

Worked All States Manager

By Eugene Morgan (WB7RLX)

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One of the very first goals many ham operators set for themselves is working all the US States. It's a good test of one's equipment, antenna, and most of all, one's patience. At first glance it seems simple to keep track of which states have been worked. Of course the simplest is a written list with each state crossed off as each state is confirmed. Although it can be challenging when the number of states worked and the number of states needed are nearly equal and you find yourself constantly checking the list as you hear CQ's come through your stations speaker. Of course you ultimately reach a point where you know exactly which states you still need. However the irony is that sometimes getting that last state can take as long as it took to get the first 49 states.

The bigger challenge is knowing which states have actually been confirmed. In the old days we simply use the QSL card as our confirmation. And as each QSL card came in we crossed the state off our list. With the introduction of the electronic confirmation systems like QRZ, and LoTW I think it's fair to say that instead of getting easier it's actually become a bit harder to keep track. Especially if you're using multiple confirmation services such as: paper QSL, eQSL, LoTW, QRZ and even one of the many logging program that are available today. So now instead of managing just one source of confirmation, the paper QSL cards of old, we may be managing up to five sources of confirmation.

Fortunately some of the logging programs are able to sync up with the various online systems such as LoTW or QRZ. Unfortunately is it not always automatic. There is almost always some kind of a manual process that must be followed in order to keep all these systems in sync. Being an advocate of the KISS principle, "Keep-It-Simple-Stupid" I got rid of my logging program, dropped eQSL and started relying on QRZ and LoTW as my source of truth when it came to confirming states and countries. To QRZ's credit they have a very nice system for tracking your progress. However in the heat of the chase and the sometimes rare openings we don't always take the time to login and check our progress. This is where the WAS Manager comes in. It's a simple quick way of checking and you can sync it with QRZ at the click of a mouse button. It's much easier using the WAS Manager during an operating session than using the QRZ awards analyzer.

Yes there is still a manual sync process but it is much simplified only takes the press of an enter key or a mouse click. In my day-to-day operations there are two potential sources of QSO's. The first is via FT8, aka C2C or computer to computer contact. The second is what I call P2P contact or person to person with no computer intervention. P2P QSO's can happen from my truck when I'm on the road or from my shack when operating CW or SSB. What I do in those cases is write down the four required criteria:

1. The Stations Call sign
2. The date and time of the QSO GMT
3. The Frequency
4. The Signal Reports, what I sent him and what he sent me.

These are the four necessary criteria that must match up for a QSO to be confirmed. As to the time there is some latitude in how close the times must match. According to my conversations with the folks at QRZ the times must be within a 30 minute window. I don't know what LoTW's criteria is. With my P2P QSO's I record those in my QRZ log book when I'm online. That may be that same day or as in the case of mobile contacts, it may be as long as a few days later. Regardless the contacts are logged into QRZ. With FT8 I simply upload the new QSO's from my FT8 log to QRZ. I'll do not describe the process here but I will give you a thumbnail of how I do it.

I copy the new QSO's from the wsjt-x_log.adi to an upload.adi file and then upload that to QRZ. The process is only a few key strokes and only takes a minute or two. After you have done it a few times the process becomes fairly routine and automatic. I generally do this process after each operating session.

After uploading my new QSO's to QRZ I sync my QRZ log with LoTW. Again this is a simple process I'll not document here but if you need some help with it call me. The next step is to sync LoTW with QRZ. Again another simple process that takes less than a minute. There is a very good FAQ area on QRZ where they explain how to do many of the tasks I've touched on in this article. I have found it extremely helpful. You can find it here in the QRZ logbook FAQ at this link: [faq by QRZ.COM](http://faq.by.qrz.com)

This next step in managing your logs and your WAS quest brings us closer to what this article is actually about, the Worked All States Manager, aka: WASMan. The Worked All States Manager is a simple program that I wrote that helps me to keep track of what states I need regardless if I'm trying to WAS on a given band or just WAS in general. The program scans a local copy of your QRZ log and then shows you what states you still need to confirm. You can select a particular band or all bands. Using the arrow keys you highlight the band of interest or click on the band with your mouse and it will display a list of the states you need for that band. If you select or click on "All" it shows you what states you need regardless of band. The screen shot below is a list of the states I still need for WAS on 160 meters.

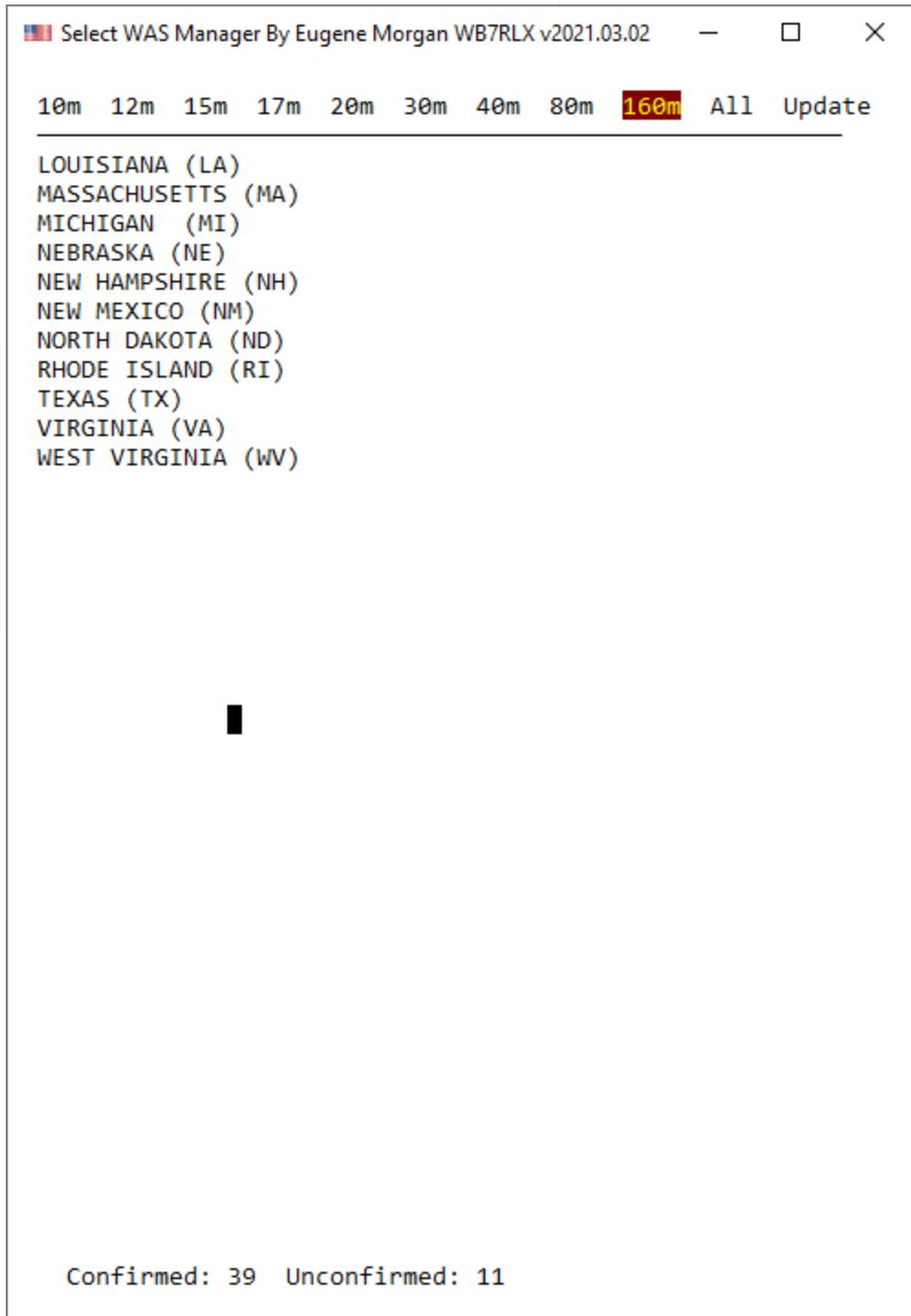


Figure 1: WAS Manager Screen Shot for 160 Meters

Installation

Required: XML Enabled QRZ account or higher, I think the cost is about \$30 a year. If you are unsure if you have the correct type of QRZ account go to the following link and test your account: [QRZ XML](#)

[Account Checker](https://www.qrz.com/page/xml_data.html) You can also go to the following URL to find out more about an XML QRZ account:
https://www.qrz.com/page/xml_data.html

You will also need a copy of your QRZ Logbook API Key. Don't stress I will tell you exactly where you can find it on QRZ. If you have a log book you already have a Logbook API Key. To get this key login to QRZ and go to your QRZ Logbook. Select "**Settings**". If you look on the left hand side of the screen you will see an area labeled **Logbook Info**. If you look down you will see the words **API Key**: in bold black letters. Next to that in bold green letters you will see your log book API key. It will be in the form of: **AAAA-BBBC-CCCC-DDDD**. That is the key you need. Write it down or you can use the Windows copy feature and copy it to the Windows clipboard. That key is what the WAS Manager uses to tell QRZ which logbook you want to download. You will need this key when we configure the desktop shortcut.

Installation Instructions:

The installation is pretty simple but if you need some help give me a call: (801) 540-4907. I'll be glad to walk you through it and help you with downloading your QRZ log file.

- ✓ Download the program from the OARC web site. It should be located in the download area on the OARC web site see: <http://ogdenarc.org/downloads.html>. Look for *Member downloads by Eugene Morgan*.
- ✓ After you have downloaded the setup utility run it. By default the program will install the program into your Documents folder. If you are running the FT8 Assistant **DO NOT** install the WAS Manager in the same folder. The QRZ log book files have a slightly different format. I will be addressing that in the next release of the FT8 Assistant.
- ✓ The next step will require that you configure the FT8 Assistant's window size and add you call sign and Logbook API key in the WAS Manager desktop shortcut. After running the installation on your desktop you will find the WASMan icon, it will look like an American flag. *Right Click* on it and select **Properties**. In the properties window you will see a number of tabs. It should be defaulted to the **Shortcut** tab.
- ✓ Select the "**Options**" tab. In the "**Edit Options**" box uncheck the "**Quick Edit Mode**" then click on "**Apply**" in the lower right of the properties box. This will disable the Quick Edit Feature for the WAS Manager application only, which seems to interfere with the information coming from the mouse.
- ✓ Next click on the **Layout** tab. In the middle of the **Layout** tab window you will see a box labeled **Windows Size**: Set the **Width to 60** and the **Height to 43**. Then click on the "**Apply**" button. That's it you are done. You are ready to now get serious about working all of the states.

Potential Warning from your anti-virus program: When executing the program for the first time you may experience a warning from Microsoft Defender or your anti-virus software warning you about this program. Don't worry. In the case of Microsoft Defender just click on the "**More info**" link then click on the "**Run anyway**" link. This only occurs the very first time the program is launched and only on some

computers. I do take extreme precautions to make sure that none of my programs are infected. However, if you are concerned use the scan feature in Windows Defender to make sure there are no hitchhikers included in the installation payload.

Running the Program: The first time you run the program it will automatically download your QRZ log book. This process may take a moment depending how large your QRZ log file is. For the average size logbook of a couple of thousand QSO's this should take less than 30 seconds. Running the program is pretty simple. Using your arrow keys highlight the band of interest or you can use the mouse to select any of the programs options. The program will display a list of states not yet confirmed for the band of your choice or if you selected "**ALL**" it will show you what states you need for the basic WAS award. To update your QRZ log file select or click on "**Update**" and then press enter. To end the program using your mouse click on the "**X**" in the top right corner of the WAS Manager Window.

In Closing: I hope you find the WAS Manager as useful as I have for keeping track of my WAS progress. I long ago achieved WAS and now I'm trying to get WAS on all bands starting with 160 meters. I hope that as band conditions improve I'll be able to achieve WAS on the higher HF frequencies and I expect the WASMan will be a big help in achieving that goal. If you have any questions or if you have some ideas about additional features or improvements give me a call. If you find any bugs please do contact me with the specifics. I hope you enjoy using my program.

73,

Gene

(WB7RLX)