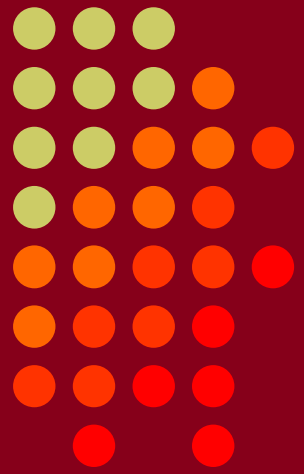
Software Logging Programs

By Andy Blank

N2NT



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Introduction

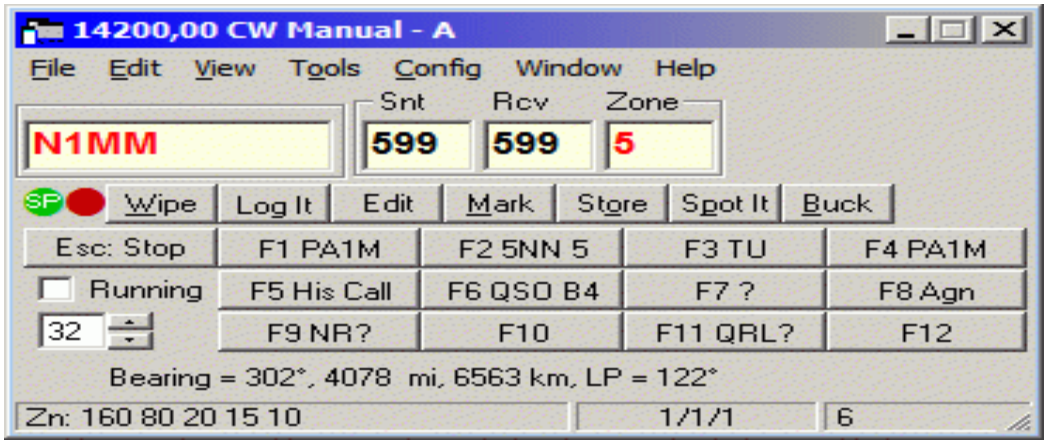
- Plethora of loggers now available.
- We will help to choose the right one for you.
- Learn to use powerful features.
- Maximize your score using operating tools.
- How to send in the log!
- Results of CTU Survey

What is popular today

- N1MM
- Writelog
- WinTest
- Sd
- CTWin
- Trlog
- CT and NA for DOS

N1MM

- Free!
- Fully configurable windows. Entry window:
- Excellent support and discussion group (N1MMLogger@yahoogroups.com)



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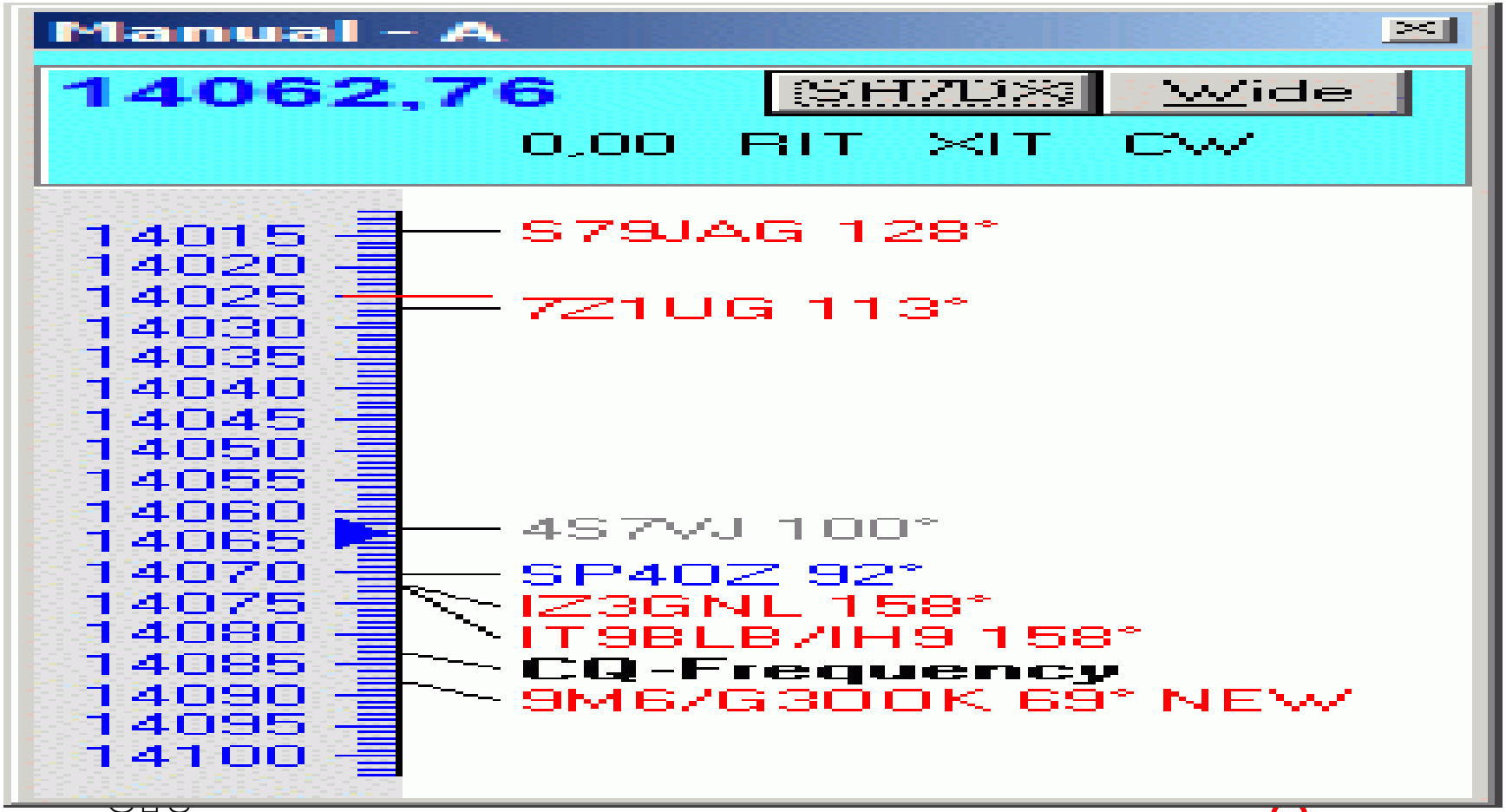
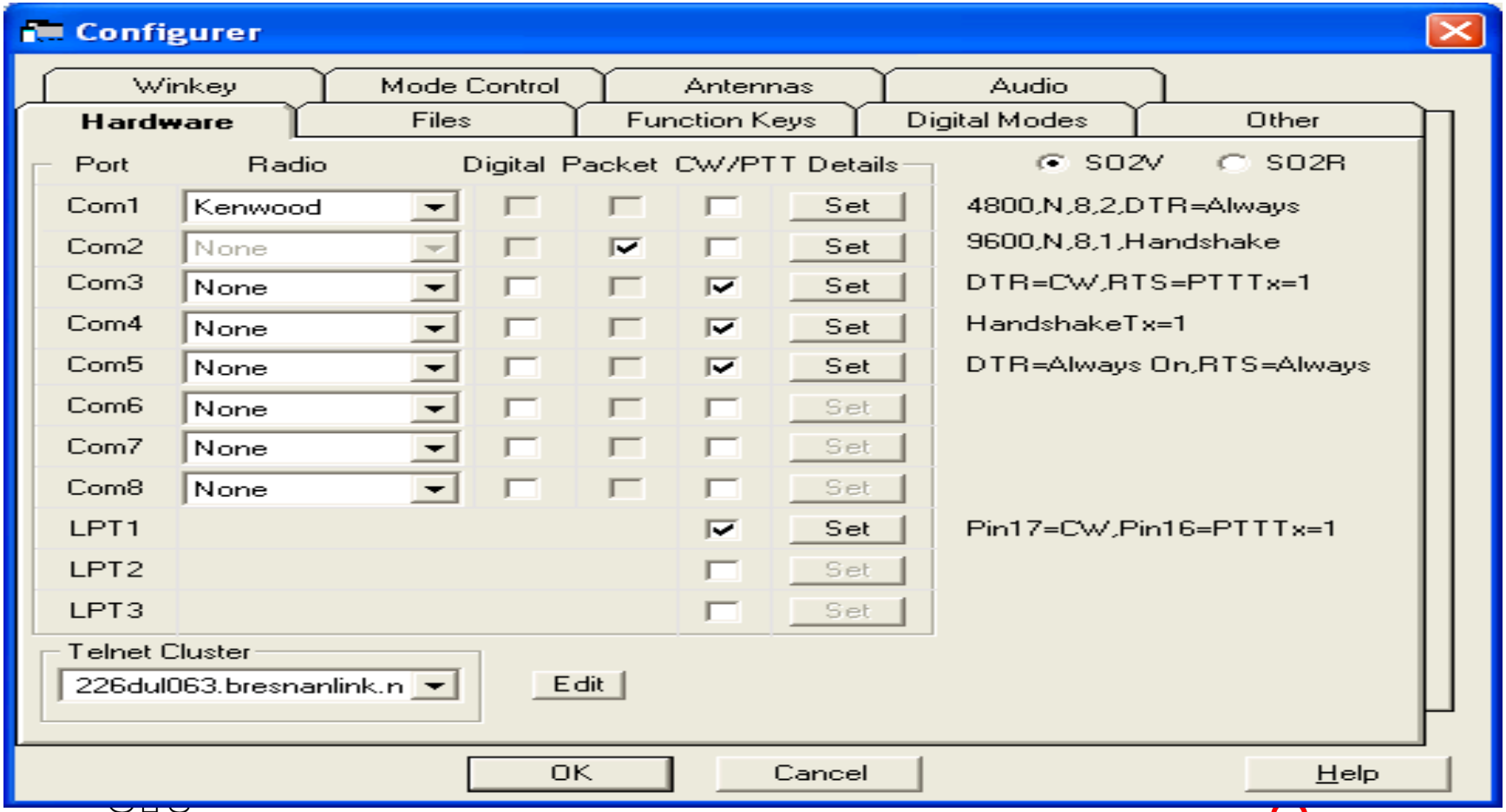
N1MM Band Map



N1MM Config Menu



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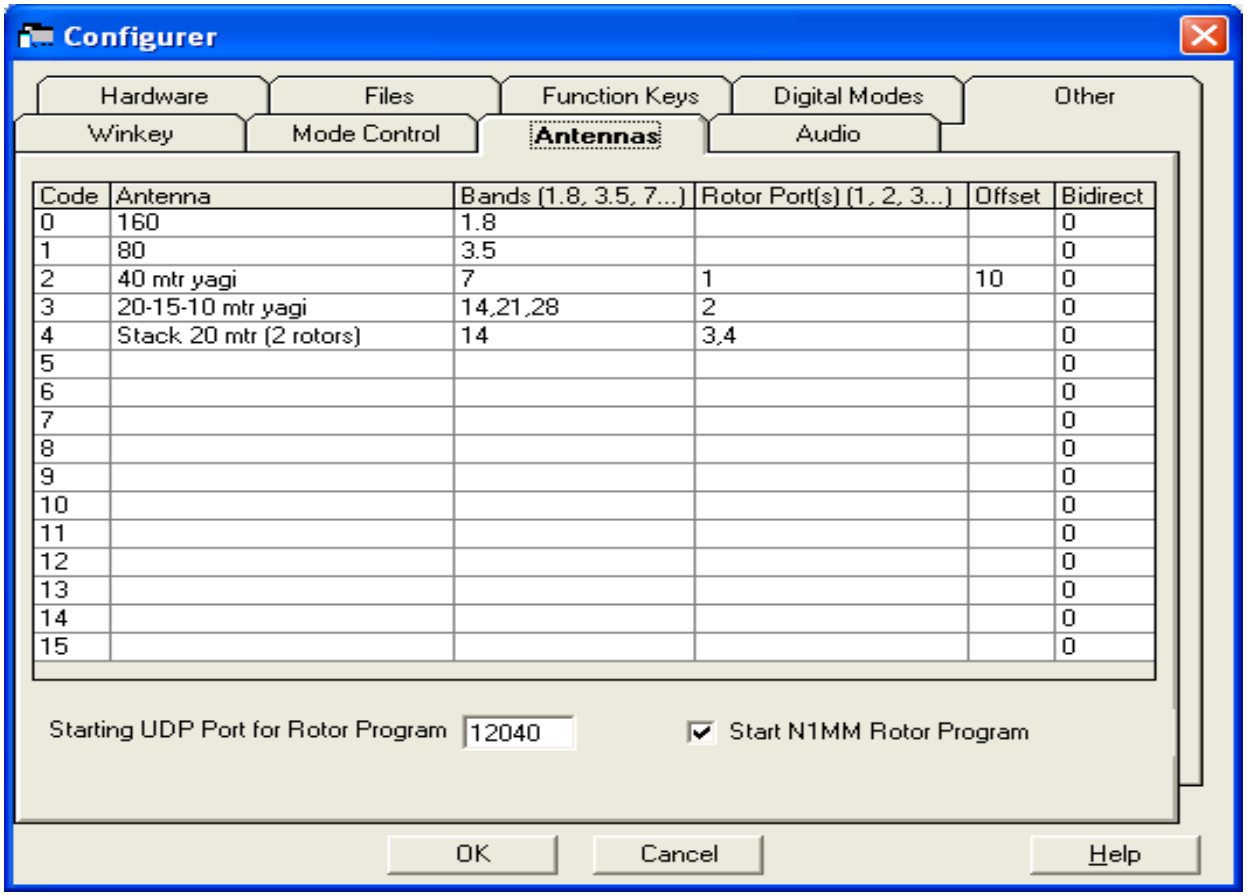
N1MM Interesting feature
Antenna Control



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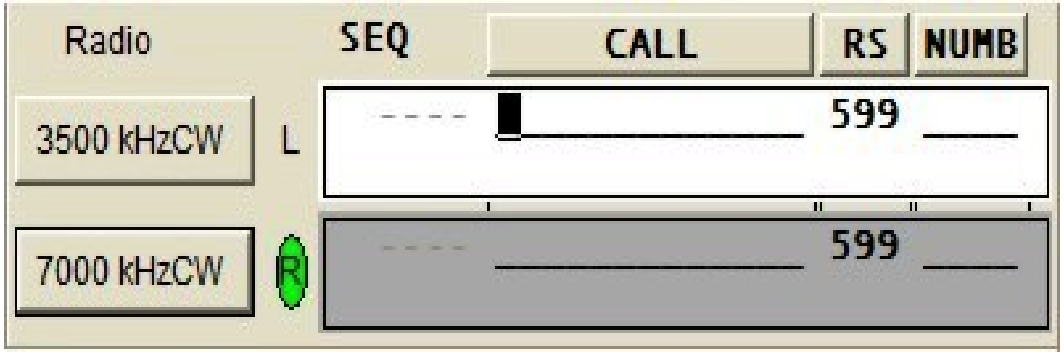
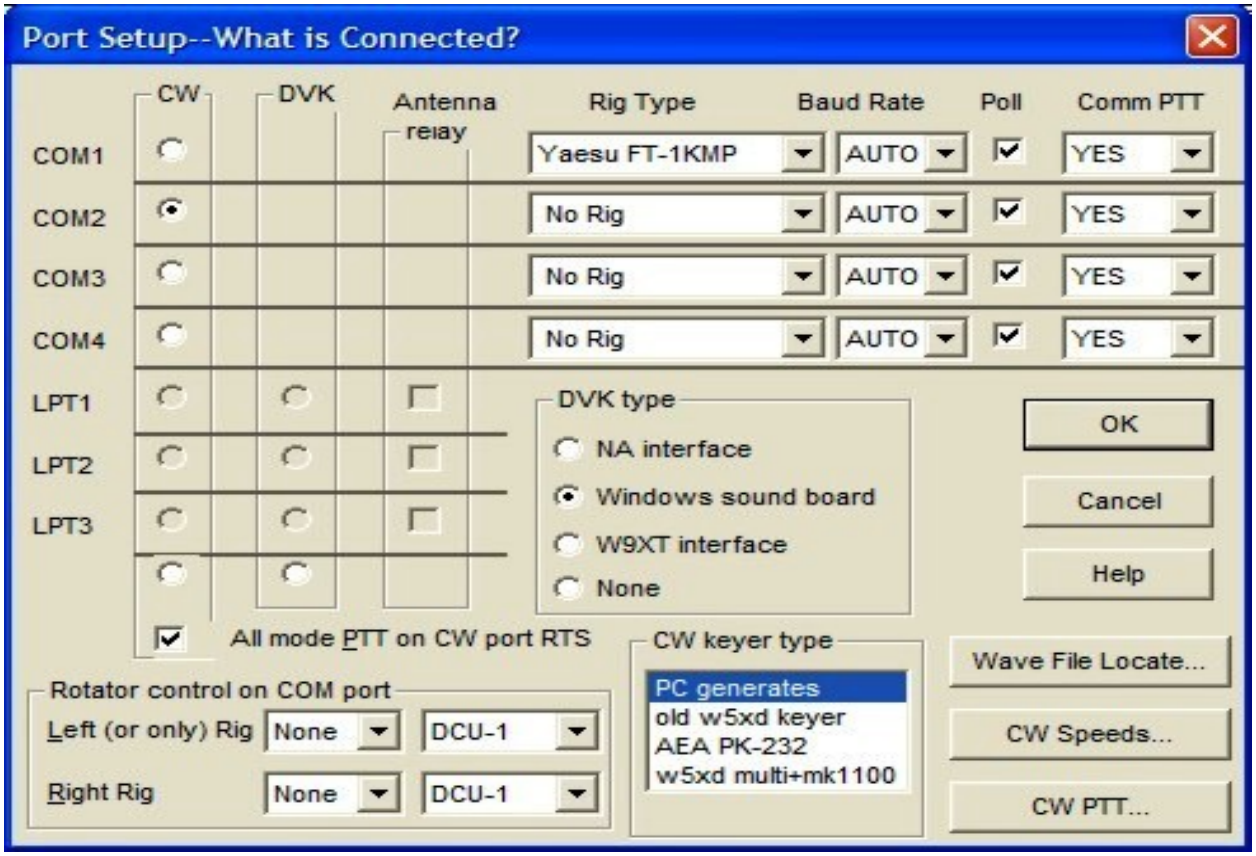
Writelog by W5XD

- Very Stable
- Networking a bit quirky.
- Auto updates network failures.
- SO2R Friendly
- Support page at K9JY.com
- Cost $30.00USD with 12mo free upgrade.
- Favorite of RTTY contesters

Writelog entry window



Writelog Config Box



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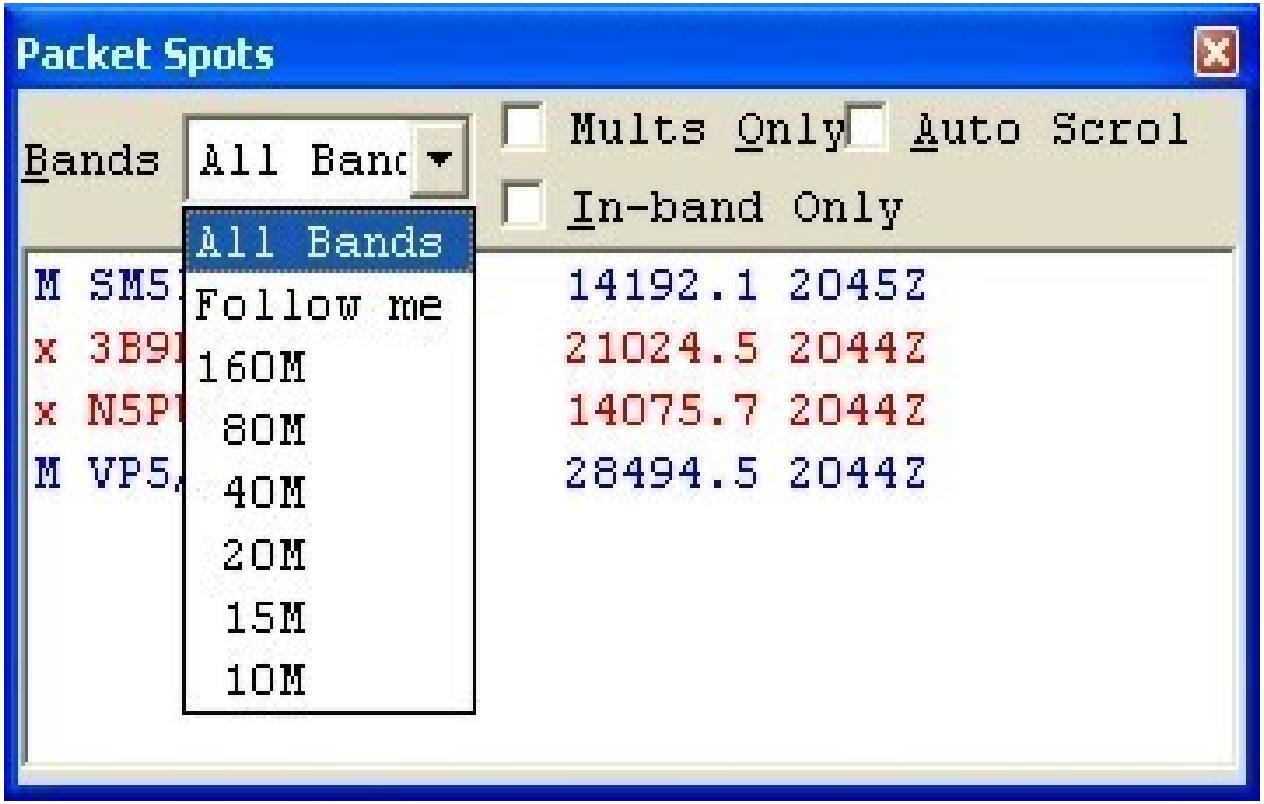
Packet Spots



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Editing the Log

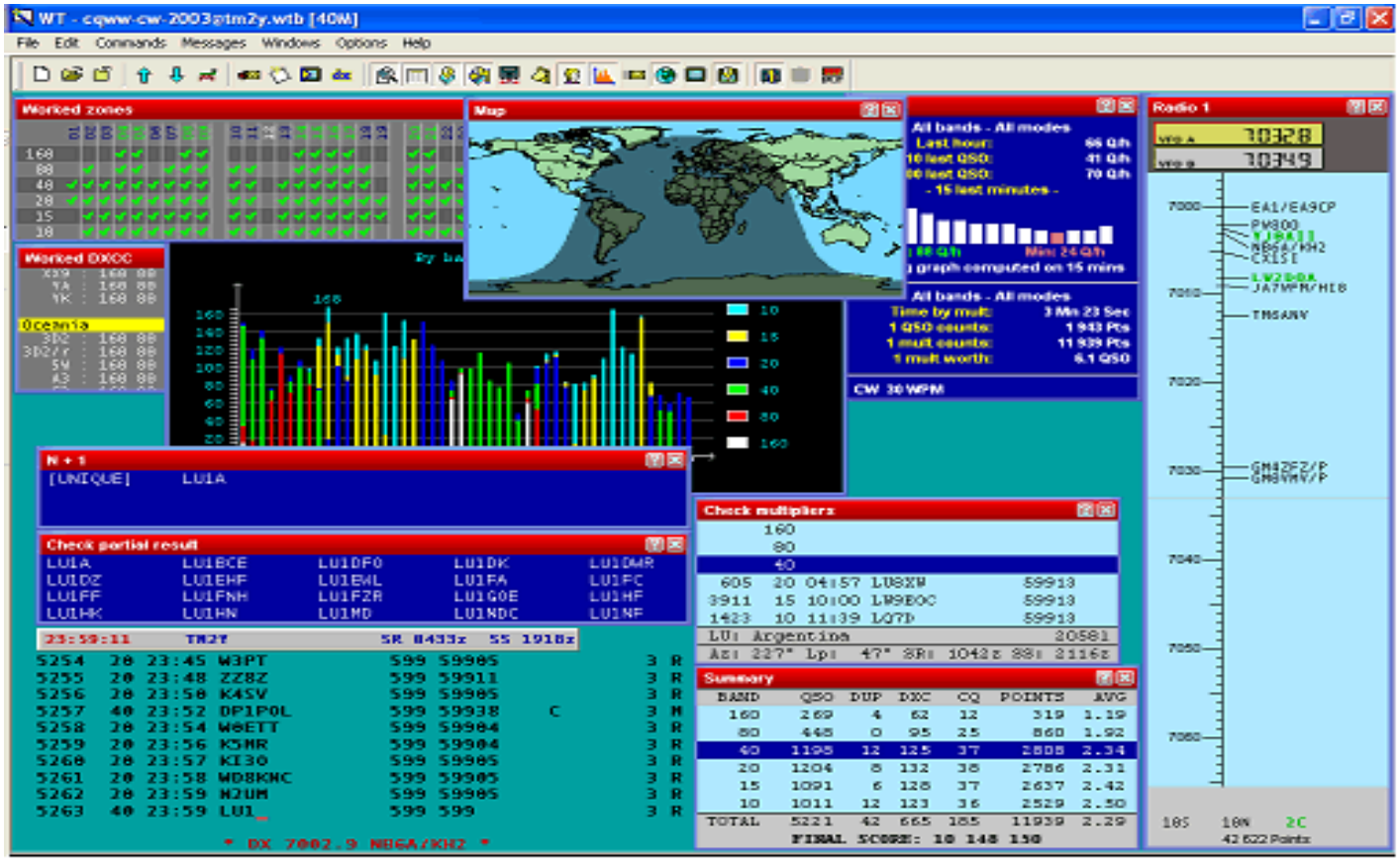
- Move cursor up and down to edit previous QSOs

SEQ	DATE	TIME	FREQ	CALL	SN	RS	NUMB	P	MULS	PX	COUNTRY	C	PREF
322	2002-02-09	2231	14090	WX4TM	599	599	774	1	248	WX4	United States		K
323		2232	14089	N9CK	599	599	554	1	249	N9	United States		K
324	2003-09-27	2347	21000	JY/K9JY	599	599	120	3	250	JY0	Jordan		JY

Master Files for Check Partial

- Open your browser and go to:
- SSB and CW Master Files: http://www.k5zd.com/scp/
- RTTY Master File: http://www.rttycontesting.com
- Once at the site, save the files on your local hard drive in the \WriteLog\Programs subdirectory.

WIN-TEST By F5MZN



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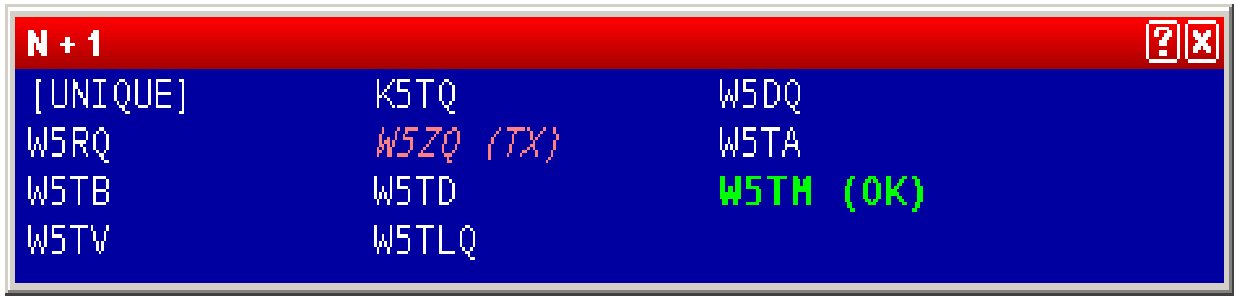
Unique and N +1

- Database is searched for similar callsigns, off by 1 character.



Configuring Telnet and Network

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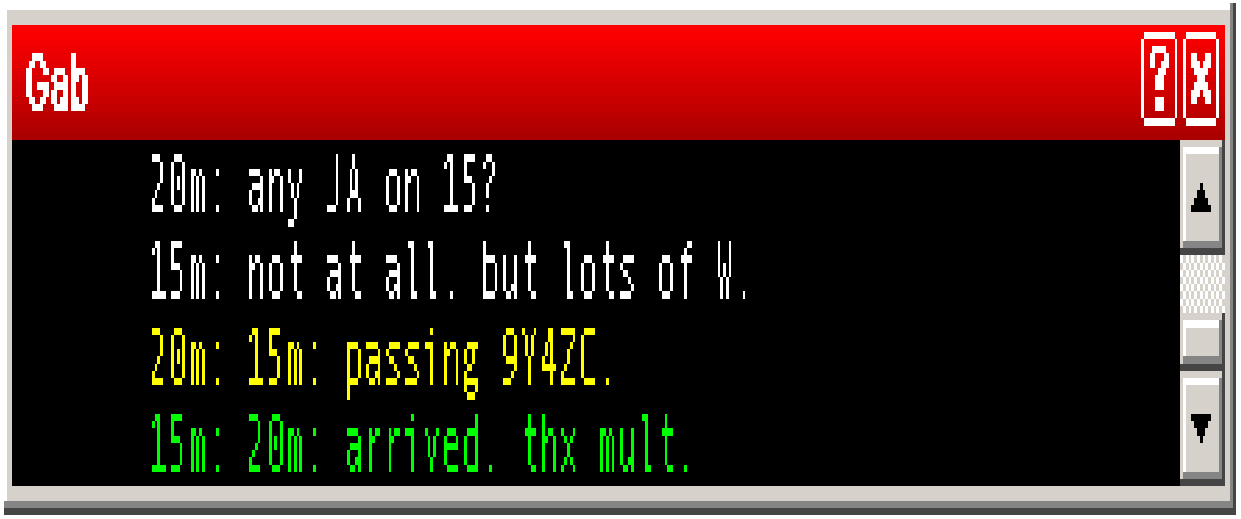
Other Nice Features

- Advanced SO2R control using EZmaster or MK2R-
- QSY timers for Multi Op.
- Ability to redifine keys and use macros.
- Greyline map window.

Gab window

- A must for multis!



SD by EI5DI

- Totally free
- Full log editing, everything in ASCII
- Simple operation
- Covers most major HF contests.
- Other versions available for VHF etc.
- Great for those who want a stable logger without the bells and whistles

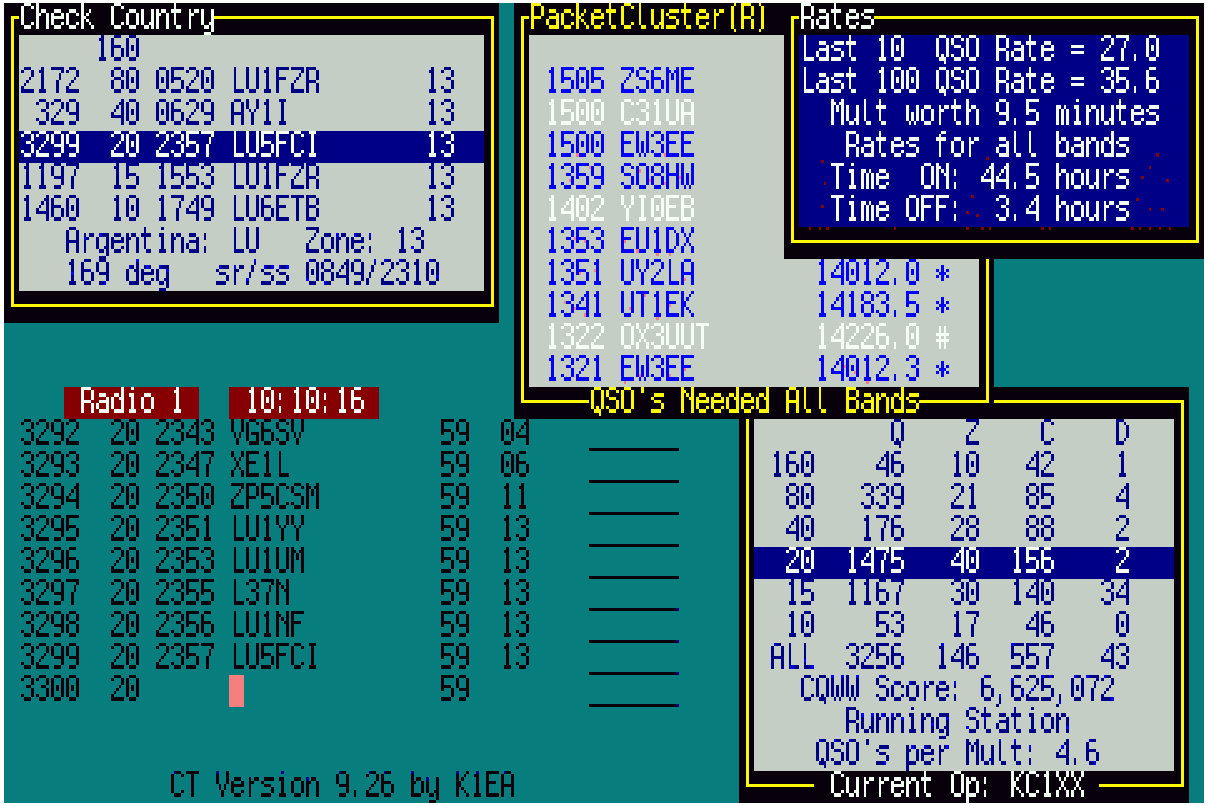
SD Features

- Dupe checking
- Country/Band analysis
- Check Partial by prefix
- Beam headings
- Advance flagging of potential multipliers
- Band/Mode analysis by callsign
- Linked database display
- Auto data insert (Zones and area codes)
- Countries Worked/Wanted by Continent

CT Win

- Windows version of most popular program by K1EA
- Basic features, not as advanced as N1MM, Writelog, or Win-Test.
- Remember to update SCP and Country files before each contest
- Free!
- Quite stable and proven

Typical CT setup



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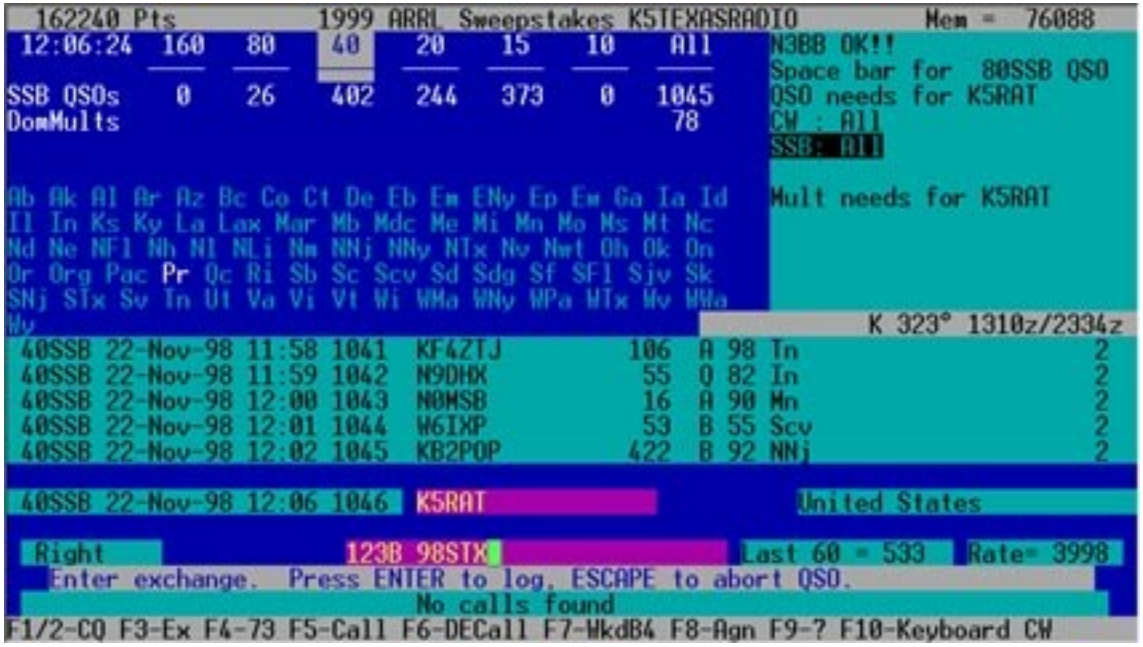
TRlog by N6TR

- DOS only; Oldie but Goodie.
- First choice of top Sprinters
- Fully configurable, great for CW contesters
- Standard for SO2R operation

Typical TRlog setup

- Windows configurable by DOS commands



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Advanced Features

- **Unique Name Database**
- CW Simulator
- Visible Dupesheet for unassisted
- Entry of data in any order; i.e. 72 NNJ 335 B

Drawbacks

- Need DOS machine
- Windows version not likeley
- Editing QSOs can be a challenge

CT and NA for DOS

- CT and NA are similar in operation
- NA developed for US Domestic contests by K8CC.
- Very stable, simple programs.
- Many stations dedicate DOS machines for these programs only
- Good choice for Single Op when no connection to outside world is necessary

Cabrillo Logs

- All Programs can generate one.
- Very important for Log checking and analysis.
- Creates a standard for the log checkers, and greatly reduces workload
- Don’t be afraid, follow the menus and send it in!

Use the Power!

- Fill the bandmap even as a S/O.
- Let the computer do the automation; bandswitching the ants and control the radio.
- Check multipliers and pass them.
- Use Check Partial and callsign databases to improve accuracy.
- Watch your rate! It might be more productive to search and pounce.
- Use SO2R to keep your signal on the air.
- Watch sunrise/sunset for openings.
- If no new multipliers are found, use the windows to find new QSO's. SO2R will help.
- Be careful with off times and 10 min rule! Let the software tell you.

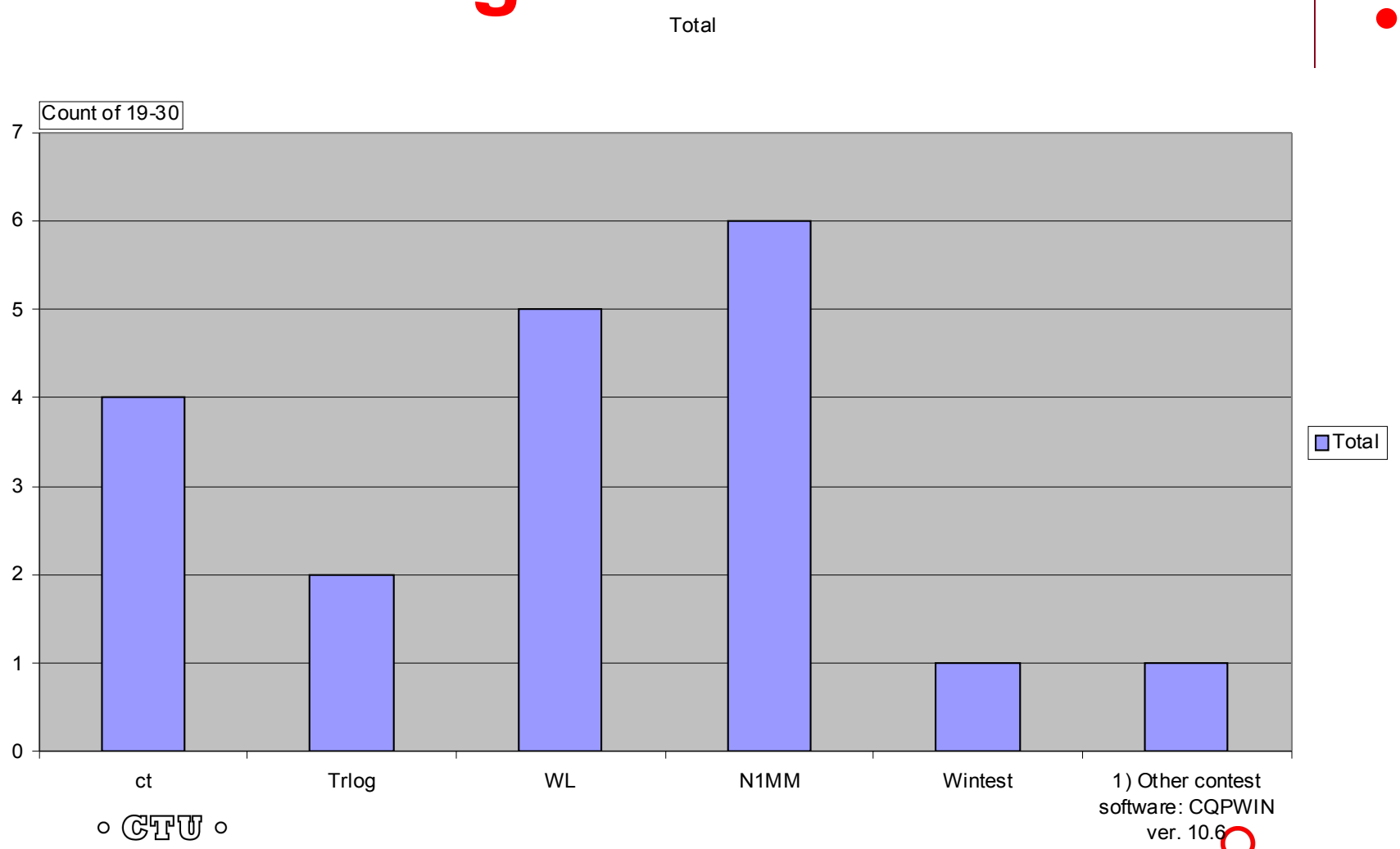
Go to discussion groups

- Make sure you sign up for your software's reflector.
- Go to Contesting.com for a list of active ones.
- Any question can probably be found in the archives.
- If not, do not be afraid to ask!
- Most authors will gladly add new features and fix broken ones if they make sense.

CTU Survey Highlights

- 524 Responses
- Most popular program
- Favorite modes
- Contest specific
- Results vs. Program
- Average age
- Most used features

Software age 19-30



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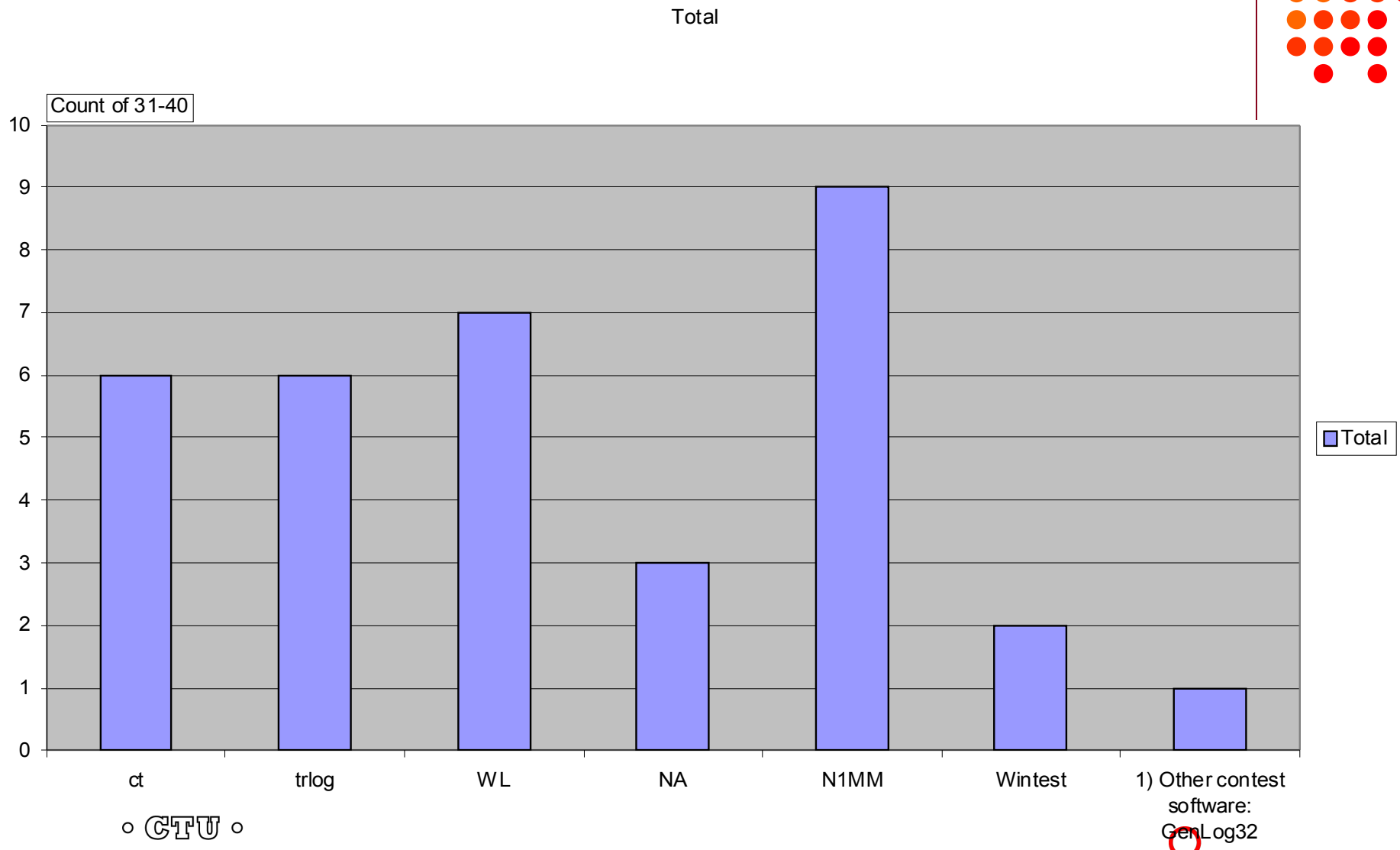
Software age 31-40



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31-40

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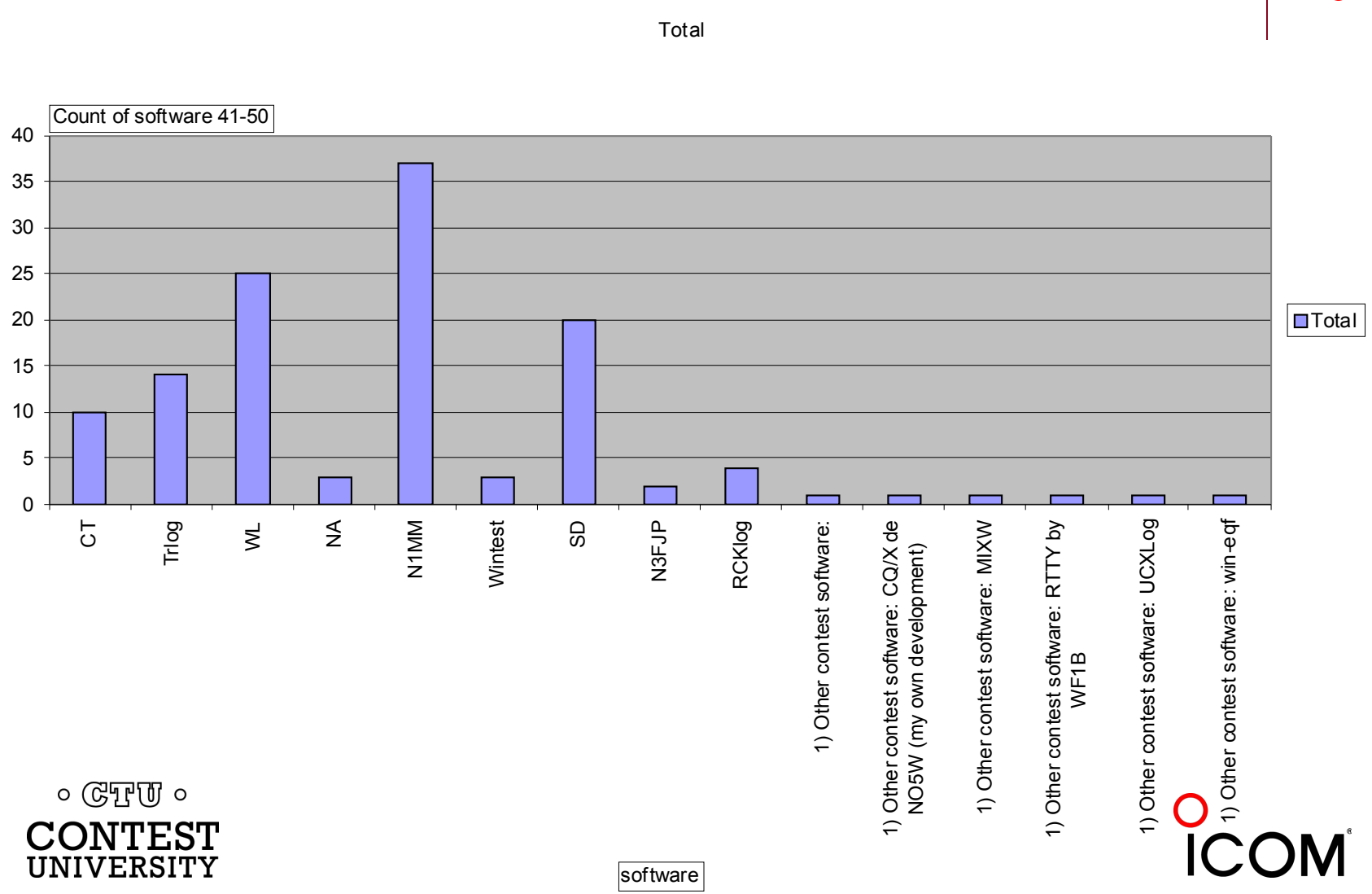
Software age 41-50



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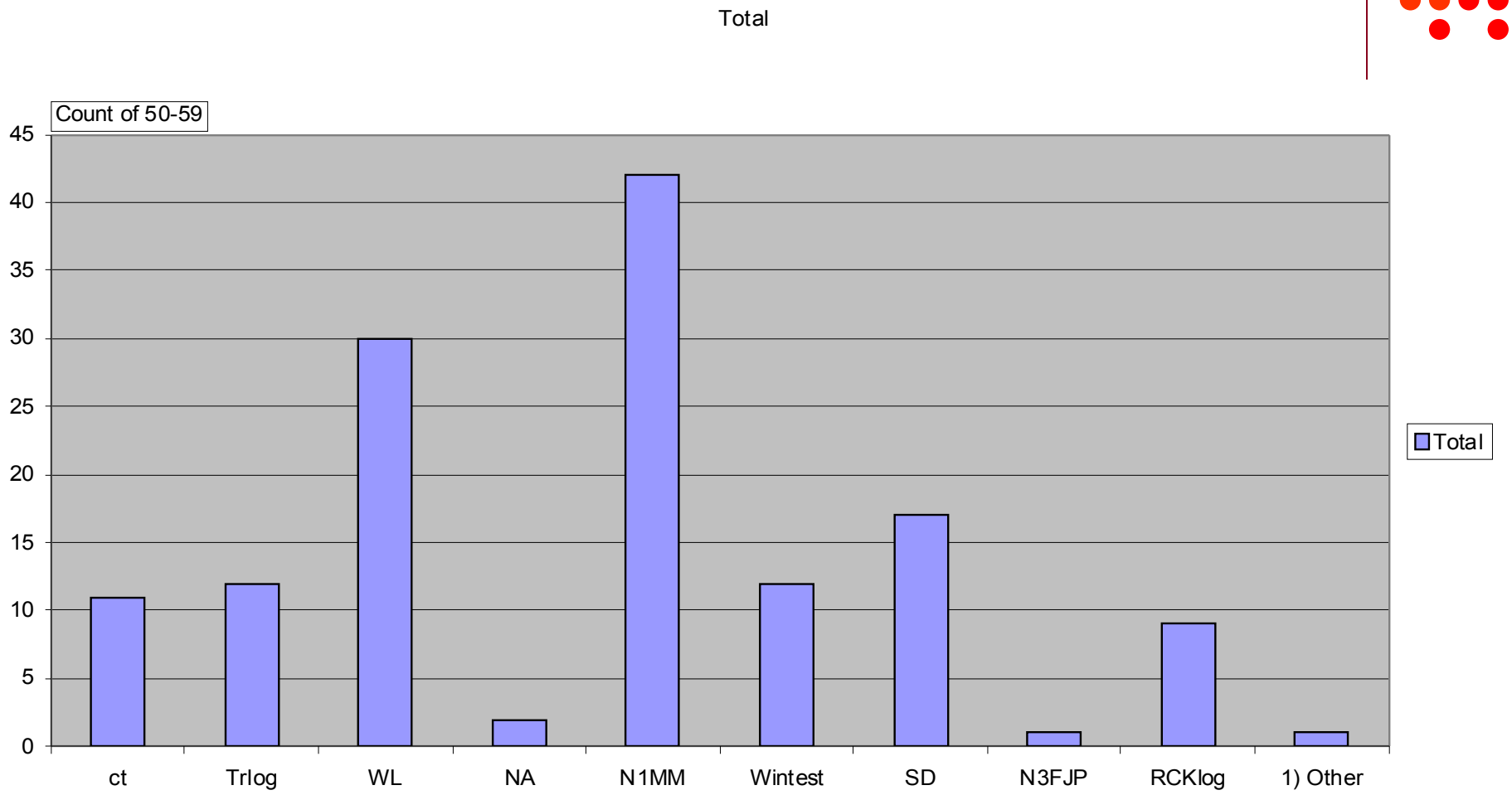
Software age 50-59



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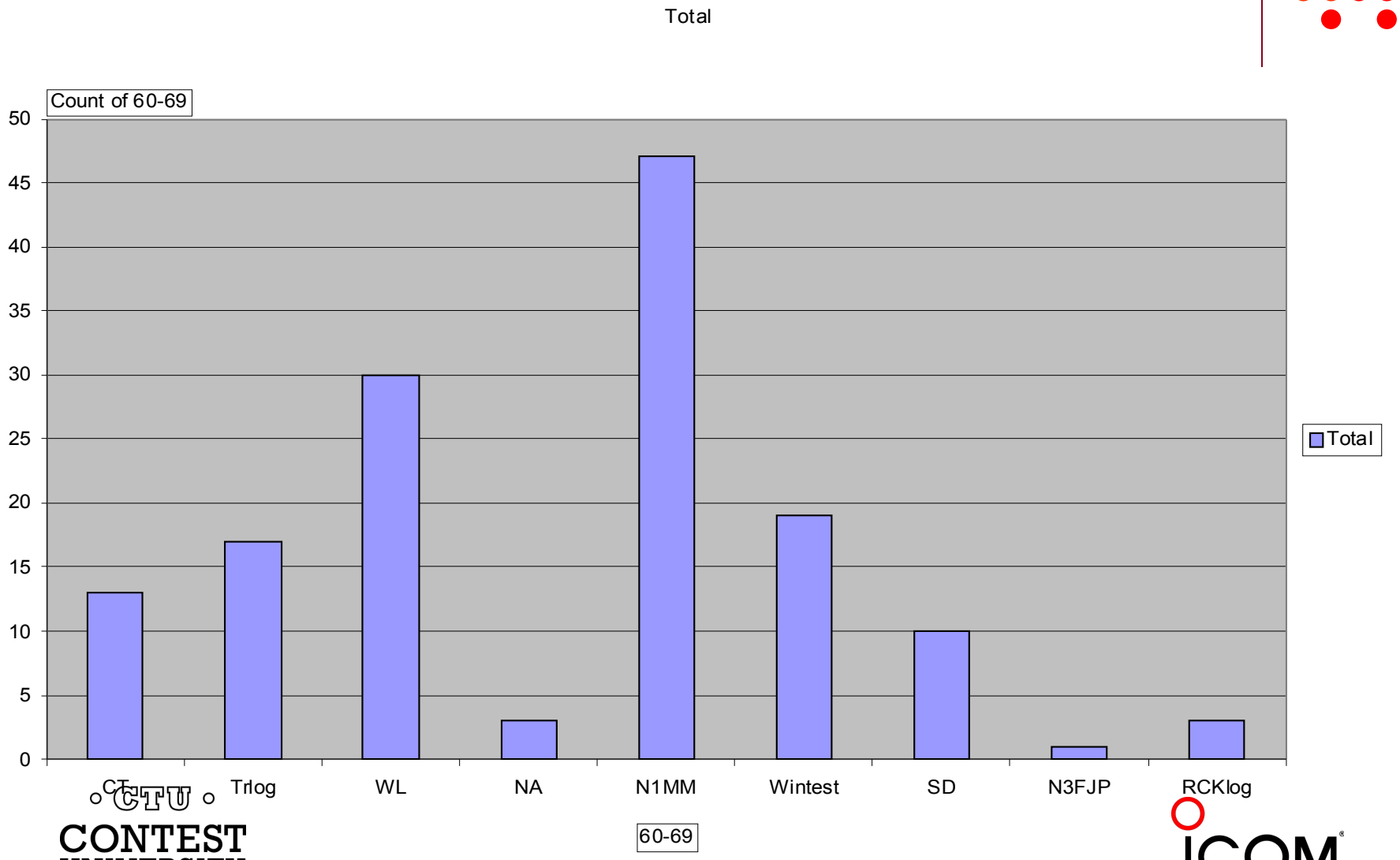
Software age 60-69



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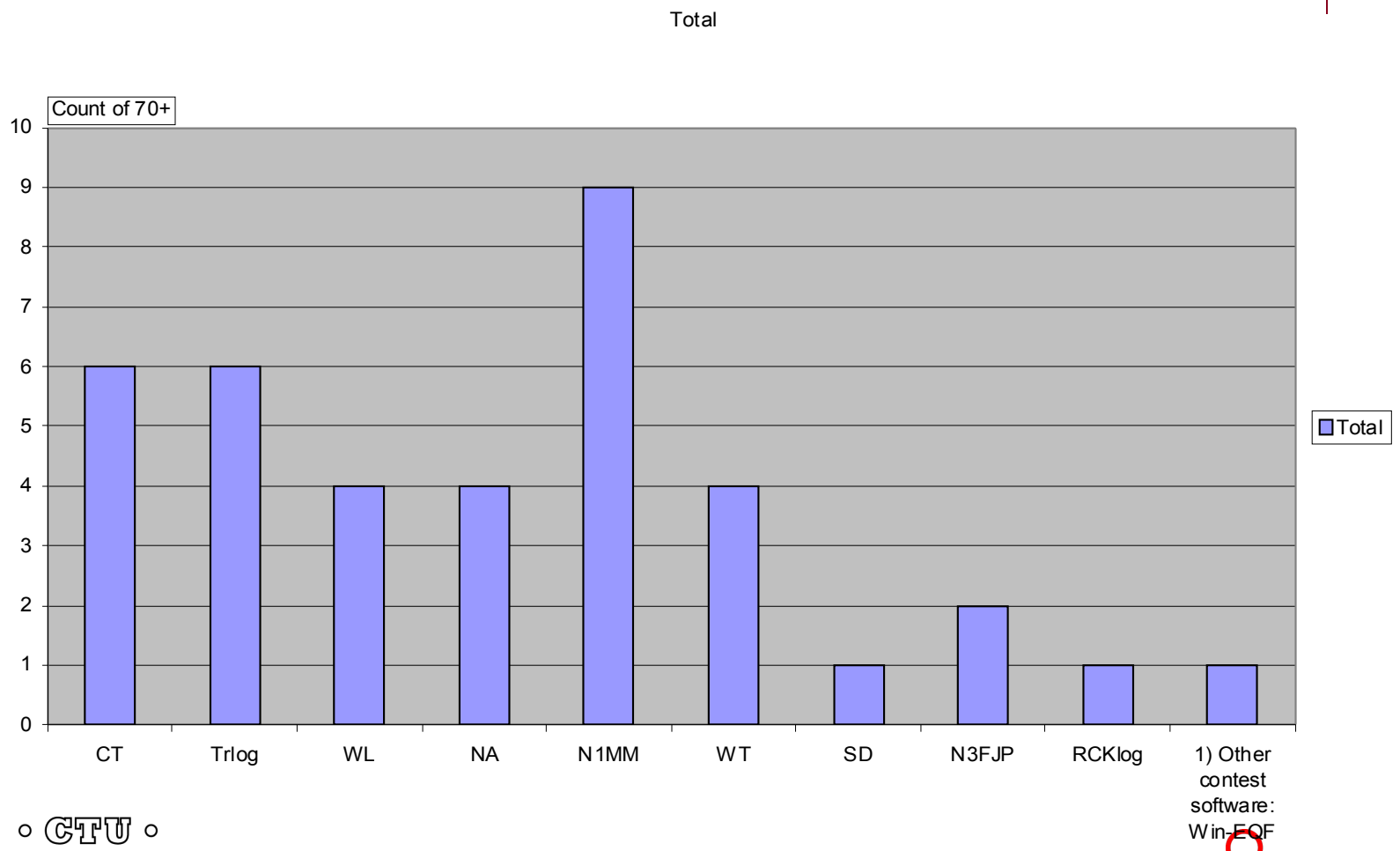
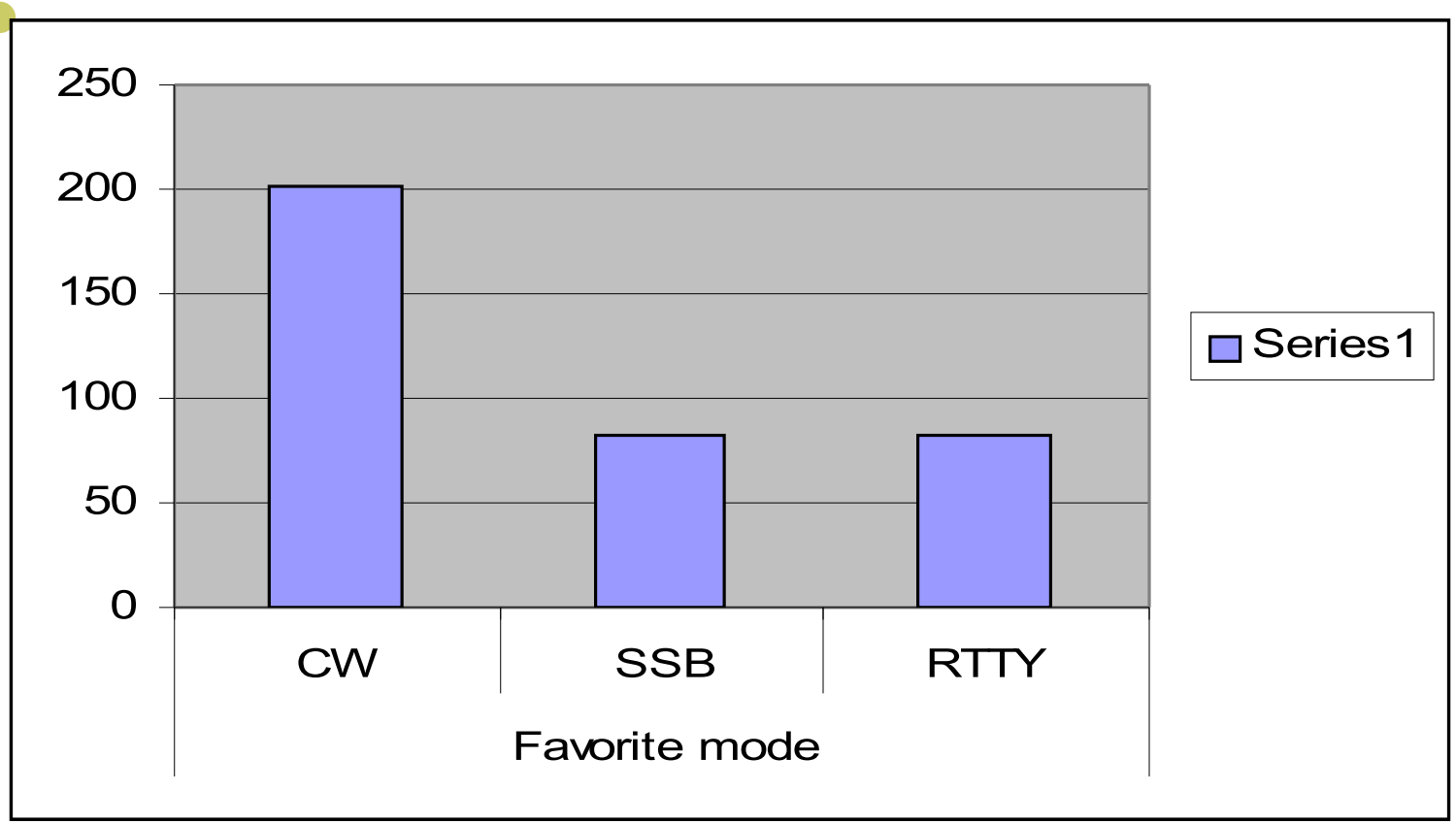
Software age 70+



Favorite mode



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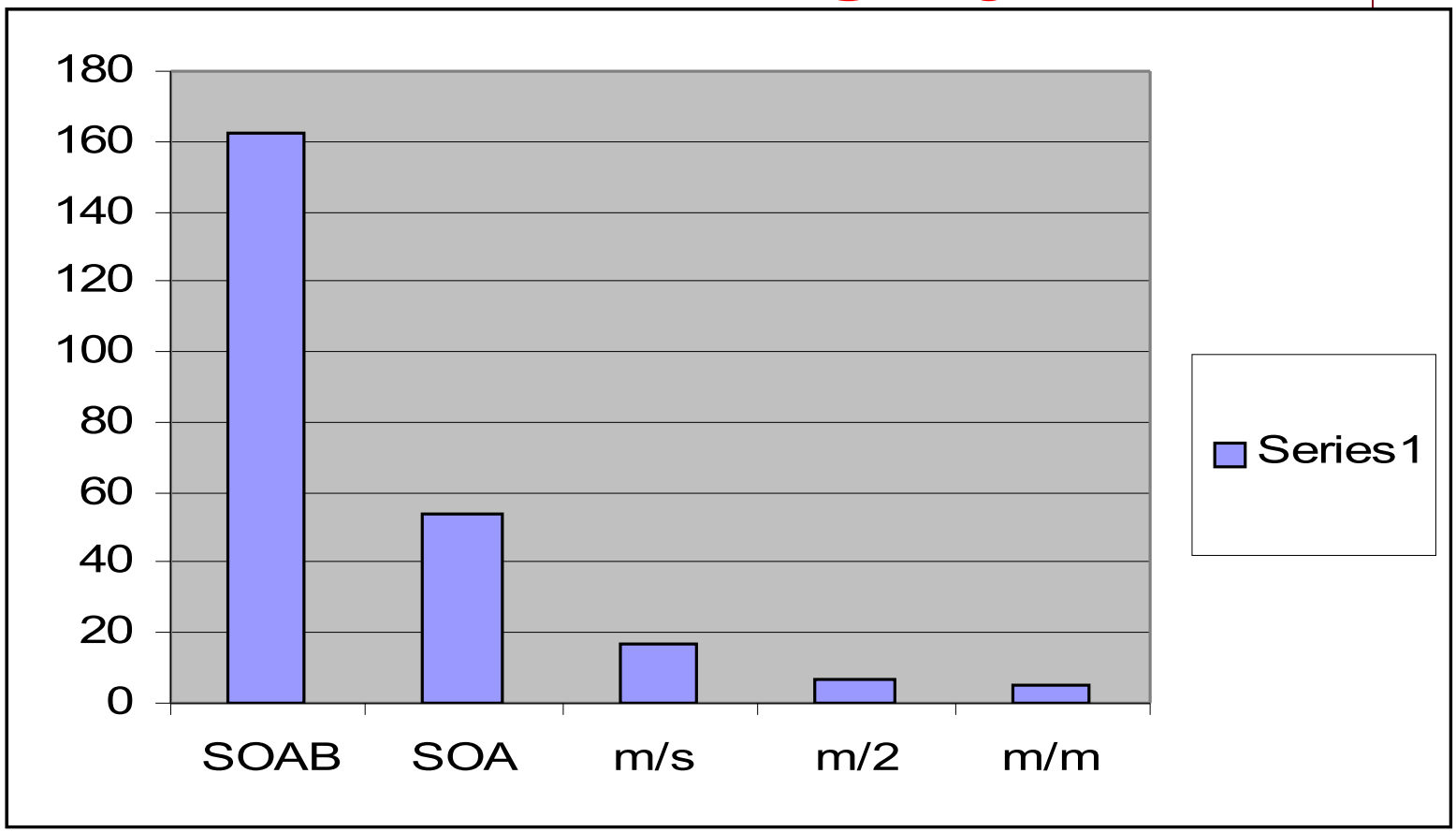
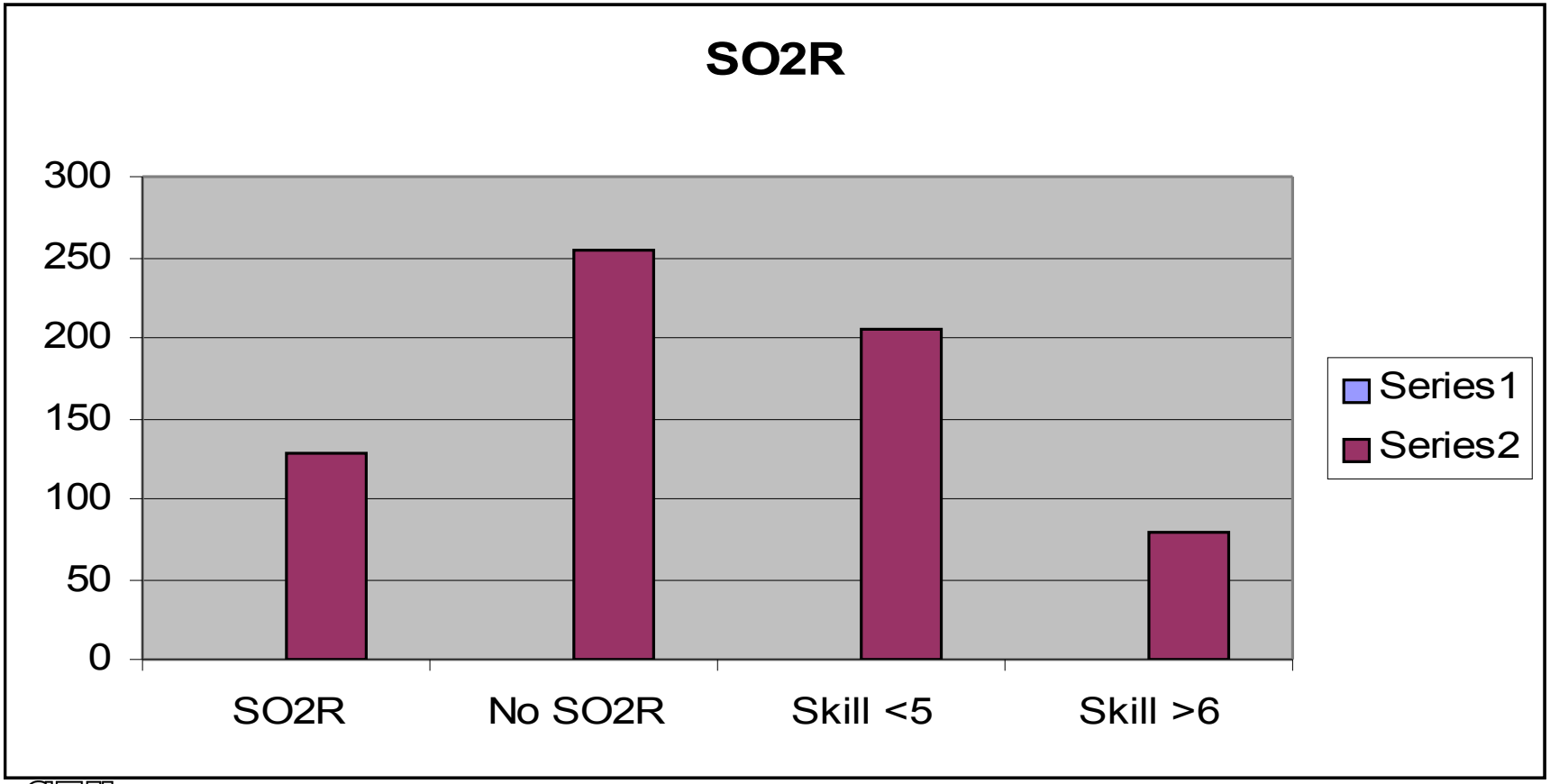
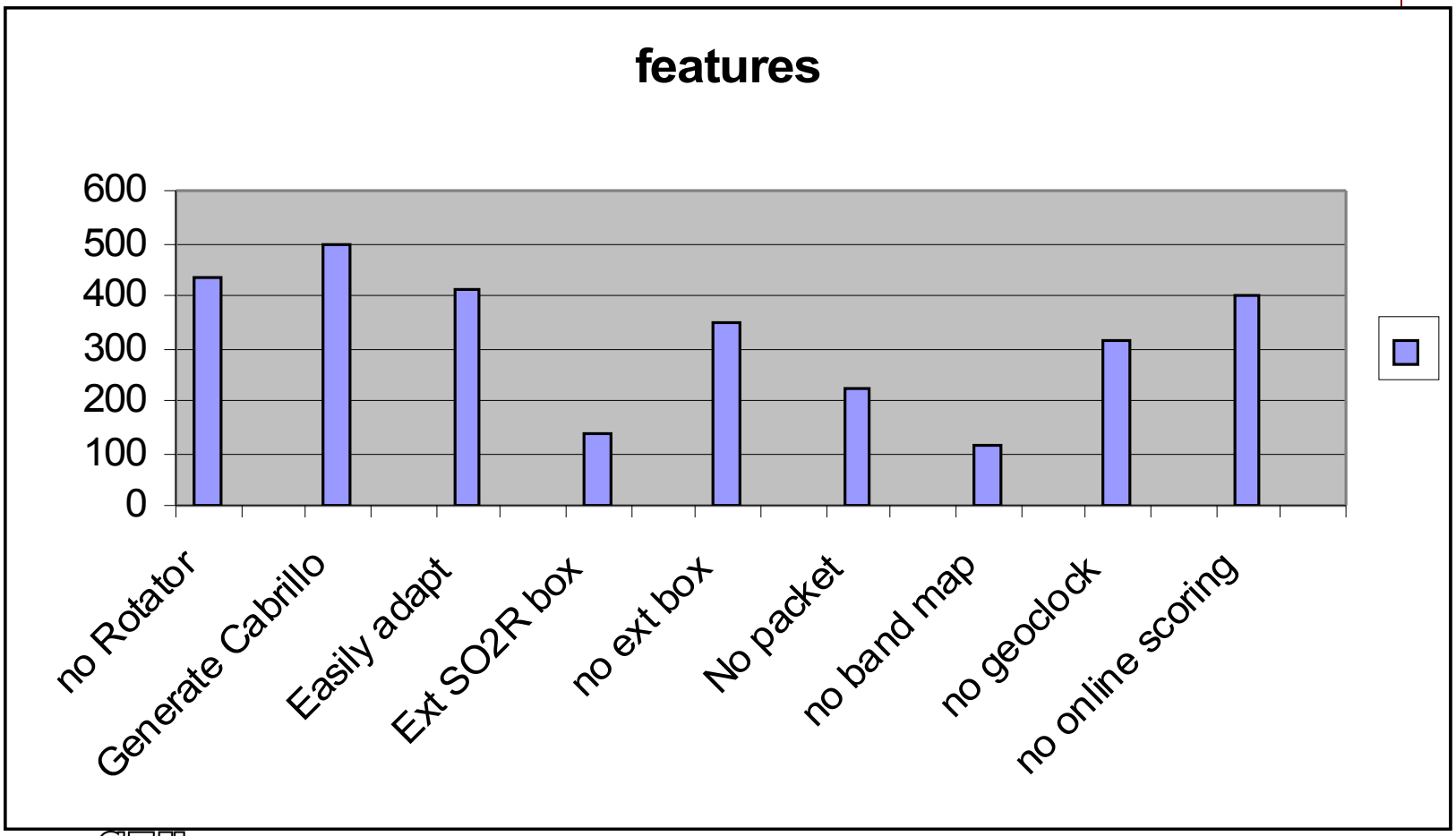
>70% in category



SO2R Stats


SO2R
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
SO2R
No SO2R
Skill <5
Skill >6
Series1
Series2

Use of features



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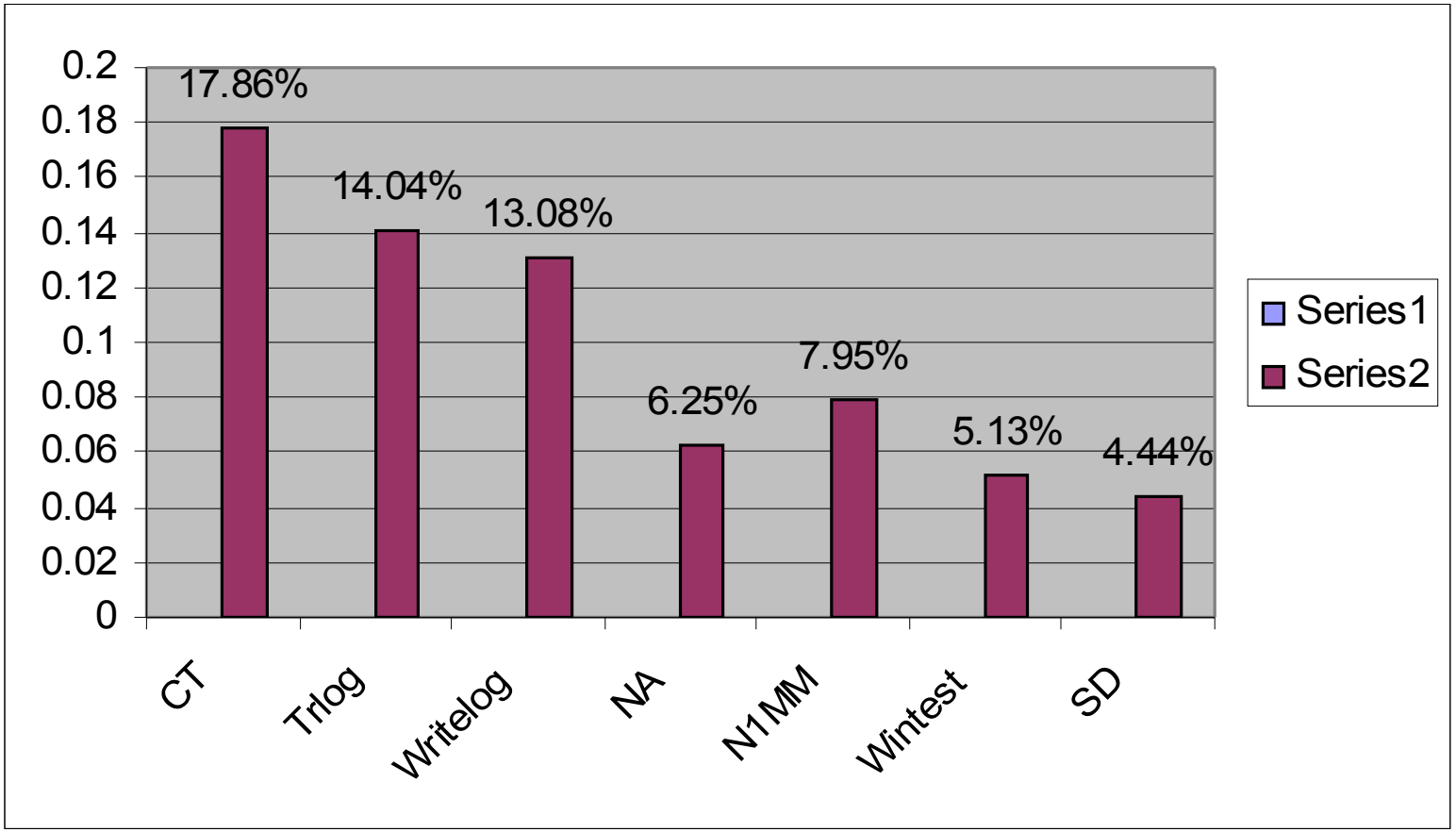
% Unhappy with support



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Final comments

- Most happy with support and features
- Writelog took a hit on support
- Trlog is DOS only
- Most fancy features go unused
- SO2R is key to success
- Pick one and learn it cold!