

Proposed Changes to the 144 MHz Data Band Plan

The popularity of Digital Internet Gateways has been evidenced over the past year by a significant increase in proposals for Gateways in the 2M band. The ETCC Datacomms Manager has been studying current use of the data section of the 144MHz band and has concluded that improved use of this spectrum could be achieved if a number of changes were adopted.

The current data bandplan is shown in the table below:

Frequency (MHz)	Bandwidth	Usage
144.8000	12 kHz	Unconnected nets - APRS, UIView, etc
144.8250	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway
144.8375	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway
144.8500	12 kHz	AX.25 BBS user access
144.8625	12 kHz	Available for nodes and BBSs on application
144.8750	12 kHz	TCP/IP user access
144.8875	12 kHz	AX.25 - Priority for DX Cluster user access
144.9000	12 kHz	AX.25 DX Cluster access
144.9250	12 kHz	TCP/IP user access
144.9500	12 kHz	AX.25 BBS user access
144.9750	12 kHz	High speed 25 kHz channel
145.2125	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway
145.2375	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway
145.2875	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway
145.3000	12 kHz	RTTY local
145.3375	12 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway

The proposed new data plan is as follows with accompanying explanatory notes:

Frequency (MHz)	Bandwidth	Usage
144.8000	12.5 kHz	Unconnected nets - APRS, UIView, etc
144.8250	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway DV Gateways
144.8375	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway DV Gateways
144.8500	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway DV Gateways
144.8625	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway DV Gateways
144.8750	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway DV Gateways
144.8875	12.5 kHz	AX.25 - Priority for DX Cluster user access
144.9000	12.5 kHz	AX.25 DX Cluster access
144.9125	12.5 kHz	TCP/IP user access
144.9250	12.5 kHz	TCP/IP user access
144.9375	12.5 kHz	AX.25 BBS user access
144.9500	12.5 kHz	AX.25 BBS user access
144.9625	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway Analogue
144.9750	25.0 kHz	High speed 25 kHz channel
145.2125	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway Analogue
145.2375	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway Analogue
145.2875	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway Analogue
145.3000	12.5 kHz	RTTY local
145.3375	12.5 kHz	Internet Voice Gateway Analogue

Existing channels between 144.900-144.975 MHz although designated 12.5 kHz channels have been retained as 25 kHz channels dating back to about 1996. By making them true 12.5 kHz

channels additional allocations can be added at 144.9125 and 144.9375 MHz. A number of the packet radio designated channels would be moved from the 144.800-144.900 MHz sub-band to the new channels further up the band.

As may be seen this reassignment frees up channels for additional DV Internet Gateways, some of which have already been using 144.8625 and 144.875. With the IARU band plan not permitting DV gateways in the 145.200-145.5935 MHz section, the existing 5 DV hotspots would move from that sub-band to the 144.825-144.875 Sub-band, in some cases this will be achieved by swapping them with existing analogue gateways.

Applicants can currently no longer apply for Analogue gateways on 144.825 or 144.8375 MHz, and it is proposed that as the existing gateways on these channels come up for renewal, they will wherever possible be moved elsewhere. This will release channels in those areas where DV hotspots have been refused because of the lack of spectrum. This will also avoid DV/Analogue co-channel clashes.

144.9625 MHz has in the interim at least been left as 'Internet Gateway Analogue'. It could be used as an overspill for analogue Internet gateways or for the reassignment of analogue gateways on 144.825 and 144.8375 MHz.

If agreed this new plan leaves a significant number of channels readily available to packet radio. The actual number of mailboxes/nodes still active remains a somewhat unknown quantity.

It is hoped that these proposals will result in better spectrum utilisation and fulfil the current pressing need for additional Digital Voice Gateways.

The RSGB wishes to consult on these proposals through the use of its consensus process called the "Litmus Test". Details on how to access the "Litmus Test", as well as read additional information that relate to the proposals, will be available by from 14th June 2012 by following the link "We need your Views" on the RSGB Home page (www.rsgb.org).

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