Using WintelnetX to Combine Skimmer and Cluster Spots (Rev. 1.2, 10/29/08)

Recently, Dave (K1TTT) released version 4.17 of his WintelnetX software, now making it possible to merge Skimmer and one or more DX cluster spots into a single stream of data to send to any logging software. WintelnetX is a little complex at first, though, and as yet there is no Help file, so I decided to write this brief guide to help people set it up and get it working with CW Skimmer.

First, download WintelnetX from <u>http://www.k1ttt.net/software.html#wintelnetx</u>. Expand the zipfile into a new folder (typically, program Files\WintelnetX). Now start the program. This is what you will see:



Now click File and choose Open:

Open		? ×
Look in: 🗀 WintelnetX	v 🗧 🔁	<u>*</u> ⊞-
com_to_cte.ini	skimmer_plus_2_nodes	s_to_logger.ini
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🧿 irc_test.ini	tnctotelnet_k1ttt.ini	
强 kg2m.ini	Inctotelnet_localhost.i	ni
multi_sucker.ini	ttt irc upsuckor ipi	1
•	Type: Configuration Settings Date Modified: 1/7/2007 10:13 PM Size: 1.69 KB	Þ
File <u>n</u> ame:		<u>O</u> pen
Files of type: Wintel Files (*.in	i) 💌	Cancel

If you're not already there, navigate to the WintelnetX folder and you'll see this. Select the file titled "Skimmer plus 2 nodes to logger.ini" and click Open.

Vintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini	
<u>File Edit View Setup Window Help</u>	
ALL 🔽 🏤 🐜	
skimmer_plusskimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTEL D/MD	
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TTT D	
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skimmer_pl	

First restore the minimized window at the lower left. Now click on Window and choose Tile. That will produce this:

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini			_ 🗆 ×
<u>File E</u> dit <u>Vi</u> ew <u>S</u> etup <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp			
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skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:Main	_ 🗆 🗙	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTEL D/MD	- D ×
TEL port loaded	_		<u></u>
RXTEL port loaded			
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Note that the upper left window is titled Main. This is your operator's console, which keeps you up to date on what the program is doing. The window immediately to its right is the RXTEL window, which will send the combined data stream to your logger.

The window immediately below the console is titled "Node". That is the first Telnet cluster connection. Let's find out some more about it. Right above the console window is a drop-down box that currently shows "ALL". Click the down arrow, and you see:

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini	× 🗆 -
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skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:node D	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TEL D
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TTT D	Wintel1

Select "node." Now click "Setup" in the main menu and select Edit Port! You will see:

Net Connection Setu	p
Connection Setup Host Name or IP	w3lpl.net
Port Number	23
General Port Setup-	
Name	node
Is TNC	FALSE
Stream	A
Buffer	32000
Keep Alive Time	0
Port Data Type	Cluster User 💌
MyCall INET	AntiLoop Px
Hops 99	Dupes 0
CR/LF 2	0=none,1=cr,2=lf,3=cr/lf
🗖 Add Console Ro	outes Automatically
OK	Cancel

This same dialog appears whenever you edit a port. The only thing you need to be concerned with here is the name, it'll help if it is something a little more distinctive. In this case, I changed it to LPL and OK'd out. That takes you to another dialog for setting up an automatic log-in.

Connect Script Setup	×
Prompt	Response
Enable automatic recor	inect 60 Seconds
OK]	Cancel

This one is really easy. Just type the last little bit of text that the cluster sends when asking you to log in, in the Prompt column. For most clusters, that is simply "callsign:" – omit the quotation marks but don't forget the colon. I also suggest you check the Enable automatic reconnect option, just to make things easier, and set it to 120 or 180 seconds. Here's how one of the script windows looks with these things done:

Connect Script Setup	×
Prompt	Response
call:	n4zr
Enable automatic reco	nneci 180 Seconds
OK	Cancel

If you need to get back to any of the script windows, you can do it by selecting the port in the edit window, and then clicking on "Setup" and selecting "Edit Script!" When it's as you want it, OK out, and you'll be back at the main window.

Note that the edit window is now empty. That's because the port "node" has been renamed. You'll need to click the drop-down arrow again and select either LPL or another specific port.

So now select the "TEL" port and go through the Setup|Edit Port! Process again. This time you see:

Net Connection Setu	p
Connection Setup-	
Host Name or IP	192.168.0.205
Port Number	7300
General Port Setup-	
Name	TEL
Is TNC	FALSE
Stream	I A
Buffer	32000
Keep Alive Time	0
Port Data Type	Cluster User
MyCall INET	AntiLoop Px
Hops 99	Dupes 0
CR/LF 2	0=none,1=cr,2=lf,3=cr/lf
🗖 Add Console R	outes Automatically
(COK	Cancel

This is the port that connects to CW Skimmer, and a couple of things need to be changed here. Dave's example points to one of the computers on his multi-multi network. Assuming you are a single op with one computer running Skimmer, WintelnetX and your logging program, change the Host Name or IP to 127.0.0.1. By default, Skimmer puts out spots on port 7300, so unless you have changed that, leave this alone – in any case, they must match.

I would also change the port name to SKIM – easier to remember. When you set up the script for Skimmer, remember that its prompt is "callsign:", not "call:".

This is how the main screen looks now:

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini			_ 🗆 ×
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>S</u> etup <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp			
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:Main		skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTEL D/MD	- I ×
TEL port loaded	_		<u> </u>
RXTEL port loaded			
node port loaded	_		_
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:LPL D	- D X	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:SKIM D	
	<u></u>		<u> </u>
	_		_
<u>.</u>			
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TTT D	- 🗆 🗙	Wintel1	- U ×
	<u></u>		<u></u>
	_		_
T		4	

Let's see if anything needs fixing on TTT.

Net Connection Setu	p
Connection Setup	
Host Name or IP	k1ttt.net
Port Number	23
General Port Setup-	
Name	TTT
Is TNC	FALSE
Stream	A A
Buffer	32000
Keep Alive Time	0
Port Data Type	Cluster User
MyCall INET	AntiLoop Px
Hops 99	Dupes 0
CR/LF 2	0=none,1=cr,2=lf,3=cr/lf
🗖 Add Console R	outes Automatically
OK)	Cancel

No, that should work fine. Instead of the IP address, this one uses the Host Name. Set up the logon script just as you did for LPL.

OK out, get back to the main screen, and – believe it or not – you're ready to connect to the various data sources. Before you do that, though, there are a couple of things in Skimmer that you need to check. So start Skimmer and click on the Settings button (or select "Settings" from the View menu. You'll see this dialog:

Settings	×
Radio Audio Misc. Op	erator Telnet Calls
Hardware Type C 3-kHz Radio C SoftRock C SoftRock-IF C SDR-IQ C QS1R	LO Frequency, Hz 7014177
Sampling Rate O 48 kHz O 96 kHz O 192 kHz	
	OK Cancel

Now click on the Telnet tab, and you'll see:

Settings
Radio Audio Misc. Operator Telnet Calls
✓ Enable Telnet Server Port: 7300
Require Password
Password:
Do not send callsigns without "CQ"
Allow SKIMMER commands
🔲 Only to/from this User:
OK Cancel

Make sure that "Enable Telnet Server" is checked, that the port matches the one you designated in the SKIM window in WintelnetX, and that "Do not send callsigns without CQ." This last one is very important, because you don't want Skimmer to spot S&Pers that won't be there if you go looking for them.

Now go back to WintelnetX and select ALL from the dropdown list. To its right you see two buttons. The one to the left is to connect to all the nodes at once. The one on the right (with the big black X) is to disconnect. Now click the "Connect" button.

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini	×
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>S</u> etup <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp	
🔰 skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:Main	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTEL C
LPL port connect commanded 🔶 🔺	<u>ڪ</u>
TTT port connect commanded	
	-
<u>۱</u>	
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.init.LPL C	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.in:SkiPiC
*** Connected to: W3LPL	Welcome to the CW Skimmer Teinet CI-
Please enter your call.	Please enter your callsign.
riease encer your carr.	riease enter your carisign.
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TTT C	
*** Connected to: K1TTT at 127.0.0.	
Welcome to the K1TTT AR-Cluster nod	
Please enter your call:	

Wow, just like downtown! In each of the telnet windows you can see the prompt from the node (or in the case of Skimmer, from the program). If you have set up the logon prompts, each cluster and Skimmer will be automatically logged on. If not, quickly type your call in the bottom line of each node window, just like you would with your telnet client in response to the prompt if you were connecting directly.

Suppose you're not quick enough and a node disconnects you. Simply select that node's name, click "Disconnect" and then "Connect" again.

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini	× 🗆 -
<u>File Edit View Setup Window H</u> elp	
Skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.intMain	<pre>skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTELC _ [X] RXTEL: Port disconnected </pre>
Skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.initPLCX N4ZR de W3LPL 28-Oct 1936Z arc _ DX de W8NJF: 14274.0 SP3LPG	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.iniSKIMC N4ZR de SKIMMER 2008-10-28 19:36Z C DX de N4ZR-#: 14005.4 SP9DXX
× •	
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.in:TTT C Image: X **** Connected to: K1TTT at 127.0.0. Welcome to the K1TTT AR-Cluster nod Please enter your call: Image: N4ZR	

That's what I am doing on the screen above. You can see that both Skimmer and W3LPL began sending spots immediately.

I really do recommend the scripts, though – it's just too easy. If you set them up as I've explained, when you click on the "Connect" button you'll see all the ports go through their logon processes automatically, and it'll look like this:

Wintelnetx - skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini	<u>_</u> _×
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>S</u> etup <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp	
ALL 💽 🏊 🔀	
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:Main	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:RXTEL C
LPL port connect commanded 🔶	RXTEL: Port disconnected
TTT port connect commanded	
	v
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:LPL C/S*/A	skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:SKIM C/S*/A 📃 🛛 🗙
98 nodes, 13 local / 514 total user 🔺	N4ZR de SKIMMER 2008-10-29 16:05Z C
N4ZR de W3LPL 29-Oct 1605Z arc	DX de N4ZR-#: 14010.8 G3WAB
	्र च
skimmer_plus_2_nodes_to_logger.ini:TTT C/S*/A	
28 nodes, 101 local / 101 total use 🔺	
N4ZR de K1TTT 29-Oct 1602Z arc	

Now open the RXTEL port for editing:

RX Net Connection Setup		
[- RX Setup	
	Host Name or IP	127.0.0.1
	Port Number	23
	- General Port Setup	
	Name	RXTEL
	Is TNC	FALSE
	Stream	I A
	Buffer	32000
	Keep Alive Time	0
	Port Data Type	CT User
	MyCall MYCALL	AntiLoop Px <
	Hops 99	Dupes 25
	CR/LF 3	0=none,1=cr,2=lf,3=cr/lf
Add Console Routes Automatically		
	(OK	Cancel

Nothing to edit here, unless you want to change the name. It is all set up for a logging program or other telnet client on the same machine as WintelnetX. Just OK out.

Now comes what you've been waiting for. Start your logger and point it to 127.0.0.1, port 23. Different logging programs have different syntax for this – for example, N1MM Logger uses "127.0.0.1:7300", while DX4WIN uses "localhost:7300" and the Windows Telnet client uses "127.0.0.1 7300".

The merged stream of spots will immediately start to flow, like this:

Telnet Window - Host: 127.0.0.1 23 - Timeout 30 minutes	
Packet Telnet Type:	wintelnetX 🔽 Close Port
N4ZR command error	<u> </u>
No Help available	
N4ZR de K1TTT 29-Oct 1038Z arc >	
DX de N4ZR-#: 7020.7 W9NGA Rx:FM19	AE CQ-ing 1042Z
DX de KOTV: 1831.0 KF5W	K 1039Z
DX de KZ4V: 7006.2 JA6SOV/HC8	HC8 1048Z
	-
<u>BYE CONN DI/N SH/DX USERS WW</u> V 10N	I 15M 20M 40M 80M N4ZR

The KF5W and JA6 spots came from one of the cluster nodes, while that for W9NGA came from Skimmer.

To understand what's going on, go back to WintelnetX and select "Routes" under the Setup menu item.

Route Setup	×
	Existing Routes
SKIM=>RXTEL RXTEL=>TTT LPL=>RXTEL TTT=>RXTEL	<u></u>
<u>ح</u>	▼ ▶
Route From	• • • • • • • • • •
Route To	▼ 2 Way
Remove Route	Add Route
Remove Trace	Add Trace

This is really pretty self-explanatory. The SKIM, LPL and TTT ports are set up to send data to RXTEL. RXTEL can also send data to TTT. What that means, for example, is

that you can type any standard DX cluster command in your logging program's telnet window, and that command will be passed to the TTT node. It will not be passed either to Skimmer or to LPL.

You can change this to meet your needs. For example, if you also wanted to pass those commands to W3LPL, you would just enter the from and to nodes (RXTEL and LPL, in this example, click on Add Routes, and voila!

Route Setup	×		
Existing Routes			
SKIM=>RXTEL RXTEL=>TTT LPL LPL=>RXTEL TTT=>RXTEL	*		
T	V		
Route From RXTEL	🔽 2 Way		
Remove Route Add Route Remove Trace Add Trace	Done		

So this will get you started with WintelnetX, Skimmer, and telnet DX clusters. If you want to automate logging onto the various nodes, the script windows we saw earlier are pretty self-explanatory.

Please let me know how this guide works for you, and what I can do to improve the next version.