



## DX SPIDER USER GUIDE

This is a quick guide to let you know some basic uses and most common commands of this powerful system.

The IW0HLG-3 dxcluster node is connected to the world dxcluster network, which consists of approx 600 nodes around the world, connected each other 24 hours a day. It's running DxSpider (© Dirk Koopman G1TLH) on a Raspberry Pi 3.

You can connect to it using any logging software supporting telnet connections (RxClus, Log4OM, AALog, Swisslog ecc.) but you can also use a terminal software like Putty (free) or Windows telnet client (not recommended), entering the address **iw0hlg.ddns.net** on the usual port **7300**.

Once connected, you will be asked for your callsign, and once logged in you will see a welcome message with some basic commands and the last 10 dx spots. If you aren't a registered user, you can only see dx spots (READ-ONLY way); if you would also send dx spots or send announces, you need to register to the node simply sending an e-mail to Sysop at [iw0hlg \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:iw0hlg@gmail.com) including your callsign and name. Then, you will be able to login with your password; this will also ensure that your callsign will not be mis-used by others.

**PLEASE: ONLY DX SPOTS! BE POLITE! NO POLITICS, NO RACISM, NO SWEARING.  
ALL CONNECTIONS ARE RECORDED.**

Commands to be sent to the node, must be written in the command field of your software, and they will be sent by pressing the ENTER key.

Once logged, you can set some of your personal infos by sending these commands:

**set/name** <yourname> to set your name; e.g. **set/name John**

**set/qth** <qth> to set your qth; e.g. **set/qth London**

**set/homenode** <homenode> to set your usual node; e.g. **set/homenode iw0hlg-3**

You can ask the node for information about a command using **help** : for example, if you send **help sh/dx** you will get all information about the sh/dx command.

If you want to disconnect from the node, send the **bye** command and you will be logged out immediately.

**FT8 FREE ZONE!** Please note that this node hides by default those tons of FT8's dx spots, most of which are automatically sent by FT8's softwares and pretty useless for most of dx cluster's users. If you want to get them, you can use RBN feature (see RBN section below).

Here are some common and useful tools you can use here.

## SEND DX SPOTS OR ANNOUNCES

If you would send a dx spots to all dx cluster users, you can send it using this syntax:

<DX> <CALLSIGN> <FREQUENCY> <INFO> e.g. **DX EA5ZZZ 14045 CONTEST ARRL CW**

If you would send an announce to local dxcluster users ("local" means only to users connected to your same node), you can send it using this syntax: **ANNOUNCE** <text> ; e.g. **ANNOUNCE tomorrow SOTA activation HB/ZH-015 from 8.00z** . With **ANNOUNCE FULL** <text> your message will be sent to all dxcluster users around the world.... be careful using it! You can use it as abbreviated way also: **ANN** <text> or **ANN FULL** <text>.

## SHOW/DX (or SH/DX) and SHOW/ANNOUNCE (or SH/ANN)

These commands lets you to search in the past informations database.

**sh/dx** query the dx spots database and shows the latest 10 dx spots;

There are some <options> to add to sh/dx command:

**sh/dx** <number> shows the latest <number> dx spots; e.g. **sh/dx 30** shows last 30 dx spots.

**sh/dx on** <band> shows dx spots on that band; e.g. **sh/dx on 20m** shows dx spots on 20m band (**sh/bands** shows you all bands available);

**sh/dx on** <fromfrequency>/<tofrequency> shows you dx spots that fall inside that frequency range; e.g. **sh/dx on 14000/14350** shows you latest dx spots whose frequency is within 14000 to 14350; is the same as **sh/dx on 14000-14350**;

**sh/dx** <prefix> shows latest dx spots whose spotted callsign prefix matches to the one set; e.g. **sh/dx ea4** shows latest 10 dx spots whose callsign starts with EA4

**sh/dx info** <text> shows latest dx spots whose "info" field contains that word; e.g. **sh/dx info tortugaschw** shows latest dx spots where the word tortugaschw appears in the info field;

**sh/dx by** <call> shows dx spots sent by that callsign (which is the "spotter"); e.g. **sh/dx by EA5ZZZ** shows latest dx spots sent by EA5ZZZ;

**sh/dx iota** shows latest dx spots whose "info" field contains IOTA informations; e.g. **sh/dx iota** shows latest dx spots regarding IOTA;

**sh/dx iota** <iota-ref> shows latest dx spots whose "info" field contains that IOTA reference; e.g. **sh/dx iota oc021** shows latest spots regarding Java Isl. OC-021;

The command **SH/ANN** shows latest announces sent to dxcluster by users. Like sh/dx above, there are some some options you can use: **SH/ANN** <number> <callsign>; e.g. **SH/ANN 10 EA5ZZZ** shows latest 10 announces sent by EA5ZZZ.

## FILTERS

To make dxcluster informations more appropriate to your needs, you can set up to 10 filters, numbered from 0 to 9, so you can get only dx spots really close to your interests. There are mainly two types of filter you can set: one is based on "accept" concept and the other one is based on "reject" concept.

Filter syntax is similar to sh/dx above: **rej/spots** <numberofslot> <option> or **acc/spots** <numberofslot> <option> (these are the abbreviations of reject/spots and accept/spots, but you can use either). The <numberofslot> means which filter slot, from 0 to 9, you're saving your filter rule into; if no filter slot is specified, it will be automatically stored in slot 1.

For example, if you would receive dx spots related to 20 meters band only, you can send to the node this command: **acc/spots 1 freq 14000-14350** or **acc/spots 1 on 20m** ; from now on you will be shown only spots whose frequency is within 14000 and 14350 KHz. Or, if you would receive dx spots on vhf only, you will set **acc/spots 2 on vhf** . Command **SH/BANDS** will help you by showing all bands available.

Same filters are available to be used for the "info" field. For example, on Wednesday we have our weekly "TortuXday", so if you set this filter **accept/spots 4 info tortuxday** you will get dx spots whose info field contains the word "tortuxday". Or you can combine multiple words using logical operators OR and AND, using this syntax **acc/spots 5 info tortuxday or info tortugascw or info torcw** ; in this case, you will be shown all dx spots whose info field contains at least one of the words tortuxday, tortugascw or torcw.

In similar way, if you set **acc/spots 0 info tortuxday and info torcw** you will be shown only dx spots whose info field contains both the words tortuxday and torcw (if a spot contain only one, it will be hidden to you).

Multiple arguments need to be used with parenthesis (), e.g. **acc/spots 1 info cw and ( freq 1810/1840 or freq 3500/3580 )** means you will get only dx spots whose frequency is within 1810 and 1840 or 3500 or 3580 KHz and in the info field there is the word "cw" (if the dx spot has "cw" word in the info field but is out of that frequency ranges, it will be dumped and you don't see it).

Other common and useful options are: <call> and <call\_dxcc> . For example, **acc/spots 6 call ea** shows dx spots whose "spotted" callsign starts with EA. In the same way, **acc/spots 5 call\_dxcc ea** shows dx spots whose "spotted" callsigns are from Spain (regardless of the prefix).

In the same way, you can use reject/spots filter. For example, if you set **reject/spots 1 on hf/cw** you will get everything passing on the dxcluster except cw spots on HF. **reject/spots 7 call\_zone 14,15,16** will reject all spots whose the "spotter" is located into one of 14 or 15 or 16 CQ zone.

If you set too much filters or you don't remember which filters you set, you can show them using **sh/filter** command. Or if you messed up things and now you can't get out of it, you can delete your filters simply sending the command **clear/spots** <numberofslot> to the

node to delete a single filter slot or **clear/spots all** to erase all your filters; e.g **clear/spots 3** will delete the filter slot number 3.

This command can be sent also in the short form **cle/spots all** .

## REVERSE BEACON NETWORK (RBN)

DXSpider has now the ability to show spots coming from the Reverse Beacon Network or "Skimmers"; on this node the feed is enabled (in a experimental way). Please note that enabling this feed can produce a big amount of spots showing up in your software, and is pretty much required a "smart" use of filters to take best benefit from them... and to avoid marsh.

Firstly, if you want receive those RBN spots, you need to enable RBN with command **set/skimmer** and if you want to stop them send **unset/skimmer** .

After enabling them, you can enable it for a specific mode(s): there are 5 RBN modes you can use for filtering: CW BEACON PSK RTTY FT. If you would receive only RBN spots for CW mode, send **set/skimmer cw** or, if you want see CW and FT4/FT8, send **set/skimmer cw ft8** .

RBN spots will be shown in a different way from "classic" dxcluster dx spots. This is an example:

```
Dx de EA1URA-#: 14017.4 DL7VEA CW 11dB Q:9* Z:15,16,17,20 0756Z L
Dx de G4AON-#: 14016.5 DM2BRF CW 7dB Q:9+ Z:15,16,33,40 0801Z
```

RBN spots can be distinguished from dx spots by the symbol # appended to spotter's callsign. The "info" field here is now replaced by: signal strenght in dB (the one you see is the lowest reported signal among all skimmers who have received that signal); Q:x is the number of skimmer that received that signal; Z shows CQ zones, other than spotter's skimmer zone, that received that signal among all skimmers around the world (the zones you see are the lowest reported signal among all zones that received that signal).

Once you activated RBN spots, you can set filters in the same manner as dx spots: accept or reject. These filters are only applied to the spots coming from RBN network; those coming from dxcluster network aren't affected (or will follow their own filters, if exists) and will be shown as usual. But, by default, a filter you set for dx spots will be automatically applied to RBN feed. **sh/filter** will helps you to check what you messed up.

Syntax is: **acc/rbn** <numberofslot> <option> or **rej/rbn** <numberofslot> <option> or **cle/rbn** <numberofslot> <option>. Some examples:

**acc/rbn 1 freq 20m** : you will be shown only RBN spots on 20m band. Command **SH/BANDS** will help you by showing all bands available.

**acc/rbn 1 freq 14000-14200** : you will be shown only RBN spots whose frequency is within 14000 and 14200 KHz

Of course, if you set too much filters or you messed up something, you can delete them, simply sending the command **clear/rbn** <numberofslot> to the node to delete a single RBN filter slot or **clear/rbn all** to erase all your RBN filters; e.g **clear/rbn 3** will delete the RBN filter slot number 3. These commands can be sent also in the short form, e.g. **cle/rbn all** and they will not affect dx cluster spots.

Questions or suggestion are welcome iw0hlg (a) gmail.com.

**73 and good dx! --... ..--**

This user guide and the node's operations are for amateur and self-instructional purposes only; the tortugascw.com staff, the Sysop and the software developers will be not responsibly for any malfunctions or data losses, the operational status of the node or website can change or stops without any notices and it is not guaranteed.