THE SPORTS PAGE
— The Canadian Contest Scene
The Contest Online Score Board...

In this issue, we are pleased to have Victor Androsov, VA2WA, as a guest columnist. He will describe the Contest Online Score Board. Victor has put a lot of time and energy into setting up this system and is ready to get a lot more folks to enhance their contesting experience. Hope to see you on the bands!

Victor Androsov, VA2WA:

As contesters, we tend to sit alone in front of our radios, with no knowledge of how our friends and competitors are doing compared to us.

Wouldn't it be great if we could see how others are doing – in real time? We could see if we are slightly ahead, slightly behind, or just wish to let our friends know how we are making out during the contest.

Enter the Real Time Scoreboard – a place where we can easily share our scores in a friendly environment.

The idea for an online scoreboard has been around for a number of years.

I was an active user of cqcontest.net for several years, and came to see that it helped me become a better contester. Having live access to category leaders using the same scoreboard allowed me to track their progress hour-by-hour during the contest, and helped me improve my tactics. Was I slightly ahead an hour ago, and now I have fallen behind? Did I miss an opening that others found?

In my professional life, I work as a system administrator for a Montreal company providing online courses for Concordia University students as well as for a number of commercial clients including L'Université Laval, CN, Air Canada and several other large businesses. I have a background in web programming, having worked on a few social networking projects in the past.

As it turned out, I was the perfect person for the job to build my own vision of the Real Time Scoreboard. I had the programming and web design background, as well as a vision of what would work well for most contesters. When starting any new project, it was necessary to define how it would look and other important aspects I wanted it to have.

Tom Haavisto, VE3CX
RR#1 7-20
Kaministiquia, ON P0T 1X0
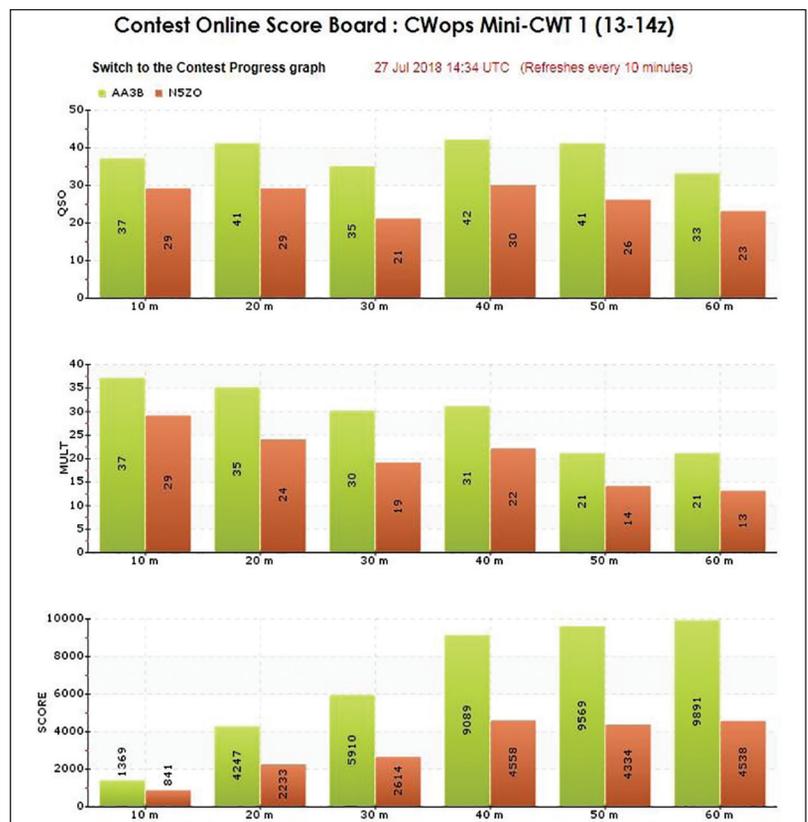**Email: ve3cx@rac.ca**

With that, I laid out the basic principles for my design:

- an open non-commercial project with a team of enthusiasts where all the code and data access is shared between team members

- a project for the Amateur Radio community and driven by the needs of the Amateur Radio community

- no limitations; no blacklists

- where possible, provide services without registration

- fast and light; it did not need to offer historical data as this can already be found on either 3830.com, or from other contesting resources

- minimal data – only what is necessary for a contester

- support for every contest; a one-hour minitest is just as important as the CQWW

With these principles in mind, it took about a week to come up with a preliminary design. The first version of the Contest Online Score Board went live on June 24, 2017. As expected, it was a modest version, slightly buggy and "a work in progress".

It was a good place to start building on a larger vision. It is being hosted on a dedicated Virtual Private Server and can support thousands of users at once.

The next beautiful addition to our team was Randy, K5ZD. Having serious contesting background and web design experience on supporting CQ contests websites he did a great job on restyling all the website design.

After launching the service, we started by targeting the small mini contests: CWOps mini CWT, Phone Fray, NCCC RTTY and CW Sprints. This got us off to a great start and helped us fine-tune the Scoreboard. These contests are still my favourite and I'm very proud of how many participants they can bring up to a scoreboard. While these contest are very short they run every week. We set up some automated scripts to clean up all the old scores, calculating contest rates, and so on.

We also worked on supporting of all the major loggers. The first challenge was that some loggers had hard-coded cqcontest.net as the only real-time scoreboard. After extensive discussions with various logging software authors, we were able to come up with a standard method to extract data from each of the major logging programs.

To help users set up their logging software, we have set up a website at http://contestonlinescore.com/blog/documents/. Select the logging software you are using, and follow the setup instructions.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Alex, K2BB, my team buddy since the very beginning of the project, for his constant support and for creating a scoring application for WinTest. WinTest does not have built-in support for real-time data reporting so we had to create a stand-alone application that runs on the same computer as WinTest to get the information we need.

Today, the scoreboard is supported by Win-Test, N1MM (Classic), N1MM +, WriteLog, DXlog, TR4W, TR Log for Linux, UCXlog, QARtest and N3FJP logger. If you use one of these and have an Internet connection, you are ready to try posting your contest activity to the scoreboard.

With these pieces in place, the next step was to try to support larger contests. Technically, we were ready to serve all the incoming contests, but being "the new kid on the block" it took time for us to get the word out to the larger contesting community. Part of that effort was to provide a better scoring service, better user support, and to continue to promote our service.

One of the bigger issues we faced was that each logging program would only support one scoreboard. This meant everyone had to be using the same scoreboard – there was no data-sharing between various sites. This is when Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, came up with a brilliant idea: he would host a distribution server for everyone – both users and scoreboards – to connect to. This provides everyone with the option to select the scoreboard they prefer, even if their friends are on a different scoreboard.

Please try out our service. You can find it online at: https://contestonlinescore.com/

TCA

CQWW DX CONTEST, RTTY

Call	QSO	States	Zones	Countries	Category	Score
VA3RAC						
(VE3CX, Op)	1,991	179	85	195	SA HP ALL	2,148,120
VE3DZ	1,853	151	77	199	SO HP ALL	1,964,627
VC3I	1,531	149	66	193	MULTI-ONE HIGH	1,481,856
VE7SCC	1,695	181	65	118	MULTI-TWO	1,298,024
VA3DF	1,102	113	87	230	SA LP ALL	1,201,850
VE3RZ	990	120	83	200	SA HP ALL	1,013,545
VE2FK	1,172	97	40	130	SA HP ALL	791,121
VE2EBK	754	121	71	174	SA HP ALL	657,702
VE3TW	925	121	46	126	SO HP ALL	644,893
VA2ES	857	105	49	138	SO HP ALL	599,476
CG3KI	718	99	51	134	SO LP ALL	503,532
W4TMO/VE2	762	102	47	124	MULTI-ONE LOW	481,026
VE2BVV	706	90	42	122	SO LP ALL	455,168
VE2RYY	1,106	45	26	78	SA HP 20M	427,183
VA7ST	718	129	47	74	SO HP ALL	388,250
VE2GSO	743	103	35	89	SO HP ALL	380,906
VE4VT	528	121	66	122	SA HP ALL	369,873
VE3TM	587	89	46	117	SO LP ALL	362,628
VA1XH	541	78	48	129	SO LP ALL	343,740
VE5MX	626	111	58	87	SA HP ALL	336,896
VY2/W5AJ	870	48	26	87	SA LP 40M	336,651
VE7CC	774	53	32	74	SA HP 40M	280,317
VE2SCA	446	72	56	126	SA LP ALL	274,066
VE6TK	514	106	47	85	SO HP ALL	264,656
VA7KO	709	50	31	83	SA HP 20M	260,104
VE3SSV	407	81	50	105	SO LP ALL	220,660
VE3SST	432	87	37	95	SO LP ALL	220,314
VA3LR	408	69	41	104	SA LP ALL	217,424
VE3BR	396	70	45	109	SO LP ALL	215,040
VE3CV	346	75	56	114	SA LP ALL	201,145
VO1HP	426	74	27	87	SO HP ALL	196,272
VE3GYL	438	69	36	87	SO HP ALL	194,688
VE7SQ	427	84	41	62	SO HP ALL	163,438
VE3SD	346	73	38	80	SO LP ALL	160,440
CF7SRY	402	81	39	59	MULTI-ONE LOW	157,162
VE3MGY	383	91	35	65	SA LP ALL	135,037
VE7IO	358	109	27	30	SA HP ALL	128,152
VE3LVW	280	48	39	88	SO LP ALL	121,975
CF2QR	294	72	32	82	SA LP ALL	116,622
VE3KTB	250	64	49	87	SA LP ALL	114,600
VE3RCN	272	78	33	59	SO LP ALL	102,680
VE5RI	263	82	36	56	MULTI-TWO	90,654
VE1RAC	236	71	33	59	SO LP ALL	82,478
VE2SG	233	58	31	70	SA HP ALL	79,659
VE3HG	185	30	24	71	SO QRP ALL	60,250
VA2UP	250	60	18	33	SA HP ALL	57,498
VE3MV	180	60	31	55	SO LP ALL	57,232
VE7JMN	185	58	32	48	SA LP ALL	55,752
VE6CMV	238	35	20	47	SA HP 20M	51,408
VE2SSS						
(VA2SG, Op)	152	35	26	59	SO LP ALL	45,000
VA3PC	117	24	40	77	SA HP ALL	41,454
VE3MZD	115	18	37	80	SA HP ALL	37,665
VE6AX	149	44	26	40	SA LP ALL	37,290
CF3IK	124	22	24	53	SO LP ALL	32,274
VE3PQ	119	34	28	49	SO LP ALL	30,414
CG6LB	126	46	27	32	SA LP ALL	27,930
K2NV/VE3	97	41	18	29	SO LP ALL	18,392
VE3FJ	105	18	15	41	SO LP 20M	16,946
VO2NS	133	31	9	17	SA LP 20M	15,276
VE6BBP	75	26	22	33	SO HP ALL	14,904
VE3KPV	89	31	20	29	SO LP ALL	14,720
VE2NMB	98	42	11	18	SO HP ALL	14,484
VE7SAR	96	8	10	36	MULTI-ONE HIGH	13,662
VE6UM	91	34	15	24	SO QRP ALL	13,651
VE2QV	61	11	15	30	SO LP ALL	9,408
VO2AC	60	27	17	25	SA LP ALL	9,108
VA7RN	81	40	10	6	SO LP ALL	7,784
CF7MAY	54	26	14	14	SO LP ALL	5,616
VA7FMR	56	27	5	4	SO LP ALL	3,312
VA2WA	30	2	5	15	SA HP ALL	1,936
VO1BQ	28	6	6	16	SO LP 40M	1,792
VE7JH	26	9	4	4	SO LP 40M	901
VE6QO	10	5	7	5	SO LP ALL	391
VA7HZ	5	5	2	1	SO LP ALL	80