Quick RT – User notes

1) Purpose of the Application

Purpose.

The purpose is to put "UNICOM" calls onto the computer's "clipboard" so that they can be quickly and easily pasted into the "Chat Box" (FSInn/SquawkBox/Vpilot etc.).

As it is for use on UNICOM only it is not an extensive set of calls, just the minimum requirements for UNICOM use to alert any nearby traffic of your intentions.

The user just needs to click into the chat-box and "paste" – normally "Ctrl V".

Design ethos

Code to be as minimal as possible to avoid using too much RAM/CPU time to leave as much as possible for the simulator. (I.e. to reduce as far as possible the occurrence of OOM errors!)

Screen "footprint" to be kept as small as possible.

Distribution.

I have discovered (by experimentation) that an "installer" package is considerably larger than the application itself! Hence it will continue to be available to CIX VFR Club members as an executable file via my dropbox.

If anyone requires I can provide an "installer" that *should* install the application on any operating system.

I have no objection to this application being passed on to friends who are not yet club members. (As long as this PDF file is also passed with the application.)

2) Layout of the Application

The application uses three "tabs"

Tab 1) Entitled "RT Calls"

This tab is visually identifiable as having a pale yellow background.

This is the "output" tab that lists the possible calls.

Clicking on a call highlights that call (allowing the user to confirm that the desired call has been selected) and places the text of the call onto the computer's clipboard.

If a blank space (separator used for clarity) is selected then no change is made to the computer's clipboard even though the blank separator is highlighted.

Tab 2) Entitled "Depart Data"

This tab is visually identifiable as having a pale red background.

This is an "input" tab where departure airfield information can be entered/changed.

There are 7 input text boxes, and one "combo box" that has a "drop-down" list of the possible entries. The labels against each input box should be self explanatory.

Changing any item of data causes the "Enter" button to appear, confirming that the application has recognized that the data has changed.
Although any data change is automatically updated on the RT Calls" tab, clicking on this button confirms that the data is entered.

As there is an otherwise unused space on this tab there is a button to open this "help" file.

Tab 3) Entitled "Arrival Data"

This tab is visually identifiable as having a pale blue background.

This is an "input" tab where arrival airfield information can be entered/changed.

There are 7 input text boxes, and 2 "combo boxes" that have "drop-down" lists of the possible entries. The labels against each input box should be self explanatory.

Additionally there is a "combo box" that acts as a label for the "Miles to run"/"Position" data entry box: -

a) Selecting the "Miles to Run" option automatically enters the value of 10 miles into the associated data entry box,
b) Selecting the "Position" option automatically enters "passing " into the associated data entry box, so just the name of the location ("Sevenoaks" / "Stroud" etc. etc.) can be entered. If required this auto entered data can be overwritten ("abeam" / "overhead" etc. etc.).

Changing any item of data causes the "Enter" button to appear, confirming that the application has recognized that the data has changed.
Although any data change is automatically updated on the RT Calls" tab, clicking on this button confirms that the data is entered.

3) Use of the Application

a) On opening the previous set of aircraft data (callsign and aircraft type) will be loaded. (This may be changed if desired, and will be remembered next time the application is run.)

b) Select the Tab "Departure Data" and enter data into the
   a. ICAO,
   b. Parking,
   c. Hold,
   d. Runway, and
   e. Zone text boxes,

   choose the Turnout from the drop-down list.
   (Alternatively if continuing on from a previous flight overwrite the existing data.)

c) Select the Tab "Arrival Data") and decide if you will report your "position" as you approach, or give the "miles to run" and select the appropriate "label" for thid data, then enter data into the
   a. ICAO,
   b. Position/miles to run
   c. Heading
   d. Altitude
   e. Runway
   f. Vacate, and
   g. Parking text boxes,

   choose the Join and Circuit from the drop-down lists.
   (Alternatively if continuing on from a previous flight overwrite the existing data.)

d) On both the "Depart Data" and the "Arrival Data" tabs the "Enter" button will appear to indicate that the application has recognized the data change.
   a. Clicking on this button will ensure that the newly entered data has indeed been used on the "RT Calls" tab, and ensure that the "Callsign" and "aircraft type" are remembered on closing the application.
   b. To avoid remembering the new "Callsign" and "aircraft type" avoid clicking on the enter button and click straight into another tab!

e) Swap back to the RT Calls tab, and start flying, selecting calls, and pasting into the chat box.

4) Bugs and bug reporting

Bugs

This application is not guaranteed "bug free"! (It works bug-free for me because having written it I know intimately how to "drive it".)

I.e. it might be possible to set up some combination of data (that I haven't considered) that makes the application crash (worst case) or give an erroneous output.

Bug Reporting

If this happens to you then please send me a PM via the CIX VFR Club forum describing what went wrong, and I'll attempt to: -

i) Recreate the fault,
ii) Identify how it occurred, then
iii) Modify the code to provide a "fix"
iv) Redistribute the Application.

If I cannot recreate the fault I may have to reply requesting extra information, so please include as much (relevant) info as possible.

"Mistakes"

There may also be some wording errors (missing spaces, commas, capitals in the wrong place etc) that have been missed by myself and my "Beta testing Team".

Mistake Reporting

If you identify such a mistake then send me a PM via the CIX VFR Club forum describing the mistake.

Constructive criticism.

Bearing in mind the design ethos, (the desire to keep the code minimal, and the screen "footprint" no larger than it is currently) I welcome any constructive criticism that would help me improve this application.

Non CIX VFR Club members

If you are not yet a member of the CIX VFR Club, and this application has been passed on to you by a club member, get that member to forward your report to me!

Alternatively join our club and enjoy all the benefits membership brings to your simulator flying! (Including the ability to PM me direct with your bug/error/criticism report!)