

## 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 three years. Started in 2019, in SP5KAB amateur radio club 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 1800 Twitter followers
- Over 600 Discord/Matric chat users
- 130+ reflectors worldwide

[m17project.org](http://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!*

