

Hi all,

Please note that commercial *Win-EQF** development is terminated as of December 1, 2014. While it has been challenging, interesting and even fun to maintain the *Win-EQF** code base, we're now facing challenges which indicate that it's about time to pull *Win-EQF** from the market. As such, *Win-EQF** will no longer be available for purchase.

On the technical side, we've been facing a number of challenges, the most significant ones including:

- The *PowerBASIC* development platform appears dead. The product has seen a standstill ever since its founder/lead developer passed away a few years ago. Switching to a different development platform is not an option, as *Win-EQF** is too tied to the *PowerBASIC* product line.
- The *ConsoleTools* package used by *Win-EQF** is no longer maintained. While we're not seeing *many* issues anymore, some *Windows XP* users report that *Win-EQF** locks up. The same applies for a small number of *Windows 7/8* users. The cause of the problem has not been identified.
- False virus/trojan and malware warning reports have to be dealt with on a daily basis.
- Feature requests which cannot easily be accommodated. Spending hours (if not days) coding features which will only be of use to a small number of users cannot be justified.
- Bug reports addressing bugs which cannot be easily fixed without investing a large amount of time dealing with *highly* specialized problems/situations which we believe only affect a very limited number of users.
- While the transition to *Windows 8* went remarkably well, nothing is yet known about console window support in *Windows 9* (or *10*, if that turns out to be the actual product name). I simply don't want or need a support nightmare supporting *Win-EQF** on yet another *Windows* version (=forcing me to get hold of another PC running yet another operating system).

On the human side, several factors apply:

- Numerous user support requests overload my email inbox. The online FAQ, the online support forum hosted by Google Groups and the support guidelines laid out in the user's manual are more or less ignored. Even the user's manual seems to be ignored – users are rather addressing the author directly instead of consulting support sources which are readily available. Sorry, but I simply don't have the time.
- Life itself requires some more «white space» in the calendar. My dog is getting old, she deserves my time and attention more than any computer screen does.
- I'd like to spend some time *on the air* again. Ever since I took over *Win-EQF** development, shack time has been scarce.

Also, it's no secret that the commercial model behind *Win-EQF** has not been a great success. I simply cannot justify spending hours a week doing work which has very limited financial outcome – at the expense of my daytime job and other chores. At the end of 2014, whatever is left of *Win-EQF** income after paying the web site rental for the next 12 months will be donated to a US animal shelter for stray dogs.

What will happen to *Win-EQF** ?

- Version 2.36 will be the last commercial version available. Version 3.xx will be released in January 2015 and made available from the www.win-eqf.com web site. Version 3.xx will no longer require user registration/unlocking the program by a registration code.
- Program development will *probably* be more or less at a standstill. As I intend to continue using *Win-EQF** for my own QSO logging needs, the program will be updated when/as required. On the other hand: the contest functionality will not be updated. There *are* better contest-logging programs out there.
- The source code will not be released, as per agreement with the original author of *Win-EQF*, N3EQF.
- *Win-EQF** will become *donationware*. *PayPal* donations are welcome and will encourage further development of *Win-EQF** on a non-commercial basis.
- The *Win-EQF** web site and the online forum at *Google Groups* will still be in operation. While the *win-eqf.com* domain may at some time expire, a simple *Google* search will reveal the whereabouts of the web site.

It's been an interesting ride, but time is catching up with us. Counting from the *Log-EQF* and *MS-DOS* days, it's rather impressive that the *Log-EQF*, *Win-EQF* and *Win-EQF** product line has been around for more than 30 years. None of us can imagine how much work Tom N3EQF put into this project – coding, supporting and refining the program.

I'd like to thank John Shelton K1XN who has been of invaluable assistance by providing first-line user support and handling the business side of *Win-EQF**. Long-time users who have provided valuable and constructive feedback – thank you for your inputs (you know who you are). Tom Dandrea, N3EQF – thank you for the «foundation» source code and the many years of hard work you put into the *-EQF* product line.

We're not yet seeing the end of *Win-EQF** – it's just another change. Life goes on, we'll still enjoy and log our QSOs. Some of you will move on to other logging programs, others will stay with *Win-EQF**. That's fine. At least your QSO data is not locked into a proprietary, non-exportable format.