

# APTDAP GATEWAY SERVICE V1.01

Developed by 2E0WWV of CCARC -

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## What is APTDAP and how do I use it?

**APTDAP** is a gateway between the **APRS** system and **DAPNET POCSAG**. It allows you to send a DAPNET POCSAG message using only an APRS equipped radio.

Please note that APTDAP is not associated with the existing APRS2DAPNET service. The Author simply could not find reliable status information regarding that service so decided to create another one.

APTDAP is an experimental service and whilst the author tries to maintain the service 24/7 it should not be relied upon for emergency communications.

The gateway reads messages sent to the APRS-IS network and sends these via the hampager.de DAPNERT API.

### Message Information Required

Each APTDAP message requires:

- A Destination Callsign
- A Message

In your APRS application or radio set the destination callsign to APTDAP. This is not the call you want to send the message to but the GATEWAY call. The callsign you are sending then message to is set in the message text as shown below in the formatting section.

### Formatting of Parameters

<DEST CALLSIGN> <MESSAGE> [STATUS]

Parameters may be separated by a comma <,> or a simple space as above. [ ] denote an optional parameter.

### Test Mode (admin only)

A message only containing TEST will not be passed to DAPNET but will be logged by APTDAP system for debugging.

### Optional Information/Status [ ]\*

Currently APTDAP supports canned text abbreviations for common phrases. These will grow over time but for now the following are optionally available.

- CQ – Calling CQ now
- QRV – Standing By For Calls
- QRT – Finished for the day 73

\*canned text may not be implemented or disabled during testing cycles.

## Example Messages

### 2E0WWV On summit now [CQ]

The message contains the optional [CQ] status abbreviation which will be automatically expanded to “Calling CQ now” and replaces the [CQ] option. The entire message will read :

<YOURCALL>: On summit now Calling CQ now

## ACK

ACK is currently unsupported but will be actioned as soon as possible. This means that once you send your APTDAP message **you should delete or stop sending it after some attempts** because your radio will not be sent an ACK to tell it to stop on its own. This would also happen if the iGate you were received by was RX only.

Normally when you send your message via APTDAP as a message the system will look for a correctly formatted message number tailing the message text. Numbers are separated by a { (see italics selection example below *{20}*). According to APRS specification if this is missing in your message then APTDAP will not send an ACK as it is not possible for your equipment to know which message attempt was ACK'd.

2023-03-11 08:49:48 GMT: **2E0WWV>APTDAP: 2E0WWV Hi Scot, testing DAPNET gateway {20}**

As soon as ACK is implemented I will update this document and the website.

## CALLSIGNS

APTDAP requires the originating callsign to be a valid amateur radio callsign. The system makes periodic checks to ensure that stations posting spots are entitled to do so.

## Rate Limits & Abuse

Stations who abuse the system or use it irresponsibly may be temporarily blocked or even permanently banned by the gateway. I am implementing mostly automated stonewalling and may not respond for a long time to requests to look into “I was banned” emails. My suggestion at present is – use it as you need to and you shouldn't have any issues. If however you start sending multiple dupes and false data then your most certainly going to get black holed.

## General information

APRS in the UK is operated on 144.800MHZ in the FM mode. Dotted around the UK are many Digipeater or iGates that may be able to hear your APRS packet and send it to the Internet for you. I cannot tell you how to configure your individual radio to send a APRS2HEMA message but a quick Google or Youtube search should give you a few pointers.

If you do not have an APRS radio do not despair! There are other ways to use the service. Apps such as APRSDROID and APRS.FI will run on your phone even without cell phone coverage. They can be setup to encode your message and play it as a packet of data over the phone handset speaker. Put the speaker next to your HT microphone and key up on 144.800MHZ and then trigger the APRS packet on your phone app. It is totally possible to send APRS data using this method. It's not always easiest but if you can't afford a dedicated APRS radio it is an ideal way to get around the problem.

73 Scot 2E0WWV