

Winlink + baofeng

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Outline

- What is winlink?
- How Heather does Winlink with a Baofeng
 - Pros/Cons
 - Necessary equipment
 - What I am using
 - It “works”
- Best practices for Winlink + handheld
- Demonstration of P2P between Van’s and Heather’s setup

First, what is winlink?

- Ham email
- Can use telnet, HF, VHF
- If HF or VHF, need to find a gateway to connect to



Winlink Global Radio Email®...

...is a network of amateur radio and authorized government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. The system is built, operated and administered entirely by licensed "Ham" volunteers. It supports email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in interoperable emergency and disaster relief communications. It is

International Health Services Needs Radio Volunteers

This just in from John Kirckof, Communications Director of IHS. The IHS medical project experience is the nearest thing to true no-infrastructure deployment a radio operator can get without participating during a major disaster. And, it is a lot of fun!

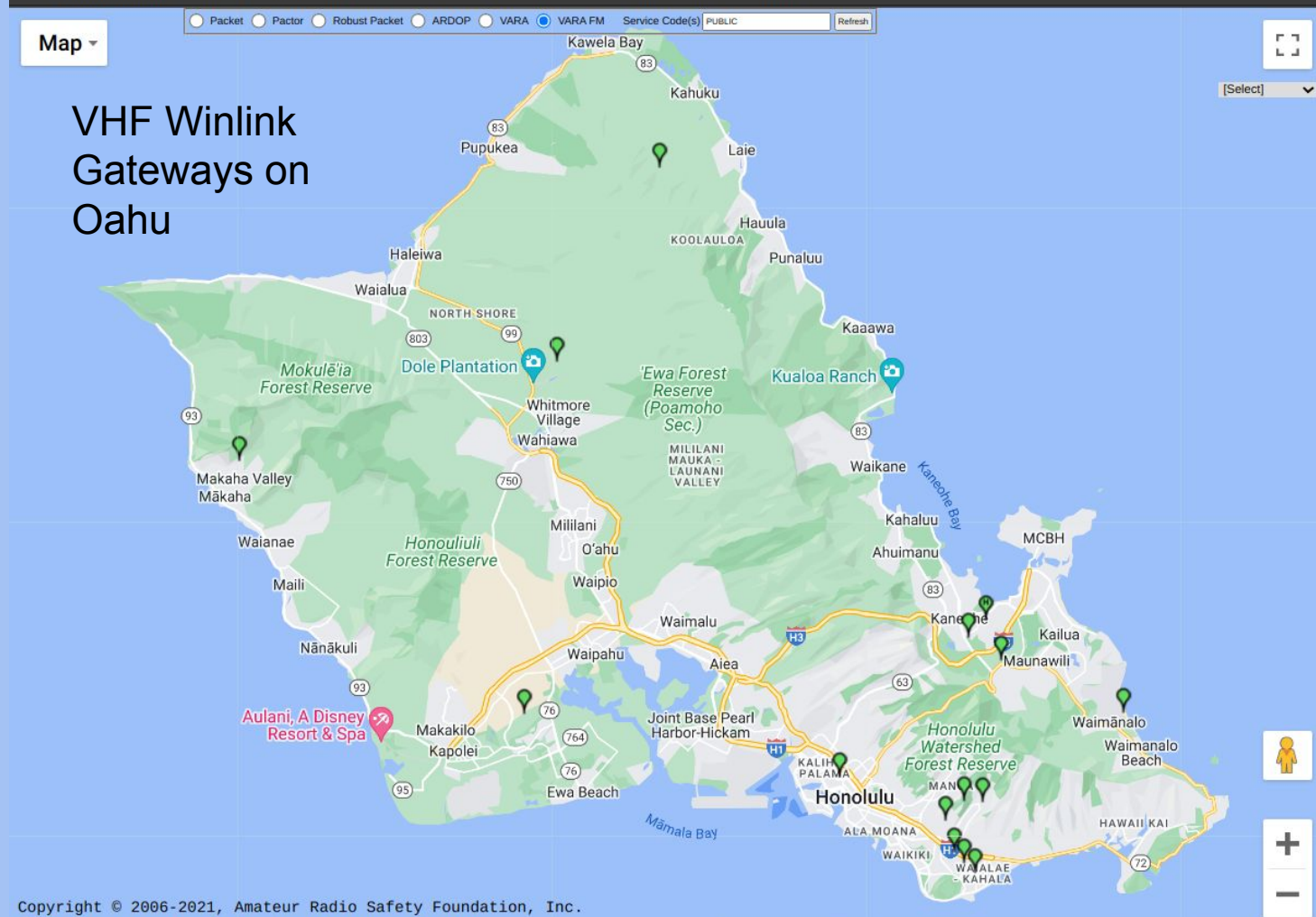
International Health Services (IHS) has a "small" three-team medical mission going to Eastern Honduras in October. For that mission we need 1 or 2 more radio people plus a few medical professions (nurses &

Fast Info...

- Support Winlink: [Register](#) program
- **Lost Registration Key?** on your account page.
- Callsign change? [What to do it.](#)
- Which bands are open? [Propagation Map](#)
- [HTML Forms and Forms Express Standard Library](#)
- No internet? [Winlink Hy Network](#)
- [Become a Winlink Gate](#)

Map

VHF Winlink Gateways on Oahu



Pros and cons of using a baofeng for winlink

Pros

- Baofengs are inexpensive
- Bragging rights



Cons

- All the accessories to make it work cost quite a lot more than the baofeng
- Low power
- Slow (compared to other HT/base stations)
- Need a good location
- Can melt your radio

Necessary equipment

- Radio
- Windows Computer
- A way to connect the radio and the computer together.
 - All methods use some way to get the audio to/from the radio to the computer
 - Some use VOX, others figure out a way to have the computer push the PTT button

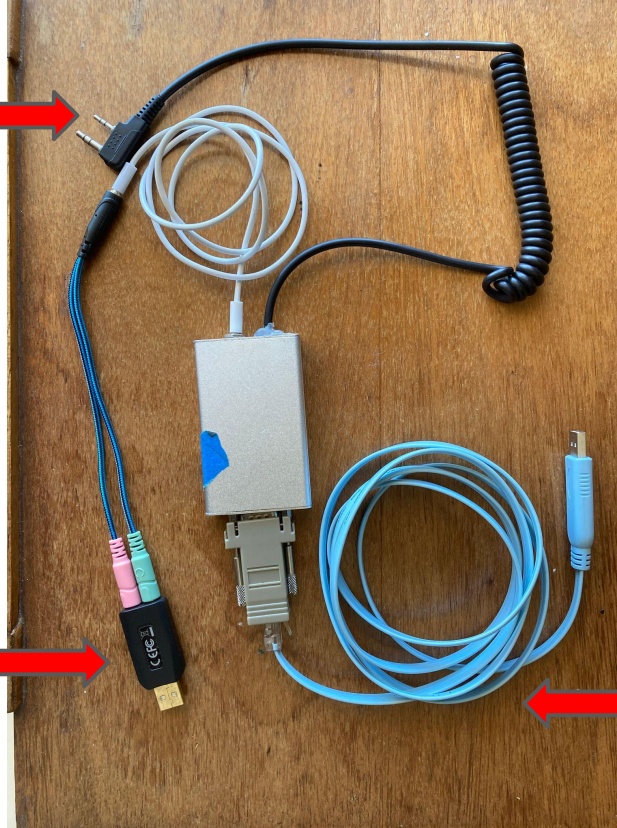
~~Necessary equipment~~ What I am using

- Radio - **baofeng uv5r**
- Windows Computer - **inexpensive find on craigslist, \$150**
- A way to connect the radio and the computer together.
 - A way to get the audio to/from the radio to the computer
 - Some use VOX, others figure out a way to have the computer push the PTT button
 - **A crazy mess of cables I cobbled together partly from the winlink workshop a few years ago and other random stuff (probably, \$75? Plus lots of aggravation and misery)**
 - **Why? Combination of lazy / cheap / and bragging rights**

The crazy set of cables

Baofeng connector

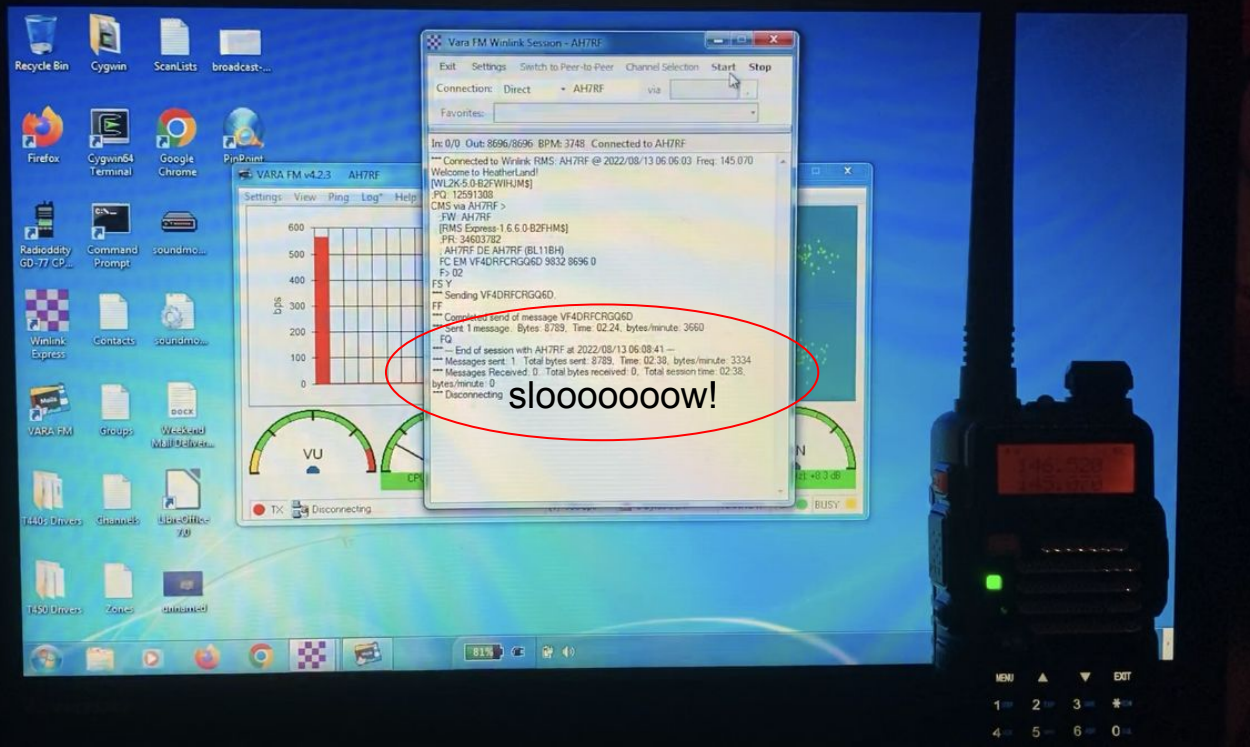
spk/mic lines into the
computer (and usb
soundcard)



Easydigi, wired up

cisco/ftdi cable to talk
(ptt button) to computer

It “works”



Best Practices to get this to work

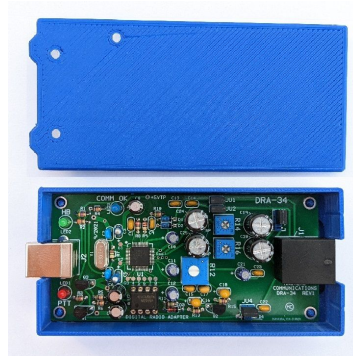
- Live near a gateway
- Live up high / have line of sight
- Use a better HT
- Use a better cable
- Use a second radio to see if you can 'hear' it working (or not)

Modern Winlink Setup

Windows PC
Winlink Express
Vara FM



Computer Interface
DRA-36 (USB sound card)



VHF Radio
Mobile or HT

