

VARA FM Quick Start

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This is a followup to "How to Join Winlink - Part 2 Switching to RF"

Hopefully by now, we are acquainted with Winlink and what the system does. A review of these documents might be helpful:

- WL0 Winlink Primer
- WL1 How to Join Winlink Part 1
- WL2 How to Join Winlink Part 2

This page is an outline of that which is needed to add the military grade, weak signal software modem called VARA FM to Winlink.

## 1/ Required equipment

- VHF Radio, preferably with a DATA port
- Sound card like Masters Communication DRA board or Signalink (ideally not red transformers)
- Requisite power supply, antenna, quality cabling with ferrite beads
- PC

## 2/ Required Software

- Microsoft Windows - at least Windows 7 ideally Windows 10
- Winlink Express
- VARA FM

3/ Download and install Winlink Express <https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/>

4/ Download and install VARA FM <https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>

- Free version works well but cannot digipeat. One subscription gives all VARA: FM, HF, Chat

5/ With a little patience, set up system with the Quick Setup Guide at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/159MCgOY2kinPoVgsUCQK\\_wV9GSJpLw4z](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/159MCgOY2kinPoVgsUCQK_wV9GSJpLw4z)