

About This Help

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RF-6551H HF Tactical Chat

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This Help is based on RF-6551H HF Tactical Chat version 2.0



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Help and Support

Welcome

The Harris HF Tactical Chat application provides an easy to use interface for transferring simple text messages and files using Harris HF radios: RF-7800H-MP, RF-5800H-MP, and AN/PRC-150(C). The application has limited knowledge of the radio and assumes that the radio is already setup. As peer-to-peer messenger application, it is capable of sending and receiving messages from one or more stations. However, only one message is managed and transferred at a time.

The Network Radio Driver Installer (NRDI) is required to create a Point-To-Point (PPP) connection to HF radios using a Harris modem.

This HF Tactical Chat help provides guidance on the following topics:

- [Startup](#)
- [Installation and Setup](#)
- [Operation](#)
- Troubleshooting ([FAQ Index](#))

For an overview of new features, refer to [What's New](#).

All acronyms used in the Help system are defined in the [Glossary](#).

Applicable Documents

The following documents contain useful information on radio operation and interoperability. Harris recommends consulting the radio's operation manual for detailed descriptions of waveform functions.

- RF-7800H-MP HF Manpack Radio Operation Manual (10515-0413-4200)
- RF-5800H-MP Advanced Tactical HF Radio Operation Manual (10515-0117-4200)
- AN/PRC-150(C) Advanced Tactical HF Radio Operation Manual (10515-0103-4100)
- Help for the following software:
 - CPA for RF-7800H
 - CPA for RF-5800H
 - CPA for AN/PRC-150

Help

Startup

Startup Overview

The following topics are included in Startup:

- [Quick Start](#)
- [Application Overview](#)

Quick Start

This section provides a quick-start guide to Tactical Chat.

The Tactical Chat application transfers text messages and files using RF-7800H-MP, RF-5800H-MP, and AN/PRC-150(C), radios.

Verify that system requirements are met, and the radio is appropriately programmed with system and modem presets before installing and using Tactical Chat. For additional information, click these links: [Application Overview](#), [System Requirements](#), [Radio Setup](#).

The following activities provide a summary on how to use Tactical Chat.


Installation and Setup

Also refer to [Setup](#).

1. Install the Tactical Chat application by following the [Installation](#) defaults.
2. If prompted, perform a [Modem Installation](#) or [Dial-Up Networking Installation](#).

Startup and Station Information Entry

For additional information, refer to: [Operational Overview](#).

1. Start the Tactical Chat application by clicking on the Tactical Chat **icon**  on the PC desktop. This will open the Tactical Chat [User Interface](#), displaying either the [Classic View](#) or the [Green View](#).
2. Select a Tactical Chat [Auto Save](#) location and file name (*.chx).
3. Select the [Connections](#) type. A restart of the application is required after this selection.
4. For the Ethernet connection, enter the Ethernet IP Address in the [Ethernet Address](#) field using the format ##.##.##. The default Ethernet IP Address is 169.254.78.1.
5. Type the [Radio Address](#) of the local radio in the [Set Self Address](#) field, then click in the Composition Pane to automatically update the [My Station](#) field with the Self Address data.
6. In the [Talking To:](#) field, type in the radio address of the remote station.
7. Set any desired Tactical Chat [Options](#), such as [Auto Save](#) or [Show Time](#).

Creating a Message

To create a message, type message text into the [Composition Pane](#).

Sending a Text Message

To send a message, click the [Send](#) button.

Sending a File

1. Click the **Send File** button.
2. Use the Browse feature to navigate to the file you want to send.
3. Highlight the desired file, and click [Open](#).

Application Overview

The HF Tactical Chat application transfers text messages and files using RF-7800H-MP, RF-5800H-MP, and AN/PRC-150(C) radios.

The application assumes that the radio has been pre-programmed with system and modem presets. HF Tactical Chat operates best with the ARQ and 3G modem waveforms. It also supports Serial and MIL-110B modem waveforms. For additional information, click these links: [System Requirements](#) and [Radio Setup](#).

The application can send and receive messages from one or more stations. Only one message can be managed and transferred at a time. Broadcast messages can be sent from one station to multiple stations in the same subnet. Refer to [Operational Overview](#) for more information.

The application is designed for a PC platform. The application is available in the English language only, but will run on localized versions of operating systems using other languages.

Installation and Setup

Installation and Setup Overview

For a general overview of Tactical Chat application, refer to the [Application Overview](#).

The following topics are included in Installation and Setup:

Installation:

- [System Requirements](#)
- [Installation](#)
- [Uninstall](#)

Setup:

Depending on hardware configuration, some additional setup steps may be necessary after the Tactical Chat application is installed.

Harris RFC Radio Connection Modem installation or Dial-Up Networking installation may or may not be required, depending on the selected hardware configuration. If either of these options is required, prompts will be seen the first time that the Tactical Chat application is started up.

- [Radio Setup](#)
- [Modem Installation](#)
- [Dial-Up Networking](#)
- [Station Setup](#)

Installation

System Requirements

This section provides information on Tactical Chat System Requirements and Harris Software Compatibility.

Tactical Chat System Requirements

Component	Recommended
Operating System	Windows XP Windows Vista 32/64-bit Windows 7 32/64-bit Windows Server 2003 Server 32/64-bit Windows Server 2008 Server 32/64-bit Windows Server 2008 R2 64-bit
PC	As required to support operating system.
Serial Port	One required for radio connection.
Disk Drive	CD-ROM drive
Display	Super VGA color monitor with resolution of 800 pixels horizontal by 600 pixels vertical and minimum 256 colors is recommended. Minimum requirement is a resolution of 640 pixels horizontal by 480 pixels vertical with 16 colors.

Harris Software Compatibility:

Tactical Chat may be used on a PC with other Harris software. However, multiple applications should not be used to connect to radios simultaneously.

Installation

Before beginning Tactical Chat installation, ensure that minimum [System Requirements](#) are met. It is assumed that the operating system software has been previously installed.

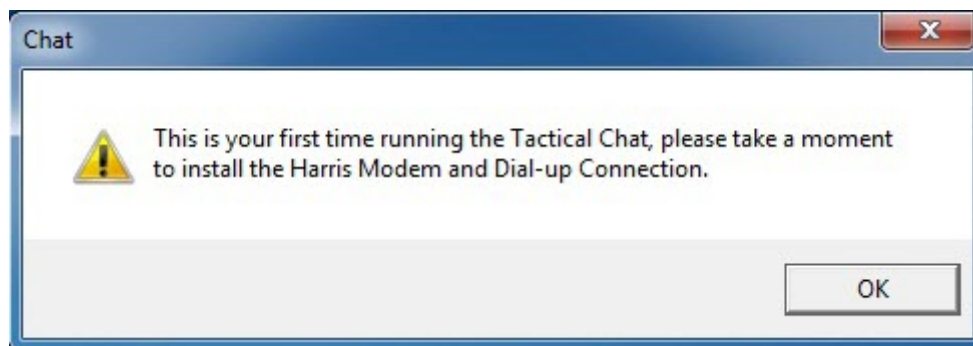
CAUTION

Do not attempt to run Tactical Chat and other Harris software radio connections simultaneously. Multiple applications cannot function properly when they are connecting to a radio at the same time. If multiple applications are connecting at the same time, it will be necessary to close the applications and then restart the single desired application.

Before beginning the Tactical Chat software installation process, it is recommended that all running applications be shut down to avoid loss of data.

To install the Tactical Chat application:

1. Insert the Tactical Chat software installation CD into the CD-ROM drive.
2. If AutoPlay for CDs is implemented on your computer, the setup process will begin automatically. If AutoPlay is not implemented on your computer, open the CD ROM drive and select **HarrisAutoStart** to start the installation.
3. Select **Software** in the heading and then select **Install HF Tactical Chat v2.0**.
4. The Harris Tactical Chat Welcome screen will appear. Select **Next>**.
5. Accept the license agreement and follow the on-screen instructions to do a **Complete** install of the Tactical Chat application. Select **Finish** when the installation is done.
6. When Tactical Chat installation is complete, the Tactical Chat icon will be visible on the PC desktop. To start Tactical Chat, click on the Tactical Chat **icon**. When Tactical Chat is active, a Tactical Chat icon will be visible in the system tray. The Start path is: **Start > All Programs > Harris RF Communications > Tactical Chat > Tactical Chat**.
7. If modem installation or Dial-Up Networking installation is required, the prompt shown below will appear. For additional setup steps which may be required for **Modem** installation or **Dial-Up Networking** installation, click here: [Setup](#).



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If Tactical Chat installation was unsuccessful, the Tactical Chat software should be uninstalled and reinstalled. For Tactical Chat uninstall instructions, click here: [Uninstall](#).

Uninstall

To uninstall the Tactical Chat application:

1. Use **Control Panel > Programs and Features** to uninstall **Harris Tactical Chat**.
2. Accept defaults and follow the on-screen instructions to uninstall the Tactical Chat application.

Radio Setup

Radio Setup Overview

The radio must be properly set up for Tactical Chat to function. Mission parameters are programmed into the radio using the Communication Planning Application (CPA) for RF-7800H-MP, CPA for RF-5800H-MP, or CPA for AN/PRC-150. The HF-RPA can also be used for programming RF-5800H-MP or AN/PRC-150 radios. The following topics are covered in this section.

- [Compatible Radio Models](#)
- [Supported Modes of Operation](#)
- [Connecting Computer and HF Radio](#)

Compatible Radio Models:

Tactical Chat functions with Harris RF-7800H-MP, RF-5800H-MP, or AN/PRC-150(C) radios only. Radio setup is similar for all of these radio models. These radios have an embedded modem that provides data rates up to:

- 2400 bps when using a serial tone Military Standard (MIL-STD)-110A modem waveform
- 9600 bps when using a serial tone MIL-STD-110B modem waveform
- 9600 bps when using the STANAG 4538 waveform

Supported Modes of Operation:

Supported HF radios offer four main modes of operation: Automatic Link Establishment (ALE), Fixed-Frequency Mode (FIX), Frequency Hopping, and 3G. For robust, error-free data transfer, the HF radios incorporate an ARQ capability based on the FED-STD-1052 data protocol or 3rd generation (STANAG 4538) data protocol.

The mode of operation and appropriate presets must be selected by the user from the front panel of the radio. Refer to the [Applicable Documents](#) for help on changing operating modes and presets.

Tactical Chat does not provide built-in automatic linking functionality except in 3G mode. In ALE mode, links must be established from the front panel of the radio prior to sending a message.

	Supported Modes of Operation				
Waveform or Protocol	ALE	FIX	HOP	3G	Maximum Data Rate
ARQ	YES	YES	YES	NO	2400 bps
Serial ***	YES	YES	YES	NO	2400 bps
MIL-110B ***	YES	YES	NO	NO	9600 bps
3G	NO	NO	NO	YES	4800 bps

*** The radio must be configured to route modem data to RDP in order to use the MIL-110B or Serial waveforms. There is no automatic error correction on the data. Please refer to [Applicable Documents](#) for details.

NOTE: The radio has a special PROG mode for configuring the parameters of the radio. If an attempt is made to send a Tactical Chat message while the radio is in PROG mode, the Tactical Chat application will generate an error message.

Connecting Computer and HF Radio

Ethernet and PPP connections are supported as describe below.

Ethernet Connection for RF-7800H-MP

For RF-7800H-MP, a direct USB Ethernet connection can be made using the Direct USB cable, 12043-2850-A006. By default, the radio is configured for a DIRECT USB Ethernet interface (**[PGM] > CONFIG > NETWORK, INTERFACE > ETHERNET > ADDRESS**) and the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) SERVER is ENABLED. Record the radio IP ADDRESS for entry into Tactical Chat.

After making a direct USB connection, a drive letter will appear for the USB port (for example: A01368_RED (E:)). Copy the usbdrivers folder onto your desktop and use this location to install the Harris Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (RNDIS) Network Device driver and other serial drivers. For Windows XP, you can disconnect and reconnect the cable to get the prompts to load the drivers. For Windows 7, select **Device Manager > Other Devices** and use the context menu to **Update Driver Software....**

PPP Connections

Make PPP connections between the Tactical Chat System and the RF-7800H-MP, RF-5800H-MP, or AN/PRC-150(C) with the cable, Harris part number 10535-0775 or 10518-1694. The Network Radio Driver Installer (NRDI) application provides the drivers for these connections. Pinouts for these cables are shown below. The connection is between a COM port on the Tactical Chat System PC and the Data (J3) connector on the HF radio.

A RFI filter (10518-2353-02) may need to be connected to COM port 1 as part of another installation (for example, WMT). Cable connections to any of the computer ports should be made through these filters where required.



Interconnection to a Harris HF Manpack Radio

Cable 10535-0775 Pin Outs		
Computer - COM Port 1	Data J3 (RF-5800H-MP, RF-7800H-MP)	Function
1	9	DCD
2	21	RXD
3	8	TXD
4	22	DTR
5	5	Ground

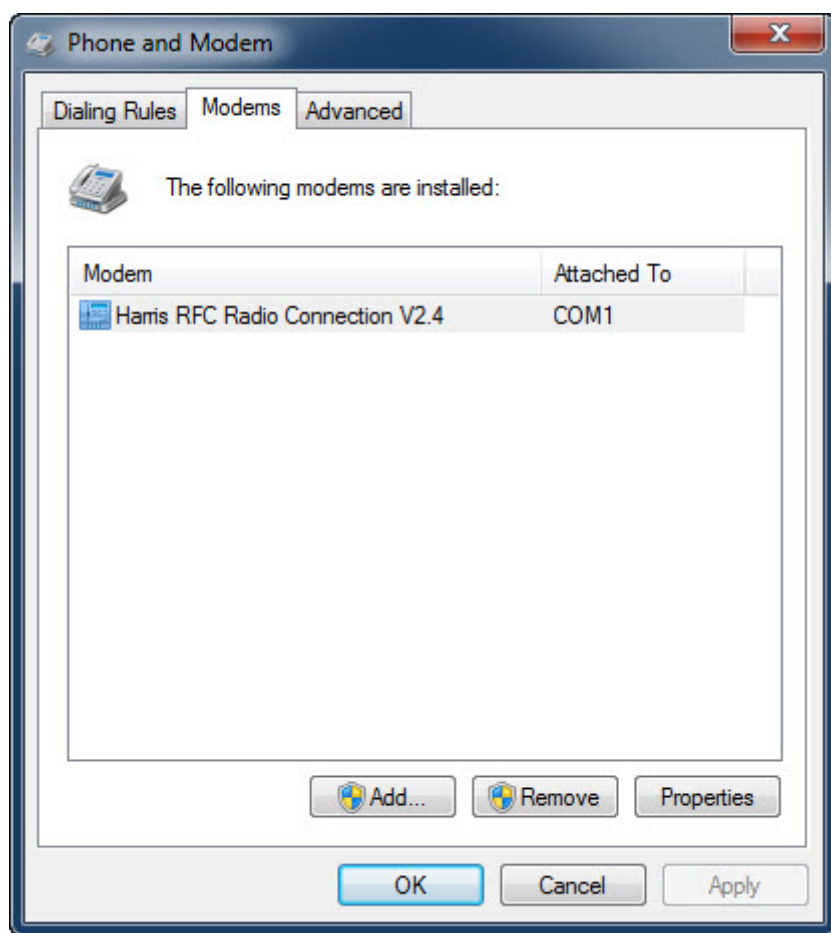
Cable 10518-1694 Pin Outs		
Computer - COM Port 1	Data J3 (RF-5800H-MP, RF-7800H-MP)	Function
1	9	DCD
2	21	RXD
3	8	TXD
4	22	DTR
5	5, 13	Ground

NOTE: To make the physical connection from the radio to a computer that does not have a serial port, a commercially-available Serial-to-USB adapter must be used to make the connection. This adapter must have driver software in order for NRD1 to successfully identify the USB/COM port during setup.

Modem Installation

Installing a Harris RFC Radio Connection Modem for Windows

1. If no modems were installed previously, the Phone and Modem Options dialog box will open. Click on **Add...** [to continue](#).
2. If another modem had been installed previously, you will get the Phone and Modem Property page as shown below.
3. If the Harris RFC Radio Connection V2.4 is already installed click **OK** to continue the installation, and click exit below to close the modem installation instructions.
4. On the **Modems** tab, click **Add...** [to continue](#).

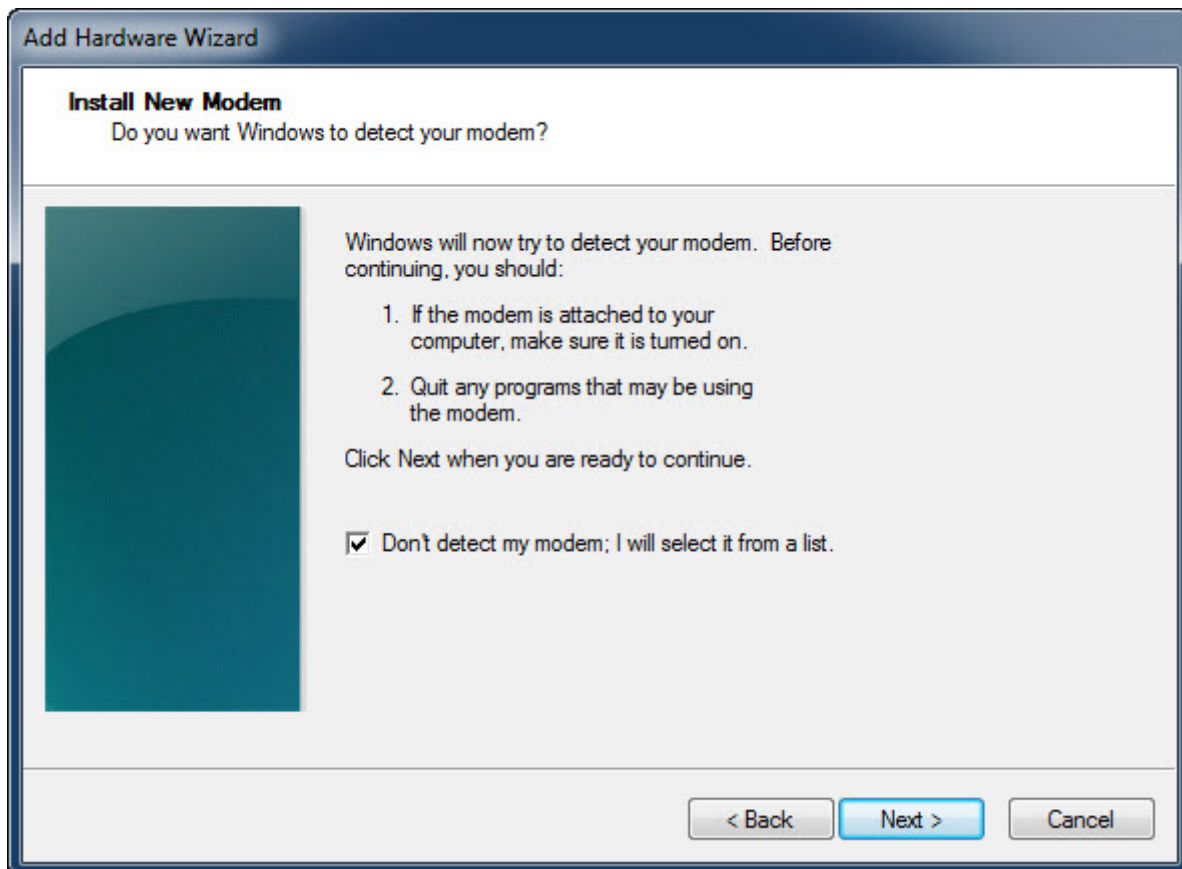


Phone and Modem Property Page



Modem Detection

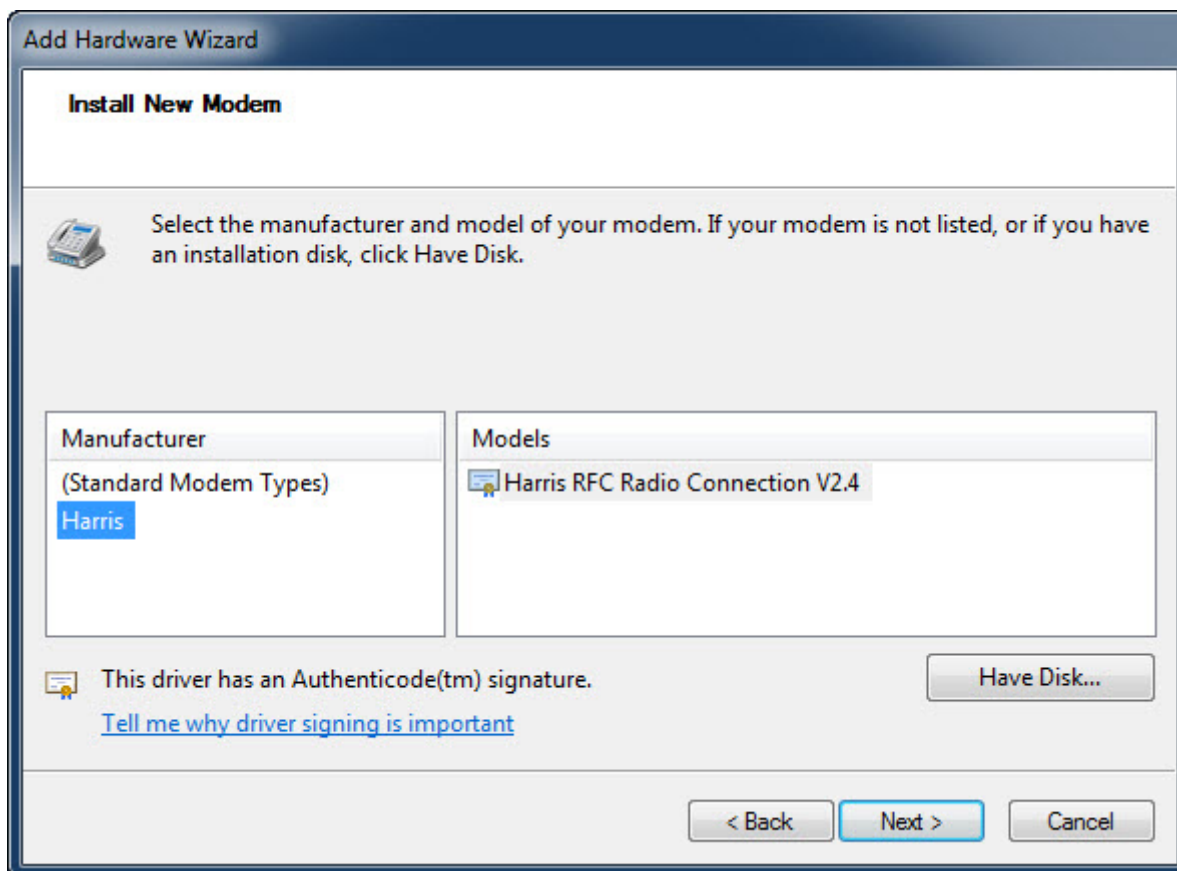
1. On the Add/Remove Hardware Wizard, check **Don't detect my modem; I will select it from a list**.
2. Click **Next** [to continue](#).



Install New Modem

Modem Manufacturer List

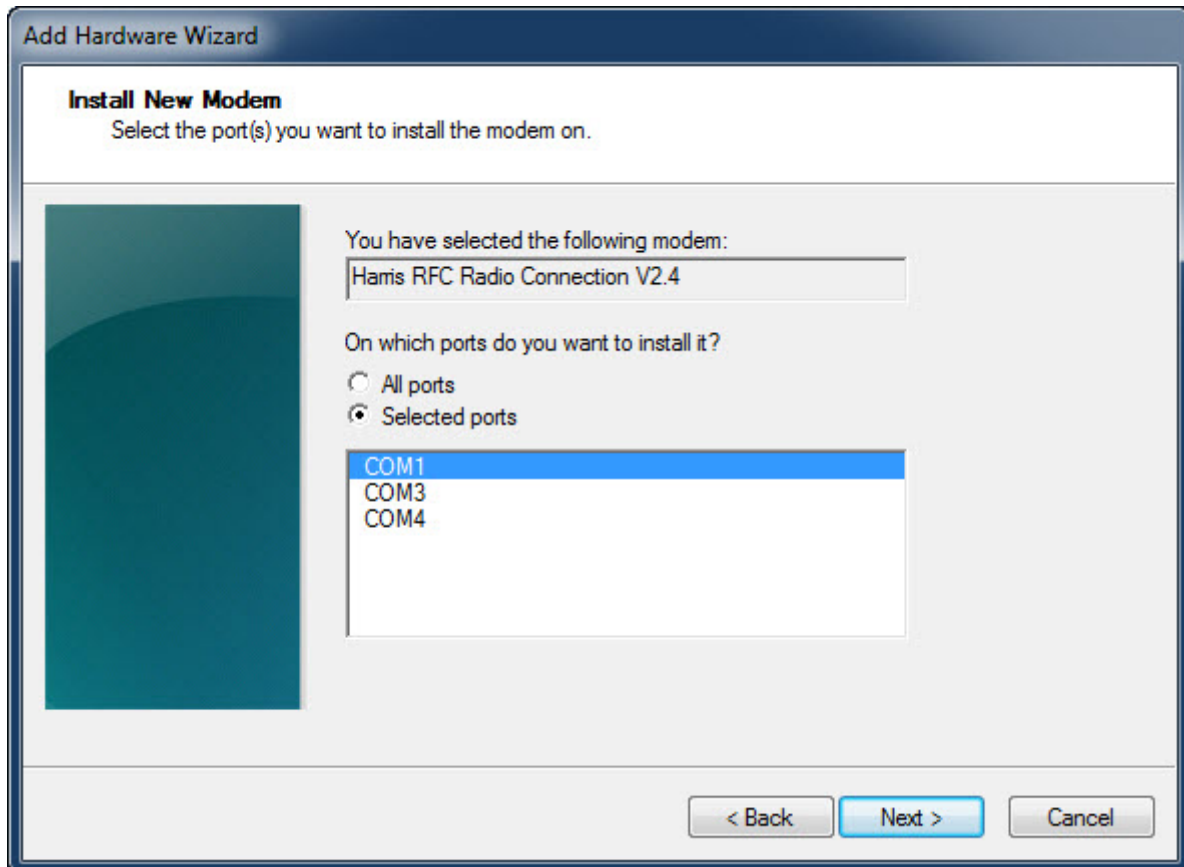
1. The next dialog box lists modem manufacturers and models. Search for Harris from the Manufacturers List.
2. If Harris Modem is in the list. Select Harris Modem from the Manufacturers list and then select Harris RFC Radio Connection V2.4 from the Models list. Click **Next** [to continue](#).
3. If Harris Modem is not in the list. Click **Have Disk...** [to continue](#).



Install New Modem

COM Port Selection

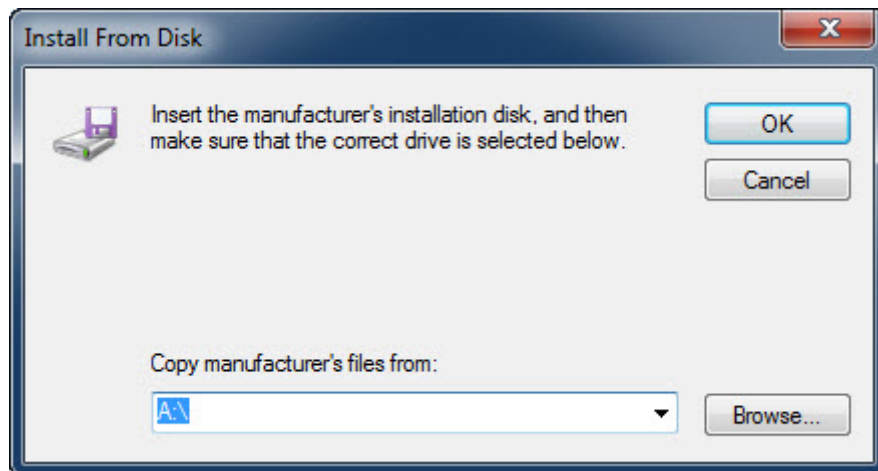
1. From the Install New Modem dialog box, highlight the COM port to which the radio will be connected.
2. Click **Next** [to continue](#).



Install New Modem

Adding a Harris RFC Radio Connection Modem from Disk

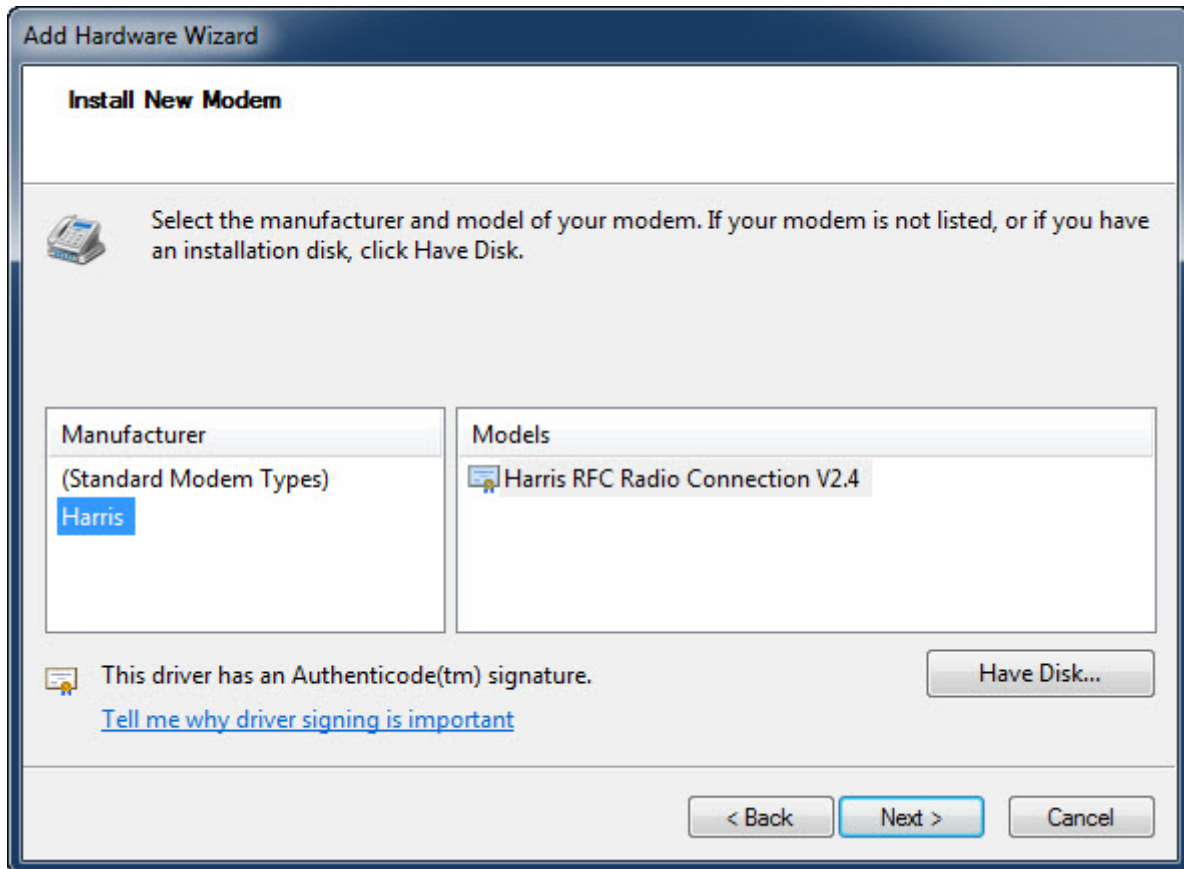
1. In the next dialog box, Install From Disk, click **Browse** and, in the Open dialog box, navigate to the CD-ROM drive.
2. In the root directory of the CD-ROM, highlight the file **mdmrfc.inf**, (if this file is not selectable type it in the filename box).
3. Click **Open**.
4. Click **OK** [to continue](#) with the Install New Modem dialog box.



Install From Disk Dialog Box

Selecting the Harris RFC Radio Connection Modem

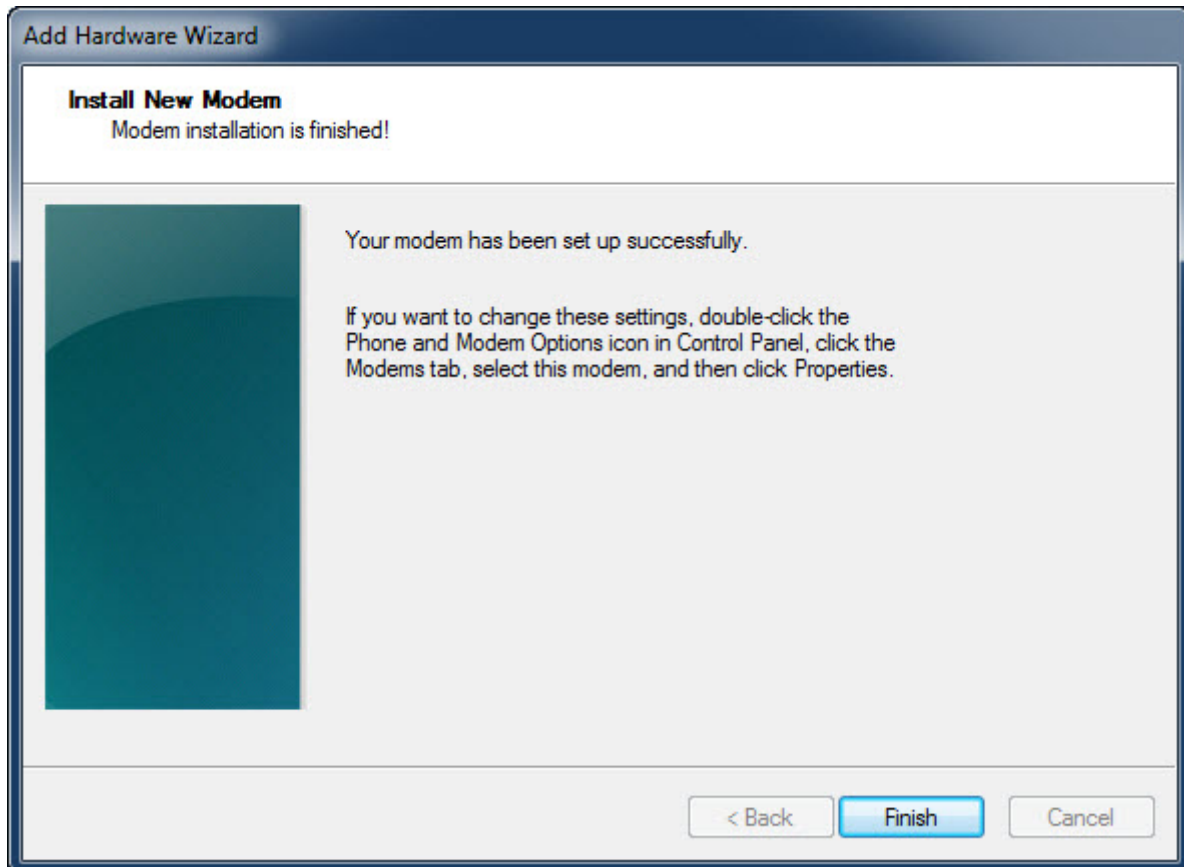
1. Highlight **Harris RFC Radio Connection V2.4** in the Install New Modem dialog box.
2. Click **Next** [to continue](#).



Install New Modem

Finishing Modem Installation

1. On the next page, click **Finish** to return to the Modems Properties dialog box, and then click **OK** to continue the installation.
2. Click exit below to close the modem installation instructions.



Install New Modem

Dial-Up Networking

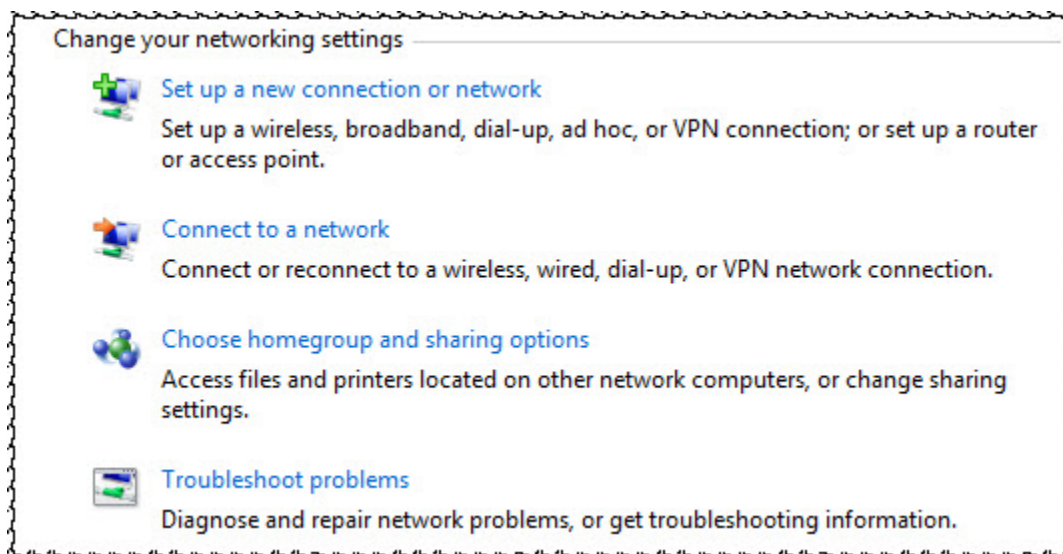
Network and Dial-up Connections for Windows

The dial-up connection uses a serial port to make a PPP connection. The NRDI application automatically creates this entry to support this connection.

1. From the Windows XP **Start** menu, select **Settings**, then **Network and Dial-up Connections**, and then click on **Make a New Connection**.

From the Windows 7 **Start** menu, select **Control Panel**, then **Network and Sharing Center**, and then select **Set up a new connection or network**. You will get the dialog box as shown in part below.

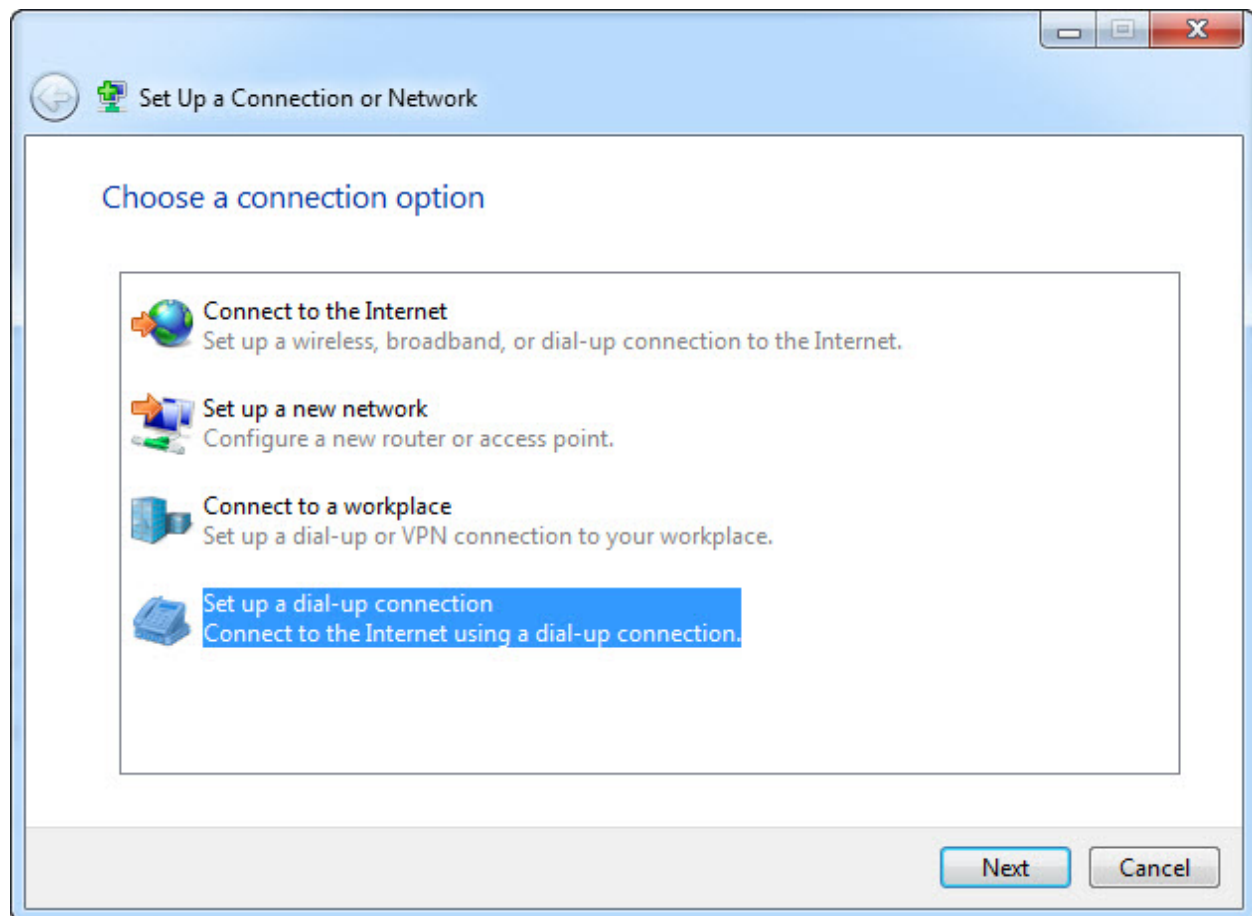
2. Click **Next** [to continue](#).



Network Connection Wizard

Network Connection Type

1. Select **Dial-up to private network** (Windows XP) or **Set up a Dial-up Connection** (Windows 7).
2. Click **Next** [to continue](#).



Network Connection Type

Phone Number to Dial

1. Supply a Dummy value ("123") in the **Phone Number:** field.
2. Select **Allow other people to use this connection**. This selection, which includes internet sharing, is made on additional dialogs in Windows XP.
3. Type the **Connection name** you want for your connection. This selection is also made later on in Windows XP.
4. Click **Connect** to create the connection.

← Create a Dial-up Connection

Type the information from your Internet service provider (ISP)

Dial-up phone number: 123 [Dialing Rules](#)

User name: [Name your ISP gave you]

Password: [Password your ISP gave you]

☐ Show characters

☐ Remember this password

Connection name: Dial-up Connection

☒ Allow other people to use this connection
This option allows anyone with access to this computer to use this connection.

[I don't have an ISP](#)

Connect Cancel

Network Connection Type

Connect Dial-up Connection

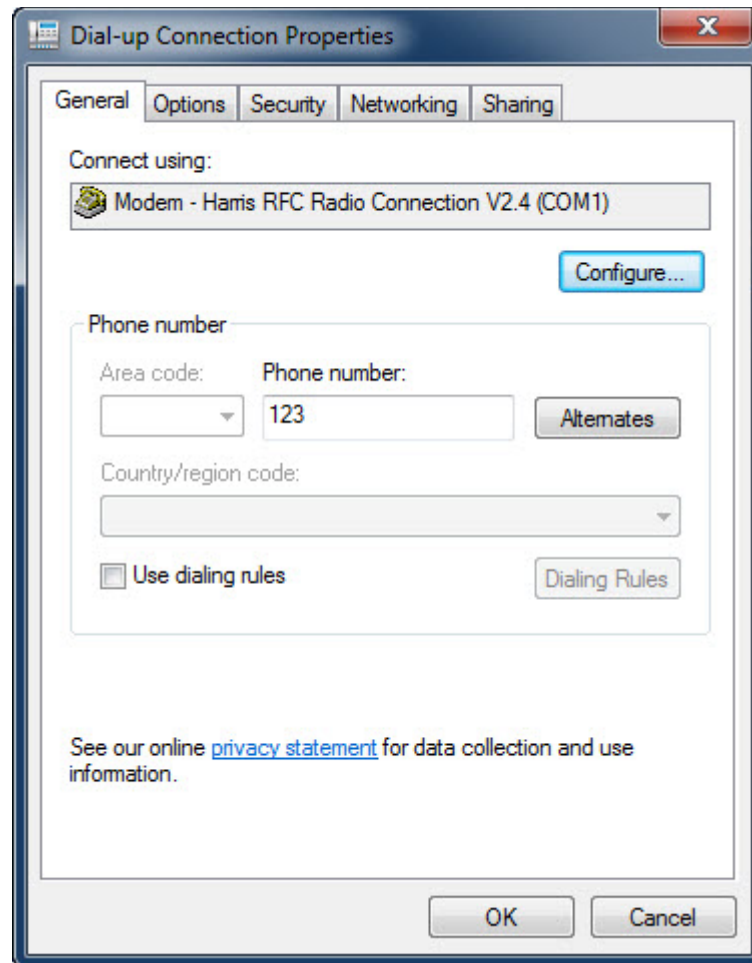
1. Click on **Properties** [to continue](#).



Connect Dial-up Connection

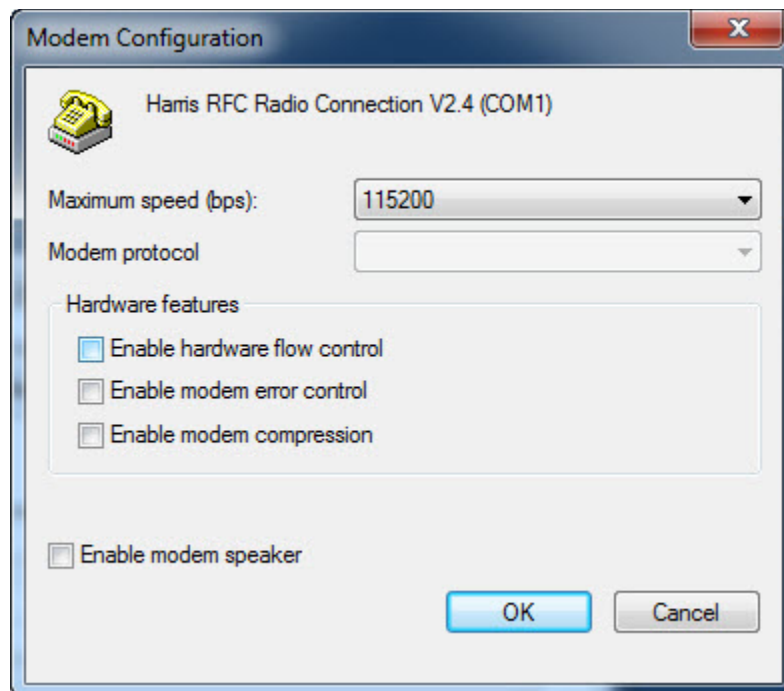
Dial-up Connection

1. The Harris Radio Connection Dialog will be displayed. Click on **Configure** to get the Modem Connection dialog box.



Harris Radio Connection-General

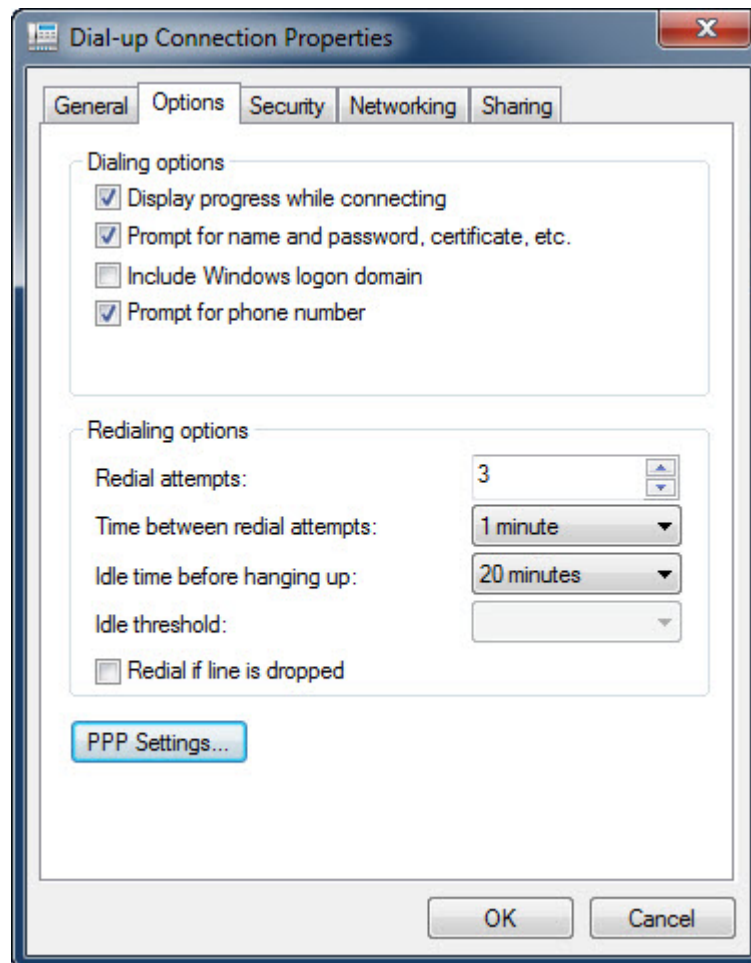
2. Make sure all **Hardware Features** selections are unchecked (as shown below).
3. Click **OK** to [continue](#).



Modem Configuration

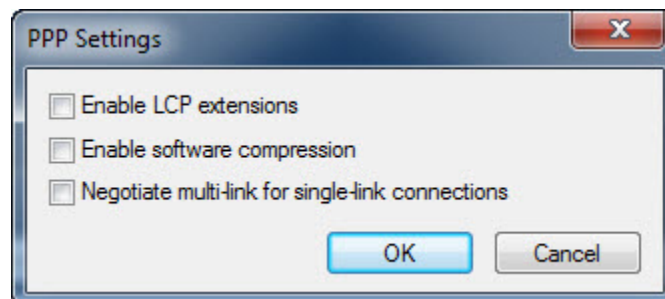
Harris Radio Connection Properties

1. Click on the **Options** tab, and make sure the options are as shown below.



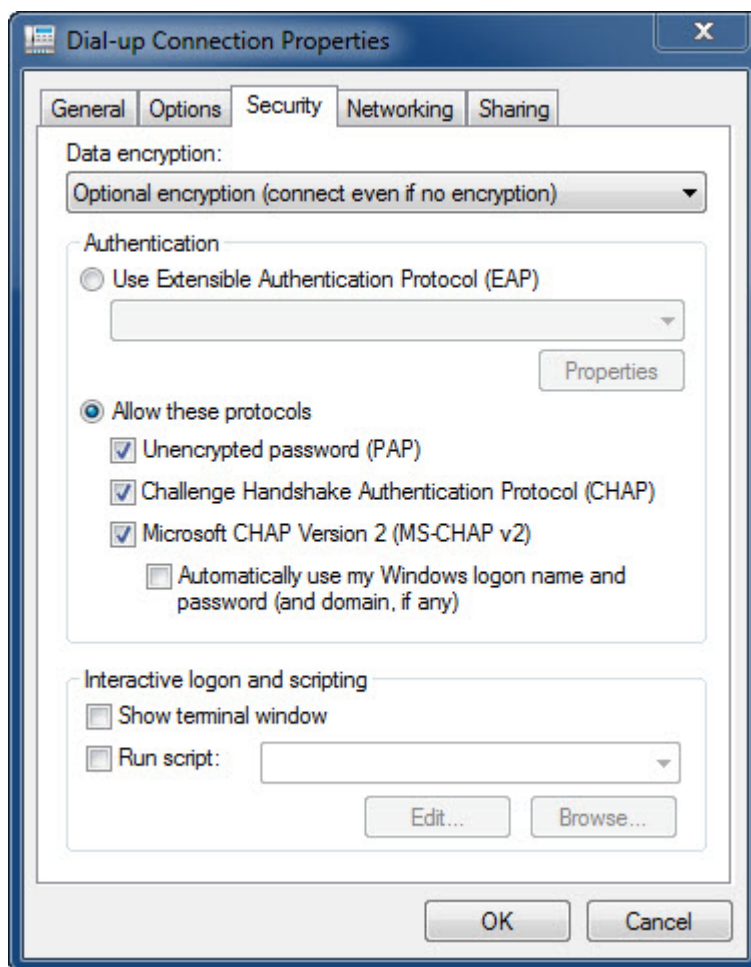
Harris Radio Connection-Options

2. Now click on the **PPP Settings** button to get the PPP Settings dialog, and make sure all the PPP Settings are unchecked.
3. Click **OK** to close the dialog.



PPP Settings

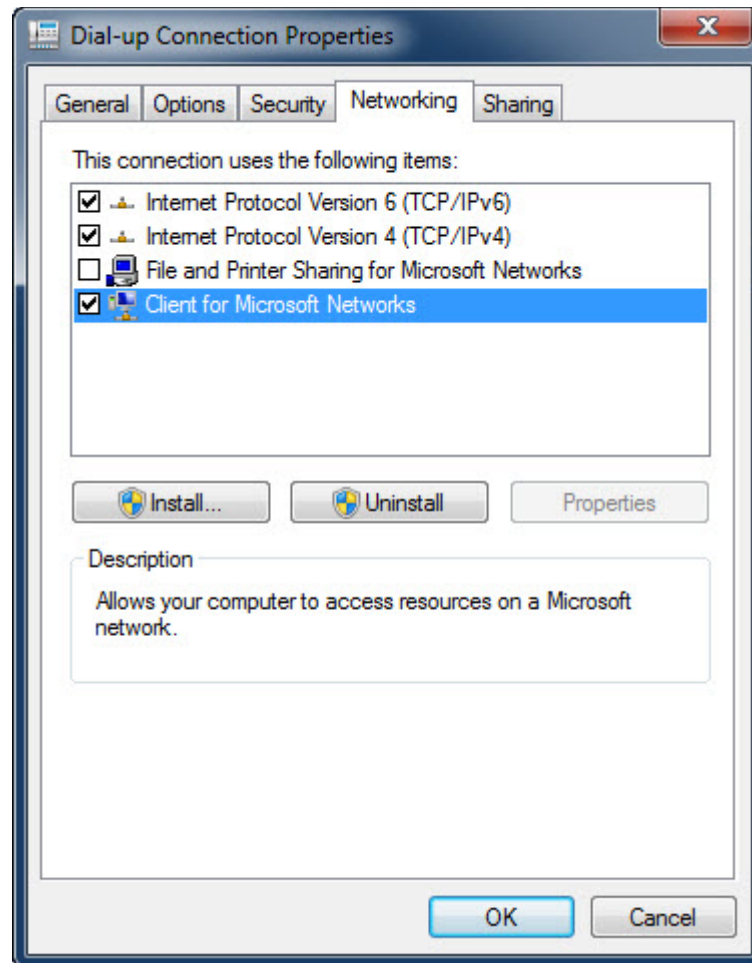
4. Click on the Security tab and make sure it is set up as shown below.
5. [Click here to continue](#) with the Networking tab.



Harris Radio Connection-Security

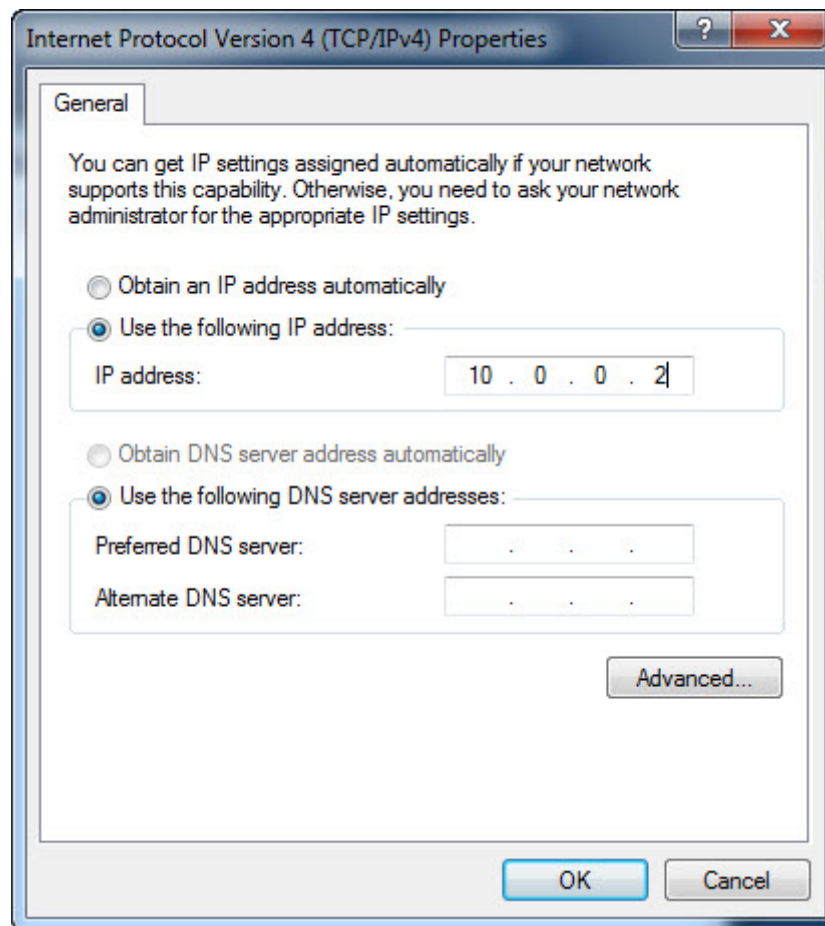
Harris Radio Connection Properties - Continued

1. Click on the **Networking** tab, and select both components "**Internet Protocol(TCP/IP)**", and "**Client for Microsoft Networks**".



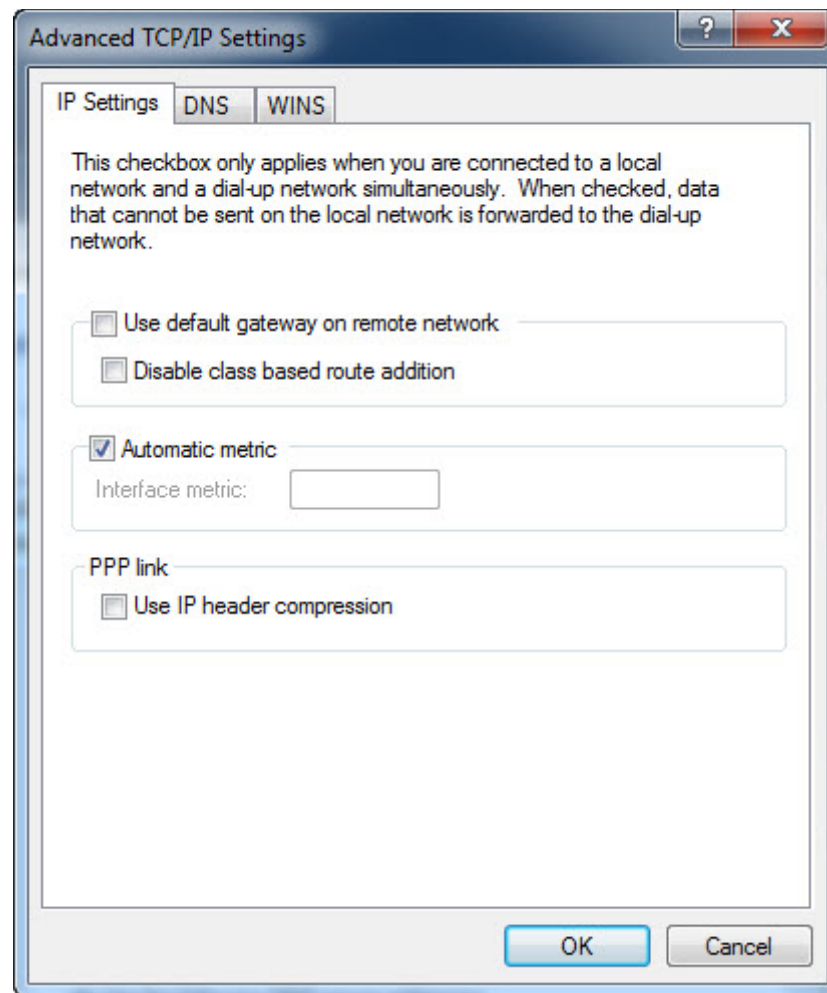
Harris Radio Connection-Networking

2. Highlight the component "**Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)**", and Click on **Properties**, to get the TCP/IP dialog shown below.



Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) Properties

3. Make sure the IP Address is "10 0 0 2", and also make sure the selection "**Use the following DNS server addresses:**" is checked.
4. Click on the "**Advanced...**" tab to get the Advanced TCP/IP Settings window below.



Advanced TCP/IP Settings

5. Both checkboxes "**Use default gateway on remote network**" and "**Use IP header compression**" should be unchecked.
6. Click **OK** three times to exit the properties dialog.

Station Setup

Station Setup

Sending and receiving stations must be set up properly before messages can be sent or received.

For additional information on radio setup, refer to [Radio Setup](#) and the appropriate radio operation manual. It is recommended to use the CPA for RF-7800H, CPA for RF-5800H, or CPA for AN/PRC-150 for programming the radio with mission parameters.

For additional information on the Tactical Chat user interface, refer to [User Interface](#).

The following topics are covered in this section:

- [Connections:](#)
- [Ethernet Address:](#)
- [Set Self Address:](#)
- [My Station:](#)
- [Talking To:](#)
- [Delete Station](#)

Connections

The Connections selection supports the following options.

NOTE: The application will need to be restarted when switching connection types.

- Dial-up Connection
- Harris Automatic IP Radio Connection (COM1)
- Harris Radio Connection
- Ethernet

Required Drivers

In order to connect to network capable radios, special drivers are required.

The Network Radio Driver Installer (NRDI) application offers a simple mechanism to the user of network capable radios to install the modem driver necessary to establish a PPP connection between the radio and the computer. The necessary driver is installed on a user-specified serial port as described in the NRDI installation. Refer to the NRDI help for details on port speed and features.

The Harris Remote Network Driver Interface Specification (RNDIS) Network Device driver provides support for an Ethernet connection. This driver is installed as described in [Connecting Computer and HF Radio](#).

Dial-up Connection

The dial-up connection uses a serial port to make a PPP connection. The NRDI application automatically creates this entry to support this connection.

Harris Automatic IP Radio Connection (COM1)

This is the default automatic IP entry name for the NRDI connection when COM1 is selected. It uses a serial communications port (1, 2, or 3 for example) to make a PPP connection. The radio and the Tactical Chat application default the Radio IP Address to 10.0.0.1. Check the radio at: **[PGM] > CONFIG > NETWORK > INTERFACE > PPP > ADDRESS > ENABLE PPP PORT (YES)**.

Harris Radio Connection

This connection uses a serial port to make a PPP connection. NRDI is used to support this connection.

Ethernet Connection

RF-7800H-MP supports an Ethernet connection using a Direct USB cable, 12043-2850-A006.

Record the radio IP ADDRESS for entry into Tactical Chat by checking the following (default Ethernet Address is: 169.254.078.001).

Check that the radio is configured for a DIRECT USB Ethernet interface (**[PGM] > CONFIG > NETWORK > INTERFACE > ETHERNET > ADDRESS > ETHERNET PORT TYPE** set to DIRECT USB and the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (**DHCP) SERVER** is ENABLED).

These rules apply to the Ethernet Address.

- The fourth byte cannot be 0 or 255.
- The address must be either Class A, B or C.
- The first byte cannot be 127.

Ethernet Address

The Radio **Ethernet Address** must be entered when Ethernet is selected as the connection type. The general format for the address is: **##.##.##**. The Ethernet Address must match the address configured on the radio. The radio and the Tactical Chat application default the IP Address to 169.2543.78.1.

NOTE: It is recommended that the user NOT modify the IP Address. If the IP Address is modified, the Tactical Chat application and the radio must be restarted for the IP Address change to take effect.

Set Self Address

The **Set Self Address** field is used to enter the Self Address (radio address) of the local radio. When the Self Address field is changed, the [My Station](#) field will update the next time the mouse is clicked on an Tactical Chat field.

The radio address is a means of identifying a radio in a network. It consists of 1-15 alphanumeric (a-z, A-Z, 0-9) characters.

The self-address used is dependent on the operational mode of the radio as shown in the following table:

Mode	Self Address
ALE ***	ARQ Self Address
FIX ***	ARQ Self Address
HOP ***	ARQ Self Address
3G ***	3G Address

*** If the CPA or HF-RPA is used to program the radio, ARQ self address is the same as ALE self address.

My Station

My Station is the local station. The **My Station:** field should contain the Self Address of the local station.

The **My Station:** field will automatically update to match the [Set Self Address](#) field whenever a new Self Address is entered. After typing in the Self Address, click another field (the Conversation Pane is recommended), to cause the **My Station:** field to update to the current Self Address.

Talking To

Use the **Talking To:** field drop-down menu to enter or select the remote station's address with whom you wish to communicate.

Broadcast messages can be sent from one station to multiple stations in the same subnet by selecting **all** from the **Talking To:** drop-down list.

To add another station to the **Talking To:** list, just type the remote station address into the **Talking To:** field, and then click in the Conversation Pane to update the field. The new station will automatically be added to the drop-down list.

Delete Station

Deletes the currently selected station from the [Talking To:](#) station list. **All stations** is a default value that cannot be deleted.

Operation

Operational Overview

A variety of Tactical Chat messaging features are available to provide control of display options, message composition and sending, and statusing. In addition, radio station parameters must be set properly before messages can be sent or received.

For a general overview of Tactical Chat application, refer to the [Application Overview](#).

The following topics are covered in this section:

- [Starting Tactical Chat](#)
- [User Interface](#)
- [Creating and Sending Messages](#)
- [Tactical Chat Options](#)
- [Shortcut Keys](#)
- [Statusing](#)

Starting Tactical Chat

Click the Tactical Chat icon  on the PC desktop to start the Tactical Chat application.

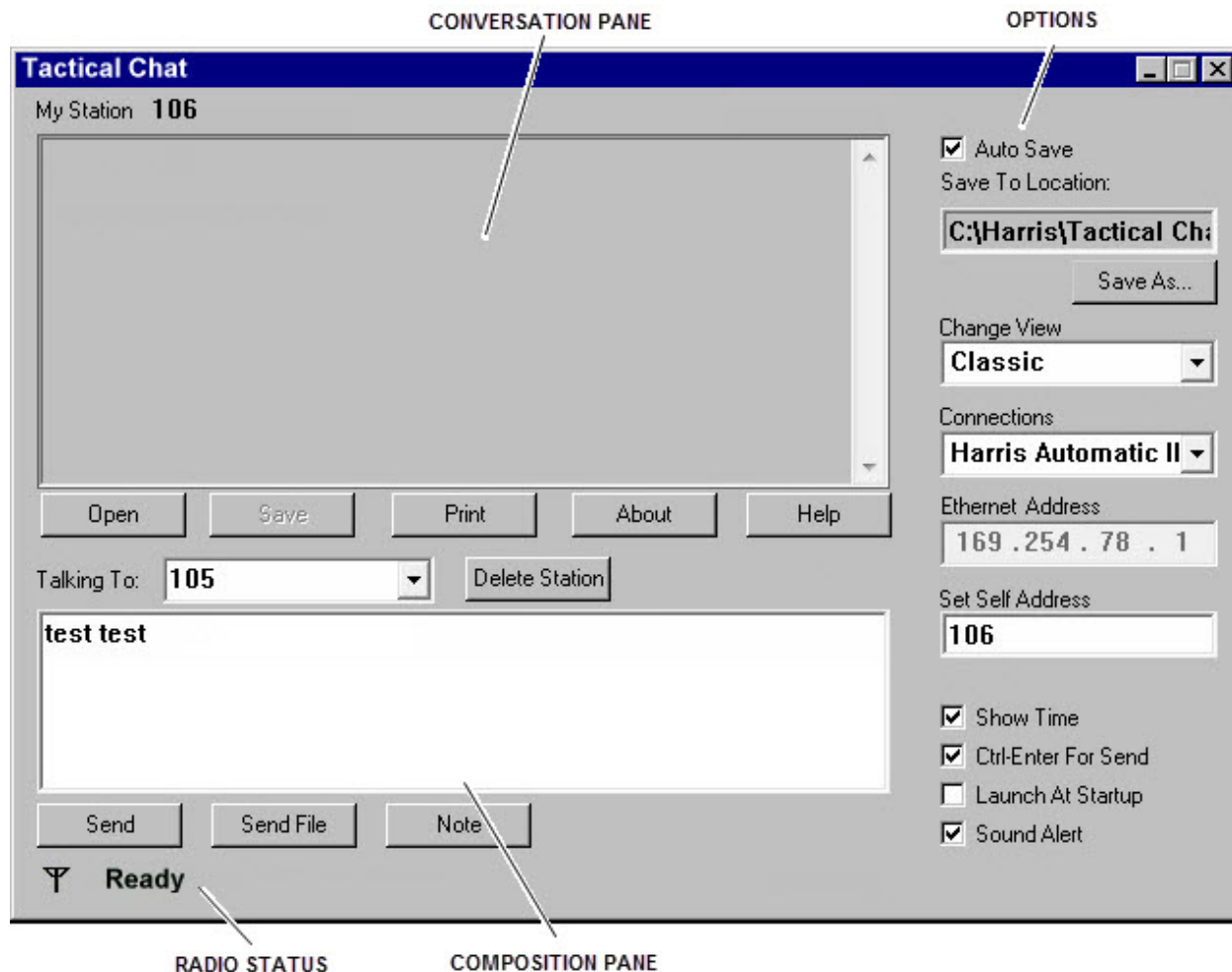
If Tactical Chat is minimized, the application can also be accessed by double-clicking the Tactical Chat icon in the system tray or clicking the taskbar.

When Tactical Chat is running in the background, the Tactical Chat message window will open automatically if a message is received.

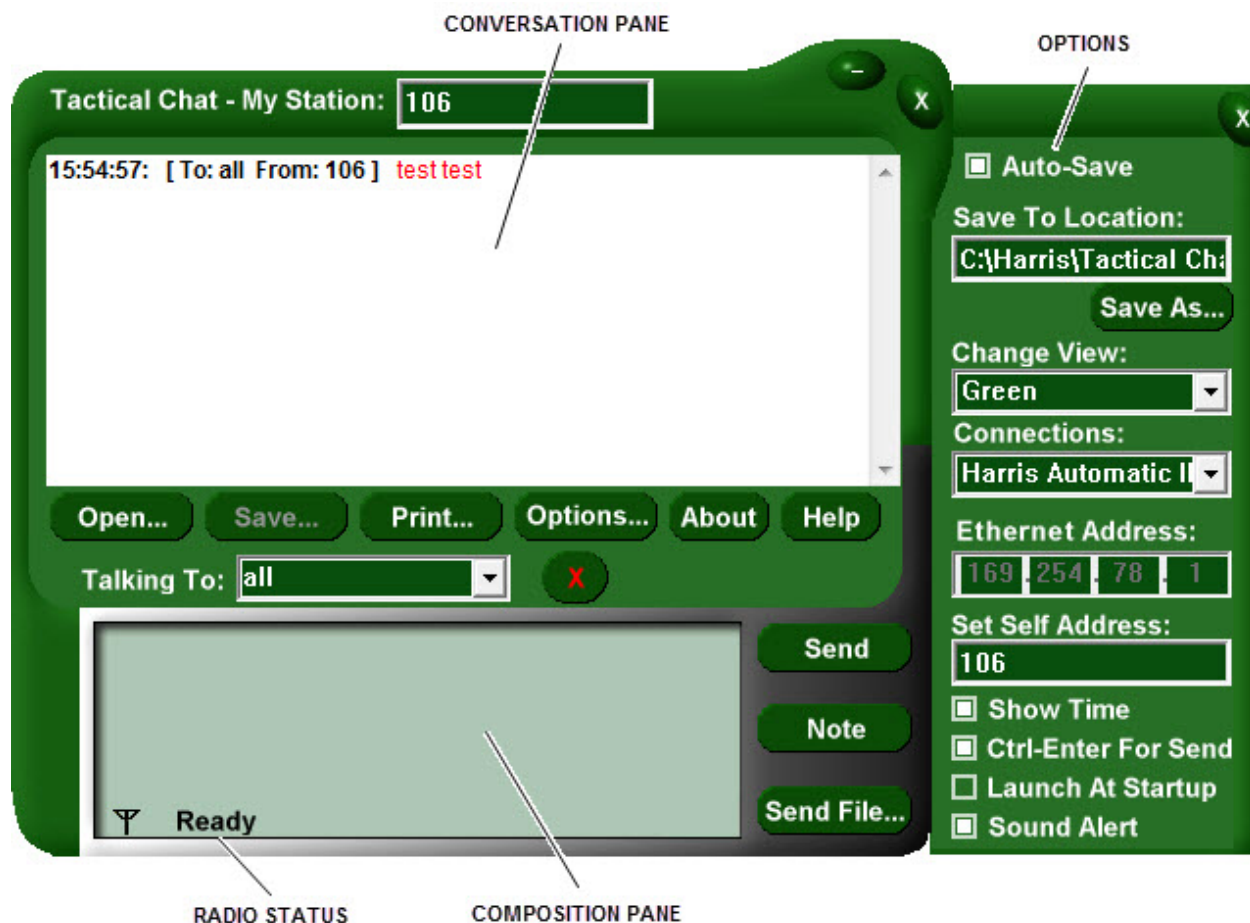
Tactical Chat User Interface

The Tactical Chat user interface can be displayed using either the [Classic View](#) or the [Green View](#). These two views are shown below, with the Classic View in sending mode, and the Green View in receiving mode.

Tactical Chat [Options](#) are always visible when the Classic View is in use, but can be toggled on and off using the Options button when the Green View is in use. Use [Change View](#) to toggle between views.



Tactical Chat Classic View



Tactical Chat Green View - Options Visible

Creating and Sending Messages

Creating and Sending Messages

Tactical Chat messages can be created and sent within the application.

[Radio Setup](#) and [Station Setup](#) must be complete before messages can successfully be sent or received.

The following topics are covered in this section:

- [Composition Pane](#)
- [Conversation Pane](#)
- [Creating a Message](#)
- [Sending a Message](#)
- [Send](#)
- [Abort](#)
- [Note](#)
- [Send File](#)
- [Open](#)
- [Save](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Options Button](#)
- [About](#)
- [Help](#)

Composition Pane

The Composition Pane is the text window located in the lower portion of the Tactical Chat user interface. The Composition Pane permits the user to type in a new message for transmittal.

Clicking anywhere inside the Composition Pane will activate a blinking text cursor in the upper left corner of the Composition Pane. A message can then be typed in using standard ASCII characters.

Notes can also be typed into the Composition Pane. Refer to [Note](#) for more information.

Conversation Pane

The Conversation Pane is the text window located in the upper portion of the Tactical Chat user interface. The Conversation Pane displays the contents of incoming and outgoing messages, error messages, and notes.

Use the [Auto Save](#) function to automatically save the contents of the Conversation Pane to file.

The message time stamp is also displayed in the Conversation Pane, when enabled. For information on the message time stamp, click here: [Show Time](#).

Text can be copied from the Conversation Pane to the Windows clipboard.

Creating a Message

Create a message by typing message text into the [Composition Pane](#).

Messages can be typed into the Composition Pane directly, or pasted in from another application.

Messages can only contain standard ASCII characters, and cannot be more than 64K in size, not including attached file size. For information on attaching and sending files, click here: [Send File](#).

Sending a Message

Click the [Send](#) button, ENTER, or CTRL+ENTER to send a message.

Before sending a message, the mode of operation and appropriate presets must be selected by the user from the front panel of the radio. Tactical Chat does not provide automatic linking functionality except in 3G mode. ALE links must be established from the front panel of the radio prior to sending a message.

Send

Click the Send button to send a message that has been typed or pasted into the [Conversation Pane](#).

Text messages can be up to 64 K in size, whether typed in or copied from another application.

For information on sending attached files with a message, click here: [Send File](#).

When a message is in the process of being sent or received, the Send button is replaced with the [Abort](#) button.

Abort

The **Abort** button is used to abort a message that is in the process of being sent or received. The **Abort** button is only visible while a message is in the process of being sent or received, when it temporarily replaces the [Send](#) button.

Tactical Chat uses an immediate abort feature. Aborting a message that is currently being transferred does not notify the remote station that an abort has occurred.

Note

This feature allows a note to be typed into the [Conversation Pane](#). Notes cannot be sent or received.

To create a note, click **Note** and type the note into the Conversation Pane.

Send File

The Send File function permits a file to be attached to and sent with an Tactical Chat message.

The maximum file size for an attached file is dependent on radio setup. In ARQ mode, the maximum attached file size is 2 MB.

To send a file, perform the following procedure:

1. Create a message. For information on creating a message, click here: [Creating and Sending Messages](#).
2. Click the **Send File** button. This will send both the selected file and any text message that is in the Composition Pane.
3. Use the Browse feature to navigate to the file you want to send.
4. Highlight the desired file, and click Open.

Open...

Clicking the **Open...** button displays the **Load From...** dialog window. Use this window to select a previously saved Tactical Chat message file and open it in the Conversation Pane.

Tactical Chat message files use the file extension .cht. Only Tactical Chat message files can be opened within the Tactical Chat application.

Save...

If Auto Save is disabled and a Save file location has not been established, clicking the Save button opens the Save To... dialog box. This permits saving the contents of the Conversation Pane to a specified file location.

If a Save file location has been established, clicking on the Save button will save the current contents of the Conversation pane to the current Save file location.

To save the contents of the Conversation Pane to a chat message file:

1. Navigate to the desired file location.
2. Type a file name in the File name: field.
3. Click Save.

Tactical Chat messages must be saved with the file extension .cht, and can only be reopened within the Tactical Chat application.

Print

Opens the print dialog box. You need to have at least a single line of text in the conversation pane before printing can start.

Options Button

This button will open the [Chat Options](#) menu for the [Green View](#) display. The Tactical Chat Options are displayed by default on the [Classic View](#) display.

The Options display on the Green View can be closed using the "X" button at the upper right corner of the Options menu.

About

Provides version and copyright information for the currently installed Tactical Chat software.

10515-0294-5002

Help

Opens the Tactical Chat Help application.

Tactical Chat Options

Tactical Chat Options

Tactical Chat Options allow selection of various operational and display settings.

Options settings are always visible when the classic view is used. To view options settings when the default (green) view is used, click on the Options button.

The following topics are covered in this section:

- [Auto Save](#)
- [Save To Location](#)
- [Connections](#) (Station Setup section)
- [Save As](#)
- [Change View](#)
- [Classic View](#)
- [Green View](#)
- [Set Self Address](#) (Station Setup section)
- [Show Time](#)
- [Ctrl-Enter For Send](#)
- [Launch At Startup](#)
- [Sound Alert](#)

Auto Save

Auto Save allows the contents of the conversation pane to be automatically saved to file as messages are sent and received. All Tactical Chat files must use the .chx file extension.

1. Check the **Auto-Save** check box to enable the Auto Save option. When the box is not selected, the **Save** selection becomes active.
2. Select **Save As** to open the **Select a file to auto save to...** dialog box.
3. Navigate to and select the folder you want to automatically store Tactical Chat message files in.
4. Type in the desired file name and click the [Save](#) button. The selected file location will be displayed in the [Save To Location:](#) field.

Auto Save Directory Selection:

The first time Tactical Chat is started, a default Auto Save directory is selected by the application. On subsequent Tactical Chat startups, the default Auto Save directory will default to the directory last selected by the user.

Save To Location:

The **Save To Location:** field displays the current file destination for saved Tactical Chat messages.

Save As...

Clicking the Save As... button opens the Save File As dialog box. Use the Save File As dialog to change the directory for storage of Tactical Chat files.

Change View

The Change View drop-down menu is used to select the desired display scheme for the Tactical Chat user interface.

The [Classic View](#) is the only available display scheme when using monitors that are set to 256 colors or less.

The [Green View](#) displays by default when using monitors that are set to higher than 16 colors.

Classic View

The Classic View displays the Tactical Chat user interface in a standard Windows format and color scheme.

The Classic View is the only available display scheme when using monitors that are set to less than 256 colors.

Views can be toggled between the Classic View and [Green View](#) displays using the [Change View](#) drop-down menu.

Green View

The Green View displays by default when using monitors that are set to higher than 256 colors.

Views can be toggled between the [Classic View](#) and Green View displays using the [Change View](#) drop-down menu.

Show Time

When this checkbox is checked, the current time will automatically be inserted before the Tactical Chat message in the Conversation Pane.

Ctrl-Enter For Send

When this checkbox is checked, the Ctrl-Enter key combination can be used to send a message that has been typed into the [Composition Pane](#). If this checkbox is not checked, the Enter key can be used to send a message.

Launch At Startup

When this checkbox is checked, the Tactical Chat application will launch automatically when the PC is started up.

Sound Alert

Provides an audible alert when a message is successfully transferred, or when a message fails to transfer.

Shortcut Keys

Shortcut Keys

Shortcut keys for the Tactical Chat application are as follows:

Shortcut for	Key combinations
Minimize window	Ctrl + M
Exit application	Alt + F4
Go to Self Address Field :	Ctrl + J
Go to Composition Pane	Ctrl + D
Select all in Composition Pane	Ctrl + A
Go to Talking To : Destination Field	Ctrl + Shift + D
Go to Conversation Pane	Ctrl + I
Select Open	Ctrl + O
Select Save	Ctrl + S
Select Print... (Print Conversation Pane)	Ctrl + P
Select About	Ctrl + H
Select Help	F1
Select Delete Station	Ctrl + Shift + X
Select Send	Ctrl + Enter
Abort Message Transfer	Ctrl + Z
Select Note (insert note into conversation pane)	Ctrl + N
Select Send File	Ctrl + F
Display Options...	Ctrl + U

Toggle Auto-Save check box	Ctrl + Y
Select Save As...	Ctrl + B
Go to Connections selection field	Ctrl + Shift + P
Go to Ethernet Address field	Ctrl + Q
Go to Change View box	Ctrl + Shift + S
Toggle Show Time check box	Ctrl + T
Toggle Ctrl-Enter For Send check box	Ctrl + E
Toggle Launch at Startup check box	Ctrl + G
Toggle Sound Alert check box	Ctrl + R

Statusing

Statusing Features

The Tactical Chat application provides statusing information on the following:

- [Radio Status](#)

Radio Status

The Tactical Chat application monitors the status of the locally attached radio as Tactical Chat messages are sent.

Radio status is displayed in the Radio Status field. The radio status field is located below the [Composition Pane](#) for the [Classic View](#). The radio status field is located in the lower portion of the Composition Pane for the [Green View](#). Refer to [User Interface](#) to see examples of Radio Status messages.

The following Radio Status messages may be displayed, dependent upon current system status:

Radio Status Messages:

Radio Status Message	Meaning
Starting up... Please wait.	Tactical Chat application is initializing communication with the radio.
Ready	Tactical Chat application is ready to send or receive a message.
Sending	Tactical Chat application is sending a message.
Receiving	Tactical Chat application is receiving a message.
No Radio Communications	The Tactical Chat application and the radio have lost communications. Messages cannot be sent or received.

Technical Support

Support Overview

We recognize that continued success in our business requires a strong commitment to customer support both before and after the sale. We offer this support not only through our sales and service facilities in nearly 90 countries around the world but also through our Technical Customer Service Department. This department can assist our customers in the specification, installation, operation, and maintenance of all of our products.

In addition, further help is available via direct communications with our main facility in Rochester, New York using any method shown below:

Mail

Harris Corporation
RF Communications Division
1680 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610
USA

Telephone

1-866-264-8040 (toll-free)
1-585-242-3561

Fax

1-585-242-4483

E-mail

rfcsrv@harris.com

Supported Operating Systems

The supported operating systems* are:

- Windows XP Pro (32 bit)
- Windows Vista (32/64 bit)
- Windows 7 (32/64 bit)
- Windows Server 2003 (32/64 bit)
- Windows Server 2008 (32/64 bit)
- Windows Server 2008 R2 (64 bit)

* All Operating Systems tested using latest service packs.

What's New

RF-6551H HF Tactical Chat v2.0 includes the following new features:

- Support for RF-7800H-MP and direct USB/Ethernet interface option for single client only (this is an addition to existing PPP connections)
- Improved RDP+ protocol support (larger buffers now 1469 bytes)
- Usability improvements
- New Operating Systems support
- NRDI v1.7 provided (needed for Windows 7 support)
- Compatible with prior version of Tactical Chat

Compatibility

The listings below provide compatibility information.

Firmware Support

Tactical Chat will function correctly with all supported HF radio firmware versions.

File Exportability

Mission Plan files are exportable for use with:

- RF-6760W Wireless Message Terminal (WMT) version 1.4, 1.5.x
- RF-6760W-High Performance Waveform (HPW) version 1.4

FAQs

FAQ Index

This section provides information on Frequently Asked Questions. Click on a link below to show the answers and solutions to each FAQ.

Installation

- [FAQ-1026](#): Harris RFC Radio Connection modem fails to be added during install.
- [FAQ-1027](#): Install prompts for Dial-Up Networking.

General Information

- [FAQ-1002](#): Messages larger than 2 MB cannot be transferred.
- [FAQ-11](#): I cannot get the default view of the Tactical Chat user interface to display.
- [FAQ-12](#): What does a custom install do?

Hardware Configuration Issues

- [FAQ-1006](#): Message transfer fails from PT to CT.

Software Configuration Issues

- [FAQ-1022](#): Why does Tactical Chat fail to initialize upon start-up?

Operational Issues

- [FAQ-01](#): Chat status is Ready but when I send a message or a file, Chat displays '[Error: Unknown]' in the Conversation pane?
- [FAQ-02](#): I configured my radio in 3G mode, and Tactical Chat went to the Ready state. However, when I sent a message, the receiving station did not receive it. And the same thing happened when the other station sent a message to me. The message seemed to have been received by Chat, but I did not see any new message in the Conversation pane.
- [FAQ-03](#): I got a message that says 'Message received is not intended for this station' when my application finished receiving.
- [FAQ-04](#): I was expecting to receive a file called 'picture.gif' that the other station sent to me as an attachment. However, when I received the file, the name was changed to 'picture.ERR'.
- [FAQ-05](#): I was expecting to receive a file called 'system.gif' that the other station sent to me as an attachment. However, when I received the file, the name was changed to 'system1.gif'.
- [FAQ-06](#): The Tactical Chat application stays in the "No Radio Communications" state after I restarted the application. It was in the "Ready" state just before I closed the application and launched it again.

- [FAQ-07](#): I pressed the 'Print...' button but the Print dialog box did not appear.
- [FAQ-09](#): I sent a message and I got '[Error: Link is Busy]'. Shortly after that the application went into receiving mode.
- [FAQ-10](#): I sent a message and I got '[Error: Message Error Aborted]'.
- [FAQ-13](#): Why is the Tactical Chat application in the *No Radio Communications* state after I switch to the Ethernet connection and restart Tactical Chat?
- [FAQ-14](#): Why can't I send/receive messages or files with Tactical Chat using 2G ALE?

FAQ-01

Question:

Chat status is Ready but when I send a message or a file, Chat displays '[Error: Unknown]' in the Conversation pane?

Answer:

Causes

The radio is in ALE mode, but a link has not been established yet.

Resolution

Create a link before sending. To create a link in ALE mode, follow these steps:

1. Press the '**Call**' button on the front panel of the radio.
2. Select '**Automatic**' and press the '**Ent**' button on the radio.
3. Press the Up or Down arrow key to choose the station that you want to link to and then press '**Ent**'. The radio will then try to make a link to the selected station name.

Once the radio is linked, you can start typing sending messages or files. A radio link is indicated by the link symbol in the display on the front panel of the radio.

FAQ-02

Question:

I configured my radio in 3G mode, and Tactical Chat went to the Ready state. However, when I send a message, the receiving station did not receive it. And the same thing happened when the other station sent a message to me. The message seemed to have been received by Chat, but I did not see any new message in the Conversation pane.

Answer:

Causes

Radio is configured for 3G mode, but the Self address is not set to the 3G mode address.

Resolution

Click the **Options** button and type in the 3G self address for your station in the **Set Self Address** box.

FAQ-03

Question:

I got a message that says 'Message received is not intended for this station' when my application finished receiving.

Answer:

Symptoms

Unable to see the received message. The error message "Message received is not intended for this station" message is displayed instead.

Causes

The receiving address of the message received is not the address of the local station, 'ALL', or 'Unknown'.

Resolution

Make sure that you typed in the correct self address. If you are in 3G mode, make sure that you have a 3G self address set as your self address in the Tactical Chat application. If you still experience this problem and are sure that you have the right self address, the reason could be that the message was not intended for you, but you just happened to receive the radio signal because you are on the same frequency.

FAQ-04

Question:

I was expecting to receive a file called 'picture.gif' that the other station sent to me as an attachment. However, when I received the file, the name was changed to 'picture.ERR'.

Answer:

Symptoms

The extension of the file sent was changed to '.ERR'.

Causes

The application determined that file received may contain error(s).

Resolution

You may need to have the remote station send the file to you again, or you may attempt to open the file and examine it yourself to see if the file contains errors.

FAQ-05

Question:

I was expecting to receive a file called 'system.gif' that the other station sent to me as an attachment. However, when I received the file, the name was changed to 'system1.gif'.

Answer:

Symptoms

A number is appended to the name of the file.

Causes

A file with that name already exists in the Received Files directory.

Resolution

You could delete or move the files in the Received Files directory prior to receiving a file.

FAQ-06

Question:

The Tactical Chat application stays in the "No Radio Communications" state after I restarted the application. It was in the "Ready" state just before I closed the application and launched it again.

Answer:

Symptoms

The Tactical Chat application was in the Ready state, but when closed and restarted quickly, the application stays in the "No Radio Communications" state.

Causes

The Tactical Chat application was launched again before Windows Dial up networking closed down completely.

Resolution

Close the Tactical Chat application and wait until the Dial Up Networking icon in the System Tray goes away (if an icon was visible), or wait about 10 seconds and then restart the application.

More Information

If the Tactical Chat application is still in the "No Radio Communications" state, please refer to the Tactical Chat Help to identify problems with the radio, the cable, or the software installation.

FAQ-07

Question:

I pressed the 'Print...' button but the Print dialog box did not appear.

Answer:

Symptoms

No dialog box appears when the 'Print...' button is pressed.

Causes

There is no text in the Conversation pane to be printed.

Resolution

You need to have at least a single line of text in the conversation pane before printing can start.

FAQ-09

Question:

I sent a message and I got '[Error: Link is Busy]'. Shortly after that the application went into receiving mode.

Answer:

Symptoms

Receipt of an error message that says '[Error: Link is Busy]'. Shortly after the error message is received, the application received a message.

Causes

Two stations were trying to send to each other at the same time. The station that received the error message described above failed to send, but received the message that was sent to it.

Resolution

The station that received the error message needs to resend its message to the other station.

FAQ-10

Question:

I sent a message and I got '[Error: Message Error Aborted]'.

Answer:

Causes

Incorrect or inconsistent modem or ARQ data routing settings on the sending and/or receiving radio.

Resolution

Perform the following steps from the front panel of both the sending and receiving radio:

1. Press Program (**PGM**).
2. Select **Config**.
3. Select **Message**.
4. Make sure that '**Route Modem Data To**' and '**Route ARQ Data To**' are both set to '**RDP**'.

FAQ-11

Question:

I cannot get the default view of the Tactical Chat user interface to display.

Answer:

Symptoms

- The message "There aren't enough colors to display the requested view. The classic view will attempt to be loaded." is displayed.
- Only the classic view will display.

Causes

More than 256 colors must be available to use the default view. If less than 256 colors are available, only the classic view will display.

Resolution

Change the monitor color settings. Do **Start > Settings >Control Panel** and select **Display**. Choose the **Settings** tab, and then use the **Colors** drop-down menu to select 16-bit color or higher. The default view should now be able to be selected. If you do not have 16-bit or higher color available, you will need to use the classic view.

FAQ-12

Question:

What does a custom install do?

Answer:

It is the same as a complete install. There are no optional components.

FAQ-13

Question:

Why is the Tactical Chat application in the *No Radio Communications* state after I switch to the Ethernet connection and restart Tactical Chat?

Answer:

Symptoms

The application stays in the *No Radio Communications* state after the Ethernet connection is selected and I re-launch Tactical Chat.

Possible Causes:

- The RNDIS cable is not properly connected in your PC (station).
- The RNDIS driver is not properly installed.
- The Ethernet Address in Tactical Chat doesn't match the IP Address in the RF-7800H-MP Radio.

Resolution

1. Make sure that your Direct USB/Ethernet cable is properly connected. If possible, try a different cable.
2. To verify if you have the driver for this cable installed, refer to the [Ethernet Connection for RF-7800H-MP](#) and follow the steps described there.
3. On the RF-7800H-MP front panel (or KDU), go to **PGM > CONFIG > NETWORK > INTERFACES > ETHERNET**, and verify that the *IP Address* in the radio matches the *Ethernet Address* in the Tactical Chat application.

FAQ-14

Question:

Why can't I send/receive messages or files with Tactical Chat using 2G ALE?

Answer:

Symptoms

The application fails to send/receive data and the user gets the *[Error: The transfer has stopped unexpectedly. Please press F1 for Help]* message.

Possible Causes:

- The Set Self Address in Tactical Chat does not match the ALE self address in the radio.
- You do not have an active link and you have to do a manual call with the radio.

Resolution

To create a link enabling the user to send/receive messages, do the following.

1. Make sure the *Set Self Address* in Tactical Chat matches the ALE self address. To verify this address, on the radio front panel go to **[PGM] > MODE > ALE > ADDRESS > ADDRESS TYPE**. With **SELF** selected, press **[ENT]**. In the **ADD SELF ADDRESS** view, press the down arrow, select **REVIEW** and press **[ENT]**. This will give you the radio's ALE Self Address name. This is the address you need to add into the Set Self Address textbox in Tactical Chat.
2. On the radio front panel (or KDU), press **[CALL]**.
3. For the **CALL TYPE**, select **MANUAL**.
4. For the **ADDRESS TYPE**, select **ALL**.
5. Select the channel (**CALL ON CH ###**) and press **[ENT]**.

FAQ-1002

Question:

Messages larger than 2 MB cannot be transferred.

Answer:

Causes

This is by design. ARQ mode does not permit transfer of messages/files larger than 2 MB. In 3G mode, messages/files larger than 2 MB can be transferred.

Resolution

We recommend breaking the file(s) down by using WinZip and sending these smaller chunks in separate messages.

More Information

For help and information on breaking files down using WinZip, use the Help file in the WinZip application. You can access this from the main menu in WinZip. WinZip can be obtained at <http://www.winzip.com>.

FAQ-1006

Question:

Message transfer fails from PT to CT.

Answer:

Causes

The sending HF station is set up with a radio in PT mode. The receiving HF station has a radio set to CT mode. The message sent from the PT side to the CT side fails to get delivered/received.

Resolution

Make sure both the sending and receiving HF stations are configured to be either both in PT or both in CT mode at the time of transmission.

More Information

Messages sent from CT to PT will always fail since one radio is sending encrypted messages and the other is receiving plain text messages. This is by design.

FAQ-1022

Question:

Why does Tactical Chat fail to initialize upon start-up?

Answer:

Symptoms

Radio Status displays "No Radio Communications".

Causes

1. A cable is loose/not connected from the PC to the radio.
2. The radio is not turned on.
3. The cable that is being used is "bad".

Resolution

For case one: Make sure all cables are connected and secured to the equipment.

For case two: Make sure that the radio is powered on and has a consistent power supply.

For case three: Switch the cable that you are using to use a cable that is "known to be good". Take a cable off a working station (that you have been able to pass messages with via the Tactical Chat software) and try that one.

FAQ-1026

Question:

Harris RFC Radio Connection modem fails to be added during install.

Answer:

Causes

This problem occurs if the modem was previously installed and then removed.

Resolution

Reboot the machine and go into "Phone and Modem Options" under the Control Panel. Add a new modem and click the checkbox that asks you to select your modem from a list. Then click on "Have Disk" and select the mdmrfc.inf file on the root of the install CD.

FAQ-1027

Question:

Install prompts for Dial-Up Networking.

Answer:

Causes

This problem occurs if Dial-Up Networking was not installed as part of the operating system.

Resolution

Install Tactical Chat. If Dial-Up Networking is not detected on the system a prompt will ask for installation. Replace the Tactical Chat CD with the operating system CD (NT 4.0). Run the Dial-Up Networking installation from the operating system CD. Once complete reboot. Return the Tactical Chat CD and continue with installation.

Glossary

-A-

ADF Audio/Data/Fill (radio connector)

-B-

bps Bits Per Second

-C-

CD Compact Disk

CT Cipher Text

-D-

dB Decibel

-E-

ECCM Electronic Counter-Counter Measures, anti-jam modes of either SINCGARS or HaveQuick frequency hopping.

ENT Enter

-F-

FM Frequency Modulation. Varying the frequency of the RF

carrier in proportion to the modulating signal.

-G-

GPS

Global Positioning System. A system using satellites to provide position location and Time-of-Day used with SINCGARS, HaveQuick, HPW, and ANW2/ANW2C.

-H-

Hz

Hertz

-I-

ITAR

International Traffic In Arms Regulations

-J-

-K-

k

Kilo

-L-

LAN

Local Area Network

-M-

m meter(s)

-N-

N/A Not Applicable

-O-

-P-

PC Personal Computer

-Q-

-R-

RX Receive

-S-

Squelch The ability to mute the receive audio until the radio receives the appropriate signal. Can be either digital squelch, tone squelch, or noise squelch.

-T-

TX Transmit

-U-

US United States

-V-

VAA Vehicular Amplifier Adapter, option for Falcon III radios

-W-

W Watt

-X-

-Y-

-Z-

ZULU Time zone indicator for Universal Time used throughout the world (also known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)).

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