Universal transceiver control interface – TCI

Version 1.2

Introduction

This document describes TCI interface, what can you do with it and how can you do that. This document may be of interest to programmers, who will implement this interface in their software and devices.

TCI – Transceiver Control Interface is the network interface for control, data transfer and synchronization between a transceiver/receiver, logger, digital software, skimmer, other software and external power amplifier, band filters, antenna switch, radio station controller and other devices.

TCI was created as an advanced alternative to old-fashioned COM-port interface and audio cables. It utilizes full duplex web-socket protocol, which works above TCP connection providing data exchange between server and client, and cross-platform capabilities. Transceiver works as a server, all other software and devices as clients. Server and clients may work inside the same PC (SDR-software-server, logger etc. – clients) and/or in separate physical devices, connected via local network (classical transceiver, power amplifier, antenna switch, BPF-filters etc.).

TCI interface has main commands to control a transceiver (CAT-system analogue), receives CW macroses from clients and transmits them on the air, passes transceiver's IQ stream to clients, receives spots from skimmers and Internet clusters, receives/transmits audio signal for digital mode operation*.

* Will be added in the new TCI release.

TCI uses an extensible architecture; thus, it can be enriched with new functionality, preserving efficiency of old functions. You can add a certain functionality to the TCI interface, which corresponds to specific needs of any software developer or hardware manufacturer (of receivers, transceivers, power amplifiers, antenna switches etc.). TCI has a server/client identifier; thus, clients can detect an assigned name for a transceiver/receiver (server), this function will help other manufacturers to preserve names of their devices in implemented TCI.

We created TCI interface to unify data exchange between different devices and various software. Modern transceivers and software should be connected via the unified interface – TCI.

MIT license to use demo-software of the TCI client

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Description

Any command is the ASCII line, which contents name of the command and list of arguments corresponding to this command. There are some reserved characters, which cannot be part of the command name and its arguments.

List of reserved characters: «:», «,», «;».

Command structure:

- 1. Name of the command:
- 2. Separating character between command name and arguments «:»;
- 3. Separating character between arguments «,»;
- 4. End of the command character «;».

If there are no arguments in the command, then after the name of the command should go end of the command character «;». If the command is incorrect, it is ignored. Letter case (capitalization) is irrelevant.

ExpertSDR2 software works as a server, which can have several clients connected simultaneously, they will be synced between each other via server. When client is connected to the ExpertSDR2, it receives ExpertSDR2 status: firstly, it receives *Read only* commands, then different parameters like frequency, modulations, etc.

When any parameter is changed in the ExpertSDR2 (server), it informs each connected client, so clients do not have to send continuous requests to a server, any change will be reported to every client. If a client will change its state, server will set it for itself and send it to every other client, so server works as a synchronizer. All clients connected to a server will be automatically synced. This way of operation allows to minimize network load, by lessening the traffic.

TCI protocol offers CW operation with line commands.

There are two types of commands:

- 1. Macros;
- 2. Message.

Macros – this is a list of characters, which has no rules, but abides to "change of speed" and "abbreviation transfer" commands.

Message – special command, which consists of three parts:

- Text before callsign;
- 2. Callsign;
- 3. Text after callsign.

When transmitting the message, you can transmit the rest of your callsign after transmitting the message with only part of callsign, also you can change transmitting speed in the middle of the message and use abbreviations.

If you need to insert some abbreviation inside the text, it will look like:

ANY TEXT ISKI OTHER TEXT

All characters, which are put between vertical brackets, will be transmitted together.

If you need to decrease transmitting speed, use this character «<», to increase speed use «>». Speed change step 5 wpm, e.g.

```
ANY TEXT>TEXT+5WPM<TEXT-5WPM>>>TEXT+15WPM
```

Text commands may contain reserved characters, that is why they should be replaced with the other characters, which will be converted back on the server end:

- 1. Character «:» should be replaced with «^»;
- 2. Character «,» should be replaced with «~»;
- **3.** Character **«;»** should be replaced with **«*»**.

Command to send macros looks like:

cw_msg:0,_,RA6LH\$2,599 004;

```
cw_macros:arg1,arg2;
arg1 - periodic number of the software transceiver;
arg2 - text to be sent before the callsign;
To send this line «+5wpmTU -5wpmRA6LH +10wpm599 004 SK» the command will be:
cw macros:0,>TU <RA6LH >>599 004 ISK/;
```

Command to send CW message with opportunity to send callsign twice or to enter full callsign in the middle of transmission:

```
cw_msg:arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4;

arg1 - periodic number of the software transceiver;

arg2 - text before callsign;

arg3 - callsign;

arg4 - text after callsign;

Example:

To transmit «TU RA6LH 599 OO4» command will be:

cw_msg:O,TU,RA6LH,599 OO4;

If you need to repeat the callsign «TU RA6LH RA6LH 599 OO4», command will be:

cw_msg:O,TU,RA6LH$2,599 OO4;

If there is no text before callsign «RA6LH RA6LH 599 OO4», instead of text use special character "_":
```

If while sending the message you don't know full callsign and you'll need to edit it or change, probably not once, the command will be: cw_msg:arg1;

Example:

```
cw_msg:O,_,RA6$2,599 OO4;
cw_msg:RA6L;
cw_msg:RA6LH;
```

If callsign editing was late, it came through after callsign transmission was finished, then this command is ignored. Editing process can be done only for "not yet sent" symbols. After the fact that callsign is transmitted, client receives the command with the final callsign sent on the air.

Example:

```
callsign_send:RA6LH;
```

If while transmitting the CW macros you need to stop transmission, use this command:

Example:

```
cw_macros_stop;
```

Also, TCI supports order of transmitted CW messages, if you'll enter several cw_msg commands one-by-one, they will be transmitted one-by-one, in this case callsign addition will be applied to currently sent callsign.

Commands is divided on three types:

- Read only;
- Read/Write;
- Write only.

List of commands:

VFO_LIMITS	Receiver's frequency tuning limits	
Set		Arguments:
Read	To be sent after connection;	
Answer	VFO_LIMITS:arg1,arg2;	arg1 — bottom frequency limit, Hz.
Туре	Read only	
Example	VFO_LIMITS:10000,30000000;	arg2 — top frequency limit, Hz.

IF_LIMITS	IF filter frequency limits (in ESDR2	IF filter frequency limits (in ESDR2 only for VFOA)	
Set			
Read	To be sent after connection;	Arguments:	
Answer	IF_LIMITS:arg1,arg2;		
Туре	Read only	arg1 — bottom frequency limit, Hz.	
	IF_LIMITS:-48000,48000;		
Example		arg2 — top frequency limit, Hz.	
-	IF_LIMITS:-96000,96000;		

TRX_COUNT	Number of receivers (transceivers) in the radio	
Set		
Read	To be sent after connection;	A 17 27 172 2 2 2 4 2 2
Answer	TRX_COUNT:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read only	arg1 — number of receivers/transceivers
Example	TRX_COUNT:2;	(physical or software).
	TRX_COUNT:8;	

CHANNEL_COL	JNTNumber of additional receiver cha	nnels (slices) in one receiver (A/B/C)
Set		
Read	To be sent after connection;	
Answer	CHANNEL_COUNT:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read only	
	CHANNEL_COUNT:2;	arg1 — number of receiver channels (slices).
Example		
	CHANNEL_COUNT:3;	

DEVICE	Name of the device		
Set			
Read	To be sent after connection;		
Answer	DEVICE:arg1;	Arguments:	
Туре	Read only		
	DEVICE:SunSDR2;	arg1 — name of the device.	
Example			
	DEVICE:ColibriDDC;		

RECEIVE_ONLY Determine device as a receiver or transceiver		
Set		
Read	To be sent after connection;	
Answer	RECEIVE_ONLY:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read only	
	RECEIVE_ONLY:true;	arg1 — number of receive channels.
Example		
	RECEIVE_ONLY:false;	

MODULATIONS_LIST List of supported mode types		
Set		
Read	To be sent after connection;	Arguments:
Answer	MODULATIONS_LIST:arg1, arg2, ,argN;	
Туре	Read only	Mode type to be sent as a name.
	MODULATIONS_LIST:AM,LSB,USB,FM;	
Example		
	RECEIVE_ONLY:AM,SAM,LSB,USB,CW,NFM,W	′FM;

TX_ENABLE	Permission to use transmitter	
Set		Arguments:
Read	To be sent while operating device	
Answer	TX_ENABLE:arg1, arg2;	arg1 — periodic number of receiver/transmitter.
Туре	Read only	
Example	TX_ENABLE:O,true;	arg2 — transmission permitted (true)/transmission prohibited (false).

READY	To be sent after initialization comm	To be sent after initialization commands while connecting	
Set			
Read	To be sent after connection;		
Answer	READY;		
Туре	Read only		
Example			

TX_FOOTSWITCH	PTT footswitch signal	
Set	TX_FOOTSCWITCH:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read only	
	TX_FOOTCWITCH:0,true;	arg1 — periodic number of receiver.
Example	ITY FOOTCWITCH O falco	arg2 — footswitch state (pressed (true), not pressed (false))

START	Start ExpertSDR2	
Set	START;	
Туре	Read / Write	Arguments:
Example	START;	

STOP	Stop ExpertSDR2	
Set	STOP;	
Туре	Read / Write	Arguments:
Example	STOP;	

DDS	Tuning of the RX's center frequency (center of the panorama)	
Set	DDS:arg1,arg2;	
Read	DDS:arg1;	
	DDS:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer		
		arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Туре	Read / Write	
	DDS:0,7200050;	arg2, arg5 — tuning frequency, Hz.
Example		
-	DDS:1;	

IF	IF filter tuning in panorama bandwidth	
Set	IF:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Read	IF:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer	IF:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
	IF:0,0,-12000;	arg2 — channel's periodic number (A / B).
Example	IF:0,0,23000;	Arg3 — new tuned frequency in respect to DDS (center of the panorama), Hz.
	IF:1,O;	

RIT_ENABLE	Enable RIT	
Set	RIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	
Read	RIT_ENABLE:arg1;	
Answer	RIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	RIT_ENABLE:O,true;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	RIT_ENABLE:0,false;	arg2 — enable indicator.
	RIT_ENABLE:1;	

MODULATION	Set mode type	
Set	MODULATION:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Read	MODULATION:arg1;	, ugamems.
Answer	MODULATION:arg1,arg2;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Туре	Read / Write	
	MODULATION:0,LSB;	arg2 — mode type (line).
Example	MODULATION:0,CW;	List of supported mode types:
	MODULATION:1;	AM / SAM / DSB / LSB / USB / CW / NFM / WFM / SPEC / DIGL / DIGU / DRM

After switching the frequency band, the ExpertSDR2 restores saved settings for the newly selected band, which includes mode and RX filter bandwidth etc. That is why when you change the band, it's required to wait until you (client software) receive MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands from ExpertSDR2, in case they were changed, if your client software hadn't received these commands while the protection interval 200 ms then send MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands.

If mode and RX filter bandwidth haven't changed in the ExpertSDR2, it will not send MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands.

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r.

XIT_ENABLE	Enable XIT	
Set	XIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	
Read	XIT_ENABLE:arg1;	
Answer	XIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	XIT_ENABLE:O,true;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	XIT_ENABLE:O,false;	arg2 — enable indicator.
	XIT_ENABLE:1;	

SPLIT_ENABLE	Enable SPLIT mode	
Set	SPLIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	
Read	SPLIT_ENABLE:arg1;	
Answer	SPLIT_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	SPLIT_ENABLE:O,true;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	SPLIT_ENABLE:O,false;	arg2 — enable indicator.
Lxample	SPLIT_ENABLE:1;	orgz chable maleafor.

RIT_OFFSET	Tune RIT offset	
Set	RIT_OFFSET:arg1,arg2;	
Read	RIT_OFFSET:arg1;	
Answer	RIT_OFFSET:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	RIT_OFFSET:0,500;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	RIT_OFFSET:0,-200;	arg2 — offset frequency, Hz.
	RIT_OFFSET:1;	

XIT_OFFSET	Tune XIT offset	
Set	XIT_OFFSET:arg1,arg2;	
Read	XIT_OFFSET:arg1;	
Answer	XIT_OFFSET:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	XIT_OFFSET:0,500;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	XIT_OFFSET:0,-200;	arg2 — offset frequency, Hz.
	XIT_OFFSET:1;	

RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE	Enable additional receive channels	
Set	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Read	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:0,1,true;	
		arg2 — channel's periodic number.
Example	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:0,1,false;	
		arg3 — enable indicator.
	RX_CHANNEL_ENABLE:1, 1;	

RX_FILTER_BAND	Adjust IF filter width	
Set	RX_FILTERL_BAND:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Read	RX_FILTER_BAND:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer	RX_FILTER_BAND:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
	RX_FILTER_BAND:0,30,2700;	
		arg1 — bottom frequency limit, Hz.
Example	RX_FILTER_BAND:0,-2900,-70;	
		arg2 — top frequency limit, Hz.
	RX_FILTER_BAND:1;	

After switching the frequency band, the ExpertSDR2 restores saved settings for the newly selected band, which includes mode and RX filter bandwidth etc. That is why when you change the band, it's required to wait until you (client software) receive MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands from ExpertSDR2, in case they were changed, if your client software hadn't received these commands while the protection interval 200 ms then send MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands.

If mode and RX filter bandwidth haven't changed in the ExpertSDR2, it will not send MODULATION and RX_FILTER_BAND commands.

RX_SMETER	Signal level (S-Meter) in filter bandwidth	
Set	RX_SMETER:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Read	RX_SMETER:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer	RX_SMETER:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
	RX_SMETER:0,0,-72;	
		arg2 — channel's periodic number.
Example	RX_SMETER:0,1,-63;	
		arg3 — signal level.
	RX_SMETER:1,0;	

CW_MACROS_SPEED	Set CW speed for macros	
Set	CW_MACROS_SPEED:arg1;	
Read	CW_MACROS_SPEED;	
Answer	CW_MACROS_SPEED:arg1;	
Туре	Read / Write	Arguments:
	CW_MACROS_SPEED:30;	arg1 — CW speed, WPM.
Example	CW_MACROS_SPEED:42;	
	CW_MACROS_SPEED;	

CW_MACROS_DELAYSet delay between "turn to TX" and "start of macros transmission"		
Set	CW_MACROS_DELAY:arg1;	
Read	CW_MACROS_DELAY;	
Answer	CW_MACROS_DELAY:arg1;	Arguments
Туре	Read / Write	Arguments:
	CW_MACROS_DELAY:100;	arg1 — delay before start of transmission,
Example	CW_MACROS_DELAY:150;	ms.
	CW_MACROS_DELAY;	

TRX	Switch between RX/TX modes	
Set	TRX:arg1,arg2, arg3;	
Read	TRX:arg1;	
Answer	TRX:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	Ai guilleilis.
	TRX:0,true;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
	TRX:O,true,mic;	arg2 — enable indicator.
	TRX:O,true,vac;	arg3 — source of the signal (unnecessary)
	TRX:O,false;	(mic – mic signal, vac – signal from VAC)
	TRX:1;	

For common use, the TRX command might have two arguments, in this case server will automatically determine the source of the input signal for transmission. When you select DIGL/DIGU modes the transceiver will automatically enable VAC and use the signal from it. In all other cases will be used signal from the mic. If you need to manually determine the source of the signal, you should use the third argument: mic – mic signal, vac – signal from VAC.

IQ_START	Start IQ signal output	
Set	IQ_START:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
Example	IQ_START:0;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.

IQ_STOP	Stop IQ signal output	
Set	IQ_STOP:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
Example	IQ_STOP:0;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.

IQ_SAMPLER	ATE Set IQ signal sample rate	
Set	IQ_SAMPLERATE:arg1;	
Read		Arguments:
Answer		
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — sample rate, Hz.
	IQ_SAMPLERATE:48000;	Supported sample rates:
Example	IQ_SAMPLERATE:96000;	48 / 96 / 192 kHz
	IQ_SAMPLERATE:192000;	

AUDIO_START	Start audio stream	
Set	AUDIO_START:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
Example	AUDIO_START:0;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.

AUDIO_STOP	Stop audio stream	
Set	AUDIO_STOP:arg1;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
Example	AUDIO_STOP:0;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.

AUDIO_SAMPLERATE	Set audio stream sample rate	
Set	AUDIO_SAMPLERATE:arg1;	
Read		Arguments:
Answer		
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — sample rate, Hz.
	AUDIO_SAMPLERATE:8000;	
		Supported sample rates:
Example	AUDIO_SAMPLERATE:24000;	
·		8 / 12 / 24 / 48 kHz
	AUDIO_SAMPLERATE:48000;	

SPOT	Send spot to ExpertSDR2 to display	
Set	SPOT:arg1,arg2,arg3,arg4;arg5	Arguments:
Read		
Answer		arg1 — callsign.
Туре	Write only	
		Arg2 — mode.
		Arg3 — frequency, Hz.
Example	SPOT:RN6LHF,CW,7100000,16711680,ANY_TEXT	; Arg4 — color ARGB.
		Arg5 — additional text.

SPOT_DELETE	Delete spot		
Set	SPOT:arg1;	Arguments:	
Read			
Answer		arg1 — callsign.	
Туре	Write only		
Example	SPOT_DELETE:IT8TY;		

SPOT_CLEAR	Clear all spots	
Set	SPOT_CLEAR;	Arguments:
Туре	Write only	
Example	SPOT_CLEAR;	

PROTOCOL	Information about TCI prot	Information about TCI protocol version	
Set		Arguments:	
Туре	Read only	_	
Example	PROTOCOL:ESDR,1.2;	arg1 — software name.	
·		arg2 — protocol version.	
This command is b	eing sent upon client connection t	o the ExpertSDR2.	
This command is b	eing sent upon client connection t		

TX_POWER	Show output power level, W	
Set		
Туре	Read only	Arguments:
Example	TX_POWER:13.5;	arg1 — Output power level, W.

Transmitter SWR value	
Read only	Arguments:
TX_SWR:2.4;	arg1 — SWR value.
	Read only

VOLUME	Control of the main softwar	re Volume.
Set	VOLUME:arg1;	A
Read	VOLUME;	Arguments:
Answer	VOLUME:arg1;	arat valuma valua dB
Туре	Read / Write	arg1 — volume value, dB.
Example	VOLUME:-9; VOLUME;	Volume value range from -60 up to 0 дБ, when value -60 dB audio is muted.

SQL_ENABLE	ON/OFF squelch.	
Set	SQL_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	
Read	SQL_ENABLE:arg1;	
Answer	SQL_ENABLE:arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Туре	Read / Write	
	SQL_ENABLE:0,true;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	SQL_ENABLE:1,false;	arg2 — true/false (enable/disable).
	SQL_ENABLE:0;	

SQL_LEVEL	Set squelch threshold.	
Set	SQL_LEVEL:arg1,arg2;	A
Read	SQL LEVEL:arg1;	Arguments:
Answer	SQL_LEVEL:arg1,arg2;	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Туре	Read / Write	argi — receiver's periodic number.
	SQL_LEVEL:0,-78;	arg2 — threshold, dB.
Example	SQL_LEVEL:1,-56;	Threshold value range from -140 dB up to 0
	SQL_LEVEL:0;	dB.

VFO	Set receiver's tuning frequency.	
Set	VFO:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Read	VFO: arg1,arg2;	Arguments:
Answer	VFO:arg1,arg2,arg3;	
Туре	Red / Write	arg1 — receiver's periodic number.
Example	VFO:0,1,7100000; VFO:1,0,14250000; VFO:0,1;	arg2 — channel number (VFO A/B). arg3 — tuning frequency, Hz.

APP_FOCUS	Status of the main Expert	Status of the main ExpertSDR2 window (in focus or not)	
Туре	Read only	Arguments:	
	APP_FOCUS:true;		
Example		arg1 — true/false.	
	APP_FOCUS:false;	3	

SET_IN_FOCUS	Set the main ExpertSDR2 window in focus	
Set	SET_IN_FOCUS	
Туре	Write only	
Example	SET_IN_FOCUS;	

Receiving of IQ signal and receiving and transmitting of audio stream happens via binary websocket connection, packet structure looks like this:

```
quint32 type; //!< type of data stream
quint32 reserv[9]; //!< reserved
float data[4096]; //!< data field
}DataStream;</pre>
```

Type of data stream is determined with the following numeration:

Audio stream processing.

In receive mode ExpertSDR2 sends RxAudioStream packet to TCI client. In transmit mode ExpertSDR2 sends TxChrono packet (it doesn't have a data filed) to TCI client, in the packet header indicated sample rate and sample count which is required for ExpertSDR2 for transmission. When TCI client receives a TxChrono packet, it sends back TxAudioStream packet with generated signals. This signal should have parameters indicated in TxChrono packet header (sample rate and sample count). Audio stream supports several sample rates: 8 kHz, 12 kHz, 24 kHz, 48 kHz.

List of software with TCI support:

```
- SDC
```

- LogHX
- SWISSLOG
- RUMLog
- 5MContest
- MacLoggerDX

Conclusion

TCI interface will gradually develop, in time it will be added with new commands and functionality. Follow the updates of TCI interface.