Trusted QSL V2.1 Release Notes

This version of Trusted QSL (TQSL) has corrections for several defects that were found in TQSL 2.0 as well as enhancements to improve usability.

TQSL 2.1 can be installed to upgrade any older version of TQSL.

On all three supported platforms (Windows, MacOS, and Linux), installing TQSL 2.1 will replace older versions of Trusted QSL while preserving your Callsign Certificates, Station Locations, and preferences. On Windows, simply run the TQSL 2.1 installer, which will automatically uninstall older versions of TQSL (and, if installed, TQSLCert). On Mac OS X, open the disk image (.dmg) file and drag the "Trusted QSL" folder to your Applications folder. Direct the installer to "Replace All", which will uninstall old files. For Linux systems, unpack the tar file and read the INSTALL file for directions.

The following list describes the major changes in the v2.1 release of Trusted QSL.

TQSL changes

Defects Corrected:

Don't require selections for RX Freq, Propmode, or Satellite when entering a QSO into the ADIF editor. Suggest ".adi" as the file type for the editor when saving a new file, not ".adif".

Correct support for localalized characters in Windows usernames. Thanks to Goran, SM4DHF for help with fixing this issue.

Recovery from some errors in the TQSL duplicates database would not be correctly repaired on a Windows system, leading to spurious "Invalid Argument" errors. TQSL now recovers from these on all platforms.

TQSL now properly handles non-ASCII characters in folder names. Previous versions of TQSL relied upon the DOS compatibility "short" file names, which are not enabled by default on Windows 8.

TQSL no longer allows a certificate request that is configured with the QSO end date earlier than the QSO start date.

When TQSL attempts to upload a Callsign Certificate request and the upload fails, the reason for the failure is now displayed and the pending Callsign Certificate request is discarded so the user can try again when the request is cancelled.

When TQSL was unable to create the file for a Callsign Certificate request, it could display "NO ERROR" rather than the appropriate error message. TQSL now reports the reason for the error.

TQSL allows Callsign Certificate requests containing QSO start dates in the future (for a period of one year), allowing requests for future special event operations.

TQSL contains a rudimentary ADIF editor which can be used to create or edit an ADIF file for signing. Several defects in this editor have been corrected:

- The user is now warned that the ADIF editor only saves a minimal set of QSO information, so it should not be used as an editor for arbitrary ADIF files
- If a user is editing an ADIF file and directs TQSL to save it, but decides to cancel the save and continue editing, TQSL would not resume editing but would discard the file. This case now returns the user to the editor.
- Attempting to back up from the last ADIF QSO in the editor could cause a spurious error requiring a callsign entry.
- The ADIF editor has had accessibility improvements and updates to the button images to make it easier to use.

Formatting of the messages displayed when uploading a signed log has been corrected.

A defect that could cause problems associated with creating a Callsign Certificate request to fail with "NO ERROR" has been corrected.

When signing a log, TQSL would keep the resulting TQ8 file opened until TQSL exited. The file is now closed when signing is complete.

TQSL now verifies that basic QSO data is provided (band, mode, date, and time). Any QSO without that data is rejected. The prior behavior caused QSOs to appear with invalid information.

Major feature Additions:

Use German translations contributed by Andreas, DF4WC.

For accessibility, several changes in the TQSL user interface were made to help the user interface to interact better with screen readers and other accessibility interfaces. While many of these changes aren't apparent to the typical user, there are some minor changes in work flow that you may notice. However, it is much more usable with assistive technologies.

For localization, much of the TQSL GUI and messages can now be translated into local languages. For this release, there are machine translations included that came from Google Translate. They're probably of poor quality, but serve as a proof of concept. Use the "Language" selection on the "File" pulldown menu. Note that you may need extra fonts installed to use some languages. (Note that the German translation is an exception to this, thanks to DF4WC.)

If a user has only one Station Location, TQSL no longer prompts the user to select what location to use when signing a log as the sole location is chosen by default.

Station Locations can be set up with callsign "[None]". When a user uses that Station Location to sign a log, they're prompted for the appropriate callsign. This allows people who have had multiple callsigns for a given QTH to enter the data for the location once and re-use it for a specific callsign. Command line option "-c callsign" allows a logging program to convey the desired station callsign to TQSL for signing a log.

TQSL now recognizes the ADIF <SUBMODE> tag and attempts to map that to modes recognized by LoTW. Fully supporting <SUBMODE> will require changes in the LoTW configuration file.

TQSL now detects when another instance is busy signing a log (waiting on a user to respond to a prompt, for example) and a command line logger is requesting TQSL to sign a different log. The command line invocation of TQSL no longer "hangs" the command line signing operation and instead returns an error.

Start-up performance has been improved, particularly for stations with large numbers of Callsign Certificates. Other minor updates include verifying that the end date for valid QSOs for a Callsign Certificate is after the start date.

When displaying properties of a Callsign Certificate, TQSL no longer displays "N/A" for certificate requests that are pending LOTW action. The text "Certificate Request: Awaiting response from ARRL" is displayed instead.

If TQSL is configured to save backups automatically (which it is by default), TQSL now manages multiple, time-stamped backup files. By default, 10 backups, or however many the user configures, are saved. This allows recovery of lost information in cases where an older backup is still available.

User guidance for when to submit signed versus unsigned certificate requests has been clarified.

Callsign Certificates and Station Locations are moved to a holding area when deleted, allowing them to be recovered.

TQSL no longer uses the obsolete MD5 signing algorithm for Callsign Certificate requests.

TQSL now tries to work around anti-virus products that intercept secure web traffic.

TQSL's diagnostic trace now covers many of the functions in TQSLLIB, making diagnostics more complete.

TQSLLIB changes

Accept "C7" and "4Y" as valid prefixes.

Use ADIF's "SUBMODE" field when it's provided.

Report occasions when an attempt to update the TQSL configuration file was blocked due to the new revision being older than the current one.

Add functions for handling and restoring deleted Callsign Certificates and deleted Station Locations.

When TQSL was restoring multiple callsign certificates from a TQ6 file (for example, due to a missing private key for the Callsign Certificate being restored), it would stop processing upon the first error encountered. TQSL now continues to try to restore the remaining Callsign Certificates.

Back up deleted Callsign Certificates and Station Locations to permit them to be restored.