

MPG-6 SUPPORT GUIDANCE, W3YVQ MPG6A2V14AWCIMEX, 3/14

WINLINK CLASSIC BATCH FILE IMPORTING AND EXPORTING - TEXT

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1. WINLINK CLASSIC BATCH FILE IMPORTING AND EXPORTING

The use of the Winlink Classic Message Manager export and import functions permits easy cross-filing of NTS messages sent via *WL2K Radio-email*. Batch Files of NTS Radiograms may be created and read in text editors by any station. These Batch Files may be sent in *Radio-email* attachments to NTSD stations using Winlink Classic and **imported** into the Message Manager for posting, downloading, sorting and **exporting** for forwarding according to criteria set up in the Classic FORWARD.APS file. NTSD stations may use *WL2K Radio-email* or station-to-station transfers with AirMail to move Batch Files to other NTSD stations or outlets.

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2. SUMMARY OF EXPORT, TRANSFER AND IMPORT STEPS

Notes:

The following sections are a text summary of the Batch File exporting, transfer by *Radio-email*, and importing processes. A presentation of these steps with screen images is presented in: MPG6A3, NTSD MBO Batch File Import/Export with Images

It will be assumed that readers of this document are familiar with the basic operation of the Winlink Classic MBO application and its radio modules, and with basic operation of the WL2K network and the AirMail client software package for sending and receiving *Radio-email*.

The MPG Chapter 6, MPG6A8, Batch File and Plain Text Guidance, provides guidance for **Batch Files** and handling Radiograms via Type 1 *Radio-email*, as well as for other Types of *Radio-email* which the NTSD may handle.

2.1 WINLINK CLASSIC - EXPORTING BATCH FILES

Step 1:	Open the Winlink Classic Message Manager and display the posted messages. (The Search menu function may be used to qualify the type of viewed messages based on a variety of criteria for convenience. Include NTS messages as a default.)
Step 2:	On the Message Manager menu click External then Export .
Step 3:	The Winlink Batch Export window is used to define the sort of messages to export. In the Export message for BBS window enter the call sign of the station to which the desired batch of messages would be forwarded as stipulated in the Classic FORWARD.APS file routing. (This file may be set up to sort messages for specific MBO call signs by zip code, state, and other criteria.)
Step 4:	If there is a valid sort of posted messages for the entered MBO call sign, pressing the "QTC?" button will reveal non-zero data in the box to the right.
Step 5:	The Select output format choice may be left as defaulted, but the export and subsequent import later will work either way. (The WinLink w/Headers button frames the batch of messages with your MBO information. The No Envelope button format saves only the ST and /EX frames for each of the messages in the batch without other annotation in the file - the simpler and preferred format.)
Step 6:	If there is a valid quantity of messages shown in the QTC box the Start Export button will be active. Click the Start Export button. The Select File Name to Export window will open.
Step 7:	Enter the desired file name in the File name box to save the exported batch file to disk. This is normally a call sign used as a file name with a variable extender after the decimal to distinguish different files, such as K6YR.001 or K6YR.002, etc. A file name such as K6YR02.TXT may be entered, not to exceed 8 characters + extender, to distinguish files thus keeping the extender as ".TXT" to make it more convenient for any recipient to open the email attachment later. Leave the Save file as type as shown - call sign dot wild card (the alternatives are different types of formats for other applications). The file save path (folder) shown is typical for Winlink Classic installations, i.e., c:\winlink\messages. Note that other files in this folder have numeric names. Avoid using a file name for your export which might conflict with those numeric files. Click the OK button. A small Export choice window will open.
Step 8:	Click Yes to save the file and mark all the messages in the batch in the Message Manager as forwarded (TY). Clicking No will export the batch to file but leave the messages posted as available in the Message Manager (used primarily for tests). The sorted batch file will be saved to disk in the c:\winlink\messages folder using the file name selected in Step 7.

2.2 ATTACHING A BATCH FILE TO THE EMAIL

Create a *Radio-email* in AirMail, RMS-Express, or Paclink addressed to the desired NTSD MBO or any other WL2K Target Station station. Attach the saved batch file from c:\winlink\messages to the *Radio-email* (use the AirMail menu, **File, Attach File**, or the equivalent in the email application used with Paclink). Post the email onto WL2K using telnet/internet, packet radio, or HF radio. AirMail station-to-station transfers or internet email may also be used.

2.3 SAVING A BATCH FILE ATTACHMENT FROM THE EMAIL

Open the received email, right click the attachment icon for the batch file and use **Save As** to save the file to c:\winlink\messages.

2.4 WINLINK CLASSIC - IMPORTING BATCH FILES

Step 1:	Open the Winlink Classic Message Manager , click External then Import Messages . The WinLink Batch Import box will open.
Step 2:	In the Enter BBS call... box, type in the call sign portion of the attachment file name plus an asterisk for a wild card. (This entry should enable all the files beginning with the call sign part of the desired file name to be visible in the next step.) The use of this wildcard before the extender is to enable this attachment file name with a call sign plus numerals to be visible. The choice to use the wild card is based upon the structure of the file name received and saved from WL2K. Click the Analyze button. The Select File to Import box will open.
Step 3:	Check the folder path is the default where the attachment was saved (c:\winlink\messages). The attachment file name should appear in the selection box below the File name . (Leave the List files of type window as shown. Other options are formats for other applications.) Click over the file name to highlight it.
Step 4:	Click OK . This window will close. The WinLink Batch Import window will show the first line of the file in the Raw Data window and the Start Import button will change from gray to black (active).
Step 5:	Click Start Import . The batch file attachment message(s) will be loaded into the Message Manger with a status of TN. The message(s) are now available for connecting station downloading or for sorting for forwarding or exporting. Any number of messages may be transferred via a single email attachment and imported in this fashion.

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