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BaseStation v171 new features

1. ACARS Message Window

A date column has been added to the ACARS message display.

There is now an option for the messages to scroll in the reverse direction (scrolling downwards with most recent message at the top). This option is set using the ACARS tab in the Settings - Display Settings menu.

2. ACARS Message Log Files

BaseStation can be configured to write the ACARS messages to CSV format log files. This feature is enabled from the ACARS tab in the Settings - Display Settings menu. You can select the file name and path for the log files - by default they are put into a folder named ACARS under the BaseStation folder.

You can also choose the duration of each log file in minutes. The default is one log file per day (1440 minutes). The date and time of the start of the log period will be added automatically to the file name.

While BaseStation is writing a log file, other applications are permitted to open the file for reading only.

BaseStation v170 and SBS-3 Firmware L_0109_0000_0115_R_SBS3.kff

3. ACARS decoding

This version of the firmware can internally decode up to four ACARS channels simultaneously.

Set one of the two tuners to 133.0 MHz, as ACARS channels are in the upper part of the VHF air band.

Then tune the required SDR channels to your local ACARS frequencies. In Europe the following frequencies are used:

131.525 MHz
131.725 MHz
131.825 MHz
136.750 MHz

Please ensure that the SDR channels to be used for ACARS are set to AM demodulation, and that the mute and squelch are off for the channel.

4. ACARS Message Window

A window to display ACARS messages has been added to BaseStation, for use with the SBS-3 internal ACARS decoder. The window is displayed using the Built-in Radio - ACARS Window menu item or the keyboard shortcut CTRL-ALT-A.

The text and background colours on the window can be customised using the ACARS tab in the Settings - Display Settings menu. You can also choose whether to keep the window on top.

The columns can be resized by dragging the heading separator bars. The column sizes and window position are saved when BaseStation is shut down.

Note - in the message text field, newlines are replaced by a bar character “ | “ for readability.

Only messages which pass the CRC check are displayed.

5. ACARS data socket

A TCP server socket has been provided in BaseStation on port 30008 to output the ACARS data in comma separated text format.

6. Raw data output

ACARS and AIS data packets are now being made available on the SBS-3's stand-alone data port, and also on BaseStation's raw data output (port 30006). This is in addition to the NMEA data port on the SBS-3 for AIS that was introduced in the previous firmware. A new version of the API document showing the new packet types will be published shortly.

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