Why M17?

Digital radio modes have stagnated since the early 1990s due to the use of proprietary voice coders, software or chip that converts analog voice into a low-bitrate data stream and back. Development and experimentation are all limited by the patent encumbered voice codecs, preventing hams from building and working on their own radios. **M17** uses a fully-open ham-developed voice encoder called **Codec 2**, which is **patent free** and has **no royalties or licensing costs** – and is about on-par with AMBE2+ used in other commercially available digital voice modes in terms of voice quality. M17 is more fun to work on. Ham radio was meant to be fun, meant to be **free**, and meant to be exploratory.

When is M17?

24/7, thanks to being global across all time zones, for the last five years. Started in 2019 in Warsaw, Poland, M17 currently has active developers across the globe involved daily.

Facts

- 4FSK modulation, 9600 bits per second gross bitrate
- 3200 bits per second voice payload rate
- 9kHz channel width
- Over 3500 Twitter followers
- Over 1500 Discord/Matrix chat users
- 190+ reflectors and 30+ repeaters worldwide

m17project.org

How to get involved?

Discord and Matrix are the main means for development and discussion. Weekly voice chat on Fridays at 1700 UTC on the M17-M17 Reflector, Module C.
GitHub and occasionally other code forges for code sharing.
Chat with us on DroidStar, mvoice, or M17Client via the M17-M17 C reflector!
M17 is autonomous, self-driven and self-selected. There is no strong hierarchy by default, but the community is happy to provide guidance if desired!

M17 is built and created by and for

Hams just like you!