

Enhance Your EchoLink TX Control Function

Do you find yourself losing focus (control) on your EchoLink Transmit Function? Here is a method to keep focus on transmit while operating in other windows during an EchoLink QSO. This method is taken from the EchoLink User's Guide, starting at page 17, and downloadable from our Website at:

<http://fmcaarc.com/archive/echolink/EchoLinkUsersGuide.pdf>

Connections Tab

From the menu Tools->Preferences->Connections, a PTT Control box is found about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the window. You can use this box to control (enhance) your transmit function.

PTT Control: Choose this button to open the PTT Options window, which has the following options:

Keyboard Key: Check this box, and choose the keyboard key to be used, if you wish to control the TX from the computer's keyboard. The choices are as follows:

- 1) **Space Bar**
- 2) **Left Ctrl** Key (the Ctrl key at the lower-left corner of the keyboard)
- 3) **Right Ctrl** Key (the Ctrl key to the right of the space bar)
- 4) **Num Pad Plus** (the + key on the right-hand edge of the keyboard)
- 5) **Num Pad Enter** (the Enter key on the lower-right corner of the keyboard)

You can choose between two options for how this key behaves as a TX control. When **Momentary** is checked, press and hold the key to TX, and release it to stop like a conventional push-to-talk switch. When the **Momentary** box is **not** checked (the default), tapping the key once will switch to TX, and tapping it again will switch out.

Note that the key you select for TX cannot also be used for its normal purpose. For example, if you select Left Ctrl Key, the left-hand Ctrl key cannot be used to invoke Ctrl commands, such as Ctrl-V. However, if Space Bar is selected, the space bar can still be used to create space characters in the Text Chat window.

Normally, the selected key will activate TX only when EchoLink has "focus", that is, when EchoLink is the topmost, active application on your Windows desktop. However, if you check the **System-Wide** box, the key will activate TX even when EchoLink is minimized or not activated. This is convenient if you wish to use other Windows programs while you are in an EchoLink QSO. (The System-Wide option is not available if Space Bar is the selected key.)

For my desktop, I select Num Pad Enter key, check System-Wide, and uncheck Momentary box.
For my laptop, I select Right Ctrl key, check System-Wide, and uncheck Momentary box.

Connect to you soon on EchoLink,
73, Larry N7LWD