Overview

Beginning with version 0.6 of JS8Call Monitor, support is included for resolving missing grid squares in received messages via a local database file. 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.

This instruction covers the setup and usage of the local database feature.

Prerequisites

Version 0.6 or higher of JS8Call Monitor.

Configuring JS8Call Monitor to Use Local Database Data

On the computer where you are running JS8Call Monitor, navigate to the folder where you installed the script.

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

[DATABASES]
location = c:\ham0\
LocalDB = false
LocalDB_learn = false

- The **DATABASES** section contains the settings for using a local database for resolving missing grid squares in received messages.

- Change **LocalDB** to true, to enable offline lookups using data from the local database file.

- Change **LocalDB_learn** to true, to enable the self learning feature. If you have enabled any of the online lookups supported by JS8Call Monitor, this feature if enabled, will automatically append the data from all successful online lookups, to the local database file. This is useful in two ways; a) It reduces the number of online lookups that are performed. This is important for online lookups that have limits on the number of lookups allowed. b) In the advent of an internet failure, the local database serves as a cache for the online lookups.

- Set the **location** path to the location of the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file. If this file does not already exist, set the path to the location where you like the file to be saved.

Save your changes.

Creating the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat File

If you have set the LocalDB_learn parameter to true in the config file, the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file will be automatically created in the location specified in the location parameter, the first time that a successful online lookup is performed.

If you have set the LocalDB_learn parameter to false in the config file, you will need to manually create the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file.

To manually create the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file do the following;
- Using your favorite text editor, create a new empty file.
- Save the file as a text file, with the name "JS8monitor_localgrids.dat" to the location you specified in the location parameter of the config file. Make sure the file extension is .dat and not .txt or something else.

Editing the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat File

Using your favorite text editor, open the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file.

The JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file is organized as a series of lines. Each line contains a call sign, followed by a comma, followed by the corresponding grid square. The grid square can be any length, and the entries are not case sensitive. If you are using the LocalDB_learn feature, the last line of the file should be blank.

Example:

KU1U,FN44wc
KN4TRT,EM70wl
K8CJM,EM79vp
<blank line>

Edit the file as you see fit, then save your changes.

Restart JS8Call Monitor if it is running.

How it **Works**

JS8Call Monitor will attempt to resolve missing grid squares in received messages via the following;

The script will attempt to resolve the grid square by looking up the callsign in the offline databases in the following order;

FCC Data
HamCall CD
Radio Amateur Callbook CD (RACB)
Local database file (JS8monitor_localgrids.dat)

If the lookup is unsuccessful, the script will then attempt to resolve the grid square by looking up the callsign in the online databases in the following order;

callook.info (free)
hamcall.net (free or paid)

If the LocalDB_learn feature is enabled and a match was found in one of the online databases, then the associated callsign and grid square information is automatically appended to the JS8monitor_localgrids.dat file. If the file doesn't already exist it will be created in the location specified by the location parameter in the JS8Call Monitor config file.

In all cases, first match wins. If the script is able to resolve the callsign via the HamCall CD data for example, the script will not query the rest of the databases.

If any of the databases' enable parameter is set to false in the JS8Call Monitor config file, then that database lookup will be skipped.

The JS8monitor_localgrids.dat is flat file CSV (comma separated values) database, and as such can be edited by most text editors and other software programs that can read and write CSV data, like spreadsheets.

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Change Log

Version 0.2 (March 2022)
- Updated documentation.

Version 0.1 (March 2021)
- Original version.