Trusted QSL V2.8 Release Notes

This version of Trusted QSL (TQSL) has new features as well as corrections for defects found since TQSL 2.7 was released.

Updates since TQSL 2.7.5

This release includes an update to the most recent TQSL configuration file.

There were no serious defects reported for TQSL 2.7.5. This release contains several minor updates which have accumulated since 2.7 was released.

TQSL 2.8 can be installed to upgrade any older version of TQSL.

For the Mac platform, TQSL now uses a package file (.pkg) for installing TQSL. This is hopefully easier to use as it is a familiar way to install software for most Mac users. Mac users may have previously installed TQSL into "/Applications/tqsl.app" versus the "/Applications/TrustedQSL/tqsl.app" folder (which is the proper location based on Apple guidance.) If you have installed TQSL into /Applications/tqsl.app, you should delete this by dragging that file to the trash. If you don't do that, TQSL will repeatedly offer to upgrade.

The "tqsl-legacy" packages run on 32-bit Intel and PowerPC processors and require Mac OS 10.5 or later. The non-legacy packages for the Mac require Mac OS 10.10 or later and support 64-bit Intel and Apple Silicon processors.

On all three supported platforms (Windows, MacOS, and Linux), installing TQSL 2.8 will replace older versions of Trusted QSL while preserving your Callsign Certificates, Station Locations, and preferences. On Windows, simply run the TQSL 2.8 installer, which will automatically uninstall older versions of TQSL (and, if installed, TQSLCert). On Mac OS X, open the package (.pkg) file to install TQSL into your Applications folder. If you have previously installed TQSL into some other folder, you may need to delete that folder to allow the new version to operate properly.

For Linux systems, I recommend using the copy on Flathub: https://flathub.org/apps/org.arrl.trustedqsl - That is a portable Linux package that will run on many 64-bit Linux systems (x86_64 and ARM64). If you need to build from source, unpack the tar file and read the INSTALL file for directions. You will need development libraries for zlib, curl, openssl, sqlite3, wxWidgets, and expat.

TQSL 2.8 has been "localized" to allow use in the native language of non-English speakers. This could not have been done without the help of the volunteers who have contributed translations for TQSL. Thanks to the following for their assistance:

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The following list describes the major changes in the v2.8 release of Trusted QSL.

TQSL changes

Defects Corrected:

When creating a station location, entering a gridsquare that was incorrect for the primary administrative subdivision (state, province, etc.) was not flagged as an error. This correction ensures that for this case, the incorrect grid is flagged as an error.

TQSL would crash while signing a log that contained an invalid or out-of-range value for the ADIF *MY_DXCC* tag. TQSL now reports this as an invalid value.

When signing a log, TQSL would allow a log containing incorrect or inconsistent values for MY_ ADIF fields such as *MY_GRIDQUARE*, *MY_STATE*, *MY_COUNTY*, and *MY_IOTA*. TQSL now properly evaluates ADIF data to ensure that things like a grid from outside of the entity and state (province, etc.) are rejected.

When signing a log with the ADIF *MY_IOTA* tag present, TQSL would emit an error claiming that the data was incorrect when it was properly formatted. TQSL now properly validates this tag.

Input from ADIF logs could have poorly formatted or incorrect data that TQSL would not detect. For example, the *MY_STATE* tag (which is supposed to have the two letter abbreviation for the state) allowed a user to specify “CONFUSED”, which would match the two-letter abbreviation (CO) for Colorado. Or, a value of “New York” to be treated as Nebraska. TQSL now requires the entire field string to be correct.

When signing a log in “update” mode, gridsquare settings from *MY_GRIDSQUARE* or *MY_VUCC_GRIDS* were not being used to update the active station location. These are now properly being applied to the QSO being signed.

Major feature Additions:

A new “Help” menu item, “Synchronize upload data with LoTW…” allows you to download all of your QSOs from Logbook and add them to the “already uploaded QSOs” database managed by TQSL. This ensures that this data is complete and consistent with Logbook. This can allow you to recover from a computer crash, and to filter log uploads with assurance that your data and LoTW’s are the same.

Minor Updates:

When signing a log while other signing actions are in progress, TQSL could display a “Database is locked” error as well as “Application is not responding” messages. TQSL now displays more information about the conflicting operations and directs the user on how to resolve the issue.

The callsign certificate request process has had several usability improvements:

1. TQSL now provides more detail and better guidance about when signing is needed. This removes a bunch of jargon that made it hard to understand what was being asked.
2. When selecting the date range for a Callsign Certificate request, the years are now ordered in descending order, not starting with 1945 – this means less scrolling to get to Y2K.
3. When requesting a callsign certificate, the entities displayed are filtered using the prefix of the given callsign. This means much less scrolling to select an entity, and helps to ensure that the right entity is chosen. (There is a checkbox to allow any entity to be chosen.)

Gridsquares in an ADIF file *MY_GRIDSQUARE* tag is allowed to up to 12 characters long. This is not strictly correct ADIF, but Logbook does support this usage. *MY_VUCC_GRIDS* remains limited to 6-character grids.

The command line "-I" switch now allows import of a backup (.tbk) file in addition to importing callsign certificates.

The TQSL wording of "already uploaded" has been changed to "previously signed". This removes the implied assumption that signing a log means that it has been updated.

A new "Test Signing an ADIF or Cabrillo file" menu option has been added. This signs a log, but does not store those QSOs in the uploads database. It also produces an uncompressed TQ7 file.

When restoring configuration data from a TBK file, certain preferences which point to folder locations are not restored, as those could refer to folders that do not exist on the target system. This avoids Windows folder names being restored on a Mac.

When loading a P12 file on the command line "-I" switch, for cases where the passphrase given was incorrect, TQSL would display the GUI and show an error message. This did not allow automated operations to detect the incorrect password. TQSL now exits to allow the application to ask the user for the proper passphrase.

The Chinese localizations were not working on a Mac computer due to a change to the underlying GUI code (wxWidgets). These now operate properly.

Reinstalling TQSL 2.7.x

Downgrading to TQSL 2.7.5 can be seamlessly performed by uninstalling TQSL 2.8 and reinstalling TQSL 2.7.5.