Installation and usage requirements:
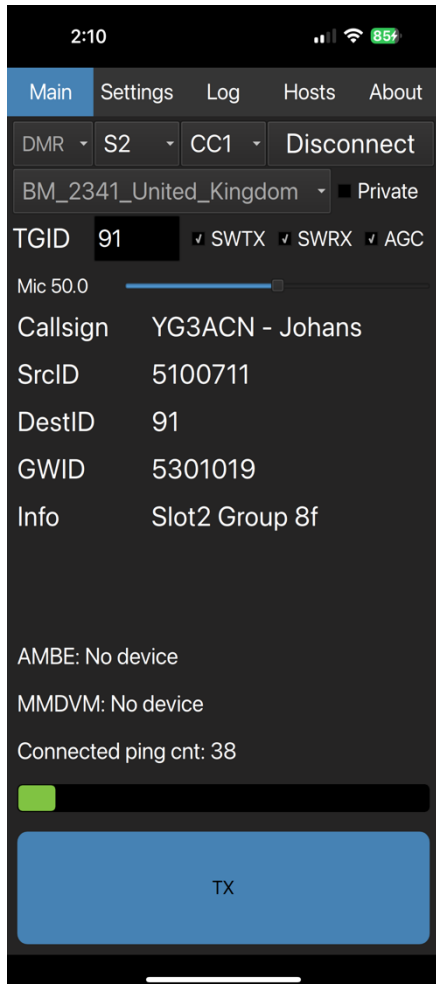
The Windows versions are just executable files and as such don't require to be installed further. Double click the version for your system 32-bit or 64-bit once downloaded and you are ready to go. You can place them in another place besides your download directory or just create a short cut on your desktop for easy access.

To start the process of using DroidStar you have to have an amateur radio license and register at https://www.radioid.net/account/register#! to obtain a DMR ID (unless you already have one). To get on with using the software this is all that is needed, however, to proceed further you need the to complete the following registration processes.

After you obtain your DMR identification number from http://radioid.net, go to https://brandmeister.network/ and register (this may take some time as you need to upload a copy of your ham radio licence to get verified). Once registered then proceed further to the Brandmeister registration.

Register: https://brandmeister.network/?page=register

Then go back to https://www.radioid.net/account/dashboard#! and use the "BM Integration" button to send information to Brandmeister Network.

To get Brandmeister Network to work, you need the DMR ID, then register on the http://radioid.net. This is a bit of pain but if you follow the process then you will be able to access all the networks.

Figure 1: Connected to Brandmeister BM 2341 United Kingdom on S2 (Slot 2), CC1 (Colour Code 1) – YG3ACN is Transmitting.

The SWTX, SWRX and AGC are all ticked if no audio will be received. Documentation is somewhat sparse on this app so I will assume they mean SW=software, TX=transmit, RX=receive and AGC=audio gain control.

Go to http://tgif.network/ and register as well.

READ THIS IT'S IMPORTANT!

The thing that fouls most people up on DroidStar is that the TGIF Pass setting isn't the http://tgif.network/ site password, it is the "hotspot security key" that you have to use, even if you're not using a hotspot.

You can find this by going to http://tgif.network/ and logging in with your call sign (not your email address) and your site password, then at the top right hand side you will see your call sign, click on that callsign, and select "user security", then you will see a screen with your DMR ID and your Hotspot Security Key (If you don't see a Hotspot Security Key, click the GREEN button with the clockwise pointing arrows), copy the Hotspot Security Key using the BLUE button, then return to Droid Star, and under Settings tab, go to TGIF Pass (I know it's the wrong name, but that's the way the software was written) and paste your Hotspot Security Key into the TGIF password field.

While you're on http://tgif.network/ open up your http://qrz.com/ page, and under the Detail tab, find your latitude and longitude, in the Western Hemisphere north of the equator, the latitude is a positive number and the longitude is a negative number. Enter that information along with your location into the Droid Star Settings tab.

Once you enter the TGIF Hotspot Security Key into the TGIF pass field, it might disappear, but it will be written into your **Settings** on DroidStar.

NOTE: ZL2VH is in the REF section at the very bottom of a long list. I have found that whatever is loaded in this hosts file doesn't connect to ZL2VH for some reason.
Go to the **Hosts** tab and manually enter the following:

REF ZL2VH 123.255.47.67 20001

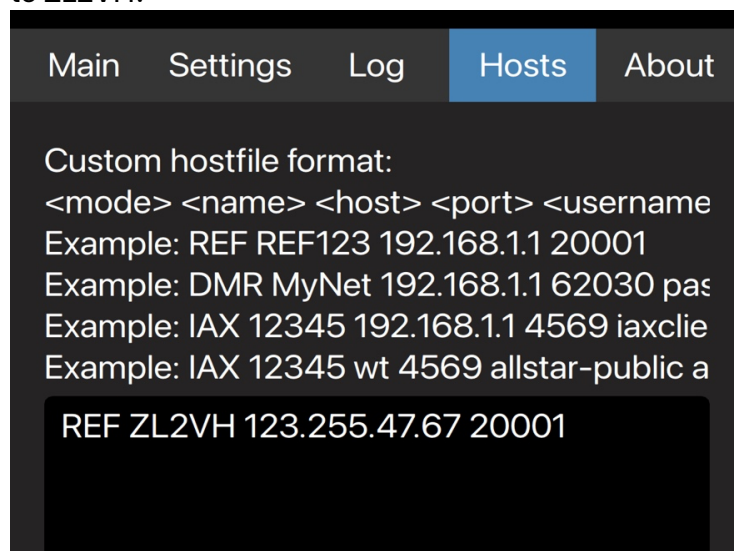Then restart the app. This appears to overwrite the setting and will allow you to connect to ZL2VH.

Figure 2: Hosts file with ZL2VH updated.

DROIDSTAR for Android, Darwin, Linux, iOS and MacOS

The **Android, Darwin, Linux, iOS and MacOS** versions now have the Vocoder PRE-STALLED, so IGNORE all comments on other sites about the installation of vocoder just download from the link on the ZL2VH website for the Windows software.

iOS Installation

I suggest you watch one of the YouTube videos below to prepare for downloading DroidStar onto your iOS device. This can be done via Windows or MacOS depending on your PC.

Download Sideloadly on Mac to Sideload Apps on iPhone/iPad:
https://youtu.be/FpD8nwp60Yk?si=FG9KnYi6a839wPBI

Download Sideloadly on Windows To Sideload Apps on iPhone:
https://youtu.be/iVCDjyopxVA?si=u6-6xmSR2yltEvSV

Sideload IPA with Sideloadly Wireless: Windows Guide (2023):
https://youtu.be/vqTsavQc3lQ?si=0DXSlvmlY8_LWXuy

Or go directly to this website and download Sideloadly: https://sideloadly.io

Once downloaded, by following the YouTube videos they should direct you through the installation process.

Or this excellent post on Florida Keys ARC groups.io Installing and Configuring DroidStar On An Android Device is worth a read as well:
https://groups.io/g/FloridaKeysARC/topic/installing_and_configuring/102733244
(It is dated 21 November 2023 but still holds true as a process to follow. NOTE: the vocoder is built in now, so it is no longer a requirement to load it as stated in this post)

iOS and other builds can be downloaded from http://pizzanbeer.net or http://pizzanbeer.net/droidstar/

NOTE: this iOS installation only lasts for seven days only. So, from the Sideloadly FAQ:

Q: How long will I be able to use the sideloaded app?
A: A normal & free Apple Developer account only allows the app to function for 7 days. After 7 days you can sideload it again using the same Apple ID, just make sure your progress is backed up. Apps signed with a paid Apple Developer Account can last up to 1 year.

Q: Developer Mode Required. How do I enable developer mode on my iOS device to sideload apps?
A: Since iOS 16+, Apple now requires users to enable "Developer Mode" on their devices in order to allow the sideloading & installation of apps outside of the iOS App Store. To

enable Developer Mode, go to Settings > Privacy & Security on the iOS device. Scroll down to the Developer Mode list item and navigate into it and enable the developer mode switch.

You will need to re-enter a few Settings fields (e.g. DMR ID) to get back up and running, so if you saved them on the device or another Apple device, a simply cut and paste will get you going again. A further version is under development by – Rohith VU3LVO but is in beta mode and not yet available to everyone.
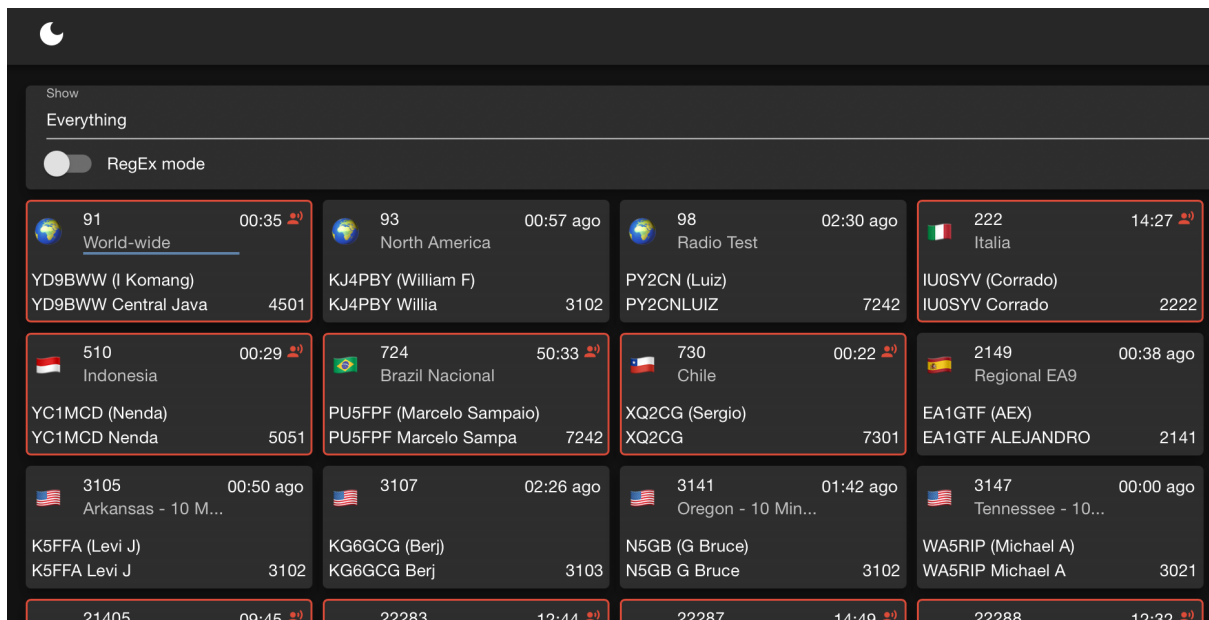
Parallels Desktop 20 (Windows emulation software) for Mac

Also, it has been tested on an iMac M1 with MacOS under Sequoia 15.2, running Parallels Desktop 20 for Mac, while it installs there appears to be no download of the Host files and therefore no access to the Internet. So, it doesn't work on the iMac using the Windows emulation software at present. (still under test – hopefully available soon, last updated 3 January 2025)

Check on transmissions or is it all working

Sometimes you may wish to see if there is any traffic to monitor so that you can work out if the app is working or not.
For Brandmeister Network connect to this page: https://hose.brandmeister.network and double click on one of the red outlined boxes to hear the traffic. 91 is a good active Talkgroup (TG) to use.

Figure 3: Brandmeister Network output

Locally Phil ZL2RO's XLX299 Reflector is also a good one to use for traffic: https://www.xlx299.nz the highlighted read callsign shows the channel currently transmitting.

Recent Activity

XLX299-B
FD530 ZL
National

ZL1TOB

XLX299-D
BM530 ZL
National

ZL2KJT

XLX299-H
ANZEL

VK3HJQ

XLX299-A

XLX Worldwide

XLX861-A
XLX519-A
XLX875-A

XLX299-B

FreeDMR-530 Peanut M17-NZD-B

ZL2RO-B
FD530-B
ZL1TX-B

XLX299-D

BrandMeister

BM-TG530

BM530-B

Figure 4: XLX299 with Channel H transmitting.