Trusted QSL V2.8.7 Release Notes

This version of Trusted QSL (TQSL) has new features as well as corrections for defects found since TQSL 2.8 was released.

Updates since TQSL 2.8

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

TQSL 2.8.7 corrects an error where TQSL was unable update the configuration file on Windows systems, displaying a “Self-signed certificate” error. It also corrects an issue where TQSL would not start on Mac systems running macOS 27 in countries with “,” as the decimal point.

TQSL 2.8.6 corrected a defect that causes TQSL to be stuck on “waiting on other copies of TQSL to exit” when a user elects to re-upload previously uploaded QSOs.

TQSL 2.8.6 removed a hard-coded trust certificate for the lotw.arrl.org website. This was added to the Windows version of TQSL to allow access to the website from users running on very old versions of Windows (like XP or Vista) that did not have the source of the LoTW website certificate in their trusted root stores (this is what allows “https” connections to be “secure”). While this worked around the problem, it made TQSL sensitive to the certificate installed on the LoTW website. When ARRL updated that, connections began to fail. This was fixed by having TQSL no longer “pin” the website; instead, TQSL now falls back to http connections for these cases.]

TQSL 2.8.6 corrected a pair of defects introduced into log signing during the development of the memory consumption changes in TQSL 2.8.2. First, using TQSL to “Sign and Upload” a log should have compressed the log prior to upload. This error caused the files to not be compressed. Second, when signing a log, TQSL stages the upload in a temporary disk file. In cases where the user would sign a log, see there were errors (bad callsigns, already uploaded QSOs) and they chose to continue the upload while ignoring the errors, TQSL did not close the staging file. This meant that two copies of the signed log were being uploaded. TQSL 2.8.7 now closes out the staging file and starts with an empty log as expected.

TQSL 2.8.4 corrected the Spanish translation. For TQSL 2.8.3, this was mistakenly copied from the Polish language localization. 2.8.4 also corrects callsign certificate renewals for cases where the DXCC entity and the callsign prefix do not match.

TQSL 2.8.3 updated the way that TQSL processes callsigns to discover what DXCC entity is appropriate for that call. This involves attempting to decode complex callsigns like “P5/WA1SPT/P” to discover what the prefix is. The process used strips leading ‘prefix’ (before the first slash) and trailing ‘suffix’ (after the second slash). Then the ‘prefix’ and ‘suffix’ are validated to see if they match a DXCC entities prefix. There was a defect in handling certain ‘suffix’ values such as ‘/P’, ‘/R’, and ‘/MM’. Those could result in incorrect suggestion for an entity for that call. TQSL now ignores those (as well as /QRP, /M) when making the entity suggestion. This change is purely for correcting that selection, which is a convenience for users who are trying to request a new callsign certificate so they do not have to scroll through a long list of entities. This does not change the callsign used for that certificate; it’s used exactly as entered.

TQSL 2.8.1 repaired two serious defects in TQSL 2.8. First, it corrects an issue where some QSOs would not be signed when an ADIF file contained a mismatched gridsquare. Second, the checking of the content of MY_COUNTRY was removed as this is a human-readable string and not expected to conform to a strict enumeration.

TQSL 2.8.7 can be installed to upgrade from 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. Do not install the "legacy" version on any Mac released in the last few years.

On all three supported platforms (Windows, MacOS, and Linux), installing TQSL 2.8.7 will replace older versions of Trusted QSL while preserving your Callsign Certificates, Station Locations, and preferences. On Windows, simply run the TQSL 2.8.7 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 2.8.7 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:

Catalan: Xavier, EA3W
Chinese (Simplified): Lancer, VR2VLP and SZE-TO, VR2UPU
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Italian: Salvatore, I4FYV
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Portuguese: Nuno, CT2IRY
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The following list describes the major changes in the v2.8 release of Trusted QSL.

TQSL changes

Defects Corrected:

[2.8.7]

Add workaround for macOS 27 systems where the locale uses a comma as a decimal point. This isn't complete and will require an Apple update staged for macOS 27.0.2. Setting the language to English will allow TQSL to start.

When updating the TQSL configuration file on Windows, TQSL would emit an error related to a "self-signed" certificate. This was an incorrect finding, corrected by enabling the Windows certificate store.

[2.8.6]

Correct an issue which causes tqsl to be stuck on "waiting on other copies of TQSL to exit" when attempting to re-upload previously uploaded QSOs.

[2.8.5]

Remove the certificate pinning for the lotw.arrl.org website as this was causing TQSL errors when ARRL updated the website certificate.

Correct logs uploaded using TQSL "Sign and Upload" so those files are compressed prior to upload.

Correct a defect that meant that restarting log signing did not delete the temporary file, leading to LoTW detecting duplicate certificates and station locations.

[2.8.4]

When renewing a callsign certificate where the DXCC entity does not match the entity deduced from the prefix for that call, TQSL would display '-NONE-' as the DXCC entity and did not allow that to be corrected as the menu item was disabled. TQSL 2.8.4 corrects this defect and displays the DXCC entity for the certificate being renewed.

[2.8.3]

Correct handling of suffix strings that don't actually indicate an entity.

Restore the name of the originally submitted log when sign and upload is used to submit to Logbook. (TQSL had changed to use a fixed filename.)

When restoring the TQSL configuration from a TBK file, the database storing Logbook uploads was not properly closed, causing an error when a log was signed without first closing TQSL. TQSL now properly closes the database.

Add Aland Island to the list of entities expecting a Kunta.

[2.8.2]

Remove the use of "%m" in error messages. This is a Linux extension that is not supported on Windows (it inserts the system error message related to a system problem, such as "permission denied").

Restore the handing of the "-o" command line argument, which was supposed to be used to specify what file to use to write to when signing a log. This has been ignored since TQSL 2.5.2 and nobody noticed.

Correct a defect that was causing MY_GRIDSQUARE values in an ADIF file to be ignored when updating the station location data.

Allow two-character VUCC grids. These are likely to be invalid for award purposes, but ADIF allows this.

Add missing export values for the Windows DLL file. Thanks to Jordi, EA3GCV for reporting this.

Ignore VUCC grid checking for DXCC entity "None".

[2.8.1]

Correct handing of ADIF files with gridsquares provided for the operator's station for cases where the Station Location grid was not the same length as the ADIF MY_GRIDSQUARE tag. This defect caused those QSOs to be ignored and not signed.

Remove checking of MY_COUNTRY as its not intended to be a rigidly defined field. Users had values which were abbreviated, using emtity codes, etc. TQSL only uses that field if it matches an Entity name precisely. MY_DXCC is preferred for specifying entity numbers.

Major feature Additions:

[2.8.3]

Permit ADX (XML-formatted ADIF) files as well as classic ADIF. This is transparent as the format is automatically detected.

TQSL detects certain errors caused by malformed network proxy specifications and continues operation while ignoring the proxy.

[2.8.2]

Minor updates throughout TQSL to clean up memory consumption. Prior versions of TQSL could crash with out-of-memory errors when managing callsign certificates.

Update the TQSL log signing processing so that the log being signed is staged to a disk file. Past versions of TQSL would stage the signed log in memory, leading to the potential for memory exhaustion and crashes.

Add a "Default signing callsign" for QSL managers that allows stations managing dozens of callsigns to quickly sign new callsign requests using their primary callsign.

Minor Updates:

[2.8.7]

Correct an error that was causing an unexpected message about deleting a mutex to appear in the command line.

Add the build date to the "About" message.

Warn about overwriting an existing station location when creating a new station location.

Check the computer's clock at startup time to detect issues caused by date/time errors.

[2.8.6]

When processing an ADIF file with a "MY_CNTY" (my county) value, ignore spurious spaces in the string. Something like "RI ,KENT" is now converted to "RI,KENT" before being processed.

Handle proxy-relaated errors (which are usually due to incorrect proxy configurations on the user's computer) by disabling the proxy to attempt to restore the LoTW connection.

Update a few Entity-to-Gridsquare definitions. Thanks to DF2ET for the corrections.

[2.8.3]

When displaying errors from command line operations, flush the output to ensure that it is available to logging programs without being 'stuck' in a buffer.

Add a '-z' command line option that directs TQSL to test-sign a log (sign it but do not upload it or record the signed QSOs).

[2.8.2]

Handle missing VUCC grid data by ignoring gridsquare checks. The grid data file has been converted to XML and is version numbered, allowing a local edit to the file to override the default version.

Change the DXCC prefix database to XML and version number it, allowing a local prefix upgrade.

When reporting "Station Location could not be found" errors, include the name of the expected Station Location in the error message (tnx AA6YQ).

Correct the VUCC grid data for Newfoundland and Labrador – the ADIF abbreviation of "NL" is encoded as "NF" for Logbook purposes, but this was not being properly translated to the ADIF equivalent.

Add VK2 as a valid prefix for Lord Howe Island portable operations.

[2.8.1]

Correct the Russian translation files.

Correct a small number of VUCC grid entries in the vuccgrids.dat file, as well as adding a version number header to that file.

Fix a compiler warning reported for some Linux distributions.

Reinstalling TQSL 2.8.x

Downgrading to TQSL 2.8.6 can be seamlessly performed by uninstalling TQSL 2.8.7 and reinstalling TQSL 2.8.6.