

Packet is a digital mode for Amateur radio using AX.25 Protocol

- can use a standard 2-meter rig
- keyboard Interactive (meaning you can both type at the same time unlike some of the other digital modes)
- Similar to a chat room, but not exact;
- store-forward messaging capability, again, somewhat like the old BBSs, at least as a broad analogy
- APRS is similar and uses packet protocols
- intelligent routing: finds optimal routes for packets to minimize clutter and repetition
- MFJ 1270 TNC is an example of a typical TNC (Terminal Node Controller) used for packet
- sound-card based connections with the appropriate software may be used also
- Digipeaters allow signals to be digitally repeated across country to pass messages
- local packet may be heard on 145.010 simplex
- Nathan KA3MTT added that packet over the International Space Station can be heard pretty easily, but cautioned if trying to connect, do not linger as the station can freeze trying to acknowledge reply (on account of Doppler shift and possible polarization issues – get on, get off is sort of the idea)

References:

- wikicomplete.org/PacketRadio
- Winpack 6.80 software for packet with TNC (still available on sites for download but program no longer being produced)
- AGWPE is a popular software emulation program for packet without TNC
- www.soundcardpacket.org has good tutorials on Packet

Happy to help with setup and practice – email is [kc8hqs \(at\) kc8hqs.net](mailto:kc8hqs@kc8hqs.net)