EchoLink Installation on a PC

There are more complete instructions on the EchoLink.org website, but I find them somewhat difficult to navigate. I suggest you look at the website, and then use the instructions and explanations here for reference as you go through the process of installing and running EchoLink on your PC. I have tried to put all you need in a single document. Once you have finished this one time installation and setup, you are ready to start enjoying EchoLink anytime with just the click of a button!

1. **Download the EchoLink software to PC:**
   Go to http://echolink.org/ and click the Download link in the left column of the page. Read the instructions on the page to find the download that is appropriate for your system. Most Windows users can download and install using the link near the top of the page for (as of spring 2019 it is EchoLinkSetup_2_0_908.exe). Download and run the installation program (you will need to run it as the administrator of your computer). Allow the setup to run which will install the program and create a start button for it. BE PATIENT – It takes a few minutes to get the installation started but once it starts it runs quickly.

2. **Complete EchoLink Wizard:**
   The first time (only the first time) you run the EchoLink program it will automatically run the EchoLink Wizard where you will provide some basic information:
   Unless you are installing it to control your transmitter – click Computer User and click Next.   Unless you will use an old dial phone modem, select DSL, Cable and click Next. Enter your name, call, etc. information and click Next, your location and click Next
   You can try the firewall test but if it fails just click next – then click Finish

3. **Obtain an "*Official Copy*" of your FCC License**
   Since EchoLink can connect your PC to radio transmitters all over the world you must verify that you are actually a legally licensed amateur radio operator. EchoLink therefore requires that you upload an "Official Copy" of your license to the EchoLink server. The license MUST have a watermark saying "**Official Copy**" not just "Copy". The FCC instructions for obtaining your Official Copy change frequently. For current instructions, see https://www.fcc.gov/how-obtain-official-authorizations-uls and open the "INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN ULS".
   You will need your FCC Record Number (FRN) and password. (If you don't remember

your FRN you can find it at https://qrz.com .) The instructions on the FCC page include a link to retrieve a forgotten password. There is also a link to obtain an FRN if you have never registered.

(Be sure to remember where you save the file if not in the download directory.)

4. **Uploading your license:**

   Go to http://www.echolink.org/validation/

   Enter your call in the text box and click the Continue button

   Select your call-sign, enter your email address, and click Request Validation.

   You should receive an email – click the link to go to the validation web page.

   Click the FCC PDF Document option to go to the Upload FCC PDF page.

   Click Browse to find and select/open your downloaded Official PDF license copy.

   Click Send File

5. **Complete the EchoLink Setup:**

   If you exited the EchoLink program, start it again.

   At the top of the EchoLink screen – click Help then Contents and look at the "Getting Started" instructions. The first thing you will notice is that you already did the first few steps – so why did you not see these instructions before? Because the program runs the Wizard BEFORE it lets you see the instructions! (Please don't shoot the messenger.) Review the instructions for initial setup in "User" mode.   Then read over the other topics under Getting Started.

Be sure to test your internet connection using the Firewall/Router Test found on the Tools pull-down menu. This tests your access to the internet using 2 "UDP" ports (5198 and 5199). You may have to open these ports in your firewall and/or router. If you cannot get the UDP ports to work you may need to use a "Proxy Server" to connect to EchoLink. (I have found that Verizon Jetpack/MiFi cards do not support UDP unless you pay a separate monthly charge for a static IP address.) See Tools-Setup-Proxy and select Public Proxy, refresh the list and select a server from the list, then repeat the Firewall/Router Test.   You may have to try several proxy servers to find one that works for you. I have found that as long as SOME of the 4 UDP Ports pass the test I can connect over the internet.

Once you have passed the Router/Firewall Test – at the bottom left of your screen click Explorer View and under "Node Types" select Repeaters. This will display a list of EchoLink repeaters. Look for the repeater you want to use and select it. You can connect to the

repeater by clicking the green chain-link near the top left of the screen, or by double clicking the repeater.

You can also connect to a known station by clicking the ==Station== tab on the menu bar, then click ==Connect_To==, enter the station name and click the ==Connect== button. W3TOM-R will connect you to the repeater for the RV Radio Network EchoLink Net.

Your computer space bar works as a PTT button. Or click the lightning bolt at the top left corner to LOCK your PTT, click again to UNLOCK.

EchoLink has more features that you will want to explore, but the information here should allow you to access the proposed RV Radio Network EchoLink Net.

The current plan is to conduct the net weekly on the W3TOM repeater at 8:00 PM Central time on Thursday evenings. Tom Abernethy is a member of the RV Radio Network and has graciously offered the use of his EchoLink repeater for our net. At the top of the EchoLink screen, click Station – Connect To: and enter the callsign as W3TOM-R then click Connect.   I would like to have some test runs starting on Thursday Dec 13th with anyone who can participate to get used to the software and discuss plans for the net, then start the actual net on the first Thursday of 2019.

73,
K4HM -Hank