SCS PXHostTerminal

User Manual | Version 1.00.11

What it is

PXHostTerminal is an easy-entry PACTOR test and chat program for SCS modems, not a full-featured routine traffic application. It uses CRC Hostmode (JHOST5) over a Windows COM port or the modem's Telnet interface (normally port 3000). The executable is portable and requires no extra runtime.

Installation

There is no installer. Download the `PXHostTerminal-1.00.11-Windows-x64.zip` release archive and extract the entire archive to a writable folder on your Windows PC, for example a folder under Documents. Keep the manual, README, license information, and EXE together. Do not start the EXE from inside the ZIP. Double-click `PXHostTerminal-1.00.11.exe` in the extracted folder. To add a desktop shortcut, right-click that EXE and choose **Send to > Desktop (create shortcut)** (or use Windows' **Create shortcut** action). Leave the original EXE in the extracted folder. The program can create a `tmp` subfolder there for received binary files; optional `startup.txt` and `shutdown.txt` also belong beside the EXE. Avoid a protected folder such as `Program Files` unless it is made writable for this purpose. To remove the program, close it and delete the extracted folder. The modem's COM-port driver, if needed, is installed separately.

Connect to the modem

Select COM or Telnet, choose the port or host, and click **Connect**. The PACTOR Hostmode channel defaults to 4 and may be changed before opening the connection. Channel 4 is a logical Hostmode channel, not PACTOR-4. The application configures the modem and then enters CRC Hostmode. Check the Hostmode and modem status before starting a call. Use **Disconnect port** to close the connection when finished.

PACTOR ARQ

Enter the destination callsign in **PACTOR ARQ CALL** and click **CONNECT**. The program sends a robust `C %CALL` call. While a call is still in progress the button can be used to abort it. Once connected, type in the Transmit pane; received text and confirmed transmitted text (delayed echo) appear in their separate panes. Link-status lines are shown in the Receive pane. The Modem command field is separate from text input; press Enter or **Execute** to send a Hostmode command. Escape moves keyboard focus to that field.

Changeover / Break-in requests the transmit direction. When the local station is ISS, clicking it first sends a callsign line and then requests changeover. Ctrl-Y requests changeover without that line. When IRS, either control requests a break-in. **Disconnect ARQ** ends the ARQ connection; it is not interchangeable with changeover.

Broadcast and files

Select P1, P2_S, or P2_L and click **BROADCAST** to start a PACTOR Unproto/FEC transmission. Text entered in the Transmit pane is sent during the broadcast. Click **FEC END** to stop. Text-file transmission is available in ARQ and FEC. Ending the connection or FEC transmission stops an active text-file transfer and discards unsent file data.

Send binary file... is available during ARQ between two PXHostTerminal instances. Binary data is not printed as text. The program compresses a file when this reduces its size; the receiver verifies its original length and CRC-32 before reporting success. Received files are written to the `tmp` directory beside the executable, without overwriting existing files. The button becomes an abort control while a binary transfer is active. After successful completion, transmit direction returns to the original sender.

Optional startup and shutdown commands

Place `startup.txt` or `shutdown.txt` beside the executable. Use one ASCII modem command per non-empty line. Commands without a section, or under `[Term]`, are Terminal-mode commands; `[Host]` selects CRC Hostmode commands. Startup Terminal commands run before Hostmode starts, and Host commands after it starts. Shutdown reverses that order. Missing files are ignored. Successful startup commands are echoed in Receive.

The release archive includes templates for both files. In `startup.txt`, `adec all 1` enables reception of PACTOR-1 Unproto broadcasts. For PACTOR-2 Unproto reception, remove the leading `#` from both `#PMON MODE 3` and `#PMON ON`: mode 3 selects the appropriate PMON monitoring mode and ON starts it. On the modem, lines beginning with `#` are ignored. The `shutdown.txt` template contains `PMON OFF` so PMON stops when PXHostTerminal exits. Edit these templates to suit the modem before relying on them.

```
[Modem]
comport = COM7
telnet = pxdragon-lan
autostart = ON

[Term]
MY DL6MAA

[Host]
I DL6MAA
```

The optional `[Modem]` section sets connection defaults. With `autostart = ON`, an available COM port is tried first, then the configured Telnet endpoint. A manual selection in the program remains in effect for that session. Autostart is off by default. A Terminal-mode MY or MYCALL command is synchronized to the selected PACTOR Hostmode channel.

Troubleshooting

If a port will not open, check that another program has not claimed it. For Telnet, check the host name or address and port. If a call fails, verify the destination callsign, the modem's status, and the radio path. Binary transfer requires PXHostTerminal at both ends; files are not complete until the receiver's length and CRC-32 check succeeds. On an ARQ disconnect, an active file transfer ends rather than remaining queued for a later link.

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