# Logista logging tool for SOTA

## Disclaimer

Pythonista is an enabler for using Python code on an iPad, but does have a drawback in that Pythonista app is not free. I have no affiliation or connection with Pythonista, it’s just an app that fulfils my needs.

## Preamble

Logista is an open source logging tool (not a logbook) for SOTA activations that is intended to run on an iPad under Pythonista 3. I am sharing the Logista Python code in the event that someone may find it useful.

I wrote Logista primarily to fit my preferred SOTA activation, logging workflow. Having tried using my iPad for logging on activations it always seems to go pear shaped in the middle of pileup. Wether it was the battery failing in cold conditions or the app hanging whilst doing a QRZ lookup due to the 4/5G connection issue, the result was the same, chaos 😀. Paper and pencil have never let me down even in wet conditions. However, that meant that I now have an extra step in my workflow that I wanted to streamline. I have been using Hamlog on my iPad for a while, and this is a great app for doing your logging on an iPad but didn’t tick all of the boxes for me.

So Logista was hatched in an attempt to create a more streamlined workflow that ticks all of the boxes for me, but quite possibly nobody else. Oh yes and of course the corny name Logista is a portmanteau word of logging and Pythonista.

## Before we get into Logista, what is Pythonista

Ok so why do I need to have the Pythonista app installed on my iPad?

Well, the Logista code is written in Python and Pythonista 3 is a Python IDE (Integrated Development Environment), that allows Python 3.10 code to run on an iPad, with access to the iOS user interface. If you have ever tried to find a Python IDE for iOS on an Ipad, you will have almost certainly come across Pythonista.

Pythonista also allows you to run Python code from a shortcut on your iPad desktop and this is how I prefer to run Logista on my Ipad.

## Logista functionality

The Logista logging tool is intended to assist in the typing up of a paper based SOTA activation log and creates two files. These files are a SOTA v2 CSV file for uploading to the SOTA database, and also an ADIF log file for importing into your preferred logging program. Logista is not a logbook, it only creates the files and currently has now log browsing or query features.

If QRZ has been setup, Logista will perform an auto callsign lookup once enter is pressed, or you click into another text field. The border of the callsign text field will turn green to confirm that the callsign has been entered. If the QRZ lookup is successful the name, QTH, country and grid square will be auto populated. Entry of remaining fields is manual.

When the form is saved QSO specific fields will be cleared. Your summit, operator callsign, frequency and mode will not cleared. This speeds up QSO entry as only the callsign, time and reports need to be entered for each QSO.

The date picker is setup so that you only have to roll the time on minute by minute. This is to reflect how the time is presented on a paper log. If, however you wished to log in real time you can use the UTC time now button. Also note that the date picker border will also turn green to confirm that a date has been entered.

Summit to Summits can be entered by clicking the S2S switch to on, this will then reveal a text field for the other summit

I also added a Last QSO, text field to help keep track of the last QSO I entered from my paper log.

The SOTA(x).csv and Logista(x).adi files are written to an iCloud sub directory of Pythonista3 called Log\_Files. If this directory does not exist it will be created. At the start of each session, Logista checks to if SOTA0.csv and Logist0.adi exist. If they do not exist, they will be created, if they do exist Logista will increment the number at the end of the file name until it finds a file that doesn’t exist. Of course for god housekeeping it is recommended to regularly delete old files. I always find it helpful when uploading a SOTAx.csv file to the SOTA database to select iCloud files, then recent and the newest files will be there. The SOTA.csv also populates the notes section to contain first name sent RS(T) or received RS(T) and so it will appear for example as “Paul S-59 R-55” in the notes section on SOTA database log.

## Installation

Please note that although I have tested and tried to break things, this Logista version is still very much a beta release.

The required Logista files can be found on my GitHub page here; <https://github.com/pdevlin13/Logista.git>

Installation assumes that you already have Pythonista installed and working on your iPad.

The required files are:

Logista.py ------------- the main code file

sota\_log\_form.pyui --- the Pythonista GUI file called from Logista.py

qrz\_lookup.py ---------- the QRZ lookup code called from Logista.py

cfg.txt ---------------------------- the configuration file for QRZ

all of the required libraries should be packaged as standard in Pythonista.

You can download the unzipped versions of these files directly from GitHub to an iPad folder of your choice, however all of these files must be in the same directory.

You can open the files from within Pythonista, you actually only need to open Logista.py and run it.

If you wish the use the QRZ lookup and you have a QRZ XML subscription you will need to edit the cfg.txt and add your QRZ credentials. You can edit this by opening in the file in Pythonista.