

Awards Statistics Display Utility

(Version 2.4.1 -- Revised February 3, 2015)

Introduction

AwardStatistics.exe is a utility to display DXCC & WAS progress by band and/or mode. WAS data is displayed on a map of the United States or in a tabular format. DXCC data is displayed as bar graphs, a numerical chart by band & mode, or as a list of DXCC entities. You can select the mode or the band to be displayed, allowing you to visualize progress towards any variation of the DXCC or WAS award.

AwardStats will work with any logging program as long as it uses a Microsoft Access database (.mdb file) or is capable of generating an ADIF file (.adi file).

Installation & Setup

Run the installation package file, **AwardStatisticsSetup.exe**. This will install **AwardStats.exe** and all required supporting files on your computer. The installer will suggest a default location for the program file. You may change the location or leave it at the default, it does not matter. However, the **AwardStatistics.rtf** file MUST be located in the same directory as the **AwardStatistics.exe** file.

When the program is run for the first time, it will display the screen shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 – Select Program Screen

The dropdown list box displays a list of logging programs for which there are template files available. These template files are setup data files for use with common logging

programs. They contain most of the data necessary to set up Award Statistics to work with the selected program. Normally, all you need to do is select your log file and select the display colors.

If your logging program is not listed, select **Other (Manual Setup)** to enter all of the setup data by hand.

After you click on **OK**, the program will open the setup form to allow you to customize the setup for your specific installation.

NOTE: Initially, the only template files provided are for **DXKeeper**, the logging program in the **DXLabs** suite, and for standard ADIF files. As users set up **Award Statistics** for use with other logging programs, they can submit their setup data files to me. I will then add them to future releases and post them on my website for download.

Program Operation

Operation of **Award Statistics** is very straightforward. When the program starts, it reads your log data file, calculates the DXCC & WAS statistics, & displays the results. Initially, the statistics for the basic WAS award are displayed on a map of the United States. By clicking on the buttons at the right of the screen, you can view the statistics for any combination of band, mode, and confirmation method. You can also display the WAS data in a tabular format, the DXCC data in chart form, or a list of DXCC entities by clicking on the appropriate tab above the map.

Examples of the 4 different display screens are shown in Figures 2–5 below.

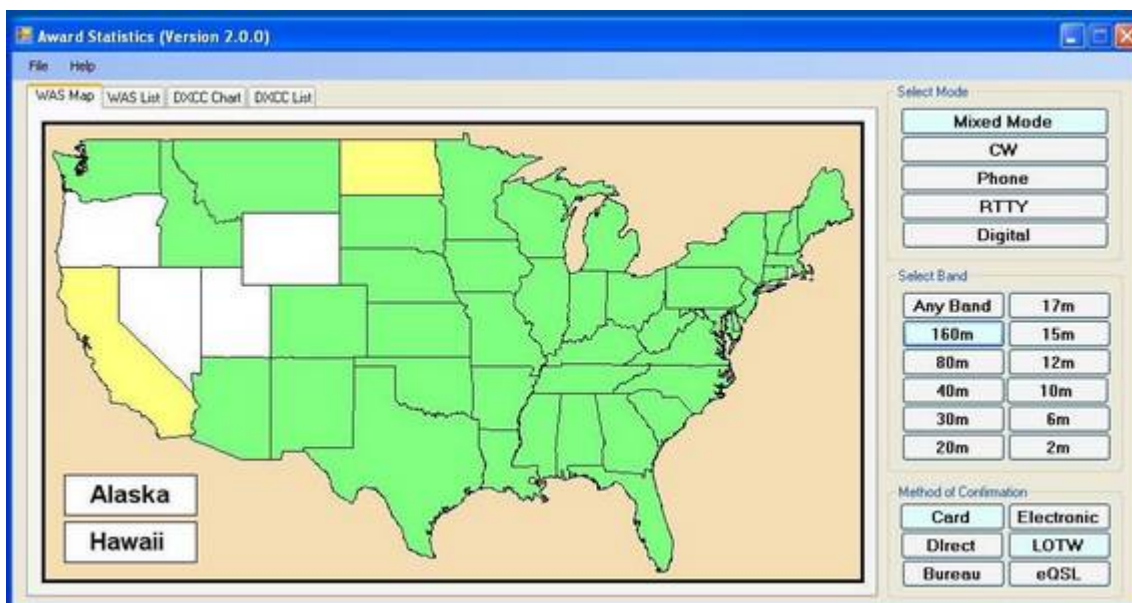


Figure 2 – WAS Map Display Screen

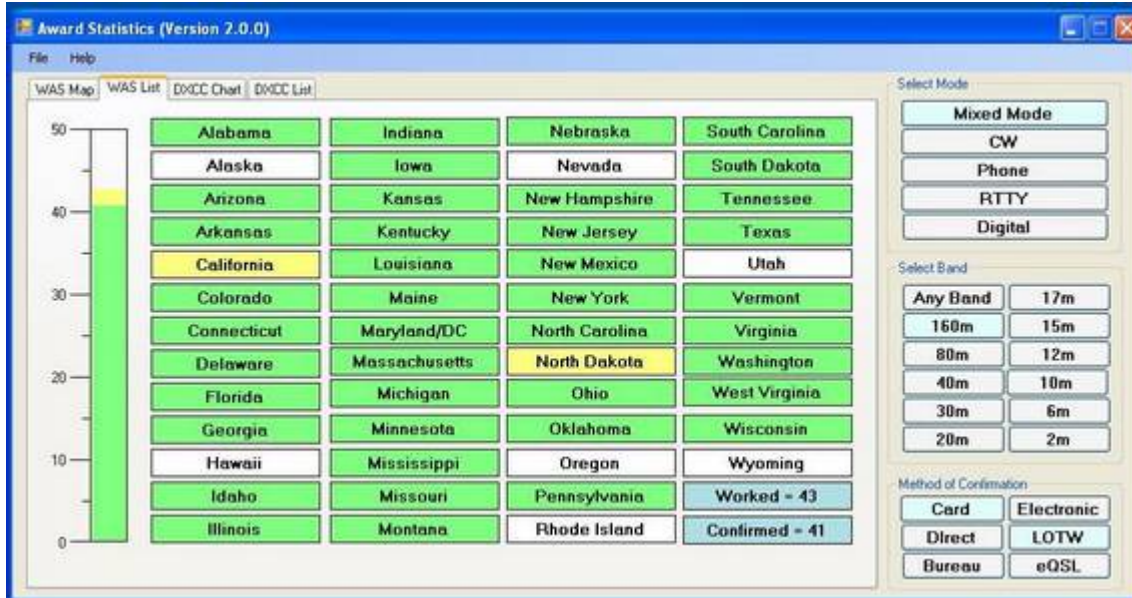


Figure 3 – WAS List Display Screen

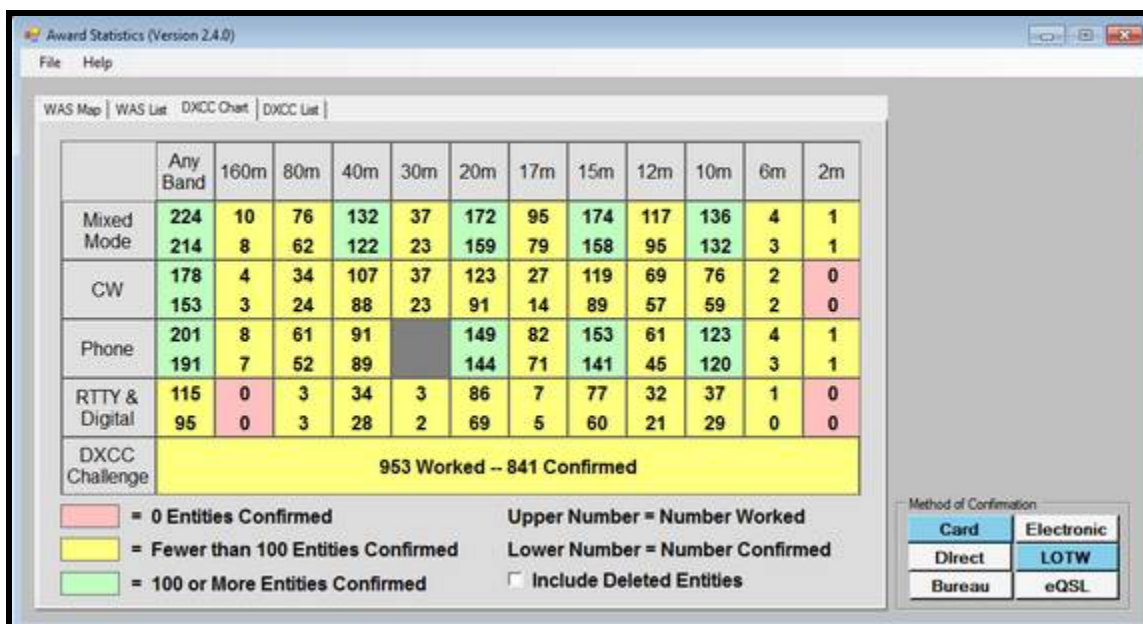


Figure 4 – DXCC Chart Display Screen



Figure 5 – DXCC List Display Screen

File Menu

Clicking on **FILE** on the menu bar will display the following sub-menu:

Setup	Ctrl-S
--	
Exit	Ctrl-X

Clicking on **Setup** or holding the **CTRL** key down and pressing “**S**” will open a window where you can setup the program to work with your logging program.

Clicking on **Exit** or holding the **CTRL** key down and pressing “**X**” will exit the program.

Help Menu

Clicking on **HELP** on the menu bar will display the following sub-menu:

Help	Ctrl-H
--	
About	Ctrl-A

Clicking on **Help** or holding the **CTRL** key down and pressing “**H**” will display this document.

Clicking on **About** or holding the **CTRL** key down and pressing “**A**” will display a window with basic information about the program, including the version number and revision date. Click anywhere on the window to close it and return to normal operation.

Program Setup

Selecting **Setup** from the **File** menu or holding the **Ctrl** key down and pressing “**S**” will display the setup form shown in Figures 5, 6, & 7 below. The screens depict the program setup to work with the DXKeeper logging program, part of the DXLabs Suite, which uses a Microsoft Access database.

The screenshot shows the 'WAS Statistics Setup' dialog box with the 'General Setup' tab selected. The dialog has several sections: 'Log File' with a dropdown for 'Select Log File Template' (set to 'DXLab Suite (DXKeeper)') and a dropdown for 'Log File Type' (set to 'Microsoft Access Database File (*.mdb)'); a text box for 'Log File Name' with a 'Browse' button; 'Log Table' with a text box for 'Table Name' (set to 'QSOs'); 'Frequency/Band Field' with a text box for 'Field Name' (set to 'BAND') and a dropdown for 'Data Type' (set to 'Band'); 'Entity & State Fields' with a text box for 'Entity Field' (set to 'DXCCID') and a text box for 'State Field' (set to 'STATE'); 'Mode Field' with a text box for 'Field Name' (set to 'MODE'), a text box for 'CW Mask' (set to 'CW'), a text box for 'Phone Mask' (set to 'SSB|LSB|USB|AM|FM'), and a text box for 'RTTY Mask' (set to 'RTTY|RTTYM|FSK|AFSK'); a text box for 'Digital Modes Mask' (set to 'AMTOR|ASCII|CHIP|CLO|DOMINO|HELL|FSK31|FSK441|GTOR|HFSK|JT|JFASK|JT63|JOLVIA|PAC|PAX|PKT|PSK|Q1'); a 'Reset Masks' button; and 'Display Colors' with three buttons: 'Not Worked', 'Worked', and 'Confirmed'. At the bottom are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Figure 6 – General Setup Screen

The controls on the General Setup screen are divided into the following groups: Log File, Log Table, Frequency/Band Field, Entity & State Fields, Mode Field, & Display Colors.

Log File Group – This group contains a dropdown list box used to select the type of log file, and a text box & browse button used to specify the full name & path of the log file to use.

Currently you can select between either an Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) file or a Microsoft Access database file. Other log file types may be added in the future.

Log Table Group – This group contains a single text box where you enter the name of the table containing the log data. This parameter is not needed if you are using an ADIF file.

Frequency/Band Field Group – This group contains a text box contains the name of the field in the data table that contains the frequency or band of the QSO, and a

dropdown list box which allows you to specify how the frequency information is stored. The choices are: Band, kHz, or MHz.

Entity & States Field Group – This group contains 2 text boxes, one contains the name of the field containing the DXCC entity information and the other contains the name of the field containing the state information. The DXCC Entity field must contain the numeric code for the entity.

Mode Field Group -- This group contains 5 text boxes. The first text box contains the name of the field in the data table that contains the mode of the QSO. The remaining text boxes contain mask strings specifying what mode field values will be interpreted as each mode. For information on how to construct mask strings, see the section on “Creating Mask Strings” below.

You can temporarily change any of the mask strings to create special displays. For example, you can change the Digital Modes Mask to “PSK31” to display statistics of only PSK31 contacts instead of all digital modes. Clicking on “Reset Masks” will restore the mask settings to their original values when the program was started.

If you have changed one or more of the mode mask strings, you will be asked when you close the program if you want to make the changes permanent. Click on “No” to revert to the original mask strings.

Display Colors Group – This group contains 3 boxes labeled “Needed”, “Worked”, & “Confirmed”. Clicking on a box will open a color selection dialog window where you can select the display color for the corresponding QSO status..

Figure 7 – Confirmed via QSL Card Setup Screen

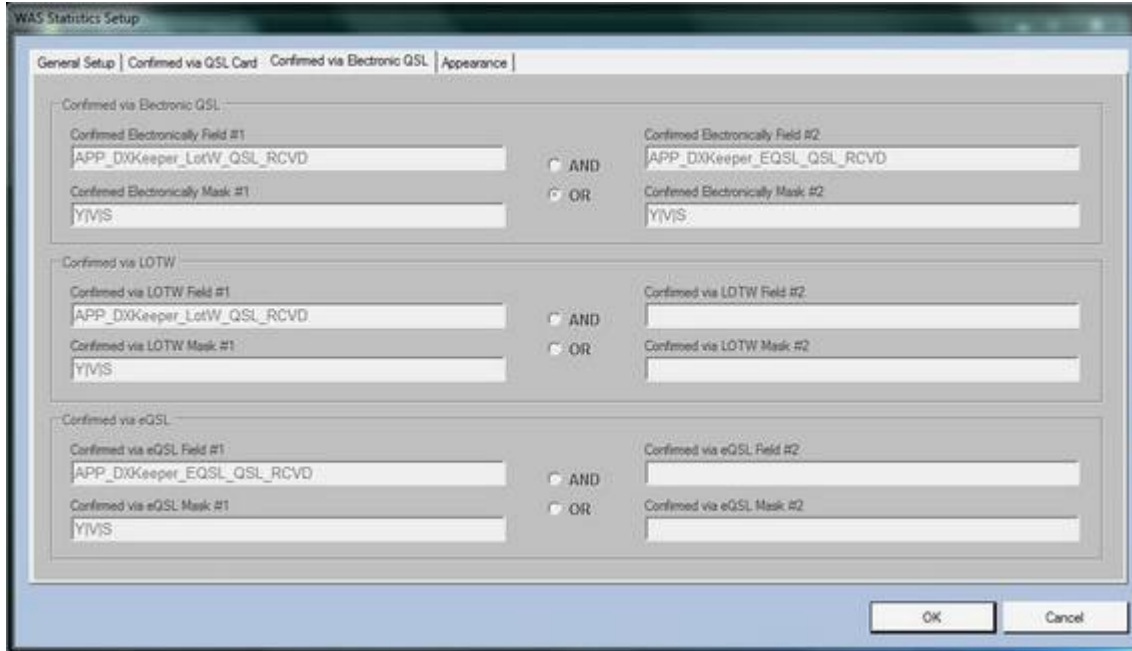


Figure 8 – Confirmed via Electronic QSL Setup Screen

The next 2 setup screens allow you to tell the program how to determine whether a contact has been confirmed by any of six different confirmation methods:

- QSL Card
- Direct QSL Card
- QSL Card via Bureau
- Electronic QSL
- LOTW
- eQSL.

You may enter definitions for any or all of these methods. Each of these confirmation methods are set up in exactly the same way as described below.

To set up a confirmation method, you can specify either 1 or 2 fields in the database to be looked at. For each field used, you enter the field name and a mask string. If you specify 2 fields, you must select either “AND” or “OR”. Select “AND” if the contents of both fields must match their associated mask if the QSO is confirmed. Select “OR” if the QSO is confirmed if either field matches its associated mask. If only one field is specified, the AND/OR setting does not matter.

Setting up the confirmation fields & masks is probably the most difficult to grasp. Look at Figure 7 & 8 to see how the program is set up for **DXKeeper** as a guide to setting up other log programs.

The final setup screen, shown in Figure 9, allows you to change the appearance of the program by selecting the background color for the main screen & each of the 4 tab pages. You can also set the color used when a button is selected & the color of the progress bar.

To change a color, click on the color you wish to change, and a color selection dialog window will be displayed.

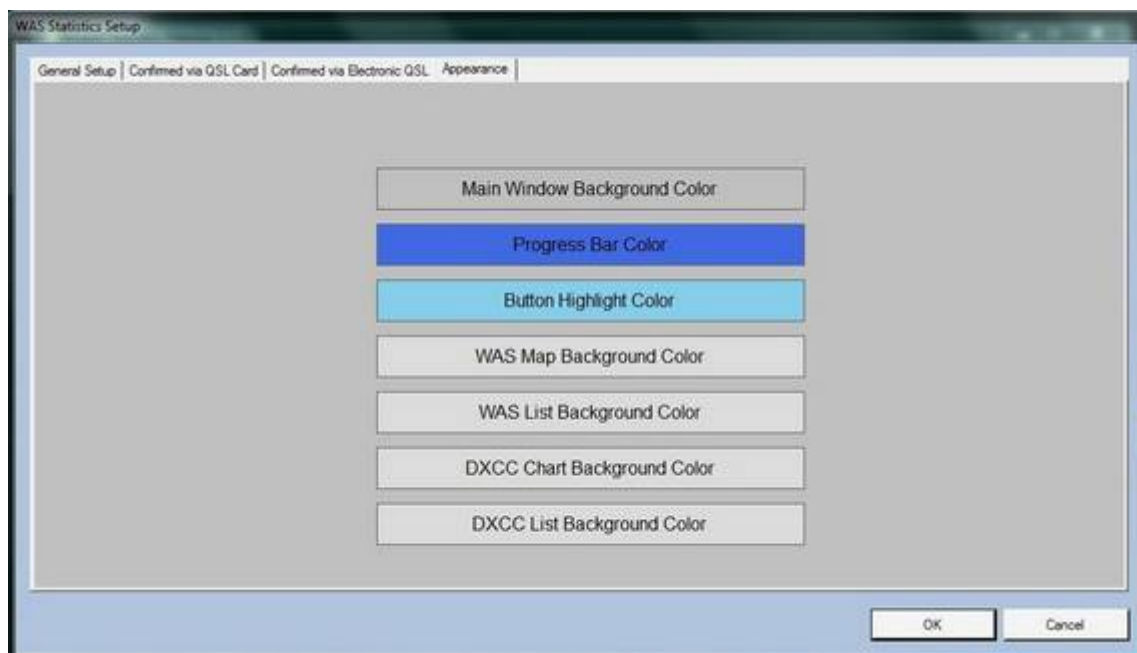


Figure 9 – Program Appearance Setup Screen

When all values have been set on all 4 setup screens, click on the **OK** button to save your changes. Clicking on the **Cancel** button will discard your changes and re-load your original settings. Clicking on the **Reset** button will delete the setup data file and allow you to set up the program for use with a different logging program.

Creating Mask Strings

The mask fields contain a special string of characters which are used in interpreting the contents of a field. Mask strings are used with the mode field to classify the mode of the contact into CW, Phone, RTTY, or Digital. A mask string is also used with the confirmed fields to determine what values specify that the QSO has been confirmed.

A mask string may contain multiple values. Also, the string uses the asterisk (“*”) and the question mark (“?”) as wildcard characters to match a string of any characters. The question mark matches any single character, and the asterisk matches any number of characters.

A few examples should make things clearer.

Assume that your log data file specifies a phone contact with any one of the following values:

“SSB”, “LSB”, “USB”, “AM”, or “FM”.

The following mask string would allow each of these values to be interpreted as a phone contact:

“SSB|LSB|USB|AM|FM”

By using the wildcard character, the mask string can be shortened to:

“?SB|AM|FM” or possibly “?SB|?M”

Use the wildcard characters carefully. It is easy to create a mask using wildcard characters that will match values representing different modes. For example, the mask string “*SK*” would match PSK31, a digital mode, but it would also match FSK or AFSK, both possible representations of RTTY.

The confirmed field may possibly contain a date. In this case, use the special string “{date}” to have the program match any format of a valid date.

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About the Author

AwardStatistics.exe was written by Ray Andrews, K9DUR.

Ray holds an Amateur Extra class license and was first licensed in April 1960. He currently resides in West Terre Haute, IN, and is a retired electronic design engineer and software developer. He operates a small custom software consulting business just to keep him out of mischief between camping trips.

For more information, visit Ray's web pages:

<http://k9dur.info>

<http://www.rnaconsultingservices.com>

Revision History

- v2.4.1 – Feb 3, 2015 – Fixed bug where non-US contacts were being counted towards WAS if "state" abbreviation matched US state abbreviation..
- v2.4.0 – Dec 1, 2013 – Added DXCC Challenge status & 160m RTTY/Digital status to the DXCC Chart.
- v2.3.3 – Aug 26, 2012 – Change to prevent "Control does not support transparent background" error.
- v2.3.2 – Aug 4, 2012 – Fixed bug where 60m contacts were counted as 6m contacts.
- v2.3.1 – May 3, 2012 – Corrected minor typo in documentation & corrected HRD Log template.
- v2.3.1 – May 2, 2012 – Fixed bug in setting color of confirmation method buttons. Added HRD Log template file to installation package.
- v2.3.0 – Apr 5, 2012 – Added ability to temporarily modify mask strings and added capability to customize the program appearance.
- v2.2.0 – Jul 22, 2011 – Modified to force program to run as 32-bit application on 64-bit systems.
- v2.1.0 – Jun 7, 2011 – Added Visual Basic Power Packs to installation.
- v2.0.1 – May 30, 2011 – Added extensive error trapping & logging. Corrected error in User Manual
- v2.0.0 – May 29, 2011 – Complete re-write. Re-named from AwardStats to AwardStatistics. Added ability to display statistics for different confirmation methods.
- v1.0.1 – Jul 13, 2010 – Re-constructed tick marks on WAS bar graph to correct VB Power Packs reference error.
- v1.0.0 – Mar 1, 2010 – Initial release.