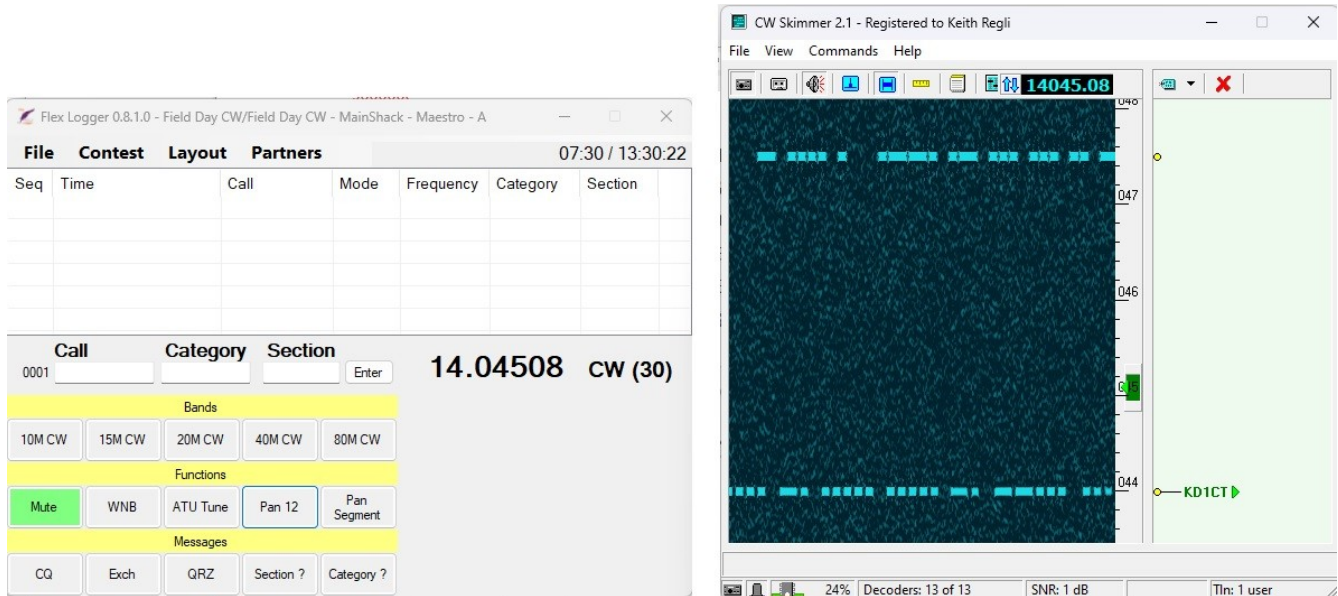# Flex Logger (V0.9)

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Flex Logger is a logging program that is based on Flex Buttons. At this stage of development it is appropriate for general logging and casual contest logging. A hardcore contester should stick with one of the logging programs with thousands of development hours into them such as WriteLog and N1MM. The program is highly configurable and works with CW Skimmer, GRiTTY, WSJT-x and DX Cluster programs to simplify operation. I find I can use FlexLogger, the panafall display and a tuning knob; and I'm good to go. Below is a simple layout for a CW Field Day station.

The log is at the top and the entry fields are next. It shows the frequency and mode. In the case of CW it shows the radio's internal keyer speed. The first row of buttons just selects bands and modes. The second row of buttons turns several functions on and off. The bottom row of buttons (in this layout) will send buffers using the internal keyer. The buffers can use the entered call (%C), sequence number (%S) and first RST field (%R). Right clicking on any button will cancel a transmission (generally if you've hit the wrong button). If the layout includes Country/CQ Zone/ITU Zone fields CTY file data will be used to automatically fill in those fields after a call is entered. States, sections and some other fields have lookup tables to validate entries.

Installation

Installation is pretty simple. Unpack the zip file to some appropriate directory.

When you run the program for the first time it will open to the General Settings tab. You will need to fill in your callsign. You may fill in the auxiliary program information. It will take a long time to start the first time as it is building a file called logbook.db that contains a whole bunch of lookup tables.

After that you're ready to go. You'll find some contests and layouts that you can import in subdirectories.   These will help you get started making your own variations.

Configuration

The screen below is a general logger layout to give an idea of what kind of alternatives you might consider.

Since this is still preliminary, I'll just include the Flex Buttons documentation below to show how to set up the buttons. The only thing that is really different there is the CW and RTTY send commands allow you to substitute Call (%C), SN (%S) and SNT(%R) for his callsign, your serial number and his RST into the exchange based on the entry fields.

Configuration is similar to FlexButtons, but separates the Contest and Layout information (you probably will use the same Layout for multiple contests). Selecting contests and layouts can be done on the main screen (don't change contests in the middle of a contest). Setting up the contests and layouts (along with other actions) is done by clicking on the File/Settings menu item. At that point you'll see the following screen.

The only required field on the general tab is the callsign. That's needed for using a DX Cluster.

General | Contest | Layout | Database

Button Height	Button Width	Columns	CWX Pads
40	70	5	1

Layout | Default | | New | Delete | Export | Import

You can add buttons to the layout by entering the text and then clicking "Make Button". To set the properties for the button, right click on it. You may also duplicate a button or delete it.

Make Button

Bands				
10M CW	15M CW	20M CW	40M CW	80M CW

Functions				
Mute	WNB	Pan 12	Pan Segment	TGXL Tune
PGXL	ATU Bypass	Filter 200	Filter 400	Clear Spots

CW Messages				
call	exch	QSL	QRZ	Speed 20
nr	prec	ck	sec	Speed 25
nr?	prec?	ck?	sec?	Speed 30
cq	cq exch	cq QRZ	QRL	

OK | Cancel | Apply

EditButtons

Name	Color	Font Name
Clear Spots	FFF0F0F0	Microsoft Sans Serif
	Select	Select

Action(s)

«RF-No Slice|ClearSpots█»

Group

This box will contain an explanation once you select a function and slice. Additional fields will be shown once you select a function and a slice.

OK | Cancel

The layout tab allows you to setup button just like FlexButtons. In fact, you can Import buttons that have been created in FlexButtons and Exported to a file. Right click on a button to Edit, Delete or Duplicate it.

The Contest Tab allows you to setup the fields (exchange) associated with a particular contest. You can select from "standard" fields such as Section, Country, SNT, RCV, etc. that have validation routines and are recognized by the program; and you can add custom fields that won't necessarily have any validation. Right click on a field to Edit or Delete it.

The Database Tab allows you to reload certain lookup tables used by the program including the country data files (CTY) maintained by AD1C. It also allows you to lookup QSOs in the permanent log.

Partner Programs

The programs below provide for a good level of integration. They are generally written and maintained by hams for the benefit of other hams.

GRiTTY: You should start GRiTTY from FlexLogger as this will set the DAX Audio Channel used by the current slice as the "Sound Card" used by GRiTTY and establish a (Telnet) link. If you click on a callsign in the GRiTTY call stack it will be transferred to the Callsign field in FlexLogger. If you click on a "word" in the GRiTTY decoding window it will be transferred to the Windows clipboard and to empty contest entry fields; if you then double-click on a FlexLogger field the contents of the clipboard will be transferred to that field. GRiTTY is available at: Afreet Software.

CW Skimmer: You should start the Skimmer from FlexLogger as this will set the DAXIQ Channel used by the current panadapter and the panadapter center frequency into the Skimmer and establish a (Telnet) link for further communication. If you have selected how to show CW Skimmer spots in the FlexLogger File/Settings dialog, the communication channel will transfer the information as needed. You can also set the program to QSY the radio to the appropriate frequency when you click on a call in the Skimmer. CW Skimmer requires purchase of a license from: Afreet Software.

WSJT: You should start WSJTx from FlexLogger as this will establish a (UDP) connection with WSJT. When you use WSJT to log a contact the information will be transferred to FlexLogger as well. You can obtain WSJTx at: WSJT Home Page.

DX Cluster: If you have configured a DX Cluster and your callsign in the FlexLogger File/Settings screen FlexLogger will log you into the cluster and transfer spots from the DX Cluster to show on your radio. This has only been tested with the w3lpl and ve7cc clusters, but others using the same protocol should work. Documentation at: VE7CC DX Cluster.

Amateur Radio Country Files (AD1C): You can update the information used by FlexLogger to determine countries/CQ Zones/ITU Zones by downloading the appropriate files from the site below. What you need is to extract the CTY.dat file from the CTY-xxxx.zip download and place it in the data directory below FlexLogger.exe. Then go to the File/Settings/Database page and update the Country files (it takes a few seconds). Find the tiles at: Amateur Radio Country Files.