Who needs sunspots?

CW and Contest Training Software

Uli Ann
KK8I / DL2HBX
Why use software?

- Play the ‘radio’ almost anywhere, anytime
- No Big Gun station required
- Prepare for contests and train CW skills
- Maximize training effect
- Dodge poor conditions (the sunspot thing...)
- Compete with others and have fun
The old days – Doctor DX  C64 module, 1984

- Pre-CT era contest trainer
- Simulates entire contest, running and S&P mode
- Uses propagation model, derived from QTHs, time
- Multi rareness
- Simulates QRM and Lids
- Keyer connection
PED by JE3MAS

MS-DOS, 1992-1998

- Pile-up trainer
- 1-8 (16) voices
- CT-like user interface
- Possibility to connect a keyer to LPT
- Competition mode
- BCC maintains a PED toplist for single and multi caller modes
VPED by JE3MAS

MS-DOS, 1994/1995

- Phone pile-up simulation
- 1-8 voices
- CT-like user interface

- JE3MAS is working on XPED, an XP based contest simulation for CW and SSB (incl. Packet spots, etc.)!
RUFZ by DL4MM

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<th>Call</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Max At</th>
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<tbody>
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- CW speed trainer
- 1 voice
- Competition mode
- DARC maintains a RUFZ toplist with more than 700 entries
- Top speed: 147 wpm (1 YL / 6 OMs)
- Top US speeds: K7QO 109 wpm W2UP 100 wpm
- XP based RufzXP in the works
Pile Up! by G4ZFE

- Pile-up trainer
- 1-9 voices
- Requires ISA sound board
- Competition mode
- G4ZFE maintains a Pile Up! toplist
- Non-GUI version for Linux available
- Source code available

Win95/98, Linux, 1997-1999

```
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<th>TX Call</th>
<th>Speed (wPM)</th>
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Accuracy: 73/255
Score: 17228
Maximum Speed: 59 wPM
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CW Freak by JI0VWL

- CW speed trainer
- Similar to RUFZ, but simpler
- 1 voice
- Competition mode
- Fixed start speed
- 25 wpm in competition mode
- JI0VWL maintains top list (20 / 50 QSO)

Windows, 2004
Cyber CW Contest by N5RR  Windows, 1997-2004

- Contest trainer
- Simulates entire contest, running pile-ups, S&P
- Uses propagation model derived from QTHs, time
- Multi rareness
- Simulates noise, QRM, Lids, Cops
- Competition mode
- N5RR maintains a toplist
- Software is not freeware, free demo version
Morse Runner by VE3NEA

Windows, 2004/2005

- Pile-up trainer
- Multiple voices
- Realistic simulation of QRN/QRM/QSB, Lids and noise
- Competition mode (1 hour)
- VE3NEA maintains a toplist with more than 600 entries already
- Topscores at 270 QSO / 1h
- Updates in the works

![Software Interface](image.png)
Other Programs

- CTMODOKI by AH0K: CT training (DOS, 1992)
- TR Log by N6TR: TR training (DOS)
- HSTT by JE3MAS: Highspeed CW training (DOS, 1998)
- PileMania by JA1DYB: Pile-up (Win, 2004)
- VDMSound: Making DOS sound applications run under WindowsNT, XP
Final Score

- CW and pile-up training programs help to prepare for a Contest / DXpedition – anytime, anywhere!
- Several interesting programs exist, most are Freeware
- Toplists are a good incentive to practice
- CW Speed training  RUFZ
- Pile-up training  Morse Runner
- Contest training  Cyber CW Contest
- There are more exciting programs to come!

- Link to this presentation on QRZ.COM (KK8I)
TU!