SSTV and Digital modes

MMSSTV the current popular freeware SSTV program is now at version 1.11G. One notable feature added is the reporting of the mode of reception in the history as well as the time & date. MMSSTV is still a very simple program to use once the soundcard timing is set up correctly.

DIGTRX now at version 3.10 also includes DRM modes as well as RDFT (Wyman). The program does not automatically sense DRM or RDFT. It is either in one or the other.

HamDream predates WinDRM . It is no longer supported but does work quite well even if it is a little harder to use than WinDRM. While HamDream and WinDRM are both based on the same DREAM software they do not inter-work.

WinDRM is a lightweight front end for the DRM software. It does inter-work with DIGTRX in the DRM mode.

DigiACE is now at version 1.09. It inter-works with DIGTRX RDFT modes. The author Martin G3OQD has said in his newsletter to users that this is the last version of this program. Other comments in this excerpt of his letter are somewhat sobering to read:

"WinDRM is an adaptation of the open source software (GNU) DRM compatible "Dream" project by Volker Fischer at Darmstadt University see: http://drm.sourceforge.net/

However unlike Dream, WinDRM is NOT open source which probably violates the GNU license agreement, but worse than that the following Licensed Radio Amateurs are currently banned from transmitting with the program: G3OQD, G30QD, G0AZX, F1USA, DM1IKE, and HB9MM.

If you don't believe me, try to send a picture using any of these as the registered callsign!

There are other programs also using the WinDRM modes, like DigTRX V3.xx and HamPal but they ALL use the same DLL (HamDRM.dll) which is provided by the same source as WinDRM so has the same restrictions.

Now ALL digital SSTV transmissions are controlled by one person, not only the modes available but even the people who can use the system. Personally I think this is NOT in the Spirit of Amateur Radio but perhaps I am just old fashioned!"

Sobering indeed!
Make whatever conclusions you will on these comments. This article was to contain a little about the working of WinDRM. However this is on hold until the dust settles.

Bruce VK4EHT