METAR2APRS
Users Guide

1   Introduction

METAR2APRS injects weather data of selected airports in APRS weather format to the APRS network via Internet connection. Data is not sent directly to radio. Main features:

- OS independent, written in Python; works on any system with Python installed, like LINUX, WINDOWS, OS X, BSD, etc.
- Compiled binary is available for WINDOWS
- Data sent as object with real source callsign, compliant to amateur radio regulations
- Timestamp show data measurement and not submission to APRS
- Free for HAM radio use

2   How does it work

Program downloads actual METAR data from NOAA server with anonymous ftp, converts to APRS format and injects to APRS Internet backbone.

3   Usage

3.1   Prerequisites

Make sure Python is installed on computer you will run METAR2APRS. It is already there in most modern LINUX distribution. If not, install with distributions package manager. For other systems, visit http://python.org/ and download installer for your OS. Install Python 2.x, it is not compatible with Python 3.x

For WINDOWS a precompiled binary is available. It is a portable application, Python is not required to be installed.

3.2   Installation

Extract downloaded distribution .zip archive to a convenient directory. It contains four files:

- metar2aprs.py (or metar2aprs.exe on WINDOWS) – program itself
- metar2aprs.cfg - configuration file
- stations.txt – details of stations providing METAR data
- metar2aprs.pdf – this guide

If necessary adjust access rights of metar2aprs.py to make it executable.

Edit metar2aprs.cfg. First line is your callsign, it will be used as the source of APRS report. You can use SSID 1…4 (generic additional station) or 13 (Weather Stations). Second line is the name of Internet server. No need to add port, program will use 14580.

```
YourCall_with_SSID
rotate.aprs2.net
```

3.3   Trying it

Open a terminal window and type

```
./metar2aprs.py xxxx
```

where xxxx is the ID of the station you want to send data for (you can specify more than one ID's separated by space). Check stations.txt for ID's and available METAR data sources. If everything is OK, report sent and no message on the terminal. Otherwise an error message displayed.

On WINDOWS, open a DOS window and type

```
metar2aprs xxxx
```

3.4   Running it

For regular use, add it to crontab or WINDOWS Scheduled Tasks to run it periodically. Data is updated in every one or every half hours. It is advised to send reports in every 30 or 15 minutes when source is updated in 30 minutes. Do not create reports more often than necessary.

4   Notes

- Injects WX reports only for stations which are nearby you, do not make QRM for other regions
- Do not overwrite other's transmission

5   Availability, support

Project is hosted at SourceForge. Visit https://sourceforge.net/projects/aprsgoodies/ to download latest version, get support, etc. Support is provided via mailing list.

6   Copyright

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