

AX25 BBS FORWARDING Discussion

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This article describes in simple terms how AX25 Bulletins are forwarded around the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. As there does seem to be a misunderstanding amongst the Packet Radio Users and System Operators how this works

The following is an edited exchange of views followed by comments from Bryan G0SYR SysOP of GB7CP and Co-SysOP of the International Gateway GB7CIP, GB7CR that runs Radio Links VHF UHF as well as Internet and Earlier via the London UK Worm holes (LONNY London<> New York) since the late 1980's until they ceased. (g4apl)

I hope you won't mind me replying as a bulletin as I think its important that as many people as possible understand the situation as it's obvious that you do believe what you say although its based on complete myth. Remember we are talking about bulletins forwarded @WW (World-Wide)

You're trying to explain forwarding to a SYSOP? C'mon now, To put it simply you're explaining radio forwarding but land line is a horse of a different colour and that's what I wrote about. Talk about misinformation, nothing you wrote applies to how it's done over the Internet where messages are forwarded to a specific IP the same as e-mail. Actually you touched on that without apparently realizing it

No. Forwarding by landline is done in exactly the same way as by radio. I realise that you are a sysop with no experience of landline forwarding but take my word as a remote sysop of a BBS with both radio and landline ports the forwarding is done in exactly the same way over radio and landline.

The principle I'm explaining is simple and should be basic knowledge for every sysop but that would appear not to be the case as you are not the only sysop to make similar comments.

Each BBS that appears in the R: lines works in the same basic way.
It receives a bulletin stores it and at some time later forwards it on to its directly connected partners.

The links between BBS's are many and varied and it makes not one jot of difference how the connection is made. It can be AX25, NetRom, Pactor, Winlink, Clover, PSK31, AXUDP, Telnet, NNTP, RTTY, CW, Email, Written on piece of paper and strapped to a carrier pigeon and typed in again at the RX (receive) end. It makes no difference. The network is independent of the protocols used to connect the BBS's together. Messages are forwarded between callsigns, you are muddling the nuts and bolts of connections with the forwarding process they are totally separate.

I merely explained in the simplest possible terms to one who didn't understand why messages are lost. "...at each hop lies the potential for another mess."

No.... My bulletins are required to be forwarded to 'every' BBS in the world that will accept them. There is no potential for another mess at each hop as each hop in the R: lines represents another successful step in passing my bulletin on to another BBS. Which is the aim of the BBS network.
Ideally it has to 'hop' to EVERY BBS in world.

FYI, Internet uses real time rather than store and forward as radio does so. "Old Father Time" really isn't a factor. That's how Internet bulls arrive ahead of radio ones and short circuit the radio network, but I have repeated that endlessly and it's always fallen on deaf ears.

No! that's not correct. Internet forwarding uses store and forward in exactly the same way as radio. In fact in the UK traffic from outside the UK should go through a third process before forwarding. That of review. So a message being forwarded into the UK should be checked by the sysop of the BBS that's receiving it.

All that is different is possibly the speed of transmission. It is faster if the both stations have a 24/7 broadband internet connections. This will be faster than if they have a 70cm UHF 19K2 baud link, which again is faster than an HF Pactor link. None of that is relevant, the actual time spent transmitting by all of the above links is usually small compared with the delay of the BBS storing the message on its hard drive and

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waiting till the next forwarding session opens up, these are the delays you see in the R: lines and it's these delays that determine the route YOU will see in your R: lines.

It is true because Internet linked BBS's and VHF/UHF radio linked BBS's have links available 24/7. They don't have delays imposed by waiting for the suitable Short Wave HF band conditions. They will probably initiate forwarding sessions more regularly and indeed some may initiate forwarding whenever there is something to forward. There is no real reason why they can't poll each other for new bulletins every few minutes.

I simply suggest you learn a little more before arguing with another sysop who learned from sysops far more experienced than I.

That's ok. That's how we learn by exchanging ideas.

I'm sorry to say those sysops sold you a story and you believed it, they didn't explain to you how to interpret the R: lines. You need to step back and think about it for yourself now I've told you that the forwarding mechanisms are the same for radio and internet.

FYI, your bulletin was sent via Uruguay, Hungary, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, back to Germany, and Switzerland before being sent via HF Pactor to our key node in Connecticut. Why can't the UK forward directly to the US in one easy hop? It would sure get here quicker and kill the following BID/MID's arriving from elsewhere thus shortening the path and reducing the chances for errors.

No.. My bulletin was forwarded within a few minutes of me writing it direct to both W1NGL and WU3V in the USA. It seems to me that each country is responsible for organising its own BBS network and once a copy of my bulletin is deposited in the USA, it's up to sysops in the USA to organise themselves to distribute it. It may be more difficult in a large country but many problems are of your own making caused by petty squabbles causing your network to fragment.

All I can say is when your bulletins @WW arrive in the UK they are distributed around all the UK BBS's that will accept them. As quickly as possible using whatever means are available, usually within a few hours of arrival.

The QUICKEST path to your BBS from mine is the one that YOU quoted, as you rightly say if there WERE a quicker path then that would be the one you would see.

All you are telling us is that there was no quicker forwarding paths from W1NGL and WU3V to your BBS WT3V than the one you have indicated.

via Uruguay, Hungary, Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, back to Germany, and Switzerland

each hop is another successful step in my bulletin's journey round the world placing a single copy of it on every BBS that wants it.

Don't misunderstand, we would nearly all agree that if there were radio links with sufficient capacity and reliability we would both use them and promote their use but they are few and far between. If you were more positive and promoted the use of the few radio links that exist for reaching areas that don't have good communications otherwise, you would generate more respect than your negative posts based on completely false ideas of how the network functions.

Preserve the integrity of our network.
Use what's available to hold it together!
***** :-)

73 de Bryan
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Hope the above discussion is of use to you de G4APL Paul