

LoTW Update—July 2022

Logbook Committee

<i>Logbook of the World Status</i>	
1,542,776,781	QSO records have been entered into the system.
333,395,773	QSL records have resulted.
160,552	Users are registered in the system
229,548	Certificates are active
57,316,794	User files have been processed

In the first half of 2022, Logbook users added over 87 million QSO records. At this rate, 2022 will surpass 2021's addition of 171+ million QSO records. The number of certificates, users and files processed have increased above the level of the first half of 2021, but at a lower rate. The total number of user files processed increased at about 20%, again reflecting users' tendency to upload smaller updates more frequently.

(status shown—7/1/22; statistics not compiled for Q1 2022)

Availability

Logbook availability continues to be excellent, at 99.999% in the last 90 days, exceeding our 99% goal. There have been only a few and brief inaccessibility events so far in 2022, due principally to network availability from our ISP. Updates to hardware continue to be made quietly.

Users experienced few difficulties, and user questions continued to be answered through Logbook Support and ARRL-LOTW.

2022 Developments to date

TQSL has now been updated to 2.6.4. The chief improvement with version 2.6 has been a complete re-structuring of the dialog for requesting a new or updated certificate. This now appears similar to a QSL card, and the dialog has been made more clear and intuitive, and some confusions have been removed. Updates have occurred as needed to accommodate new satellites, etc.

The ADIF standard was recently updated to version 3.1.3, with the following changes to Mode and Submode enumerations that affect Logbook:

- Addition of new Submodes C4FM, DMR, & DSTAR to Mode DIGITALVOICE and deprecation of C4FM and DSTAR as Modes.
- Addition of new Mode DYNAMIC and Submodes VARA HF, VARA SATELLITE, VARA FM 1200, & VARA FM 9600.

We are working on providing these updates to Logbook as soon as possible, especially in view of our limited resources.

It is important to note that the representation of different modes in the ADIF standard is intended only to facilitate information interchange among the different applications which use and emit amateur contact information. Nothing in the classification scheme adopted by ADIF commits or alters the classifications by which ARRL chooses to issue awards. Logbook continues its policy of supporting ADIF's representation for all fields it uses.

Personify migration

When Personify appeared, the persistence of login cookies for Logbook was reduced, increasing login security. However, other, non-security cookies were also apparently removed or made less persistent, reducing the friendliness of interaction of users with Logbook. Thus, when user seeks to refresh a Logbook screen and re-login is required, the entire session must start again, rather than simply opening a refreshed version of the original page.

Preparation for updates to Logbook

The committee has been considering what might be done before a major revision of the Radiosport platform kicks off. While no major revisions of the Logbook production application are allowed, a valuable contribution to Logbook's eventual evolution would be to thoroughly document the processes and logic of the existing code. The committee determined that the preferred approach is to have it documented by the one developer on staff who has worked on portions of the application previously. That developer is assigned to the Personify project and so is unavailable.

The Evolution of Logbook

The ability of the committee to address issues with Logbook's functioning is almost entirely constrained because there are no resources made available to work on programming issues. Inability to correct the unintended consequences of updating cookie security above is a good example of this limitation.

Logbook privacy policy

For many years, ARRL Awards issues have been treated as private matters, even to the point where neither stations disqualified nor their infractions of DXCC rules have been publicized. After discussion, the Logbook Committee has concluded that the policy of anonymity will continue to be observed when discussing appropriate use of Logbook resources.

Communicate, communicate, communicate

As has been observed here before, "In the absence of information, people make things up, and what they make up is always worse than reality." The work of the Logbook Committee would be facilitated if more communication about the evolution of the new Radiosport environment were forthcoming. The committee stands ready to contribute to that evolution.

Submitted by,
Greg Widin, KØGW, Chair 2022
for the Logbook Committee

Members: K3DGB, K7GM, KØGW, W9JJ, N4MB, K1MU/4, W5OV, K6WX, W7XM, Doug Haney