

How to Configure and Use Outpost for Telnet Access to SCCo Packet BBSs

Updated for SCCo Packet Installer v147C (Outpost 3.3.0 c76)

Table of Contents

- Overview 2
- Step 1: Configuration 3
 - Step 1a: Create Telnet Interfaces..... 3
 - Create a Telnet Interface for W1XSC 3
 - Repeat for W2XSC, W3XSC, W4XSC..... 5
 - Step 1b: Configure BBS Logins 6
 - Example: Configure Logins for a Legal Call Sign..... 6
 - Example: Configure Logins for a Tactical Call Sign..... 10
- Step 2: Set Up..... 14
 - Step 2a: Setup Station ID 14
 - Step 2b: Setup BBS..... 15
 - Step 2c: Set Up Interface..... 16
 - Step 2d: Verify Your Setup Choices..... 17
- Operation Using Telnet..... 18
- Resolving Connection Problems 19
 - Telnet Interface connection failed..... 19
 - Login Incorrect 19

Overview

This document covers how to configure Outpost to use Telnet over a TCP/IP network to connect to the Santa Clara County ARES/RACES packet BBSs. This option is available in locations that have a high-speed connection to the SCCo ARES/RACES network. This option is NOT available from the public Internet.

There are two main steps involved:

1. Configuration:
 - Defines the telnet interfaces and BBS logins that can be selected in Outpost.
2. Set-Up:
 - Selects which call sign, BBS and telnet interface will be used to create, send and receive messages

Technical Support: If you have any difficulty with the procedure in this document, you can get technical support from our user group. Visit:

<https://www.scc-ares-races.org/data/packet/packet-technical-support.html>

Step 1: Configuration

The first step is to configure the various telnet hosts, usernames, and passwords that can be selected for use in Outpost.

When configuring a telnet interface, either the hostname or the IP address of the BBS can be used. The hostnames and IP addresses for the Santa Clara County production BBSs are listed below.

BBS Call Sign	Hostname	IP Address
W1XSC	w1xsc.ampr.org	44.4.50.1
W2XSC	w2xsc.ampr.org	44.4.50.2
W3XSC	w3xsc.ampr.org	44.4.50.3
W4XSC	w4xsc.ampr.org	44.4.50.4

Using the hostname is easier for most people. It's the same hostname used in the TO: address of messages. And our ARES/RACES network DNS (Domain Name System) infrastructure resolves the hostname locally, instead of relying on the outside nameservers for the ampr.org domain. So, it should be safe to use, even when the external, commercial Internet is experiencing problems.

Using the IP address avoids the extra DNS lookup of the hostname in DNS to get the IP address. But most people have difficulty remembering IP addresses.

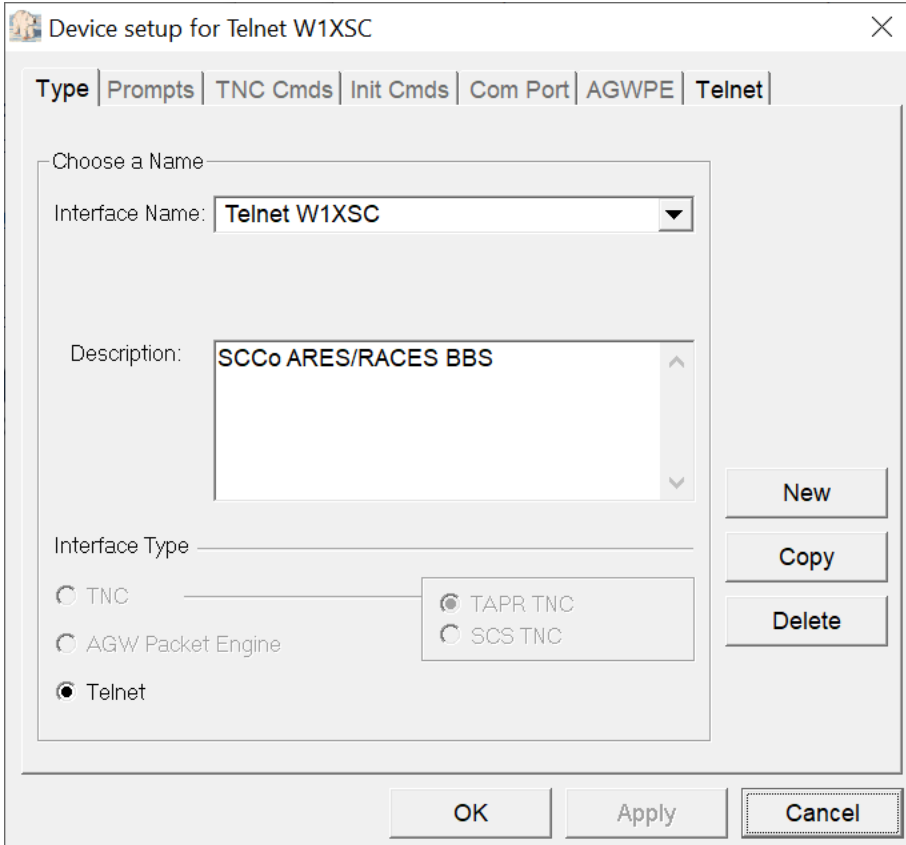
Step 1a: Create Telnet Interfaces

The following configuration steps only need to be completed once per station.

Create a Telnet Interface for W1XSC

Configure a Telnet interface for the Santa Clara County ARES/RACES W1XSC BBS. (Note: these settings only work within the Santa Clara County ARES/RACES network.)

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > Interface
- In the Interface Name pull-down menu, select an existing Telnet interface to copy
 - For Santa Clara County BBSs, select "TELNET_JNOS"
- Click "Copy"
- Update the Interface Name to something appropriate
 - Example: "Telnet W1XSC"
- Update the Description, if desired.
 - Example: "SCCo ARES/RACES BBS"



- Click "Apply"

- Click on the “Telnet” tab
- Update the Telnet Server / Remote Host address
 - For W1XSC:
 - Remote Host: Enter the hostname or IP address using the values provided at the beginning of step 1. The example below uses the IP address. But either the hostname or IP address will work just fine.
 - Leave the “Remote Port”, “Network Timeout” and the “Logon Prompts” at their default values.
- Click “Apply”

Device setup for Telnet W1XSC

Type | Prompts | TNC Cmds | Init Cmds | Com Port | AGWPE | **Telnet**

Telnet Server

Remote Host: 44.4.50.1

Remote Port: 23

Network Timeout: 5000 msec

Logon Prompts

Logon: login: NOTE: Logon and Password prompts are case sensitive.

Password: Password

OK Apply Cancel

- Click “OK”

Repeat for W2XSC, W3XSC, W4XSC

Repeat this step for the other three production BBSs in the SCCo ARES/RACES network (W2XSC, W3XSC, W4XSC). Use the hostnames or IP addresses provided at the beginning of step 1.

Step 1b: Configure BBS Logins

The following step needs to be completed for each BBS/call sign combination.

Example: Configure Logins for a Legal Call Sign

This example uses the fictional FCC call sign for Herman Munster, W6XRL4.

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > Station ID
- Select your FCC call sign from the User Call Sign pull-down menu
 - If you haven't already configured your Legal call sign, click on "New" and do that now.
- Uncheck "Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction"

Station ID is W6XRL4

Identification | BBS Logins | Signatures

Current Profile: Outpost

Legal

User Call Sign: W6XRL4 [New]

User Name: Herman Munster [Delete]

Message ID Prefix: XRL (3 Characters max)

Tactical

Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction

Tactical Call Sign: <Choose/Create(New) Tac Call> [New]

Additional ID Text: [Delete]

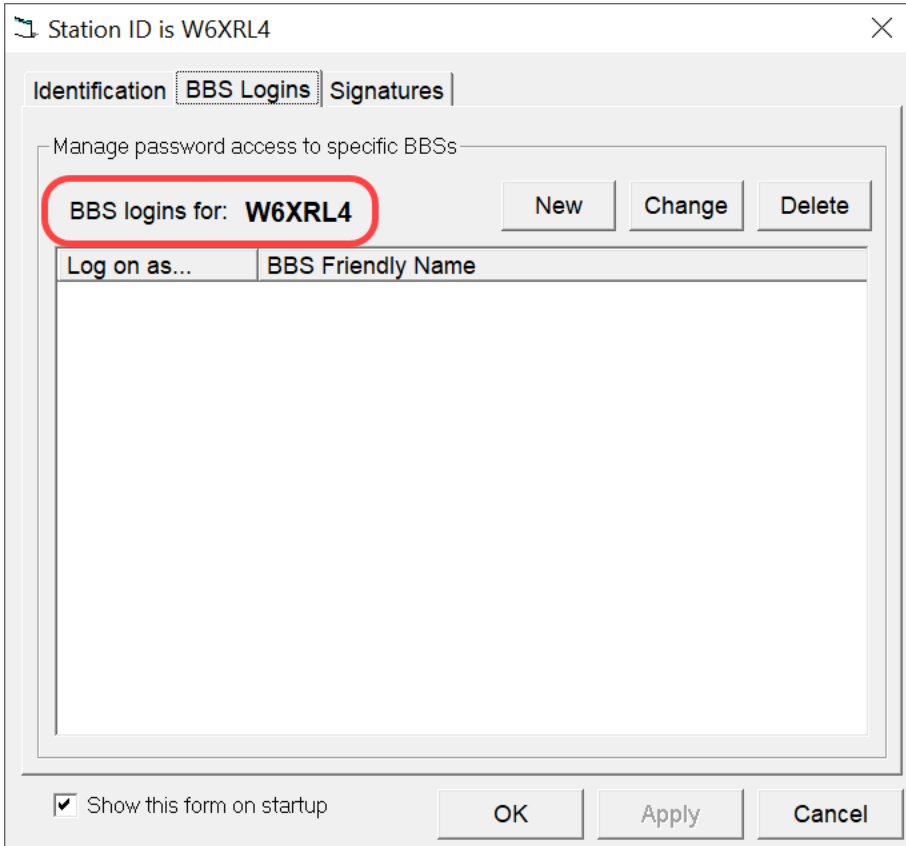
Message ID Prefix: (3 Characters max)

Show this form on startup

OK Apply Cancel

- Click "Apply"

- Click on the “BBS Logins” tab
 - Notice that the window shows “BBS logins for: **W6XRL4**” (shown below outlined in red)



- Click “New”

- In the “BBS Name” pull-down, select: XSC_W1XSC-1
- Do not change the “User Logon” field
- In the “User/Connect Password” field, enter your password
 - Use your actual password, not the fictitious value shown below
 - You can click on “Show” to verify that you typed it properly.

Station ID is W6XRL4

Identification | **BBS Logins** | Signatures

Manage password access to specific BBSs

BBS logins for: **W6XRL4** [New] [Change] [Delete]

Log on as...	BBS Friendly Name

BBS Name: XSC_W1XSC-1

User Logon: W6XRL4

User/Connect Password: J^T9*edAYmLJ [Hide]

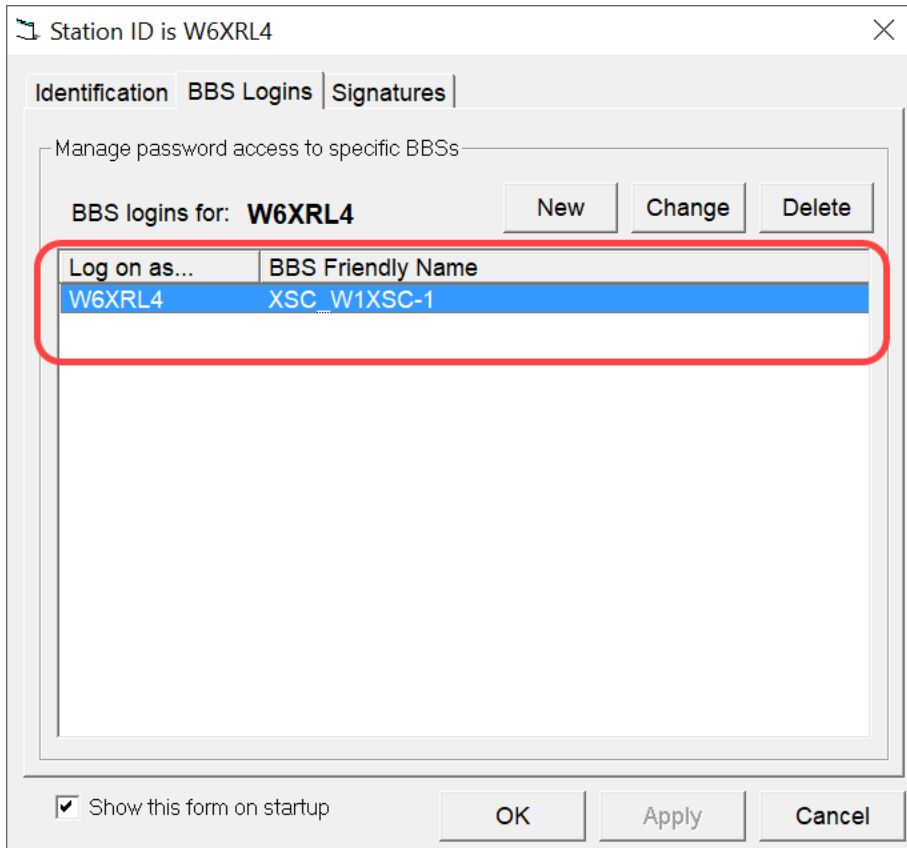
Winlink Account Password: []

Description: [] [Add] [Cancel]

Show this form on startup [OK] [Apply] [Cancel]

- Click “Apply”

- Click on the BBS Logins tab
- Note that the previously configured logins will show in the listing (shown below outlined in red)



- Repeat the above procedure for BBS Names: XSC_W2XSC-1, XSC_W3XSC-1, XSC_W4XSC-1
- When done, you should see four logins configured

Example: Configure Logins for a Tactical Call Sign

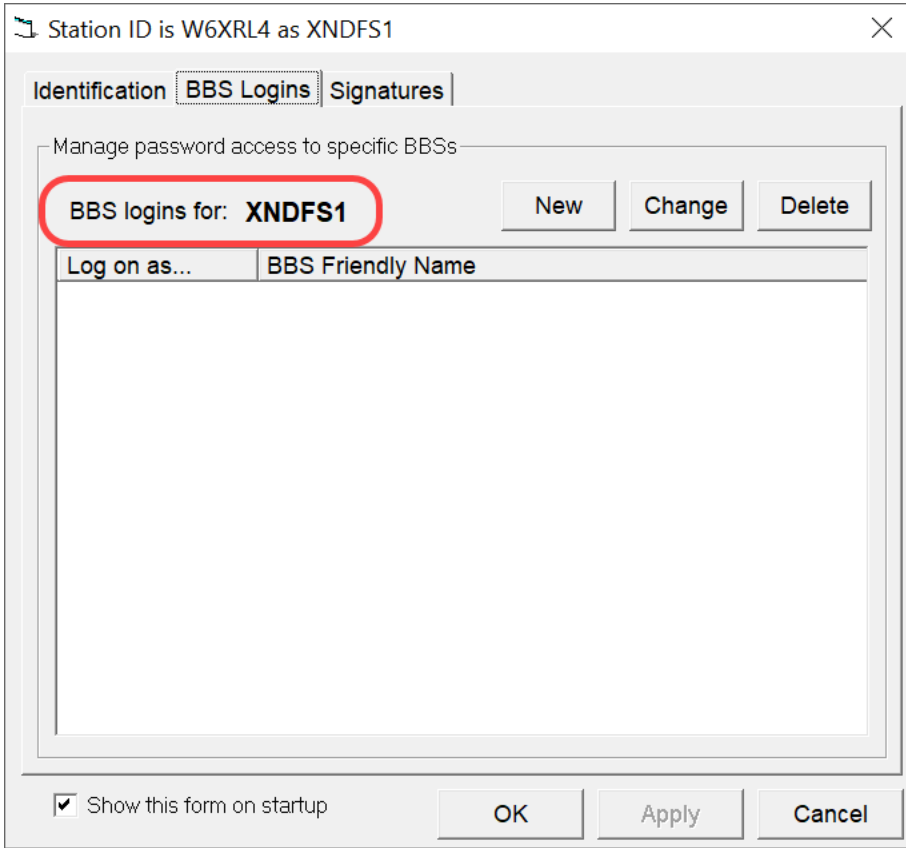
This example uses the fictional tactical call sign for the City of Xanadu Fire Station 1, XNDFS1. Substitute the actual values that apply to your station.

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > Station ID
- Select your FCC call sign from the User Call Sign pull-down menu
 - If you haven't already configured your Legal call sign, click on "New" and do that now.
- Check "Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction"
- Select your Tactical call sign from the Tactical Call Sign pull-down menu
 - If you haven't already configured your tactical call sign, click on "New" and do that now.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Station ID is W6XRL4 as XNDFS1". It has three tabs: "Identification", "BBS Logins", and "Signatures". The "Identification" tab is active. Under "Current Profile:", the value "Outpost" is shown. The "Legal" section contains: "User Call Sign:" with a dropdown menu showing "W6XRL4" and a "New" button; "User Name:" with a text field containing "Herman Munster" and a "Delete" button; and "Message ID Prefix:" with a text field containing "XRL" and a "(3 Characters max)" label. The "Tactical" section contains: a checked checkbox for "Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction"; "Tactical Call Sign:" with a dropdown menu showing "XNDFS1" and a "New" button; "Additional ID Text:" with a text field containing "Xanadu Fire Station 1" and a "Delete" button; and "Message ID Prefix:" with a text field containing "FS1" and a "(3 Characters max)" label. At the bottom, there is a checked checkbox for "Show this form on startup" and three buttons: "OK", "Apply", and "Cancel".

- Click "Apply"

- Click on the “BBS Logins” tab
 - Notice that the window shows “BBS logins for: **XNDFS1**” (shown below outlined in red)



- Click “New”

- In the “BBS Name” pull-down, select: XSC_W1XSC-1
- Do not change the “User Logon” field
- In the “User/Connect Password” field, enter your password
 - Use your actual password, not the fictitious value shown below
 - You can click on “Show” to verify that you typed it properly.

Station ID is W6XRL4 as XNDFS1

Identification | **BBS Logins** | Signatures

Manage password access to specific BBSs

BBS logins for: **XNDFS1** [New] [Change] [Delete]

Log on as...	BBS Friendly Name
--------------	-------------------

BBS Name: XSC_W1XSC-1

User Logon: XNDFS1

User/Connect Password: xQF?8dX2Ew^g [Hide]

Winlink Account Password:

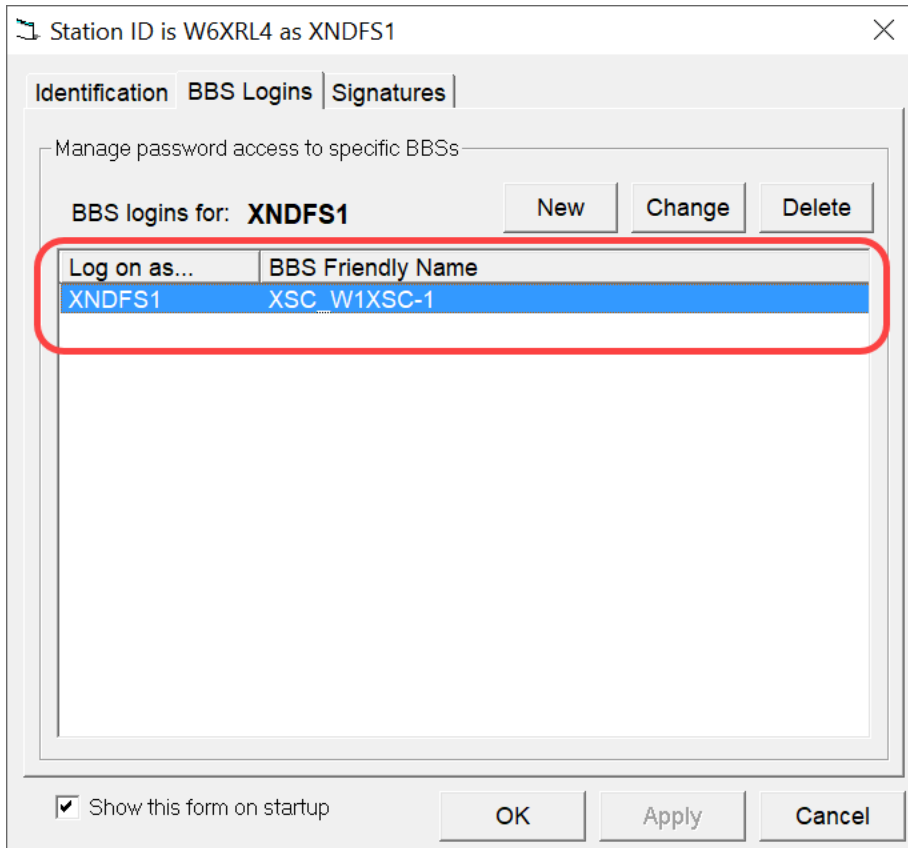
Description:

[Add] [Cancel]

Show this form on startup [OK] [Apply] [Cancel]

- Click “Apply”

- Click on the BBS Logins tab
- Note that the previously configured logins will show in the listing (shown below outlined in red)



- Repeat the above procedure for BBS Names: XSC_W2XSC-1, XSC_W3XSC-1, XSC_W4XSC-1
- When done, you should see four logins configured

Step 2: Set Up

Once the telnet interfaces and BBS logins are configured, they can be selected for use in the Set Up menu.

Step 2a: Setup Station ID

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > Station ID ...
- Select the desired User Call Sign
- If using a tactical call sign
 - Be sure “Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction” is checked
 - Select the desired Tactical Call Sign

This example shows User Call Sign W6XRL4 and tactical call sign XNDFS1.

Station ID is W6XRL4 as XNDFS1

Identification | BBS Logins | Signatures

Current Profile: Outpost

Legal

User Call Sign: W6XRL4 New

User Name: Herman Munster Delete

Message ID Prefix: XRL (3 Characters max)

Tactical

Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction

Tactical Call Sign: XNDFS1 New

Additional ID Text: Xanadu Fire Station 1 Delete

Message ID Prefix: FS1 (3 Characters max)

Show this form on startup

OK Apply Cancel

- Click “OK”

Step 2b: Setup BBS

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > BBS ...
- On the Name tab:
 - BBS Name: Select the BBS that you want to connect to

This example shows W1XSC-1 selected:

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "BBS setup for XSC_W1XSC-1". It has several tabs: "Name", "Prompts", "Commands", "Init Commands", "Retrieving", and "Path". The "Name" tab is active. Inside the dialog, there are several fields and options:

- BBS Name:** A dropdown menu showing "XSC_W1XSC-1".
- Connect Name:** A text box containing "W1XSC-1".
- Description:** A text box containing "Santa Clara County ARES/RACES Packet System. Located in San Jose. JNOS.".
- BBS Type:** Two radio buttons: "Let Outpost determine the BBS and set up the prompts" (selected) and "User defines the BBS prompts".
- Non-Identifying BBSs:** Two radio buttons: "AA4RE BBS" (selected) and "AA4RE BBS with Tactical Call Customization".
- TNC Name:** A text box with a "Set/Get TNC" button next to it.
- Buttons:** "New", "Copy", and "Delete" buttons are on the right side. "OK", "Apply", and "Cancel" buttons are at the bottom.

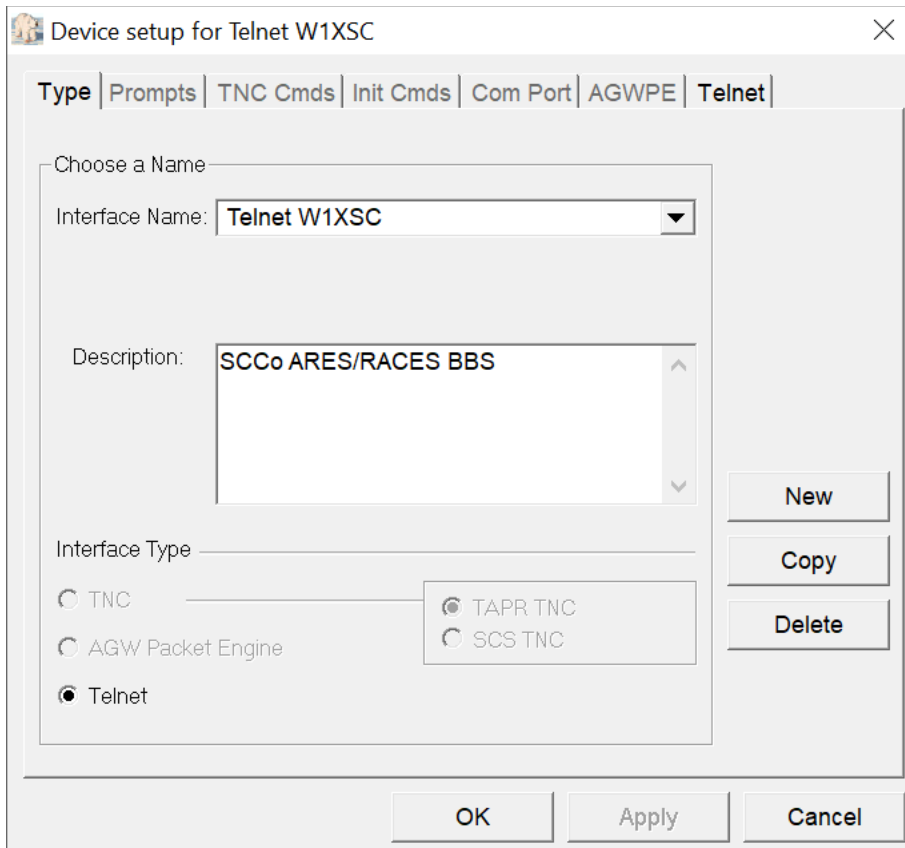
- Click "OK"

Outpost will automatically use the previously configured BBS login that matches the combination of call sign and BBS.

Step 2c: Set Up Interface

- In Outpost, go to: Setup > Interface ...
- On the Type tab:
 - Interface Name: Select the previously configured Telnet interface for the BBS you want to connect to

Example shows the “Telnet W1XSC” interface selected:



- Click “OK”

Step 2d: Verify Your Setup Choices

- Look at the status line at the bottom of the Outpost main window and confirm that your Station ID, BBS, and Interface are listed as you have just selected.

Items: 14	Unread: 12	W6XRL4 as XNDFS1 -- XSC_W1XSC-1 -- Telnet W1XSC (telnet)	00:00:00	21:55:45	///
-----------	------------	--	----------	----------	-----

This example shows:

- Legal call sign = W6XRL4
- Tactical call sign = XNDFS1
- BBS Name = XSC_W1XSC-1
- Interface Name = Telnet W1XSC (connection type is telnet)

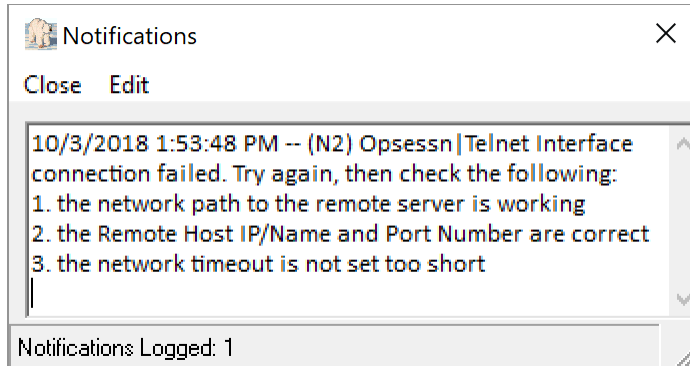
Operation Using Telnet

The way Outpost interacts with the BBS over a Telnet connection is virtually identical to how it works over an AX.25 connection with a TNC and radio. You still press Send/Receive and Outpost still issues the same commands to the BBS. The main difference is speed.

Resolving Connection Problems

Telnet Interface connection failed

If you receive a “Telnet Interface connection failed” error, such as the “Notifications” pop-up window shown below:



... then:

- You may not have configured the Telnet interface correctly (see Step 1 above)
- You may not have set up Telnet correctly (see Step 2 above)
- You may not be connected to the county network or your PC's IPv4 network connection is not configured correctly. Consult your local IT support.

Login Incorrect

If you are able to connect to the BBS but the login fails, look at the Session Manager window for clues. If you see “Login incorrect”, then:

- You may not have configured the call sign or BBS Login correctly (see Step 1 above)