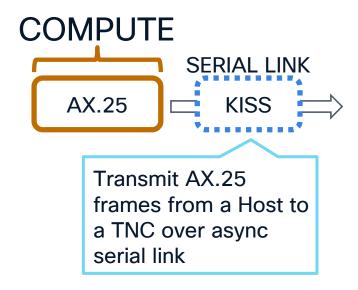
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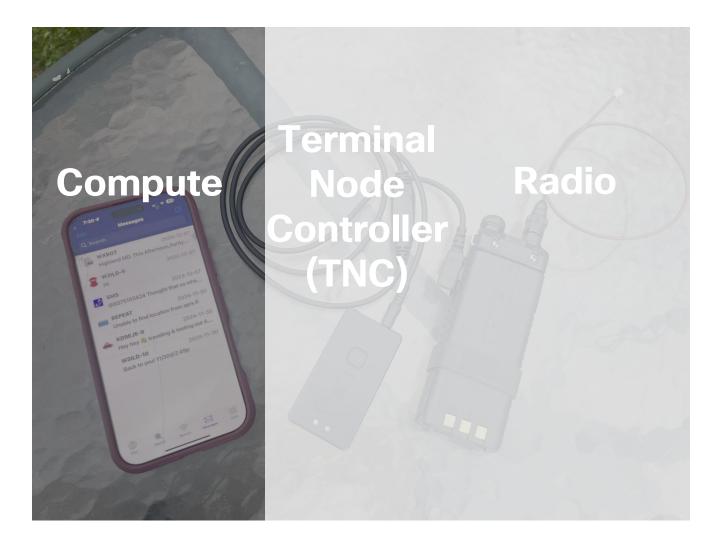
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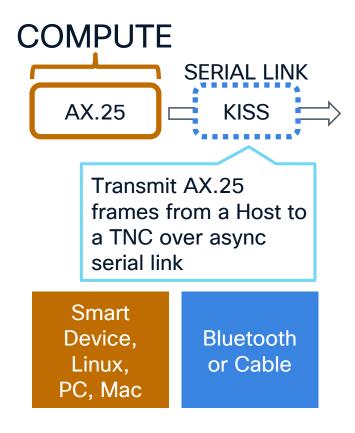


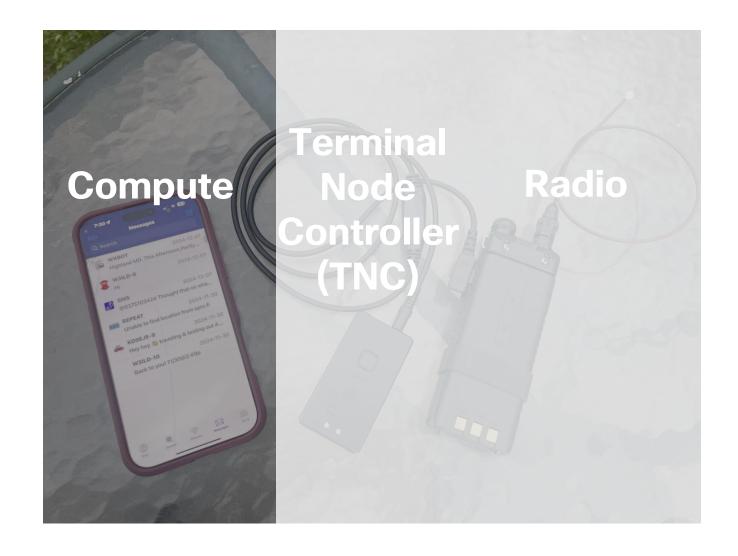


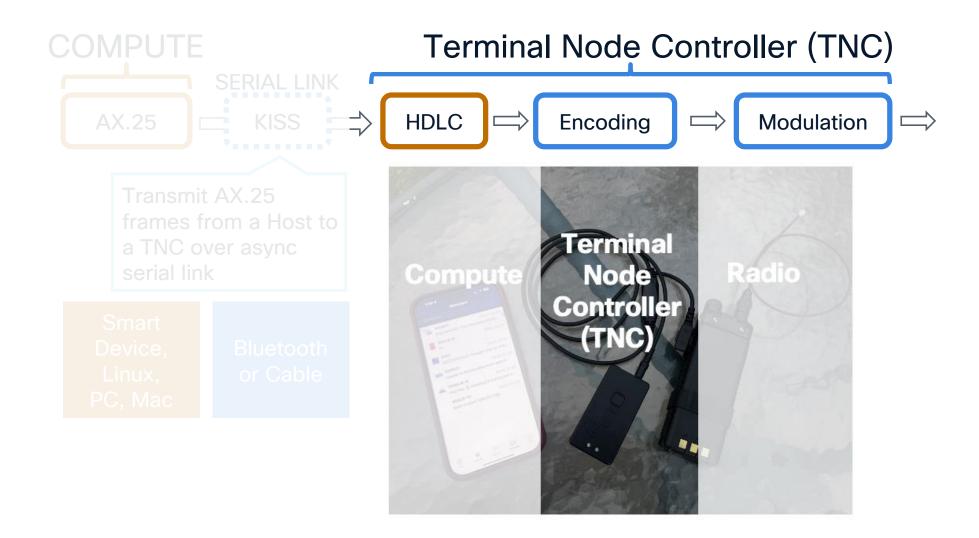


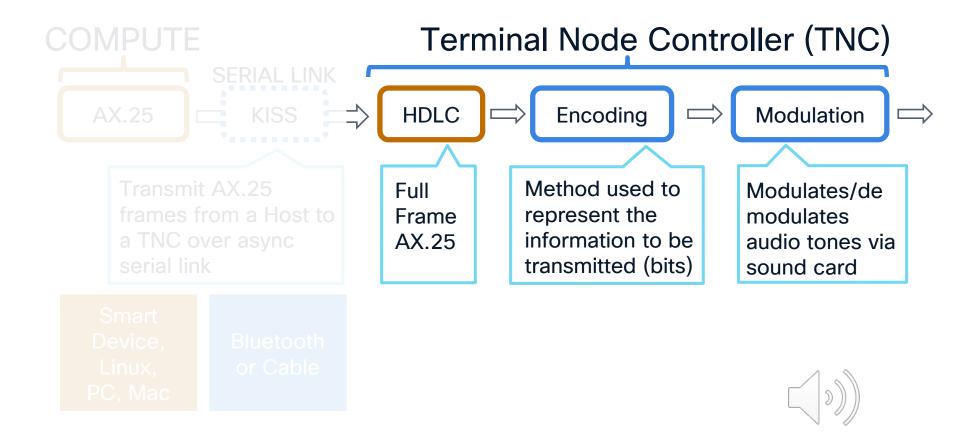


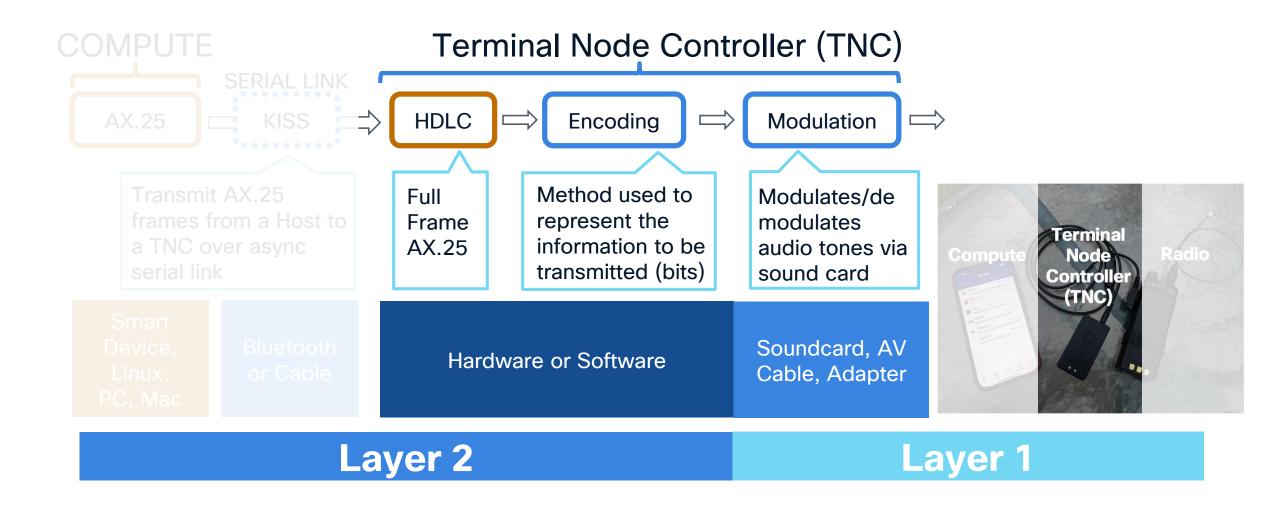


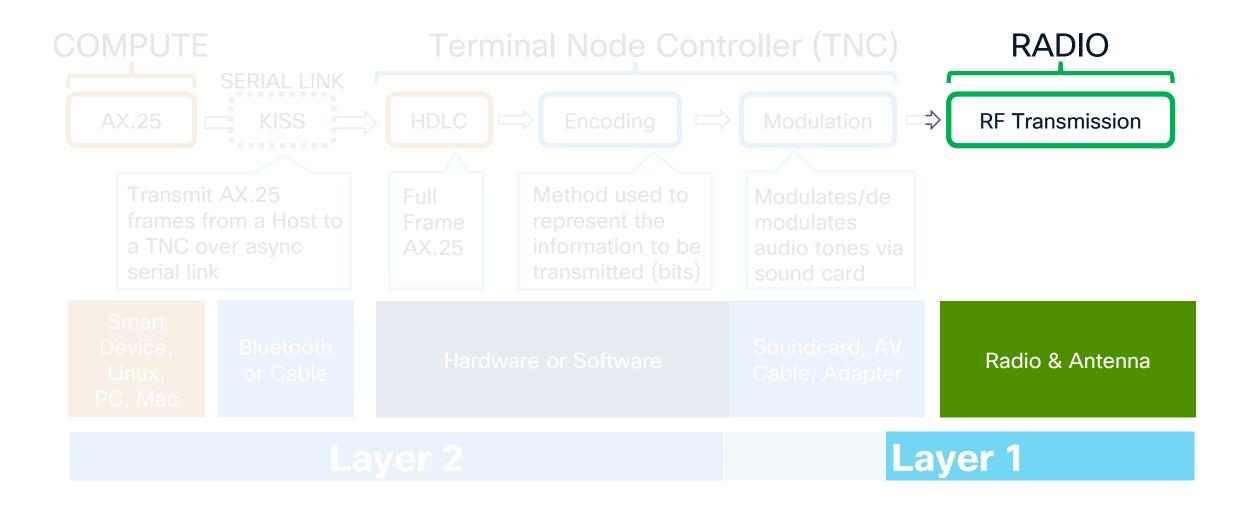


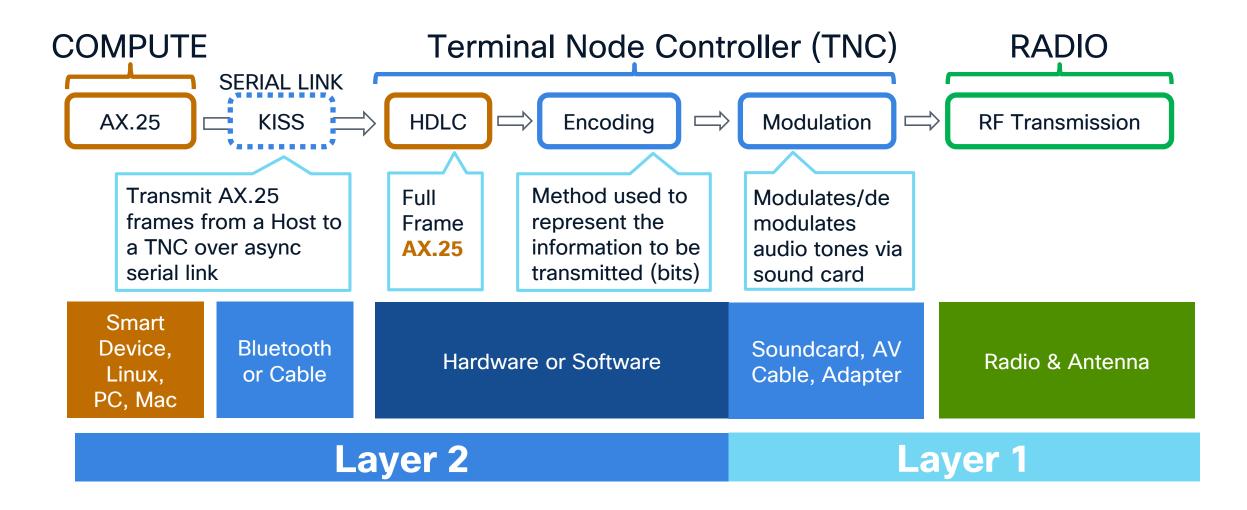




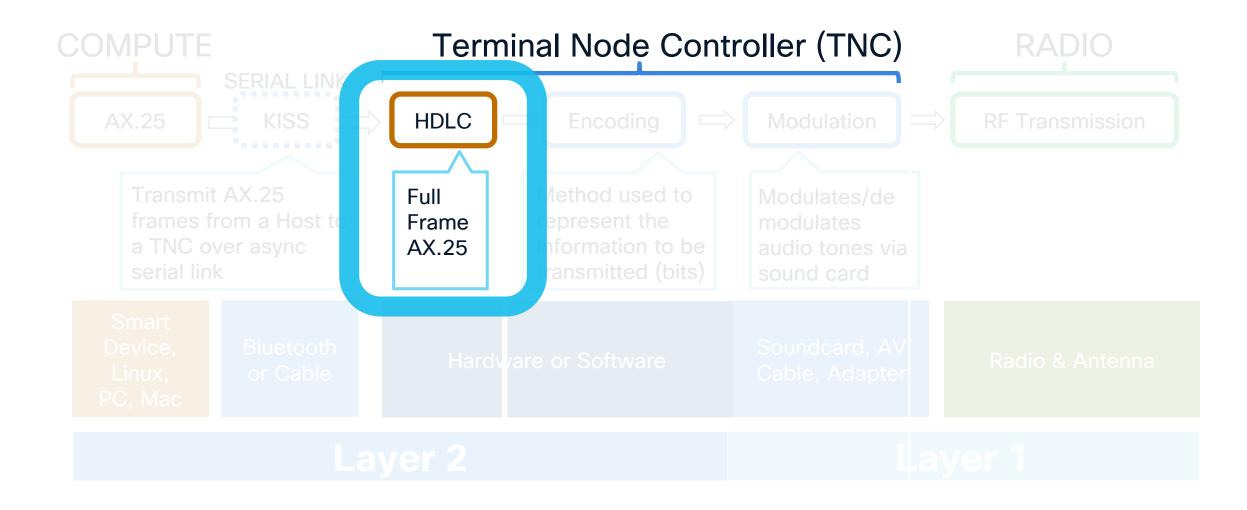


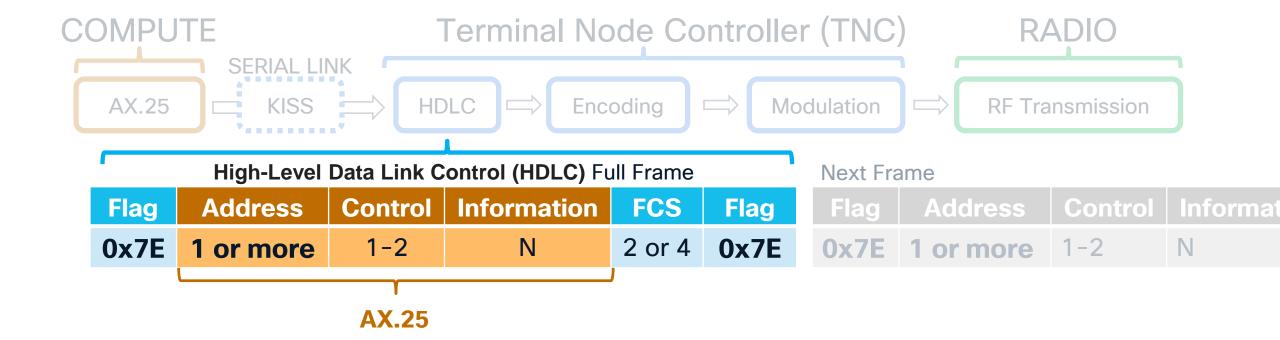


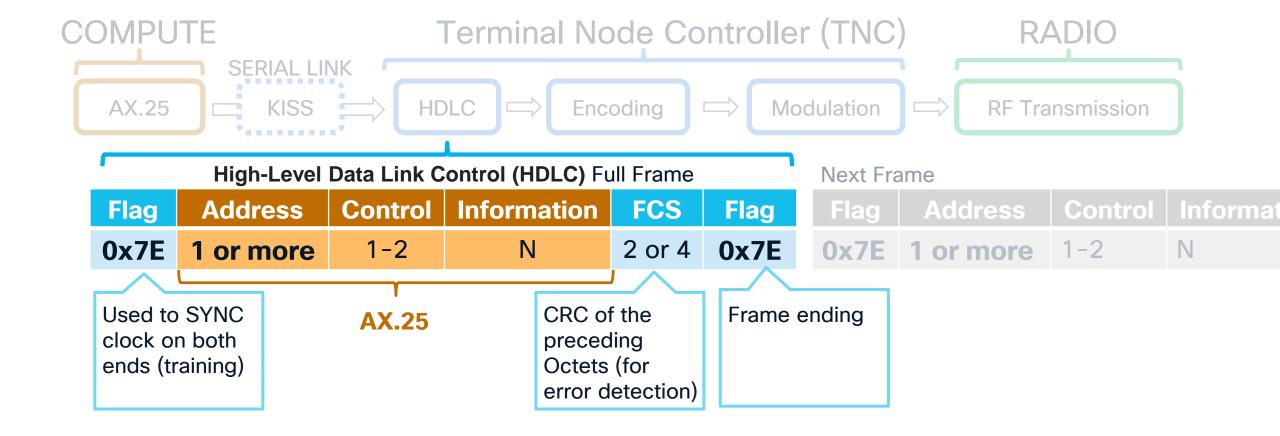




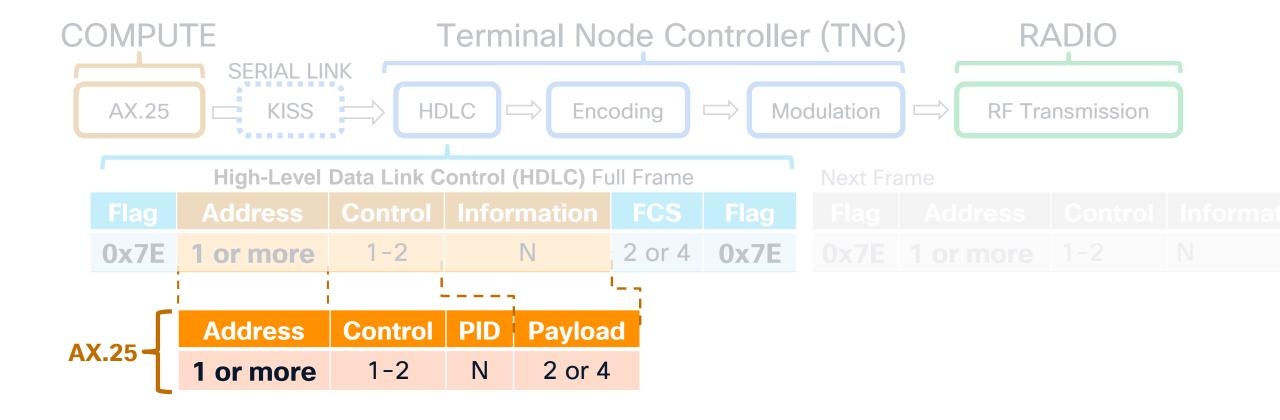
Source TAPR.org: AX.25 Link Access Protocol 2.2 Revision: 10 September 2017, 4th Edition

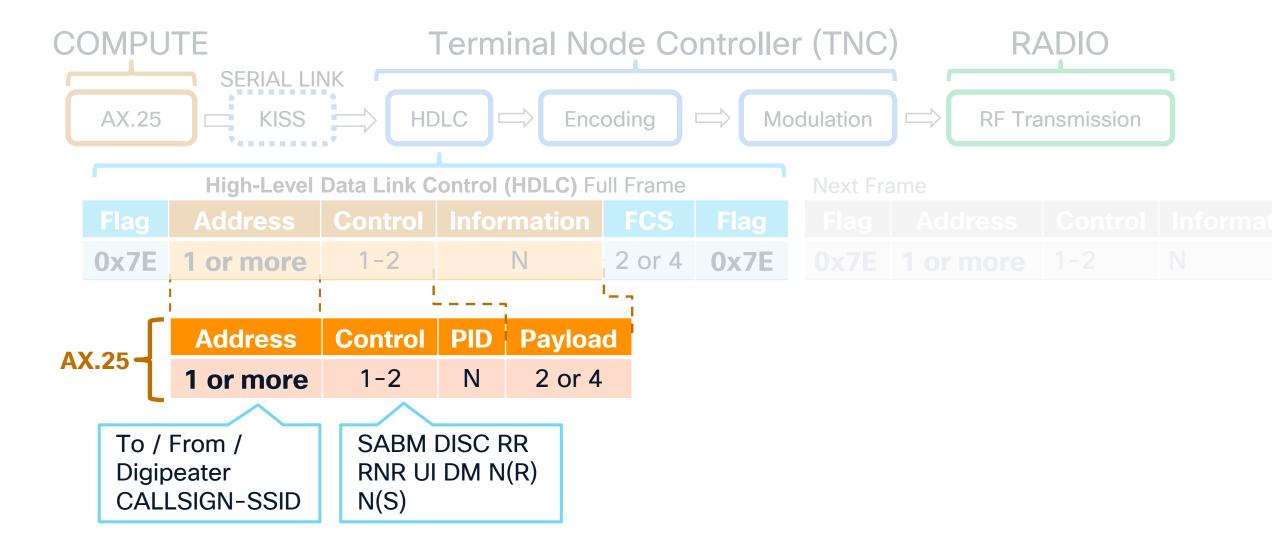


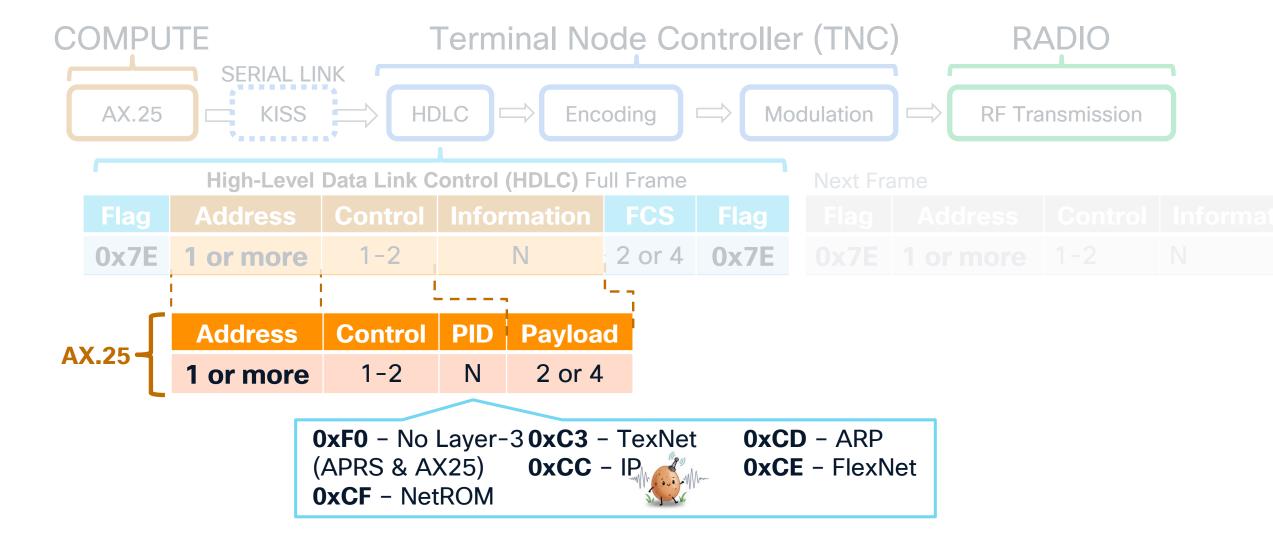


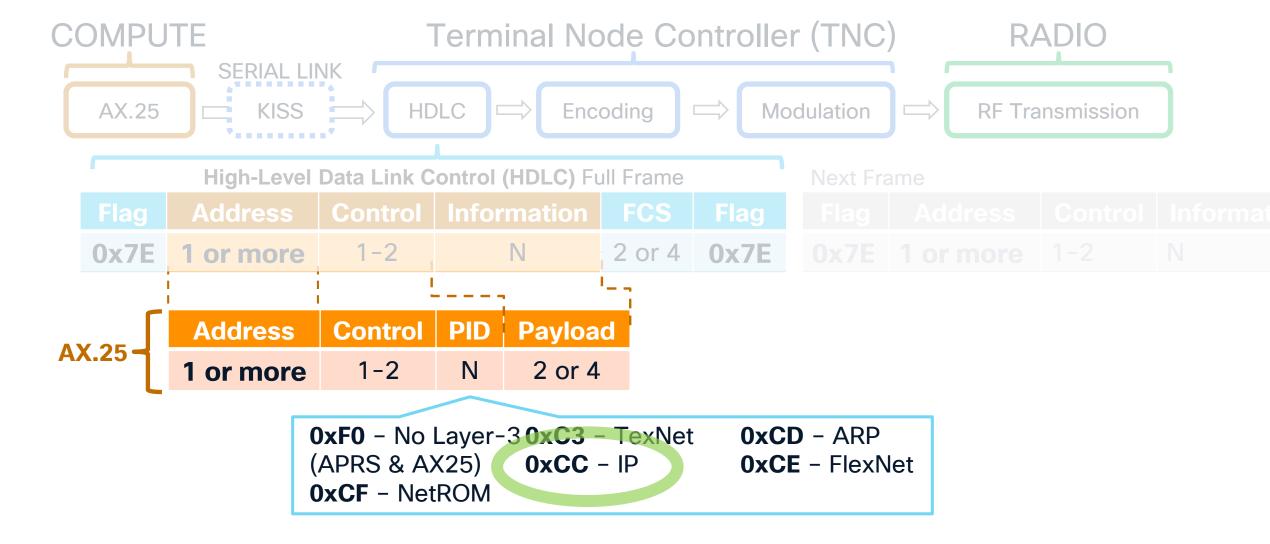


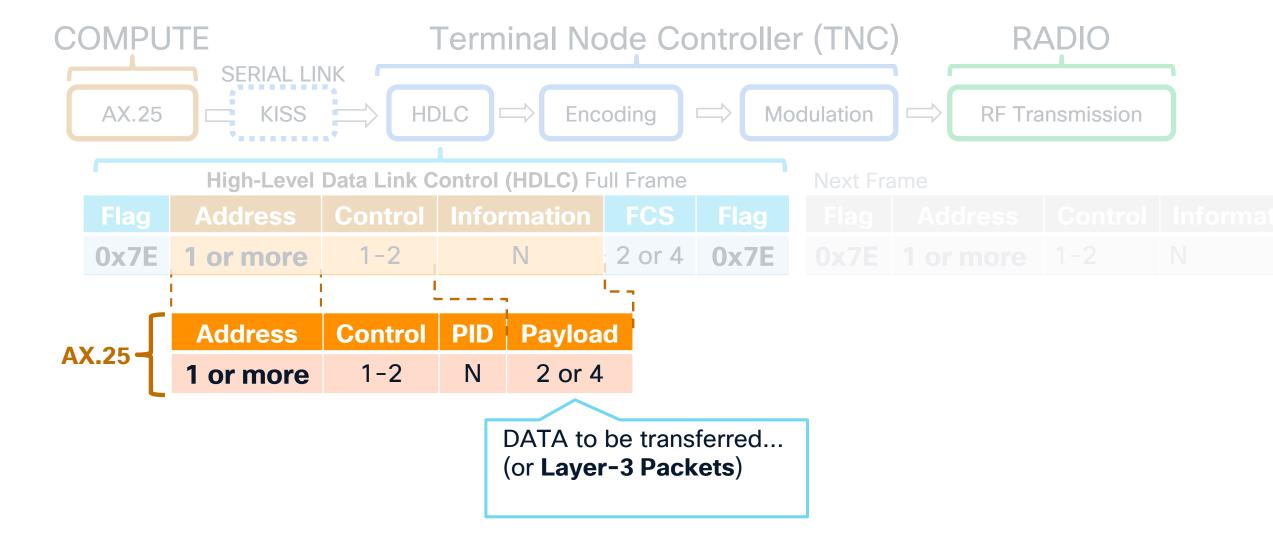
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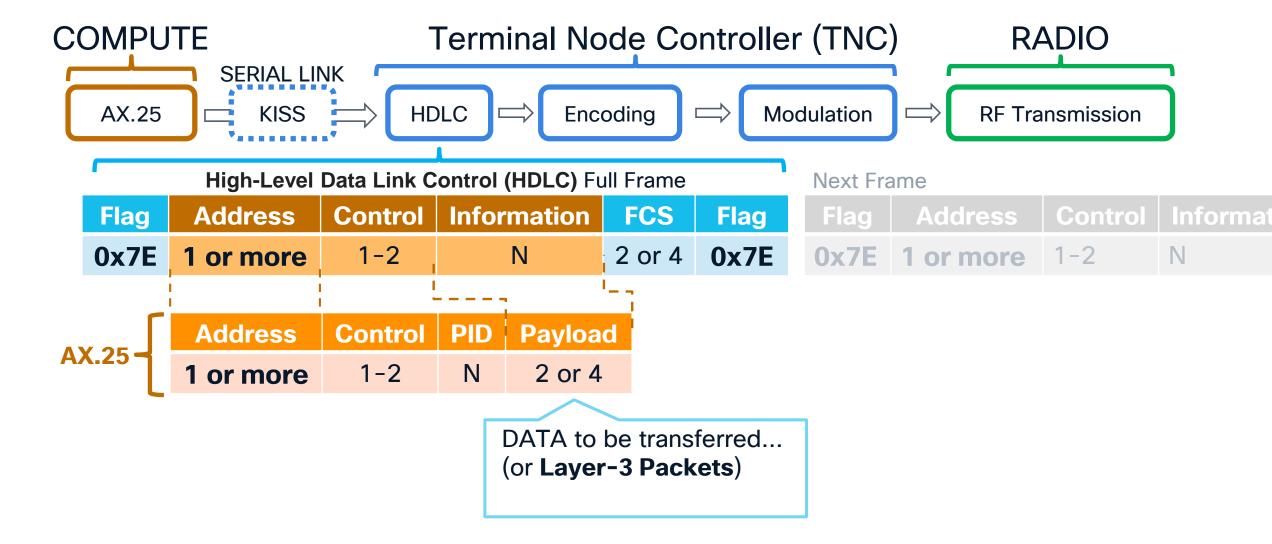














Use Cases How are you gonna call?

Use Cases

Amateur Radio

Purpose & General uses (FCC Part 97.1)



Radio & Tech

Advancement of the radio art and technology.



Communications & Technical Skills

Advancement of radio skills in both the art of communication and technical art.



Train All Levels

Provide a trained reservoir of operators, technicians and electronics experts.



Promote Goodwill

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Source: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-l/subchapter-D/part-97

Advancement & Applications of Packet Radio: Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)

- Popular use of Packet Radio & AX.25
- Radio built-in Support Standard for sending GPS position data over interval based on time and speed
- Send short messages
- Large Install base and extend APRS
 - Digipeaters Repeats packets between repeater to expand range
 - APRS iGate (Internet Gateway) routes RF packets to the Internet.

Advancement & Applications of Packet Radio: Winlink (Winlink 2000) email over HF/VHF radio

- Transmission Protocols Used with Winlink:
 - Packet Radio fully open-source, low-speed up to 9600bps
 - VARA A high-efficiency modem used over HF and VHF, speed up to 24kbps.
 - PACTOR (I-IV) Popular for long-distance email communications over HF.
 - ARDOP An open-source protocol for HF digital communications.

Advance Technology Open Source Projects:

Hardware Radio

New Packet Radio

- NPR (New Packet Radio) is a custom radio protocol, designed to transport bidirectional IP traffic over 430MHz radio links (ham radio frequencies 420-450MHz).
- https://hackaday.io/project/164092-nprnew-packet-radio

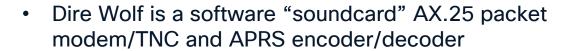


Advancing Technology Open Source Projects Hardware TNC Mobilinkd TNC4

- Mobilinkd TNC The Nucleo TNC is a breadboard implementation
- https://github.com/mobilinkd



Advancing Technology Open Source Projects Software TNC Direwolf

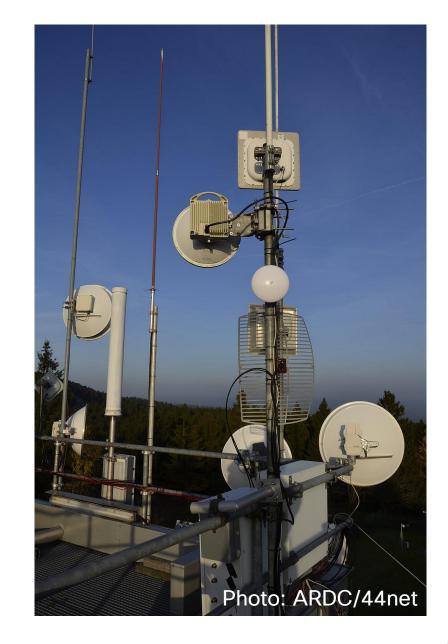


- Run on linux or raspberry pi
- https://github.com/wb2osz/direwolf



Advancing Technology Wireless 2.4GHz & 5.8GHz Highspeed Amateur Radio

- BPG Peers https://hamnet.eu/site/index.html
- OSFP mesh Seattle/USA HAMWAN https://hamwan.org/
- EIGRP (Babel) mesh AREDN Mesh https://www.arednmesh.org/

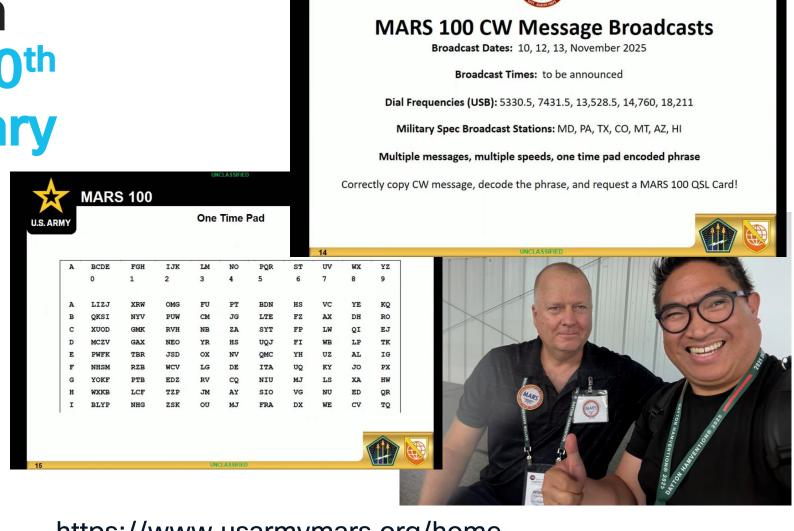


Training & STEM Education HAM in Space

- ARISS Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (https://www.ariss.org/)
- Worldwide APRS Digipeater
- 2025 first amateur radio contacts from aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule (https://fram2ham.com)
- AMSAT Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation https://www.amsat.org/



Training & STEM Education MARS 100th **Anniversary**



MARS 100

https://www.usarmymars.org/home

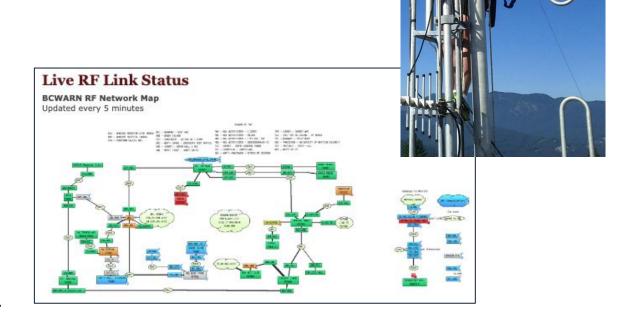
Training & STEM Education Al and Amateur Radio

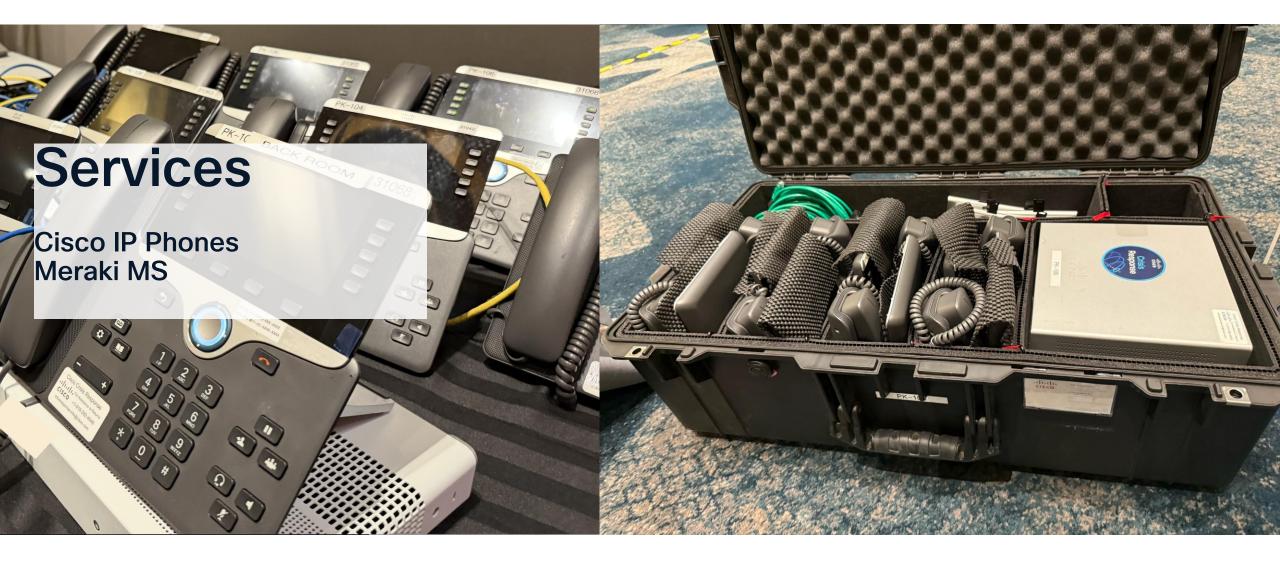
- Al Operation w/ Tim N3QE
- Generative AI for Text-to-Speech & Speech-to-Text
- Voice Synthesis by Google, Amazon, Microsoft
- International Language translation services
- Other usage: Signal Processing to filter out noise, etc



Training & Operate: British Columbia Wireless Amateur Radio Network BCWARN

- BCWARN is an association of amateur radio groups sharing the common goal of building a high-speed data network
- 20 Years of operations wireless point to point to EOCs
- Ian Procyk, VE7HHS Cisco Wireless Solutions Engineer
- https://www.bcwarn.net/





Training & Operating: Satellite Internet + Cisco Meraki + Amateur Radio













- Quick setup for Internet access
- Nontechnical personnel
- Connectivity & advanced network security that the modern world requires













Promote Goodwill:

Cisco Crisis Response Team

Network Emergency Response Vehicle (NERV)

Visit in the World of Solutions

Supported by Cisco Crisis Response (CCR), a dedicated team of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) / Emergency Communications specialists.



https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/csr/impact/cisco-crisis-response.html

Promote Goodwill: Cisco Crisis Response:

Response Kits

Continuity of Operations (Continuity of Government), Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response teams.

- Cisco Rapid Response Kit
- Emergency Communication Kit
- Mesh Response Kit
- Phone Kit









https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/csr/impact/cisco-crisis-response/incident-response.html

Cisco Ultra-Reliable Wireless Backhaul (CRUWB)

Cisco ultra-reliable wireless backhaul (URWB) quickly—it's built on 802.11 standards and deploys just like Wi-Fi.

Cisco Catalyst IW9167 Heavy Duty Series Access Points

Cisco Catalyst IW9165D

Cisco Catalyst IW9165E Rugged Access Point



FREE IPv4 Address Space +Special Bonus How are you gonna call?



What use cases are you interested in building with Amateur Radio and Cisco networking? (eg drones, sensors, meshtastic, Al, etc)





Build Your Use Case = DIY



Amateur Radio

EMCOMM, Digital/Packet Radio, Contesting & fun



Cisco Networking

Core Networking Foundations

010110 110010 001011

44net - IPv4 Address

IP Address Grant Space for Amateur Radio

What is 44Net

Your Use Case

44Net = AMPRNet Internet network 44 (44.0.0.0/9, 44.128.0.0/10)

44Net is managed by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) a private foundation that exists to support amateur radio and digital communication science and technology.

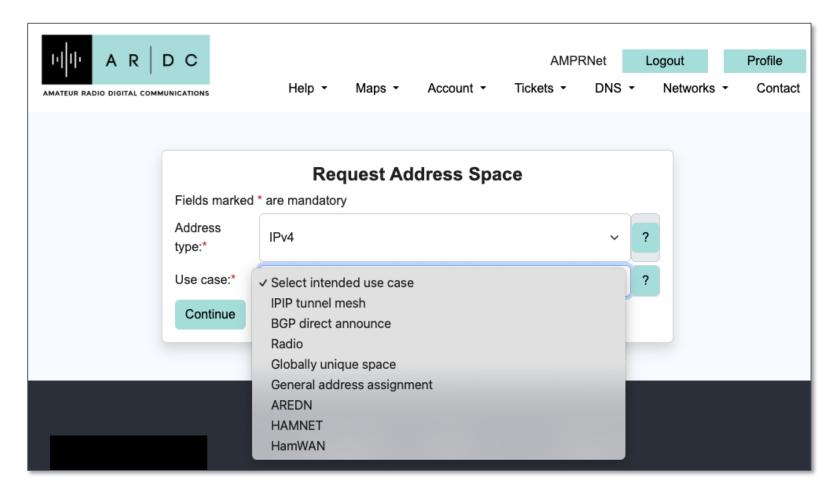
Their goals are to advance state of the art Amateur Radio networking and to educate amateur radio operators in these techniques.





How to request free IPv4 Addresses from 44Net

- Details @ https://www.ardc.net/44net/
- Portal @ https://portal.ampr.org/
 - 44.63.0.0/16 IPIP Tunnel Mesh, AKA AMPRNet
 - 44.61.0.0/16 Standalone
 - 44.31.0.0/16 BGP announced assignment



BGP = High-speed Amateur-radio Multimedia NETwork (HAMNET)

Packet radio, fast transmission of AX25 data

EchoLink

WinLink2000

Instant Messaging

VolP

DATV/IP ATV

APRS

Amateur radio websites (exclusive HAMNET)

European-based High-speed Amateurradio Multimedia NETwork (HAMNET) offered a multi-megabit using BGP and 44net https://www.de.ampr.org/



https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/ausland/english-version/

Other Cisco Live 2025 Sessions

Cisco Ultra-Reliable Wireless Backhaul (CRUWB)

- Wednesday, June 11 11:45 AM 12:15 PM PDT
 - CSSEWN-1020 Building Digital Equity with Cisco Ultra-Reliable Wireless Backhaul CURWB IoT and Local Governments
- Thursday, Jun 12 @ 10:30 AM 12:00 PM PDT
 - BRKEWN-2049 Connectivity beyond the basics: Design and Deployment tips for MESH, WGB and URWB

Cisco Crisis Response Team

- ALL WEEK @ World of Solutions Cisco Crisis Response: Network Emergency Response Vehicle (NERV)
- Monday, Jun 951:30 PM 2:00 PM PDT & Thursday, Jun 12510:30 AM 11:00 AM PDT
 - PP-1308 Small Team, Big Impact: How to Navigate Disasters with Cisco Crisis Response
- Tuesday, Jun 10[1]3:00 PM 4:00 PM PDT
 - IF-1035 Backdoors and Breaches: Live! incident response tabletop session

Other Cisco Live 2025 Sessions

Satellite Internet / Starlink

- Monday, Jun 9 @ 8:00 AM 9:00 AM PDT
 - BRKMSI-1000 Connecting the unconnected with Starlink & Cisco validated solution
- Tuesday, Jun 10 @ 2:00 PM 3:30 PM PDT
 - BRKNWT-2505 Practical LEOsat Deployments Technologies Use Cases and Outcomes
- Tuesday, Jun 10[5]2:00 PM 3:30 PM PDT
 - BRKSEC-2173 Starlink Security Advanced

Action Items



Discover & Reach out

Next week: Workplace, Communities, Volunteer to support EMCOMM



Amateur Radio

Month: learn more about HAM & get license



Build

Quarter: Build & test use cases in your area



Share

Year share your use cases with us & others

Contact me at: jaaligna@cisco.com

Complete Your Session Evaluations



Complete a minimum of 4 session surveys and the Overall Event Survey to be entered in a drawing to win 1 of 5 full conference passes to Cisco Live 2026.



Earn 100 points per survey completed and compete on the Cisco Live Challenge leaderboard.



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Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting



Attend the interactive education with DevNet, Capture the Flag, and Walk-in Labs



Visit the On-Demand Library for more sessions at www.CiscoLive.com/ on-demand

Contact me at: jaaligna@cisco.com



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