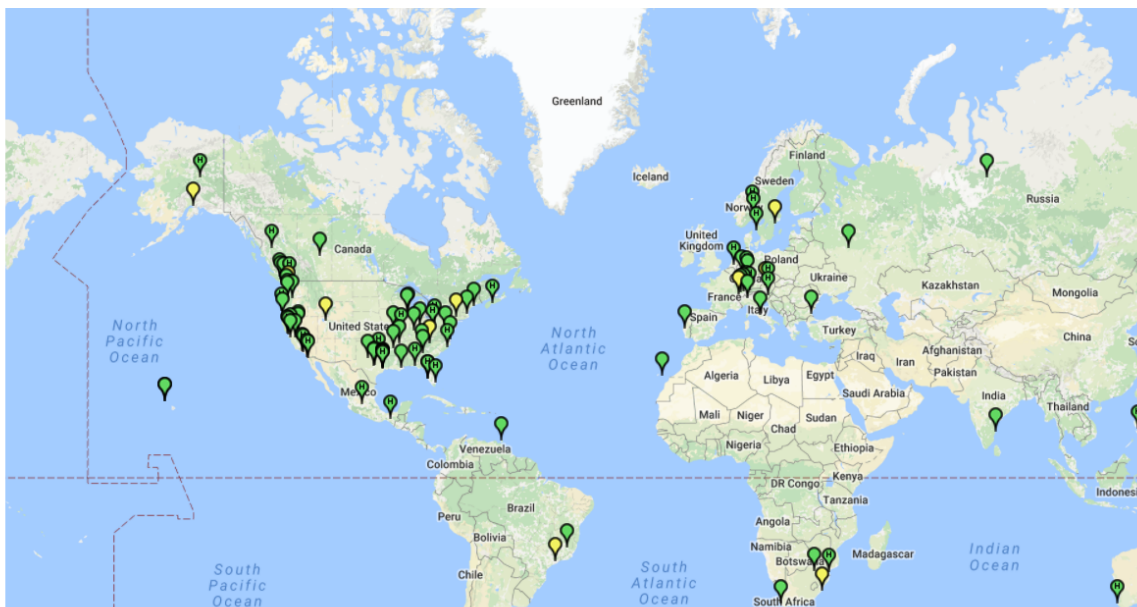


AMATEUR RADIO FACT SHEET / DISCUSSION POINTS

TOPIC: WINLINK DIGITAL GATEWAYS

Amateur radio volunteers maintain freely available digital servers (“gateways”) on shortwave bands (“high frequency” or HF) over the world. The WINLINK organization tries to get all gateway stations to include high-speed proprietary PACTOR 3 external modems, with a throughput of 2,000 bytes per minute, but these are in the \$1400 range. A simpler soundcard+software protocol named “WINMOR” is used by many stations. Stations may have either or both protocols. A newer soundcard+software protocol ARDOP is nearing roll out stage.

These gateways are AUTOMATIC – they function 24 hours/day in most cases, and respond without any human intervention. Furthermore, most of them scan multiple channels repetitively, sequentially and continually. This allows their usefulness to continue despite changing band propagation conditions.



This map only shows the shortwave (high frequency, HF) stations, capable of long-distance email/attachment transfer. There are considerably more that are short-distance, Internet-bound VHF digital servers (“gateways”). The stations marked with an “H” are capable of handling data if the entire Internet went down world wide.

REF: www.winlink.org, “Tools” Lists by station, or by frequency can also be obtained there.