



# INTERNATIONAL RADIO NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Website: <https://irn.radio>

Email: [irnhamradio@gmail.com](mailto:irnhamradio@gmail.com)

## Welcome

Welcome everyone to the latest edition of the International Radio Network newsletter. I hope you are all well and thanks for being part of this incredible Network, that brings people from all around the world together, to connect and enjoy spending some time with each other and sharing information.

In this month's newsletter, Doug Behl VE3XDB takes us on a wonderful journey around the world, finding out more about some of the countries represented in the IRN membership. We are so delighted to have IRN members from all corners of the world and, while I am not a great traveller abroad myself, I do love to hear from people and learn about where they live.



Thanks to Doug, for another very informative contribution to the newsletter. Doug has also asked if anyone wants to highlight their country, radio club or community, then please send in your own stories and even some pictures as well. Contact details are found at the end of the newsletter as usual.

Also in this newsletter is a fantastic article by Cliff Linton VE6PLC. Cliff gives us lots of great advice about what to do with that Windows 10 computer that many of us will still have. Personally, I have not updated mine to Windows 11 yet. I followed some online advice that states, 'To keep receiving security updates for Windows 10 after October 14, 2025, enrol in Microsoft's Extended Security Updates (ESU) program, which provides one additional year of support until October 13, 2026. You can register for free by going to **Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update** and clicking the "Enroll now" button'.

Of course, that only provides Windows 10 security updates up to October this year, so thanks to Cliff for his well-timed and informative article. If anyone has any comments or additional information that they would like to share on the subject of what to do with Windows 10, please get in touch and we can include them in the next newsletter, or you can even start a discussion on the IRN Facebook page. Again, details of how to get in touch is at the end of the newsletter.

For future newsletters, we welcome your news, equipment reviews, reports, critter reports, pictures, stories and anything else you want to share. Details of how to send your contribution can be found at the end as well.

We always welcome contributions to the **IRN Facebook page**. If you are not already a member of the Facebook Group, then here is the link to join.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1245420475608672>

Finally, I want to thank everyone who sent so many kind messages on my recent Birthday, when I celebrated becoming 60. You are all so kind and thoughtful, and I am so proud to be part of the International Radio Network community. You are all amazing, and it is such a privilege to hear each and every one of you on the air, participating on our nets throughout the week, sharing information and getting to know each other more and more.

Please remember that both our 'systems' (RF linked and non-RF linked) are connected and available for general use in between our nets as well, so feel free to give out a CQ call and see who you might meet at any time. It is a great place to meet new people from anywhere around the world, and make some lasting friendships.

Take care everyone and stay connected.

Best wishes and 73

Graham M Matthews, GM0UUB  
President, International Radio Network

## **Where in the World? - Interesting information about the IRN membership**

By Doug Behl VE3XDB

As a follow up to the information provided in the January newsletter, here is a bit more information about our membership!

### **Members Home Countries**

Our member database is not too sophisticated, but with a bit of spreadsheet magic, was able to determine that IRN members reside in over 80 countries, around the world! From the largest countries to the smallest, IRN members can be found worldwide!



Geography has always been of interest to me. While preparing this article, I did a bit of research on some of the locations of which I had limited knowledge. Much of the following information was sourced from the Britannica website (<https://www.britannica.com/>), or from Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)).

This month we will highlight, Guernsey, Kuwait, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tasmania. Each of these locations has at least one registered member of the IRN!

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**Guernsey** is a lovely island in the Channel Islands, located about 130 kilometres from the British coast. It has been a dependency of the British crown since the Norman Conquest of 1066. The island's population is around 66,500.

The people of Guernsey mostly have Norman roots, with some Breton influence. Its main towns are St. Peter Port and St. Sampson. The island is known for its Guernsey breed of cattle, primarily found in the southern highlands, while the northern region focuses on market gardening, producing tomatoes, flowers, and grapes for export to England.

Tourism grew significantly in the 20th century. A popular site is the home of Victor Hugo in St. Peter Port, now a museum. Guernsey is accessible via an airport at La Villaize, as well as ferry connections to Jersey, Alderney, and Sark, plus destinations like London, Weymouth, and Saint-Malo.



The island covers about 62 square kilometres, while the entire Bailiwick of Guernsey is around 78 square kilometres.

Amateur radio callsign prefixes are GU, MU and MP. Amateur radio is regulated by Ofcom. Local time in Guernsey is UTC.

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**Kuwait** is a small country located in the northwestern corner of the Persian Gulf, nestled between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Despite being in one of the driest deserts, it boasts a deep harbour called Kuwait Bay along its coast.

As an emirate, Kuwait is governed by an emir, with the Al Sabah family at the helm of its political system. The country's official religion is Islam, specifically following the Maliki school of Sunni Islam.

Kuwait enjoys a high-income economy, supported by the sixth-largest oil reserves globally. It is often referred to as the "Hollywood of the Gulf" due to its vibrant arts and popular culture scene. The country is recognized for initiating the oldest modern arts movement in the Arabian Peninsula and has produced many prominent artists. Kuwaiti popular culture, including theatre, music, and television soap operas, is widely shared with neighbouring Gulf states.



Kuwait is a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and participates in several international organizations, including the United Nations, OPEC, the Arab League, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The amateur radio callsign prefix in Kuwait is 9K, and the local time is UTC +3.



**Trinidad and Tobago**, officially known as the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, is the southernmost island country in the Caribbean. It consists of the main islands, Trinidad and Tobago, along with several smaller islets. The capital city is Port of Spain, while Tunapuna/Piarco is its largest municipality. Positioned close to the South American mainland, Trinidad and Tobago lies 11 kilometres northeast of Venezuela, 130 kilometres south of Grenada, and 288 kilometres southwest of Barbados.

The islands were inhabited by Indigenous peoples for centuries before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1498. Trinidad was claimed by the Spanish but was later surrendered to the British fleet in 1797. The islands became British territories in 1802 and were unified in 1889. Trinidad and Tobago gained independence in 1962 and became a republic in 1976.



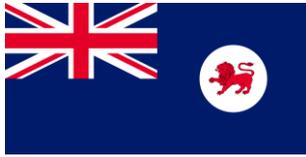
Unlike many Caribbean nations that rely on tourism, Trinidad and Tobago has a primarily industrial economy, heavily based on its substantial oil and gas reserves. The islands experience fewer hurricanes than other regions in the Caribbean due to their southern location.

Trinidad and Tobago is rich in African and Indian Caribbean cultures, celebrated through events like the famous Trinidad and Tobago Carnival, Hosay, and Diwali. The country is also known as the birthplace of the steelpan, as well as musical styles such as calypso, soca, rapso, chutney music, and chutney soca. Learn more about Trinidad and Tobago by tuning in to the IRN Coffee

Net, each Wednesday at 5:00 PM Eastern Time, hosted by our genial friend, Shorn 11IRN610. (<https://www.irn.radio/nets>).

Amateur radio callsign prefixes are 9Y and 9Z. Local time is UTC -4.

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**Tasmania** is an island state of Australia, located 240 kilometres south of the Australian mainland, separated by the Bass Strait. It includes the main island of Tasmania, which is the 26th largest island in the world, along with about 1,000 surrounding islands. As of June 2023, it is Australia's smallest and least populous state, with a population of 573,479. The capital and largest city is Hobart, where around 40% of the population resides in the Greater Hobart area. Tasmania is known for being the most decentralized state in Australia, with fewer residents living in its capital compared to other states.

Economically, Tasmania has the second smallest economy of all Australian states and territories. Key sectors include tourism, agriculture, aquaculture, education, and healthcare. The state is a significant exporter of agricultural products and is a popular destination for eco-tourism. Approximately 42% of Tasmania's land area is protected, including national parks and World Heritage Sites (21%). Interestingly, Tasmania is home to the world's first environmental political party.



The amateur radio callsign prefix in Tasmania is VK7, and the local time is UTC +10.

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Next month, we'll have more geography and other "fun facts" about the IRN. Am I missing something? Want to highlight your country, radio club, or community? Contact the IRN to provide your own story, fun fact, or tidbit of information.

**Sources:**

- Encyclopedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/>
- Wikipedia: <https://www.wikipedia.org/>
- Hamnut: <https://hamnut.com/>

**New network connection – Quadnet**

The IRN is pleased to announce that the International Radio Network is available on the Quadnet network. Connect to the DMR talkgroup 31320, using one of the three US based servers. Full instructions can be found at <https://www.openquad.net/index.html>.

# What To Do with Windows 10 Computers?

By Cliff Linton VE6PLC

Now that Windows 10 has come to the “end of life” stage, many owners of Windows 10 computers are wondering what to do with computers that are running Windows 10 and cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 because of hardware limitations. There are options out there for those owners! Option One is to just carry on with Windows 10. Steps can be taken to keep Windows 10 secure without support from Microsoft. Option Two is to replace Windows 10 with one of the Linux operating systems that are designed to be friendly to Windows users. Option 3 is to use the Windows 10 computer as a file server and purchase a new Windows 11 computer.

## Option One

Carry on using Windows 10. Windows Security still works, offering Firewall protection, Ransomware protection, Virus and Threat protection, and Device security. There are also third party programs like MalwareBytes and Sophos Home that can be installed to enhance protection from malicious attacks. A VPN can also be installed to enhance protection. I use a VPN extension with my default web browser but a VPN can also be used to help protect all traffic that goes over the internet. Another step is to create a Standard user account for day-to-day activities. Standard accounts have limitations, like not being able to install software, that can help thwart malicious attacks over the internet. To install software, just switch to an account with Administrator rights, install the software for “all users”, then switch back to the Standard account. You will also have to move your documents, photos, videos, music, and the like from under the Administrator account to a folder on the C: drive that is accessible to both accounts. For example C:\My\_Stuff. Use a password manager with a secure passphrase (not just a password) to keep track of your passwords. A password manager makes it easier to use strong passwords for internet sites and devices and to not use the same password for multiple sites. I have been using KeePass for over two decades and can highly recommend it, no matter what version of Windows you use!

## Option Two

Back up any documents, photos, videos, music files, and other files that you want to keep to an external drive then replace Windows 10 with Linux. Linux Mint and RefreshOS are good examples of Linux alternatives to Windows. Do a search for “windows like linux distros” for more information on these and other Linux variants. Many Linux operating systems come with an Office suite like LibreOffice which includes the equivalent of many MS Office programs that can work with your existing Word, Excel, and Powerpoint files. I have installed Linux Mint on an older laptop that had become excruciatingly slow, which has given the computer new life. This option is a bit geeky, but there is lots of support available online.

### **Option Three**

Purchase a new Windows 11 computer and use the Windows 10 computer as a file server. This option is a bit more geeky but it is the option I chose for several reasons. It allows me to access files from my Windows desktop and laptop computers, from my Raspberry Pi computers, and from my Android tablets. As an example, I have Raspberry Pi computers attached to two of my TV's which lets me play music and videos and view pictures and photos that are stored on the Windows 10 file server. Important documents that are kept on the file server are automatically backed up to a secure, remote location using Carbonite. Since many of my documents were already on the Windows 10 computer, I created a Shared folder that is accessible over my local network to my other devices and moved all the folders with documents into the Shared folder. As for the new Windows 11 computer, the first thing I did after starting Windows 11 is to move the Taskbar from the centre to the left, like all previous versions of Windows! As I said, this option is a bit more geeky but it works quite well.

Windows 7 was in use by companies long after its "end of life" and I suspect Windows 10 will be used by many for a good while yet.



## Mission

The International Radio Network's mission is to promote the amateur radio hobby to those interested in radio communications. We welcome licensed and non-licensed operators, giving those with an interest the opportunity to gain experience in radio communications, theory, technology and fellowship.

The International Radio Network has been in existence for many years and has a considerable number of licensed amateur radio operators from all around the world. We also welcome unlicensed radio enthusiasts and short wave listeners to our membership, many of which go on to achieve their own amateur radio license.

## Membership and Getting Connected

If you are not already a member of the IRN, it is free and easy to do so. Just visit our website [www.irn.radio](http://www.irn.radio) and click on 'Register'. Follow the instructions and we will be delighted to include your Amateur Radio Callsign on our database, and if you are not licensed, we will provide you with an IRN Callsign/Number. Licensed members have full access to all our connections, and non-licensed members have access to the connections that have no RF links.

Importantly, to be 'trusted' on our Zello channels, or to be given 'talk permissions' on the Teamspeak platform, you must register using the above link on the website.

## Purpose, Aims and Objectives

To provide a reliable radio Network for the use by licensed radio amateurs, offering a range of methods and modes of communication, including analogue and digital modes

To build partnerships and connections with other amateur radio Groups and Networks

To provide regular nets, special events and other activities that promote the use of the Network and for the benefit and enjoyment of its members and users

To welcome unlicensed members and provide them with support to learn about the amateur radio hobby, ham radio etiquette and encourage them to apply for their own amateur radio license

To provide unlicensed members with a reliable platform on which to communicate and experience ham radio practice, with NO RF connection

To ensure that the Network is a safe and family-friendly place at all times, and take quick action where that is threatened in any way

To experiment with new technologies and modes of amateur radio operating.

## IRN Nets

**Several of our nets are open to all operators**, and may be heard on 'International Radio Network Channel' and 'ZMR 851.065' on Zello and the 'IRN QSO and Nets Channel' on TeamSpeak 3. They are:

**IRN Sunday net** – first and last Sunday of every month, 8:00pm Eastern, 1:00am Monday UK time, hosted by Barry 8WAR717. Watch Facebook for updates to the schedule.

**Friendship net** - every Monday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller VE6DCV Dave.

**Coffee net** - every Wednesday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller 11IRN610 Shorn.

**The following net is accessible only to licensed operators**, as it is a multimode net that connects to licensed only platforms and RF. We have a permanent connection with the Extended Freedom Network so you can also use any of their links to connect with the IRN

**KB1 Multimode net** - every Friday, 4:00pm Eastern, 9:00pm UK time with regular Net Controllers MM7HQS Helen, GM0UUB Graham and GW8SZL Dave.

For full details of the Nets and connections, please visit <https://www.irn.radio/nets>

## IRN Administration Team

Graham M Matthews GM0UUB - President, Ralph Streb K8TCP, Doug Behl VE3XDB, Helen Matthews MM7HQS, Bruce Lenton M0UKB, Gareth Steele G0WUR, Dave Phillips GW8SZL, Gareth Jackson M6IGJ. Contact members of the admin team at <https://irn.radio/contact> or by email at [irnhamradio@gmail.com](mailto:irnhamradio@gmail.com).

## Invitation for Contributions and Contact Information

We invite all members to add content to the Newsletters, to share personal stories, technical information, equipment reviews, radio-related jokes or fun-facts, other hobbies and interests, and anything else that would be of interest to our members. For example, personal stories about what got you into the radio hobby are always interesting. You can also email us with any questions, comments or ideas.

Contact us at <https://irn.radio/contact> or by email at [irnhamradio@gmail.com](mailto:irnhamradio@gmail.com).