



# EmComm Communications Tools

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## Objectives

Provide an introduction to tools used in amateur radio Emergency Communications

Demonstrate tools

## Not In Scope

How to install, configure or troubleshoot

Demonstrate every feature

## Outcome

Club members have a basic understanding of how Winlink, NBEMS and NTS are used by Cape & Islands ARES



01

**C&I ARES** 

Served agencies need rapid, accurate communications, using the forms and formats they are used to.

03

**NBEMS** 

Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software - Open Source and multi-platform

02

**Winlink**

The "Swiss Army Knife" of emergency communications

04

**NTS**

"When all else fails..."

# Winlink Global Radio Email®

- Windows only (mostly)
- Email without Internet
- Lots of forms/templates
- Laptop + sound interface + radio
- Some infrastructure dependency



Illustrations by [Pixeltrue](#) on [icons8](#)



# Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS)

- Multi-platform (Windows/MacOS/Linux)
- Based on fldigi
- Many, many forms/templates
- Laptop + sound interface + radio
- No infrastructure dependency



Illustrations by [Pixeltrue](#) on [icons8](#)

# Winlink vs. NBEMS:

## What Does Your Group and/or Served Agency Use?

### NBEMS

#### NARROW BAND EMERGENCY MESSAGING SOFTWARE

- Uses the flxxxx (Fast Light) suite (fldigi et al.)
- Runs on multiple platforms
- Supports a **wide** variety of digital modes
- Contact many users simultaneously
- Access to ICS and ARC forms
- More flexibility means more training/less operator-friendly
- See [groups.io/g/nbems](http://groups.io/g/nbems)

### WINLINK

- Winlink or other specialized email client
- Windows only (mostly)
- Supports six digital modes
- Station to station(s), like email
- Access to ICS and ARC forms
- Easier to get started; harder to master
- See <http://winlink.org>

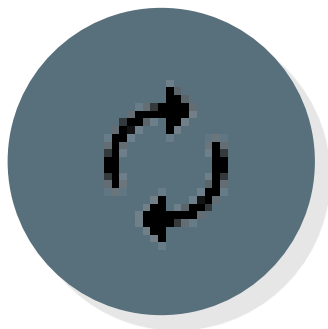
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# EmComm Tools



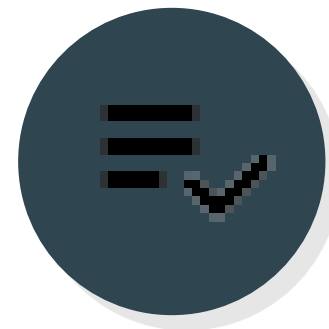
## Winlink

Global Radio Email®  
Thousands of forms  
Peer-to-peer (radio-only)  
possible



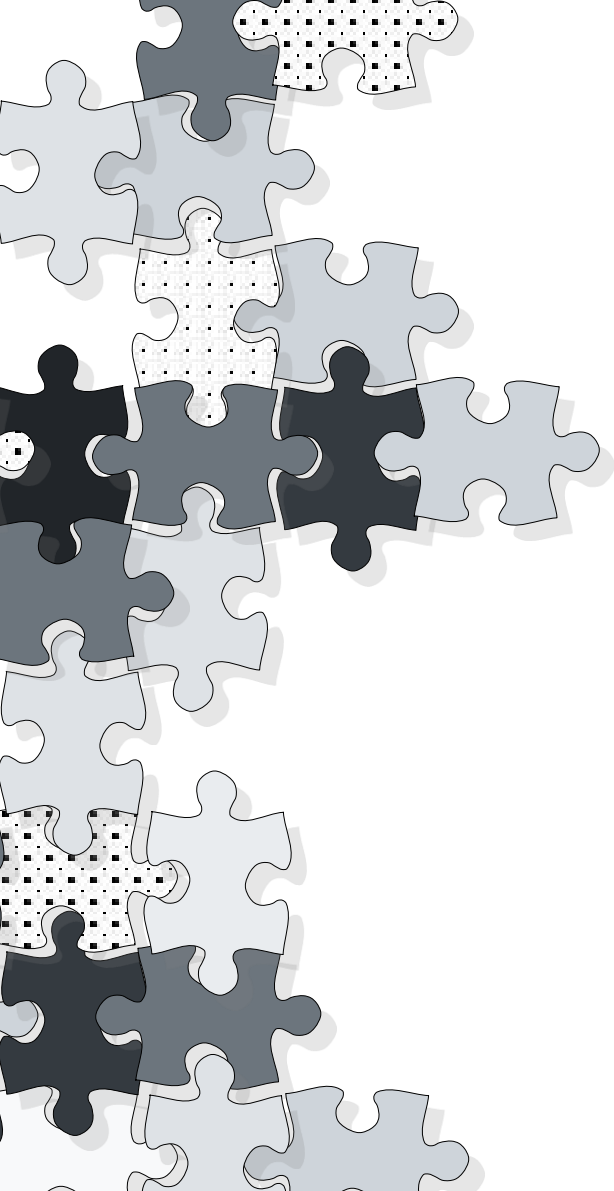
## NBEMS

Multi-platform  
No dependence on Internet



## NTS

When all you have is a pencil,  
some paper, and an HT



“

The great thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from.

”

- Unknown





# References - Winlink

<https://www.winlink.org/>

- Download software (Winlink, [VARA](#), [Soundmodem](#)), documentation, help, and installation guides

[Winlink Group on groups.io](#)

[Winlink Wednesdays](#) and [Winlink Thursdays](#)

NE ARES Academy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzInfNyPPGU&t=2942s>

- 2hr session covering almost everything, with live demos

Winlink Proficiency Goals: <https://emcomm-training.org/Winlink-Proficiency-Goals-ETO-July-2021.pdf>

ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book: <http://www.arri.org/ares>

YouTube – about a billion videos (some are current, some of the current ones are accurate)

Winlink intro with live demo for EMA ARES (W1LEM and WA3SWJ)

<https://youtu.be/Li0O8JaVe0g>

# References - NBEMS

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/fldigi/>

Download software (fldigi suite), documentation, help, and installation guides

NBEMS Group on groups.io

NBEMS nets (see panbems groups.io title page)

NE ARES Academy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRle1Ae2q30>

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