

D-RATS

Not Just for D-STAR radios

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TCARC meeting 3/9/2010*

Overview

- What is D-RATS?
- Why use D-RATS?
- What can D-RATS do?
- How do I setup D-RATS?
- Where do I get more info?

What is D-RATS?

- A multi-platform communications package written by Dan Smith, KK7DS, in python/GTK
 - MS Windows (2000 or later)
 - Mac OS X
 - Linux
- Emergency Communications tool
 - distribute data reliably
- Internet to RF gateway (and back again)
- Mapping program/position reporting system

Why use D-RATS?

- Works on multiple interfaces
 - D-STAR radio
 - Internet reflector
 - KISS-mode TNC
 - DV-Dongle
- Traffic routing
 - Manual
 - Automatic
 - WinLink2000 interface

Why use D-RATS?

- Fairly simple interface
- Large number of features available
 - email (internet and RF)
 - memos
 - ICS & Radiogram forms
 - Chat window
 - File transfer

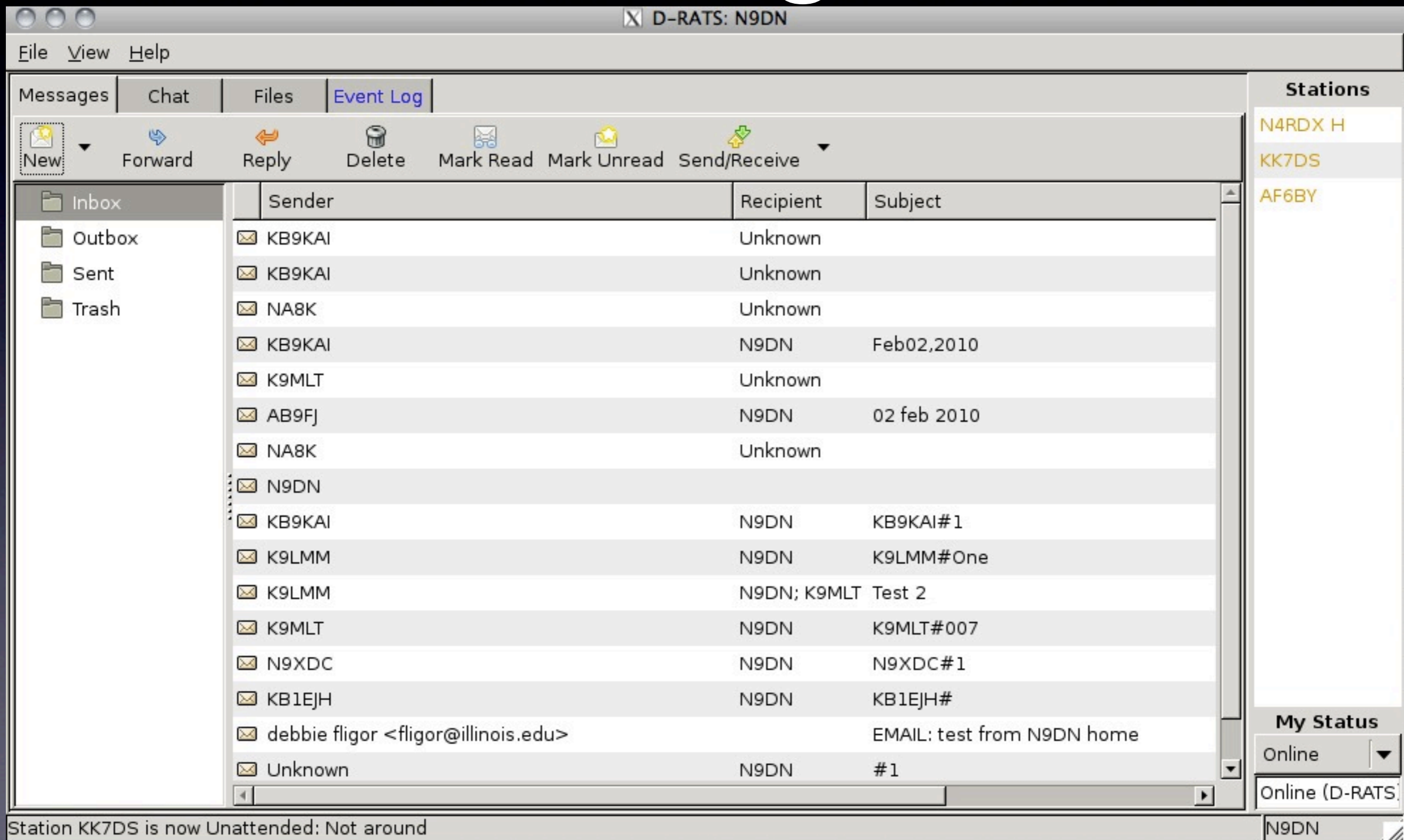
What can D-RATS do?

- The interface has 4 tabs and a Map window, we'll look at them one at a time
 - Messages
 - Chat
 - Files
 - Event Log
 - Map View

Messages

- Forms
 - includes printable versions
 - layouts can be shared (XML files)
- Attachments
- Automatic and manual forwarding
- Familiar inbox/outbox/sent/trash
- File broadcast (to all stations)

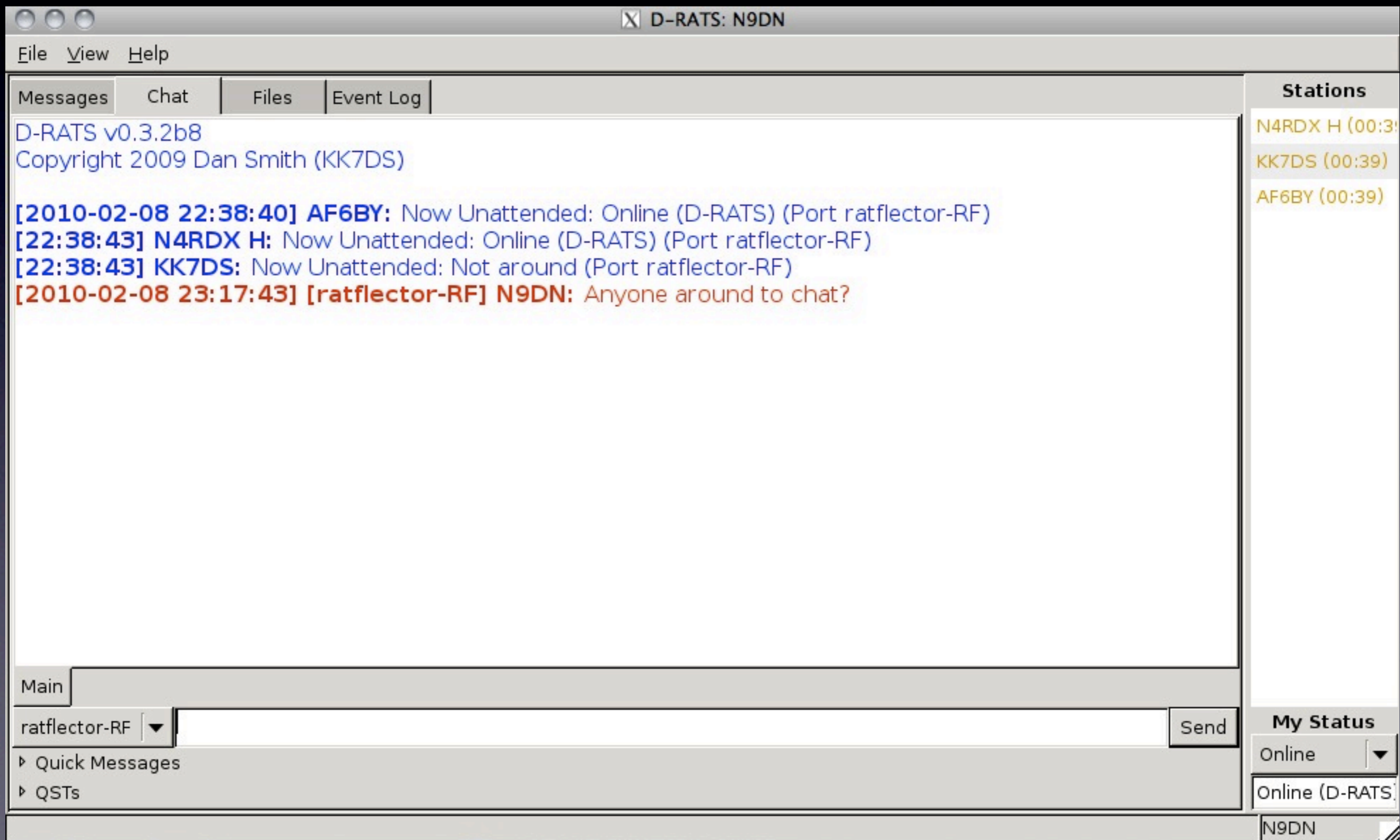
Messages



Chat

- Mostly like IM/texting/IRC
- “Ping” function to see who is online
- Station heard list, with mouse-over info
- Can see multiple interfaces at the same time
- This is where to find the NCS station

Chat



Files

- See your local files that others can connect and access
- Connect to other stations
 - Upload
 - Download

Files

D-RATS: N9DN

FileViewHelp

MessagesChatFilesEvent Log

Refresh

Delete

Upload

Local

Connect

Disconnect

Download

Station: Enter remote callsign

ratflector-RF

Filename	Size	Date
dec-1-file copy.txt	141 B	20:39:49 2009-12-01
dec-1-file-lb9kai.txt	156 B	20:50:38 2009-12-01
dec-1-file-N9XDC.txt	148 B	20:17:48 2009-12-01
dec-1-file.txt	141 B	20:39:49 2009-12-01
december-15.txt	182 B	19:49:22 2009-12-08
december-8.txt	182 B	19:49:22 2009-12-08
Document.rtf	161 B	20:17:23 2009-09-15
feb-2-2010.txt	804 B	20:38:24 2010-02-02
jan-13-file1.txt	130 B	20:35:17 2010-01-13
jan-19-file-big.txt	19.7 KB	20:38:38 2010-01-13
ping.log	188 B	20:18:01 2009-11-10
test-file.txt	51 B	20:04:56 2009-09-15
test-file.txt.part	0 B	20:53:52 2009-09-29
test.txt	65 B	20:20:32 2009-12-29

Stations

N4RDX H (00:00)

KK7DS (00:06)

AF6BY (00:06)

My Status

Online

Online (D-RATS)

N9DN

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Event Log

- See ping responses
- Monitor file transfers
- Monitor form transfers

Event Log

D-RATS: N9DN

File View Help

Messages Chat Files Event Log

Show event type: All ▼ Containing text: Enter filter text

Time	Description
2010-02-08 22:38:43	Station KK7DS is now Unattended: Not around
2010-02-08 22:38:43	KK7DS replied to ping from N9DN with: Running D-RATS 0.3.2b8 (Linux - Ubuntu 9.10) [ratflector-RF]
2010-02-08 22:38:43	Station N4RDX H is now Unattended: Online (D-RATS)
2010-02-08 22:38:42	N4RDX H replied to ping from N9DN with: N4RDX Home Station Minor, Alabama n4rdx@triana.us [ratflector-RF]
2010-02-08 22:38:40	Station AF6BY is now Unattended: Online (D-RATS)
2010-02-08 22:38:39	AF6BY replied to ping from N9DN with: Running D-RATS 0.3.1 (WinXP) [ratflector-RF]
2010-02-08 22:38:32	N9DN pinged CQCQCQ [ratflector-RF] (Request)
2010-02-08 22:37:19	D-RATS Started

Stations

- N4RDX H (00:00)
- KK7DS (00:07)
- AF6BY (00:07)

My Status

Online ▼

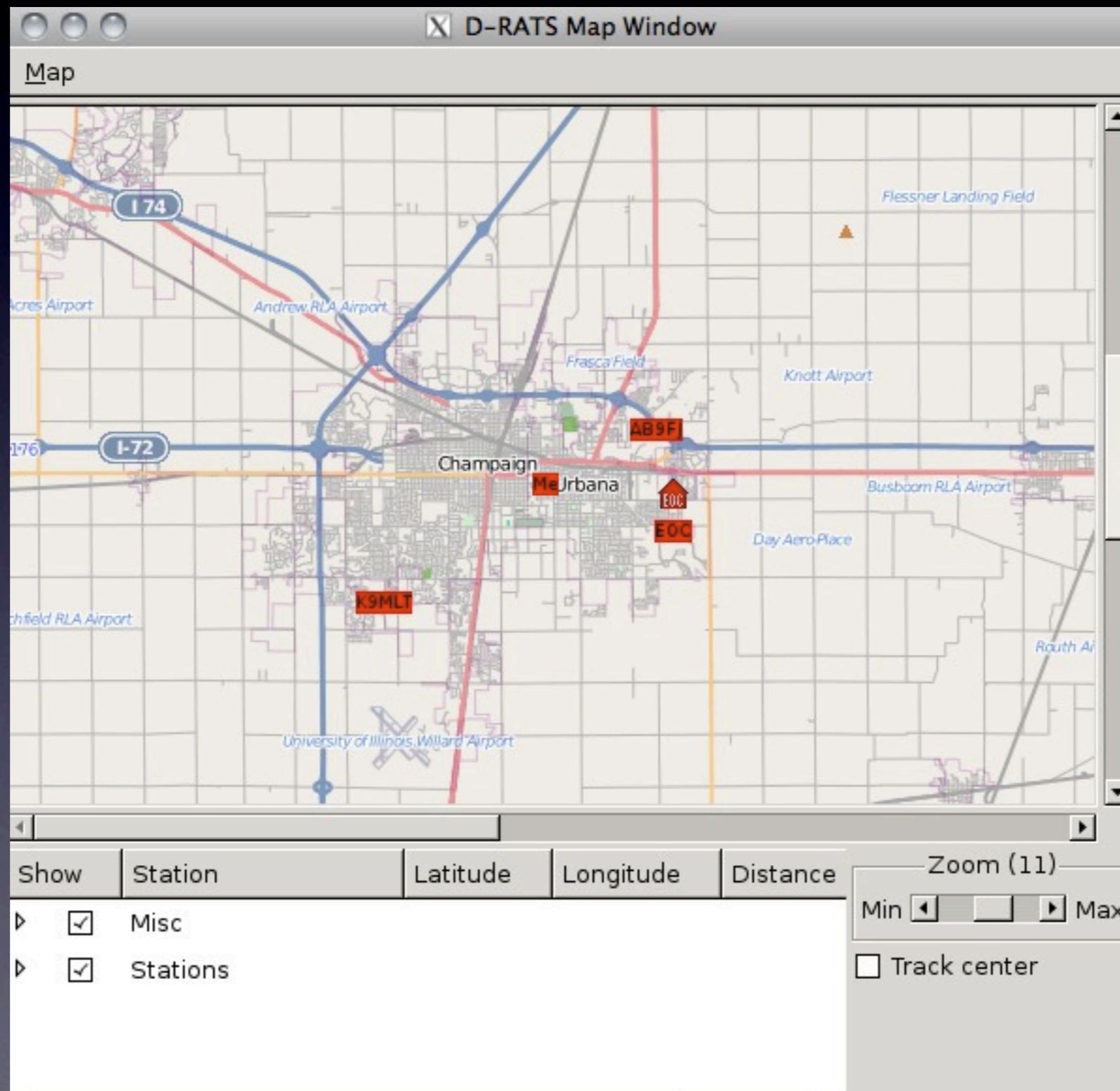
Online (D-RATS)

N9DN

Map View

- Position tracking
 - moving stations updated in real-time
 - captures and sends ICOM GPS strings
 - can add fixed points to the map
 - distance and direction calculation
 - Internet based free map data
 - can use external GPS while on radio

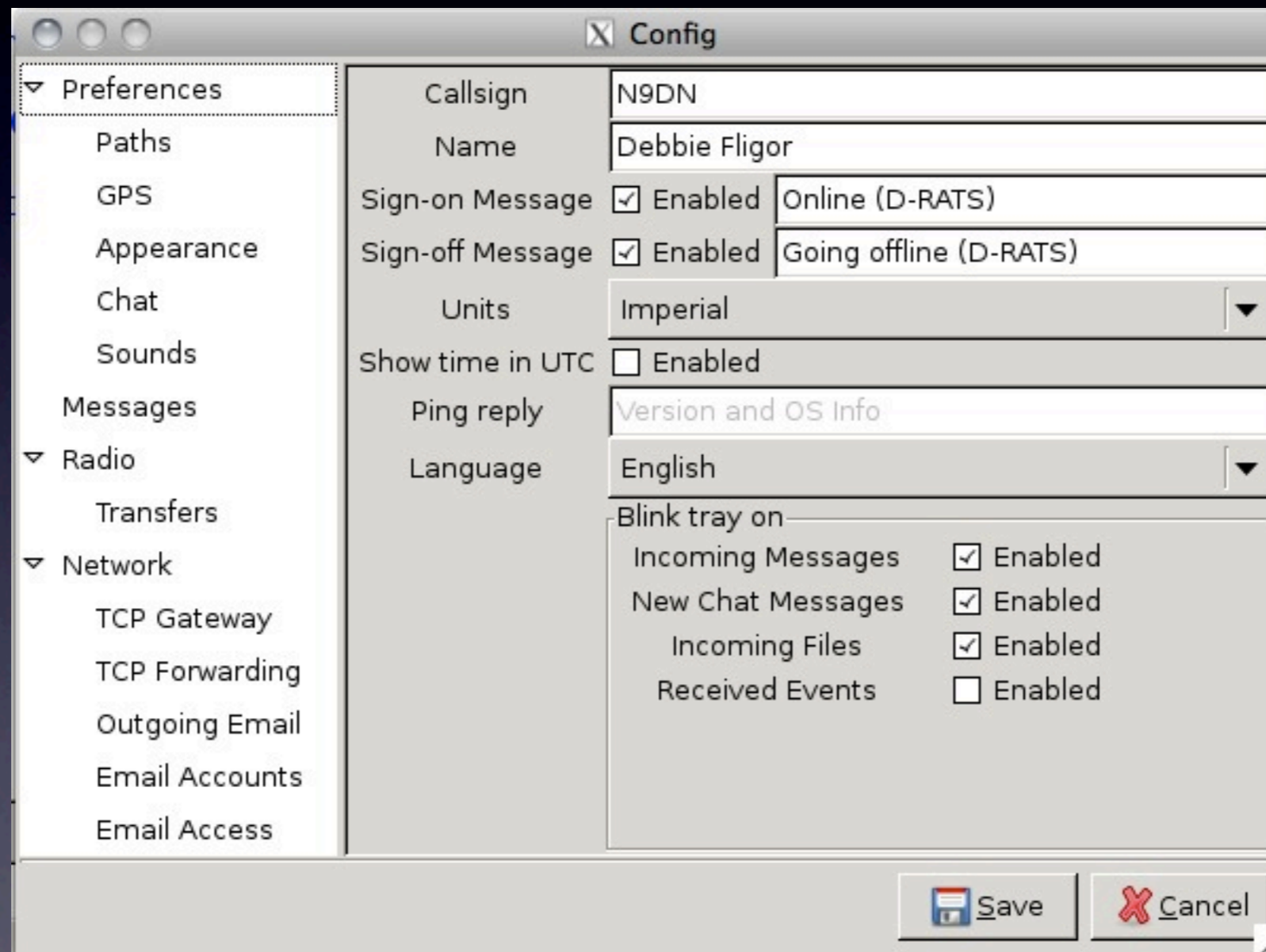
Map View



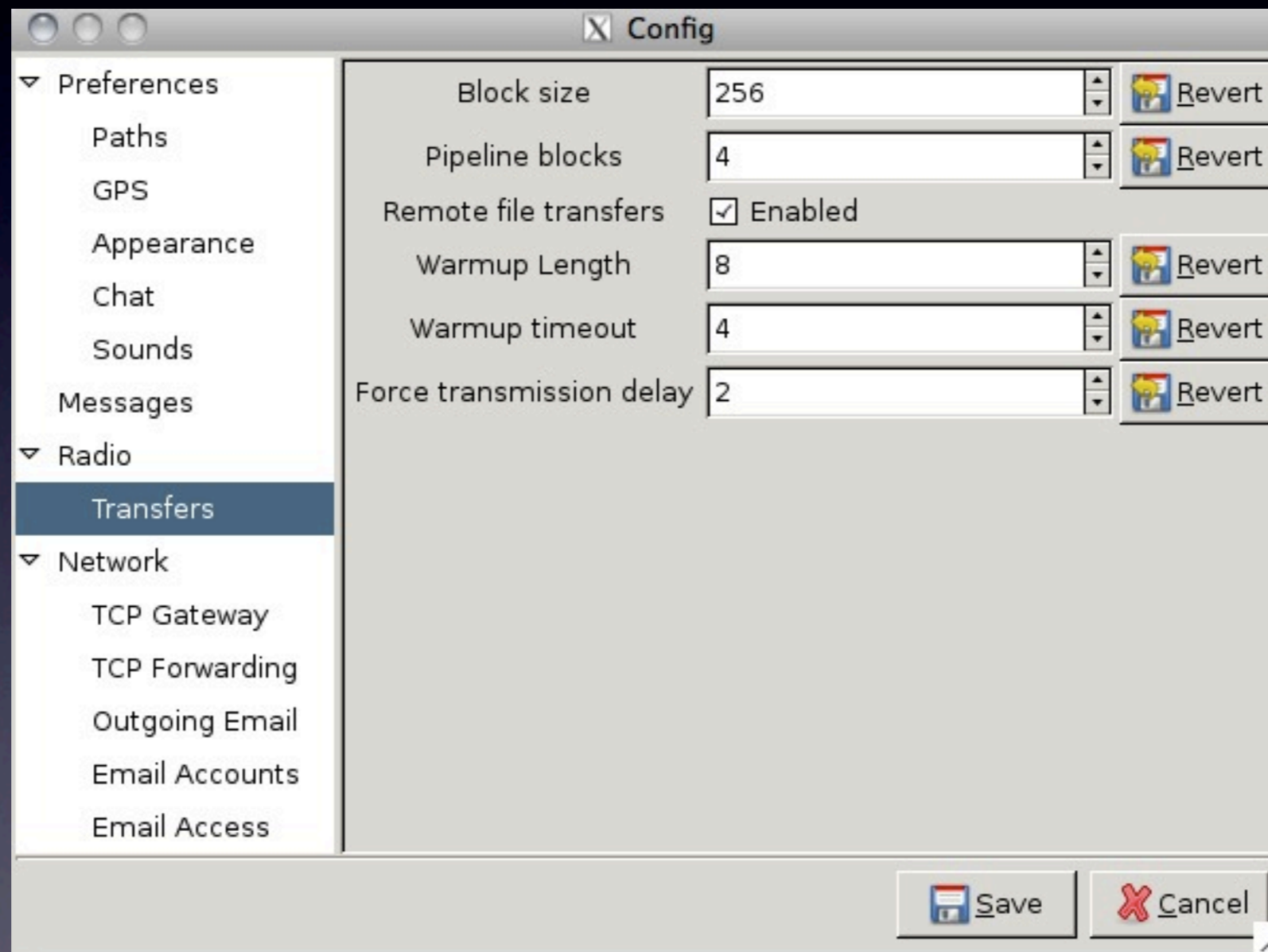
How do I setup D-RATS?

- Preferences panel has almost everything
- “Connected to Internet” separate checkbox in the menu options
- tells D-RATS you can fetch and send internet email (if configured)

How do I setup D-RATS?



How do I setup D-RATS?



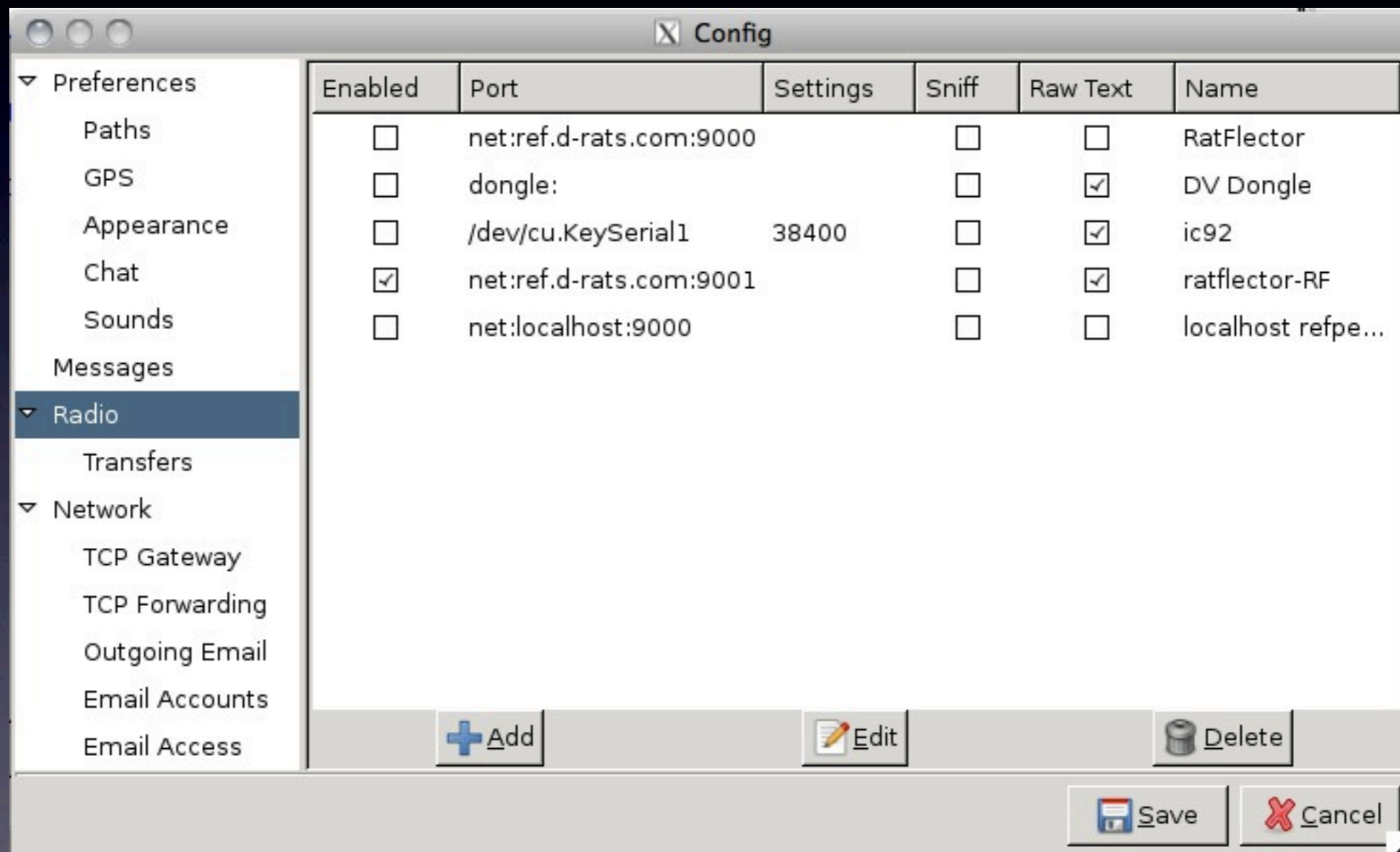
Choosing your connection method

- Three methods can inter connect
 - D-STAR radio (plug and play)
 - DV Dongle (to other Dongle or D-STAR)
 - Internet (needs a RF to internet repeater to inter connect)
- TNC only talks to another D-RATS TNC user (no AX.25 pathing, so local only)

Radio settings

- Disable GPS
- Data transmit set to on demand (not PTT)
- HTs need to turn off power save
- Simplex transfers are fastest
- Repeater without “gateway” next fastest
 - need “gateway” on to talk to DV Dongle

Choosing your connection method



Where do I get more info?

- <http://www.d-rats.com>
 - drats_users email list link found there
 - FAQ and instructions/help files too
- email me: n9dn@arri.net and ask
- join in our weekly D-RATS practice nets
 - Tuesdays 8pm, except TCARC meeting weeks it's Wednesday at 8pm instead