Using K7CVO Digipeater with Winlink Express

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May 2020

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1: Packet Nodes and Digipeaters

Packet "repeaters" come in two basic types, nodes and digipeaters.

1.1: Digipeaters

A digipeater is a simple store and forward system that collects packets and then re-transmits them on the same frequency with the same radio. This introduces delays as each packet takes twice as long to travel from the source to the destination. However it is very simple in its operation and requires little setup.
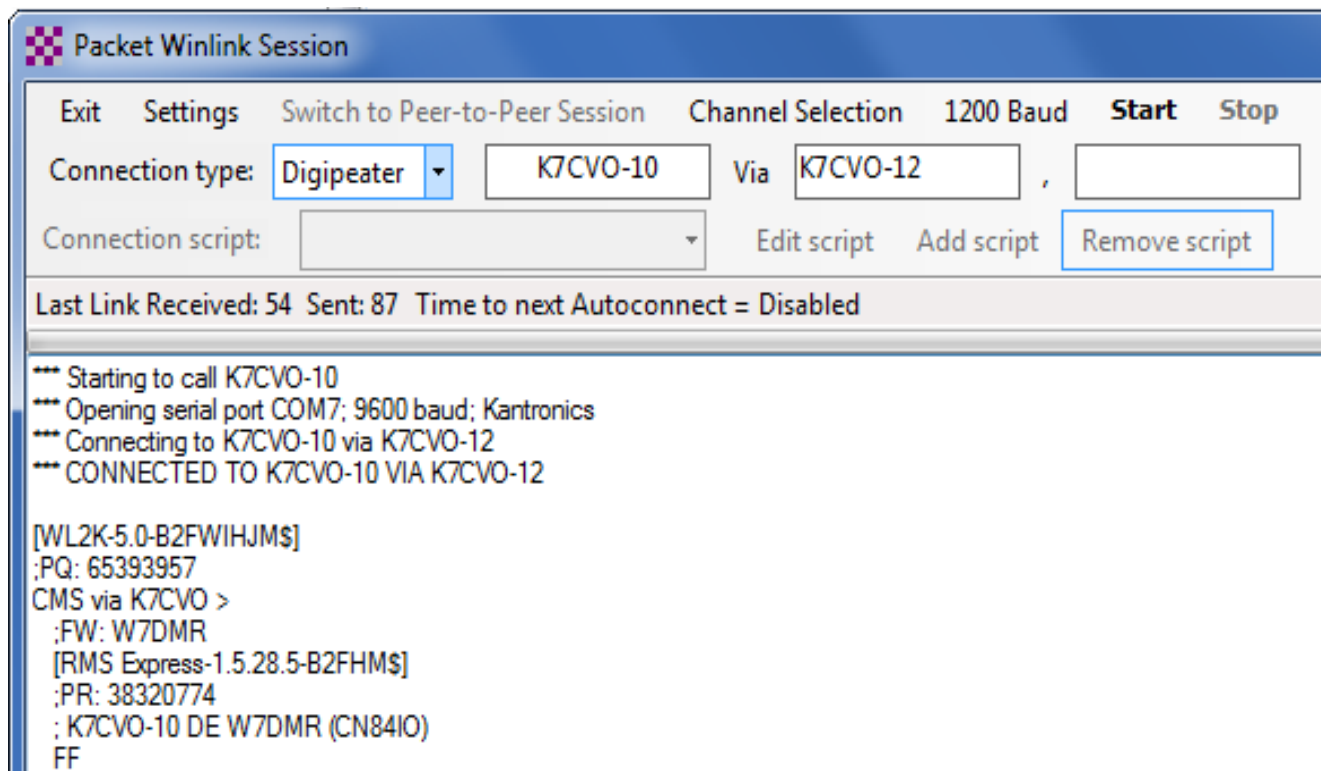
1.2: Nodes

Packet nodes are systems which perform more complex connections between radio channels. A typical node has more than one radio and can send and receive at the same time. A node can make a connection between radios that are on different frequencies. This is faster than digipeating on a single frequency. However added features require added complexity to control them.

2: CVO Packet Node/Digipeater

There is a small system on the roof of the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis which operates as either a node or a digipeater. If called as **K7CVO-11** or *CVO*, it will act as a node, if called as **K7CVO-12** it will act as a digipeater. Since it only has one radio tuned to 144.97 MHz, the node functions are of little use.

3: Using Digipeater with Winlink Express - Packet session

In the Winlink Express Packet session windows, there is a drop down menu for "Connection Type". Set this to "Digipeater". That will make the Via boxes visible and allow you to enter the digipeater's callsign in the first one. Use "K7CVO-12".

4: Further Reading

I found an introductory article on using both digipeater and nodes here:

https://www.qsl.net/w4eat/w4eat/Making_a_packet_connection_to_a_.htm