

## **LoTW Report—January 2018**

Ad Hoc Logbook Study Committee

In July 2017, the Logbook of the World (LoTW) application was quietly switched over to the %second instance+, that is, to a version based on ODBC database standards, rather than the MaxDB database on which Logbook formerly had been running. Since that time, a few latent defects in the new version have resulted in outages of Logbook availability. A graph of Logbook availability follows these notes.

### Heavy use of LoTW

We have previously reported about the two main heavy users of Logbook. After working with them, both of these services have reduced usage to 10% of their former value.

### LoTW Trusted Partner™ program

As noted previously, we continue to be concerned about third-party services that store users' secure information to login to Logbook on their behalf. Club Log has implemented the Trusted Partner standards, and a second service has expressed interest in joining the program.

### TQSL

A new version of TQSL was released that incorporates several minor updates, including fixing a bug with Microsoft Installer that was very confusing to users. Important updates have also been made to handling of certificates that should result in fewer problems where users overwrite or delete them.

### LoTW & Awards vision

A 5-year vision for LoTW was developed in September 2016. With the change in our business model, and reduced technical debt due to completing the %second instance+, we now have the ability to pursue this vision to a limited extent. In 2018, we expect to support several new awards:

- Support for the CQ Worked All Zones award on the LoTW site. This was announced on 14 December and is now in beta test. This will generate some additional revenue for ARRL, though it will require some additional support resources at ARRL. WAZ support is the most frequent single request we received from LoTW users in the Hamvention survey (see below).
- Ability to apply for the 5B DXCC award from within Logbook. Currently, though Logbook credits may be used, the application is not available within Logbook.
- Another major non-ARRL award where users could now utilize LoTW credits toward the award, but would continue to apply for the awards based on credits from the Logbook site.
- Closer integration with Club Log.

### Additional award support in LoTW

After some informal communication with another IARU society, who indicated their interest, LoTW is now ready for beta testing for awards based on contacting

entities in their country. The specific structure of this support is still being worked out. We also continue to discuss similar possibilities with other award sponsors.

#### Meeting with Club Log

On 11 and 12 October, the Logbook Study Committee hosted a visit to ARRL HQ by Michael Wells, G7VJR, founder of Club Log. We found that Club Log's vision is very complementary to our own, with no areas in which we seek to compete. We outlined some services that LoTW and Club Log could provide each other which will be beneficial to the growth of both. We believe we have established an ongoing relationship that will benefit many amateurs.

#### Preliminary survey of LoTW users

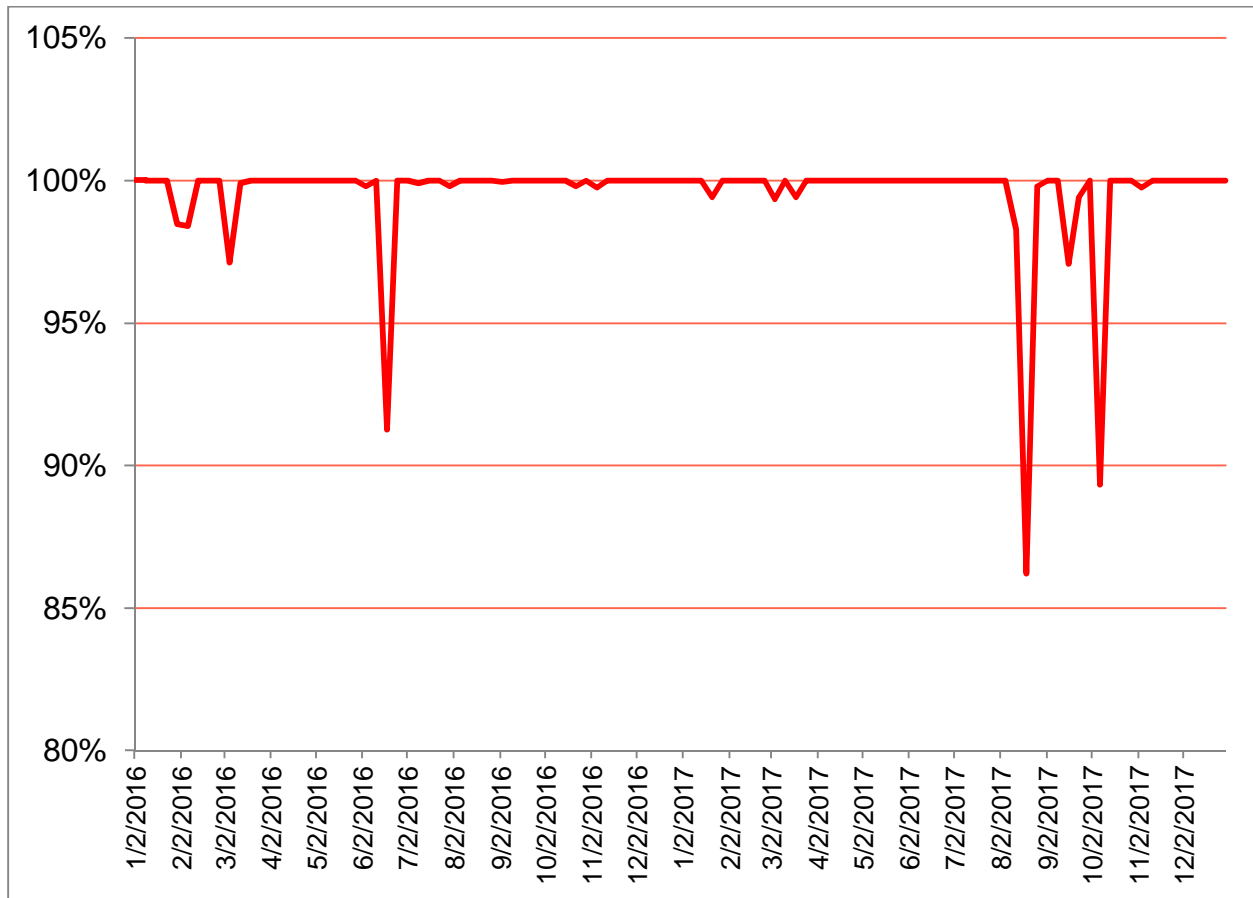
At Hamvention/Xenia, we provided surveys to those attending Contest University as well as those dropping by the DXCC booth. We received about 100 surveys back. Our main question was about whether certain possible features in LoTW would be of interest to users. Based on this information, we are readying a Survey Monkey survey that would be available to all LoTW users.

Submitted by,  
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for the Logbook Study Committee

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**LoTW Availability**

Each time point represents one week. Target availability is 99%. Updated 31 December 2017.



Note: the Availability statistics are obtained by a monitoring application written by AA6YQ, which runs outside of ARRL. Thus, it includes all influences on availability, whether of the LoTW database or of any of the network transport mechanisms required to bring information into or out of LoTW to individual users. The assessment is repeated every 5 minutes.