

Pathfinder Help

Pathfinder online documentation topics

- Getting help or information
- Searching for QSL information on the web
- Country-specific callbooks
- Search library updates
- Modifying web searches
- Searching for QSL information in the Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook
- Configuring access to the Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook

Configuring Pathfinder

- Click on the **Config** button to display Pathfinder's Configuration window, from which you can
 - Specify your callsign
 - Specify whether or not windows can be restored on startup to a secondary monitor
 - Specify the URL used to perform online callbook lookups for DXLab applications like DXKeeper
 - QRZ.com - `http://www.qrz.com/detail/{TargetCallsign}`

Searching for QSL information on the web

- Enter a target callsign, and then click one of the 12 search buttons to search its associated site
- Striking keys **F1** to **F6** is equivalent to clicking on a top-row search button; **F7** to **F12**, a bottom-row search button
- Strike the **Enter** key to search the most recently used site
- Click on the **HC** button to search the most recently used site for the target callsign's home callsign (only available after a site has been searched for the target callsign and the target callsign is different than its home callsign)
- Depressing the Alt key while striking clicking a search button or striking **F7** to **F12** initiates a search for the target callsign's home callsign
- Click on the **Stop** button or strike the **Esc** key to terminate a search
- Click on the **X** button or strike the **Home** key to clear the target callsign
- CTRL-click the **X** button to clear the target callsign and the results display

Country-specific callbooks

- After you enter a callsign, a country-specific callbook search button will appear if a web-accessible callbook for the callsign country is available
- Striking the numeric keypad **/** key is equivalent to clicking on the country-specific callbook search button

Search library updates

- On startup, Pathfinder displays any newly available or updated searches; to update your search library, click the Update button.

Modifying web searches

- Depress the **Ctrl** key while clicking on a search button to change the search associated with a search button, or to modify a search

Searching for QSL information in the Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook

- Enter a target callsign, and then click the **RAC** button to search for QSL information

Responding to requests from other DXLab applications

- DXKeeper, SpotCollector, and WinWarbler are all capable of sending callsigns to Pathfinder's Target Callsign textbox
- If you want Pathfinder to automatically perform a search when a callsign arrives from one of these applications, then depress the **Ctrl** key while clicking on the appropriate search button and check the **Auto** box in its Pathfinder Search dialog; when you click the **OK** button, the caption of this search button will be underlined to indicate that it will automatically be invoked.
- DXLab applications can direct Pathfinder to perform an online callbook lookup for a specified callsign; Pathfinder navigates to the specified site and displays a web page containing detailed information, extracts a subset of this information (e.g. name, QTH, address, state, province, country, grid square), and returns it to the requesting application

Configuring access to the Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook

- On installation, Pathfinder assumes that your Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook is accessible via D:\
- If you're using a CDROM drive other than D:\ or have copied the Flying Horse Radio Amateur Callbook to a folder on your hard drive, click the **RAC** button while depressing the **Ctrl** key and use the Browse button in the Radio Amateur Callbook Settings window to locate the file Callbook.exe .

Pathfinder's Dynamic Searches

One second after you enter a Target Callsign, Pathfinder consults a built-in prefix table to determine the associated DXCC country. If Pathfinder knows of a web-accessible callbook for this country, it presents a dynamic search button directly beneath the Target Callsign textbox.

As illustrated in the Screen Shot, Pathfinder labels the dynamic search button with the country's DXCC prefix and the letters "CB," an abbreviation for "callbook."

The screenshot shows the Pathfinder 4.2.2 interface. At the top, the title bar reads "Pathfinder 4.2.2: results from IK3QAR QSL database for 3B9C". Below the title bar is a search bar with "2004" in a dropdown and "3b9c" in the input field. To the right of the search bar are buttons for "Buck", "QRZ", "RW1QM", "DXC", "OZ7C R", and "IK3QAR". Below the search bar is a row of buttons: "RAC", "WM7D", "K4UTE", "DXS", "Google", "QM Mult", and "Octavia". The main content area features the "IK3QAR.it" logo with a world map and the tagline "Your Qsl manager search engine on the Net". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "IK3QAR Home", "Qsl Info Home", "Manager's area", and "Contacts", and a visitor count "You are visitor nr. 164048". The main content area is titled "3B9C Qsl info". On the left, there is a "Site Status" box with the following information: "Currently there are: 32531 Managers, 2478 Addresses", "Last user update: HC1MD/HC4 [by K8LJG]", and "DB last updated on 26 Mar 2004". Below this is a "Top Searches" box with links for "R1FJ", "3B9C", and "T13G". The main content area contains a table with the following data:

Manager	Year	Add. Info	Info By
FSDXA	2004	Rodriguez Island (AF-017) * 18 Mar - 14 Apr 2004	FSDXA

Below the table is a yellow box with the text "### Your search returned 1 manager(s) + 1 address(es) ###". Below this is a box titled "FSDXA's Address" containing the text "FSDXA, PO Box 73, Church Stretton, SY6 6WF, England, UK". At the bottom, there is a note from "IK3QAR" dated "29 Feb 2004" with the text "This is how Qsls are managed: <http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c/qsl.html>".

Clicking on the dynamic search button or striking the insert key invokes the country-specific search. Note that some of these country-specific callbooks are databases, some are simple lists of callsigns that you must manually peruse, and some are hybrids. The Australian callbook, for example, is a database whose entries contain the operator's name, rendered as a hyperlink that navigates to the operator's address.

Dynamic Search is the automatic selection of a search based on the Target Callsign's DXCC country. This enables Pathfinder to query the 30+ country-specific callsign databases and callsign listings presently accessible via the web.

Searches Subfolder

The installation of Pathfinder 3.0 creates a subfolder named Searches within Pathfinder's application folder, and populates this subfolder with several QSL database searches as well as country-specific callbook searches.

You can replace Pathfinder's 12 built-in searches with any of these new searches by using the Load button on the Search Modification dialog box.

QSL Database Searches

Site	URL
DB0SDX	http://www.asp-profi.de/projects/hamradio/qsl/default.asp
Deja News	http://www.deja.com/
eHam	http://www.eham.net/callbook/
IK4LZH	http://qsl.425dxn.org/
T77WI	http://www.inthenet.sm/arrsm/query_manager.htm
WM7D	http://www.wm7d.net/

Country-specific Callbooks

Pathfinder's dynamic search mechanism automatically checks your *Searches* subfolder for the presence of a file whose name matches the Target Callsign's DXCC entity. If you've installed Pathfinder 3.0 in the folder `C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3`, then entering VK9NS as the Target Callsign leads Pathfinder to check for the existence of

`C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3\Searches\VK.TXT`

If this file exists, Pathfinder presents and labels the dynamic search button. Prefix to DXCC mapping is driven by contents of file

`C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3\Searches\Prefixes.TXT`

New country-specific searches can be added by placing an appropriately named search file into the `Pathfinder3` folder. For example, a copy of `WM7D.TXT` named `K.TXT` will cause Pathfinder to display the dynamic search button for American callsigns; clicking on the dynamic search button will search the the `WM7D` data base.

You may modify the `prefixes.txt` file, but should do so carefully; Pathfinder's parser is both intolerant and cryptic.

DXCC URL

4S	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s5.htm
	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s6.htm
	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s7a_e.htm
	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s7f_l.htm
	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s7m_r.htm
	http://www.qsl.net/rssl/4s7s_z.htm
9A	http://www.hrs.agram.com/callbook.htm
9M2	http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9m2tmp.html
	http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9m2trans.html
	http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9w2trans.html

9M6 <http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9m6trans.html>
<http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9m8trans.html>
<http://www.jaring.my/enrich/marts/9w8trans.html>

BY <http://www.qsl.net/by2hit/ebycall.htm>

C3 <http://www.sta.ad/ura/qsl.htm>

CO <http://www.infocom.etecsa.cu/www/frc/dire3.htm>

ER <http://www.ournet.md/~arm/QSL.html>

ES http://www.qsl.net/es5aaw/es_callbook.htm

EW http://www.qsl.net/ew2eo/cal_eng.htm

EY <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/5873/callbook.html>

F <http://www.ref.tm.fr/nomenclature/nomenclature.shtml>

GU http://www.guernsey.net/~sgibbs/amateur_radio/gu_calls.html

HS <http://hs-callbook.dhs.org/cgi-bin/search.cfm>

JT <http://www.pc.mdlink.de/70223102/JTCALL.TXT>

LX http://www.qsl.net/lx1no/rl_callb.html

LY <http://www.qsl.net/lrmd/lycbk.txt>

LZ <http://www.pc.mdlink.de/70223102/LZCALL.TXT>

OH <http://oh-callbook.sral.fi/>

OL <http://hippo.feld.cvut.cz/cgi-bin/getaddr>

OZ <http://www.tst.dk/servlet/tstsog/tstsog.resultdetails?post=4>

PA http://www.qsl.net/pa3esz/nl_hams.html

PY <http://www.carioca.com/ham/manager.htm>

SP <http://Tartarus.Phys.US.edu.PL/>

SV <http://www.radiomagazine.com/call/call.htm>

T9 <http://www.qsl.net/t93y/callbook.htm>

TF <http://www.nett.is/~tf5bw/ira/cqtf/irafelta.html>

TG <http://members.xoom.com/CRAG/Miembros.htm>

VE <http://www.rac.ca/callbook/>

VK <http://www.aca.gov.au/database/radcomm/licence.htm>

VP9 <http://www.bermuda-shorts.com/rsb/callsign.htm>

YL <http://www.ltn.lv/~linda/hamlist.htm>

YO <http://www.qsl.net/yo3kaa/yocall.htm>

YS <http://www.milian.com/faf/miembros.shtml>

ZS <http://www.sarl.org.za/callbook.htm>

Kudos to Kurt OE1002419 for his contributions to both the general and country-specific search repository.

Note that some of the above URLs are unstable - they suddenly become inaccessible and then just as suddenly reappear; as of 10/3/99, both the 9A and OL callbooks are "down". If you notice that one of these has changed in what appears to be a permanent way, please send email to AA6YQ so that the search repository can be updated.

If you have questions or suggestions, please send them via email to aa6yq@ambersoft.com.

Assigning a Search to a Button

Each online callbook and QSL database accessible via Pathfinder is described by a small file, referred to as a *search file*. Your copy of Pathfinder maintains its search files in a subfolder named `Searches`; this subfolder was created and populated when you installed Pathfinder. If you installed Pathfinder in

```
C:\Program Files\Pathfinder4,
```

then the `searches` subfolder is

```
C:\Program Files\Pathfinder4\Searches.
```

From time to time, new online callbooks and QSL databases become available. In addition, the location or search parameters for existing online resources sometimes change. You can create or modify your own search files to expand Pathfinder's search capabilities -- see [Modifying searches](#) for more information. In addition, you can download search files -- either en masse or individually -- from Pathfinder's Search library as they become available by following the directions listed in "[Updating Your Search Library](#)" at the end of this file.

If a downloaded search file describes a callbook or QSL database that you expect to search frequently, you can assign the search to one of Pathfinder's 12 search buttons via the following steps.

- | Step | Directions |
|------|--|
| 1 | Hold down the control key while clicking on the search button to which you want the search assigned; the Pathfinder Search dialog box will be displayed. |
| 2 | Click the Load... button in this dialog box; the Select file from which to load search dialog box will be displayed. |
| 3 | Change the Look in: pull-down so that the dialog box displays the contents of Pathfinder's <code>Searches</code> subfolder. |
| 4 | Click on the downloaded search file you are assigning to the search button, and then click the Open button; the Select file from which to load search dialog box will be closed. |
| 5 | Click the OK button in the Pathfinder Search dialog box. The search button you designated in step 1 will now search the online resource described by the downloaded search file. |

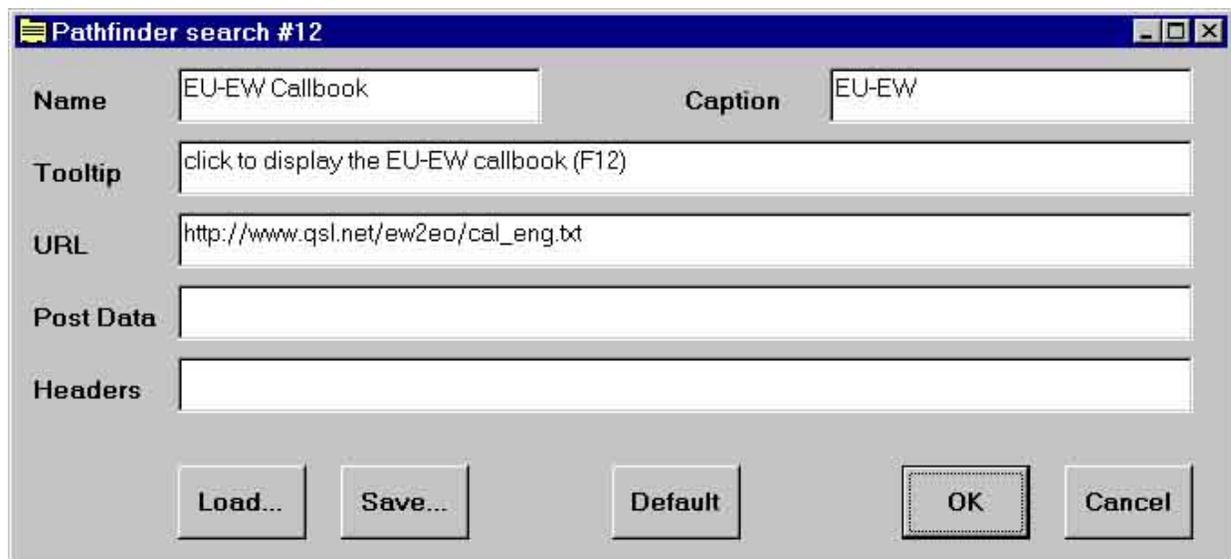
If you have questions or suggestions, please send them via email to the DXLab reflector at dxlab@yahoogroups.com.

Modifying Pathfinder Searches

Suppose, for example, that you find DX-IS to be not very useful and would rather replace it with a display of the EU-EW callbook.

Step Directions

- 1 Hold down the control key while clicking on the DX-IS button (or while striking the F12 key) and Pathfinder will present a dialog box that allows you to change all of the search parameters -- from the caption on the search button to the URL, PostData, and Headers -- to whatever you want.
- 2 Place http://www.qsl.net/ew2eo/cal_eng.txt in the dialog box's **URL** field, and clear all characters from the **PostData** and **Header** fields. The EU-EW callbook does not involve a database search -- its a static text file accessible via this URL.
- 3 Update the **Name**, **Caption**, and **Tooltip** fields to reflect the new search. The dialog box should now look like this:



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Pathfinder search #12". It has a blue title bar with standard window controls. The dialog contains the following fields and buttons:

- Name:** EU-EW Callbook
- Caption:** EU-EW
- Tooltip:** click to display the EU-EW callbook (F12)
- URL:** http://www.qsl.net/ew2eo/cal_eng.txt
- Post Data:** (empty)
- Headers:** (empty)
- Buttons:** Load..., Save..., Default, OK, Cancel

- 4 Click the **OK** button, and you'll never be more than one click or keystroke away from the EU-EW callbook. Pathfinder will remember this modified search from one session to the next, even if you upgrade the program.
- 5 To share this search with friends, click the **Save...** button in the above dialog box -- you'll be prompted for a filename, into which Pathfinder will store the search parameters. If you send them this file, another Pathfinder user can click the **Load...** button in the above dialog box -- the result will be as if they'd typed in the search parameters themselves.

It's only necessary to use **Save...** and **Load...** if you plan to share searches; Pathfinder automatically remembers your search modifications from session to session using the windows registry.

Automating a Database Search

Automating a database search is more complex:

Is the parameter encoded in the URL?

Some QSL information sources expect parameters like Target Callsign to be encoded in the URL -- QRZ and Buckmaster, for example. You can usually determine what they expect by using your browser's "View HTML" or "View Source" command. As you might guess by looking at these searches, the string {Target Callsign} in the **URL** field is replaced by the contents of Pathfinder's **Target Callsign** textbox before the URL is sent. Similarly, the string {MyCallsign} is replaced by the current user's callsign.

Must you encode and convey specific information as Post Data and Headers?

Other QSL information sources use HTML forms and CGI, which means you must properly encode and convey specific information to the server as Post Data and Headers. {Target Callsign} substitution is provided for the **PostData** and **Header** fields. In addition, any string of the form {N} -- where N is a decimal number less than 255 -- is replaced by a single byte of value N before the field contents are sent.

Discovering what's required

One way to discover what's required is to monitor the interaction between a browser and the search engine with a TCP/HTTP protocol analyzer. Another is to set up a captive web server and then modify the client HTML to send the POST request to that web server.

Restoring a search to "factory" parameters.

The **Default** button in the modification dialog box restores a search to "factory" parameters. Thus one can experiment freely and then easily put things back the way they were when you first installed Pathfinder.

If you have questions or suggestions, please send them via email to aa6yq@ambersoft.com.

Updating Your Search Library

Each online callbook and QSL database accessible via Pathfinder is described by a small file, referred to as a *search file*. Your copy of Pathfinder maintains its search files in a subfolder named `Searches`; this subfolder was created and populated when you installed Pathfinder. If you installed Pathfinder in

```
C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3,
```

then the `Searches` subfolder is

```
C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3\Searches.
```

From time to time, new online callbooks and QSL databases become available. In addition, the location or search parameters for existing online resources sometimes change. You can create or modify your own search files to expand Pathfinder's search capabilities -- see [Modifying searches](#) for more information. In addition, you can download search files -- either en masse or individually -- from Pathfinder's Search library as they become available. The following two sections describe these search file download procedures.

If a downloaded search file describes a country-specific callbook, no further action is required; Pathfinder checks its `Searches` subfolder whenever you enter a callsign, and thus will reference the new search file when needed.

If a downloaded search file describes a callbook or QSL database that you expect to search frequently, you can assign the search to one of Pathfinder's 12 search buttons by following directions found in "[Assigning Searches to a Button](#)", listed earlier in this file. The same directions will help you to update a search already assigned to one of Pathfinder's search buttons.

Downloading All Search Files

The following process updates all search files. If you've made modifications to the search files in your `Searches` subfolder, be sure to make copies before proceeding.

- | Step | Directions |
|------|---|
| 1 | Download the self-extracting executable containing all search files by going to http://www/qs1.net/pathfinder/searches/SearchLib3.exe |
| 2 | When prompted, direct your browser to save this executable file to a temporary location on your hard drive; subfolder <code>C:\Temp</code> is often used for this purpose. Note the name of the executable file being downloaded, as well as the destination subfolder. |
| 3 | When the download has finished, initiate self-extraction by double-clicking on the executable file in a Windows Explorer window. The WinZip Self-Extractor dialog box will appear. |
| 4 | By default, the self-extractor will place all search files in <code>C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3\Searches</code> |

If you installed Pathfinder in `C:\Program Files\Pathfinder3`, then this default destination is correct -- just click the **Unzip** button. Your `Searches` subfolder will now contain a full set of up-to-date search files.

If you installed Pathfinder elsewhere, modify the **Unzip to folder** field to designate Pathfinder's `Searches` subfolder and then click the **Unzip** button.

Downloading Individual Search Files

- | Step | Directions |
|------|---|
| 1 | Display Pathfinder's Search Library going to http://www.qsl.net/pathfinder/searches/ |
| 2 | Find the entry corresponding to the search file you wish to download, and click on it. Your browser will display the search file's contents -- six lines of descriptive information. |
| 3 | Use your browser's SaveAs command (in it's File menu) to store the file into Pathfinder's <i>Searches</i> subfolder. If you are updating an existing search file, your browser will ask permission to replace it with the new version; click the Yes button. |

If the downloaded search file describes a country-specific callbook, no further action is required; Pathfinder checks its *Searches* subfolder whenever you enter a callsign, and thus will reference the new search file when needed.

If you have questions or suggestions, please send them via email to aa6yq@ambersoft.com.