

## ARDOP\_Chat Read Me First

ARDOP\_Chat is a fairly simple HF/VHF keyboard client program that supports the new ARDOP (**A**mateur **R**adio **D**igital **O**pen **P**rotocol) using the new ARDOP\_Win TNC. Its main value is it is simple for testing and capitalizes on existing code. As the bugs are worked out of the new protocol the ARDOP\_Win TNC will be integrated into other more capable host programs. A version of a BPQ Server/Client that supports the ARDOP\_Win TNC is in initial testing.

The host program ARDOP\_Chat uses code that is similar to Chat, V4\_Chat and H4\_Chat but the ARDOP\_Win TNC is completely new software and a completely new protocol (ARDOP) from the ground up. It is designed to work in a variety of application such as HF keyboarding, HF message and file transfer and VHF/UHF FM keyboard or message transfer. The concept of a standardized virtual TNC (pioneered by WINMOR) which can be used in many applications is used in the ARDOP\_Win TNC. Other OS versions are planned. John Wiseman (BPQ) is working on a BPQ version that will use the ARDOP\_Win TNC. A Linux version of the ARDOP TNC is also being tested by John Wiseman.

Future updates to ARDOP\_Chat and the ARDOP\_Win TNC will use continually incrementing revision numbers (initial FEC mode alpha version was 0.1.0) and this should allow any setup to automatically overwrite older version without requiring removal. A new install *never* overwrites the settings in the users .ini files.

To install the program unzip the Install file to a temp directory. Run the Setup.msi file from the extracted Zip. This should install the complete ARDOP\_Chat program, the ARDOP\_Win virtual TNC and all support and help files. The install program defaults to a specific drive and directory but this can be changed during installation.

The program is now in its initial Beta release. (Beta releases can be identified by revision number 0.4 to 0.9.xxx. Beta means there should be no install problems, serious bugs and serious omissions or errors in documentation or Help files. During beta testing however it may be necessary to make program changes that affect prior revision compatibility. If you are not familiar with Beta program releases and debugging it is probably best to wait until production release (1.0 and up ).

During the Beta phases the following items and bugs will be addressed and prioritized:

Most important:

- Any remaining major unhandled exception file or excessive handled exceptions
- Any observed Protocol errors or anomaly (ARQ or FEC)
- Radio control issues (expanding to support additional radio features and types)
- Performance issues (tuning, robustness, ARQ optimization, automatic "gear shifting")
- Operational issues (cumbersome or missing functional features, language support etc.)
- Adding/or modifying frame types etc. (e.g. additional frame types optimized for VHF FM)
- Optimizing the Help and documentation (e.g. Expanded Help for SDR radios)
- Porting to other OS and platforms. (Linux port of the TNC is already in process)
- Publishing the open source code.

After all the above are pretty much settled we can look at what I call the "fluff features":

- Color, shape and layout issues.
- Multiple language support issues.
- Various "bells and whistles"

Please take some time to read the help on how to setup and run the program.

Be certain to read the help topics: Most topics can be reached in three simple clicks. The following are necessary especially if you are not that familiar with ARQ modes:

Chat Operation (Click Help, Help Index, Chat Operation)

Getting Started with ARDOP Chat (Click Help, Help index, Getting Started with ARDOP Chat)

Typical FEC Operation (Click Help, Help Index, Typical FEC Operation)

Typical ARQ Operation: (Click Help, Help Index, Typical ARQ Operation)

If you have difficulty AFTER trying to read the help use the ARDOP Users Group at Yahoo [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ardop\\_users](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ardop_users) to post a question or to help others with their setup questions. Please remember we are all volunteers and sometimes other things come first. Take time to fully document your issues and problems and be willing to help out others if you can. If you find problems (spelling, syntax, errors etc.) or missing topics in the help please respond to the author indicating what you have found....It is sometimes hard to write the help when you are too familiar with the program!

I would like to especial thank Neil VE1YZ who spent many hours helping to debug the initial FEC and ARQ modes. Neil's keen observation skills and the ability to capture (in words and logs) the specific observed failure is what has helped bring along the ARDOP\_Win TNC and ARDOP\_Chat from initial alpha test to operational ARQ mode in just 6 short weeks. Also recognition is given to John Wiseman, Matthew Pitts, and the others in the ARDOP Development and user groups that have collected data, reported problems and help new users.

As we move into the Beta testing phase I would like to hear from other developers that may be interested in either writing other client programs for the ARDOP\_Win TNC or porting the ARDOP\_Win TNC to other operating systems/platforms such as Apple IOS or Android. .

Rick Muething, KN6KB mailto: [rmuething@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rmuething@cfl.rr.com)