

JS8Call Monitor Grids

Overview

This program is a companion program to the js8call_monitor python script. It is designed to export a list of callsigns and matching grid squares from a HamCall application database. The js8call_monitor script then uses this data to resolve missing grid squares from received messages without requiring internet access.

While HamCall and this application both require Windows, once the export is complete it can be moved to the machine where you are running the js8call_monitor script, and that machine does not have to be running windows.

Prerequisites

Microsoft Window XP or Higher
HamCall DVD, USB, or digital download
30 Meg of free RAM on the machine running the js8call_monitor script

Upgrading From a Previous Version

To upgrade your previous installation, start by locating the folder on your computer where you installed JS8Call Monitor Grids.

Unzip the contents of the js8call_monitor_grids.zip file to a suitable place on your computer.

Copy the JS8Call Monitor Grids.exe file into your installation folder, replacing the old JS8Call Monitor Grids.exe.

New Installation

Unzip the contents of the js8call_monitor_grids.zip file to a suitable place on your computer.

Running the Program

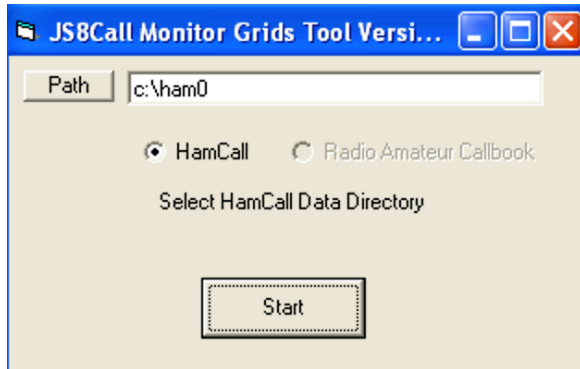
Before running the JS8Call Monitor Grids program for the first time you will need to install the HamCall software on your computer.

The HamCall software can be purchased from <https://hamcall.net/haminfo.html>. You can use any of the DVD, USB, or download versions. The online version will not work with the JS8Call Monitor Grids program.

You will need to install the HamCall software on your computer, as the JS8Call Monitor Grids program creates the data export file in the same directory as the HamCall data files, and it requires the hamcal32.dll file that installed as part of the HamCall installation.

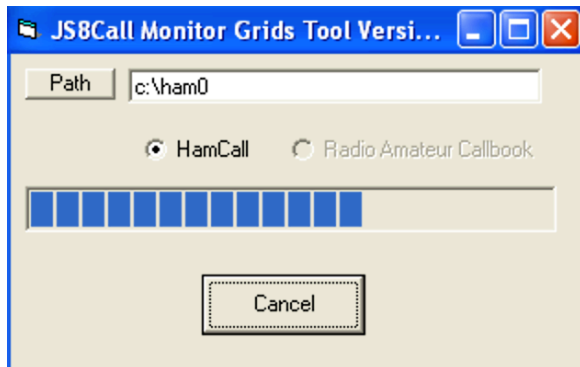
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Once you have working HamCall installation, start JS8Call Monitor Grids by double clicking on the JS8Call Monitor Grids.exe file.



Set the path to the HamCall data directory. On most systems this will be c:\ham0. You can manually type the location, or you can click the path button and navigate to the HamCall data directory. You do not need to place a trailing "\" at the end of the path.

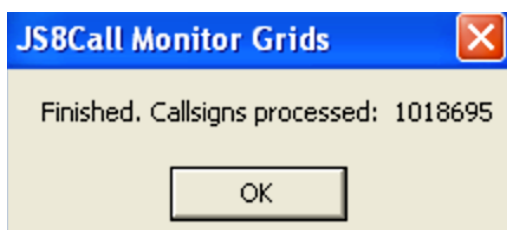
When ready press the start button.



The progress bar will show how the extract is progressing. Depending on the capabilities of your computer, this may take 15 to 20 minutes to complete.

If for some reason you need to cancel the extract, click the cancel button.

When complete you should see a window like below, showing how many call signs were processed.

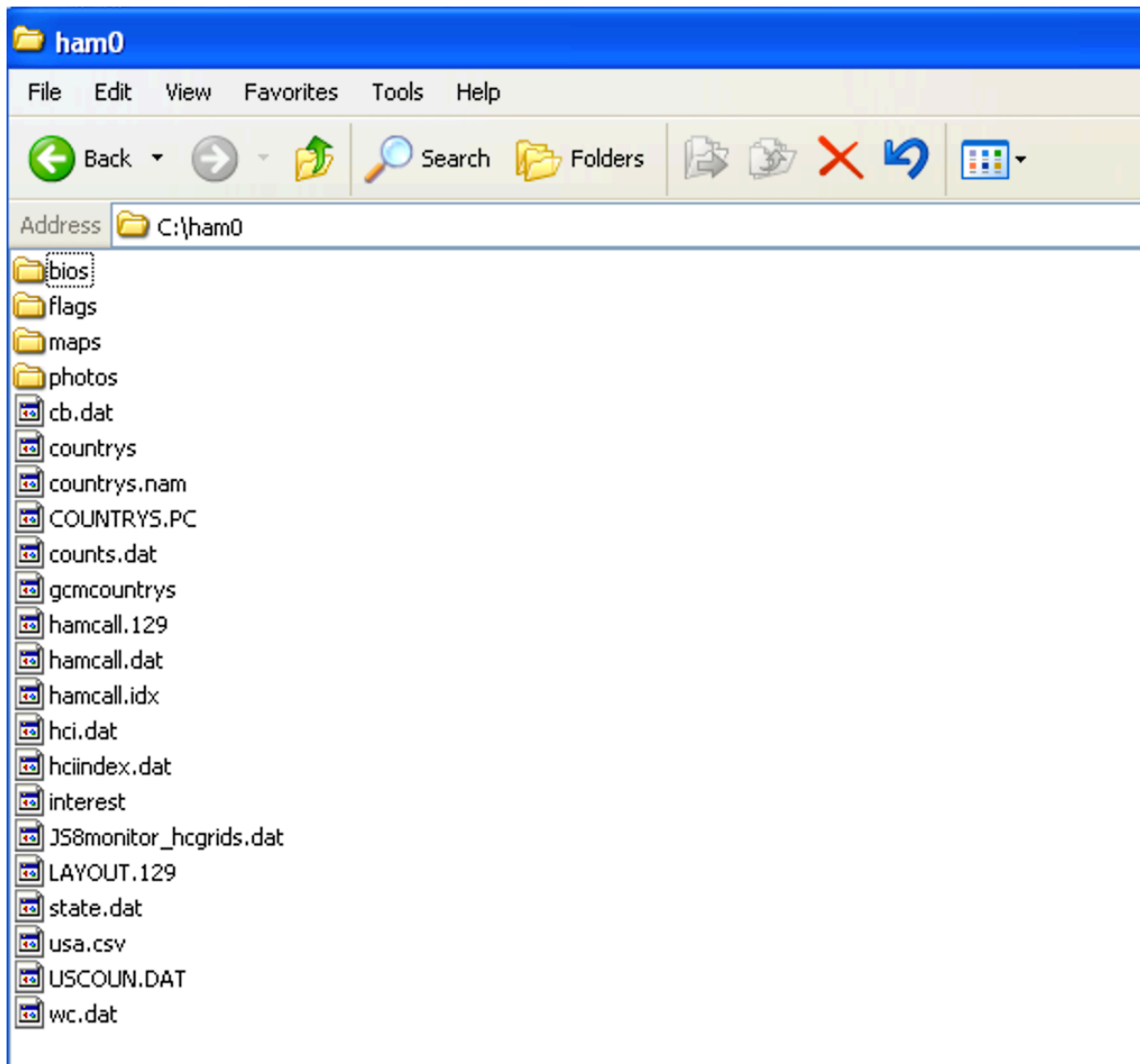


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Click OK, then you can close the program by clicking the red X in the upper right corner.

If you will be running the js8call_monitor script on the same machine as HamCall, then you can leave the extract where it is.

If you will be running the js8call_monitor script on a different machine, you will need to navigate to the HamCall data directory and copy the JS8monitor_hcgrids.dat file to a suitable place on the machine running the js8call_monitor script.



HamCall Updates

Applying the monthly HamCall updates is a straightforward process.

- a) From the HamCall software; check for, download, and apply the monthly updates as you normally would.
- b) Run the JS8Call Monitor Grids program. It will automatically replace the old JS8monitor_hcgrids.dat in the HamCall data directory, with a new export.
- c) If you are running the js8call_monitor script on a different machine, you will need to navigate to the HamCall data directory and copy the JS8monitor_hcgrids.dat file to the machine running the js8call_monitor script, overwriting the old file.
- d) Restart the js8call_monitor script if it is running.

Configuring js8call_monitor Script to Use HamCall Data

On the machine where you are running the js8call_monitor script, navigate to the folder where you installed the script.

Using your favorite text editor, edit the config file for your setup.

```
[HamCallCD]
enabled = false
database = c:\ham0
```

- The **HamCallCD** section contains the settings for using the HamCall DVD data for resolving missing grid squares in received messages. This is useful for when internet connectivity is not available. Grid squares are required for the mapping applications to be able to plot points on the map for the received messages.
- Change enabled to true, to enable offline lookups using the HamCall data export.
- Set the database path to the location of the JS8monitor_hcgrids.dat file. If you are running the js8call_monitor script on the same machine as the HamCall software you should set the database path to the HamCall data directory. You do not need to place a trailing "\" at the end of the path.

Save your changes.

Restart the js8call_monitor script if it is running.

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Change Log

Version 0.1.0.2 (January 2021)

- Original version.