LoTW Update—July 2021

Logbook Committee

Logbook of the World Status	
1,368,997,284	QSO records have been entered into the system.
285,254,626	QSL records have resulted.
147,540	Users are registered in the system
211,579	Certificates are active
40,738,033	User files have been processed

The year 2020 showed high growth on Logbook, as users added almost 164 million QSO records. So far, the first 6 months of 2021 are about even with this rate, with 85+ million QSO records being added. At the same time, the numbers of certificates and users have both increased 5+%.   (left—6/30/21)

Logbook availability has been excellent, but we cannot report the percent availability due to broken software. The realtime status report was also broken but has been restored at https://status.lotw.arrl.org/. We are working on an improved status report format that is less confusing and more informative, but this has been hampered by lack of resource availability.

Toward the end of Q2, some users reported difficulty retrieving Logbook entries. This turned out to be due to input processes put in place to throttle online services that excessively requested all of a user's data. Some flaws in the process were fixed. Also, an unintentional over-request by GridTracker was identified, and its development team responded rapidly with updates to correct the problem. Luckily the problems were identified by Doug Haney and Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ. It appears that these problems have all been solved.

2021 Developments to date

The new mode Q65 is supported by TQSL and is accepted by the Logbook database. By working proactively with K1JT and team, and with the ADIF standards committee, we were able to support the new mode before its release in the production version of WSJT-X.

We have reported before about changes in TQSL which permit single locations to have up to 4 different grid squares. Though the N1MM+ developers have been very cooperative in supporting this location option, we have discovered that N1MM+ claims *not* to support rover operations, despite this being an important contest activity. Advocacy continues, primarily by AA7A, to get N1MM+ to recognize and support rovers along with multi-grid locations.

Project X and Logbook 2.0

At this point, it appears that "Logbook 2.0" is completely subsumed under the Project X umbrella.   From Logbook's perspective, since there has been no apparent progress on Project X, there has been no activity on Logbook 2.0.

Logbook's User Support Model

As mentioned in our January report, we are concerned that the current user-support model is unsustainable. We need to consider alternative delivery using online methods which take advantage of volunteers, and which create an archival source of solutions that individuals may

easily access to solve their own problems rapidly. A successful similar example is the support system for ClubLog, which uses volunteers, to respond to users' questions, and *freshdesk*, which routes the inquiries and builds a database where users can often find answers themselves. Such an approach would be consistent with approaching Logbook and Radiosport as a _system_, as suggested for Project X, but it is not necessary to wait for Project X to implement such an approach.

Logbook 2021
In the first half of 2021, Logbook has had virtually no software resources with which to make adjustments, much less improvements. Therefore, we continue to concentrate on the few procedural changes which can be made without requiring software changes, as reported above.

Though the Committee continues to be excited about the possibilities of Project X, we are disappointed to observe no movement on the project.

Submitted by,
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        for the Logbook Committee

Members: AA7A, K3DGB, K7GM, KØGW, W3IZ, W9JJ, K1MU/4, K6WX, Doug Haney