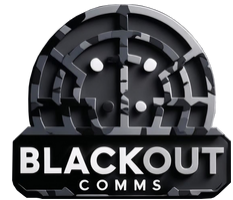




# Using Blackout Comms



For the most part, use Blackout Comms like any other messaging app.



The touchscreen is the primary way you interact with Blackout Comms.

The Status Indicator shows you if other devices are nearby, even when the screen is off.

## Status Indicator

- Starting Up  
Rapid Flashing

### Neighbors / Signal Strength Slow Flashing

- 1+ Neighbors, Excellent Signal
- 1+ Neighbors, Great Signal
- 1+ Neighbors, OK Signal
- 0 Neighbors -or- Poor Signal
- Ready To Onboard

- New Message  
Rapid Flashing

Wake Reset Power



## Wake Button

- Wakes up the display
- Push it any time to get the device's full attention

## Touch or Swipe

- Swipe the screen to scroll up and down
- Tap/touch icons

## Lock the Screen

- Touch the lock button on the lower-left corner
- Push the wake button or swipe to wake it back up



## Online Support



<https://chatters.io/support>

## Mesh Performance

Blackout Comms is designed to perform best when all devices in your cluster remain powered on as often as possible. As long as your device is powered on, it is available to receive messages and assist in caching/forwarding of other messages for your cluster.



## Direct Message

- For sending to a single person
- Happens automatically if you select a specific person/device when sending a message
- Use DM in all cases possible
- Highest delivery success
- Uses smart mesh path planning to route message



## Broadcast

- For sending to as many people as possible
- Happens automatically when you choose [All Devices] when sending
- Only use when necessary
- No delivery guarantees
- Can tie up bandwidth if many are sent in a short time



## SD Compatibility

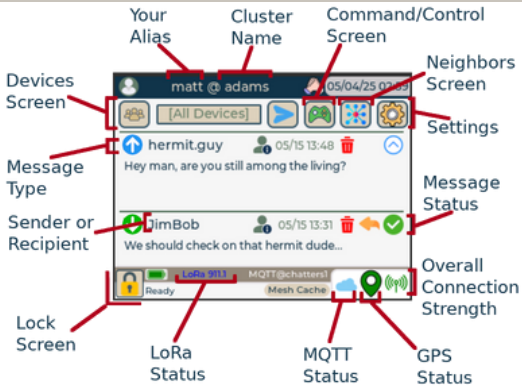
If you are using SD cards (recommended), you can move a Blackout Comms SD card over to another device. It will carry over *all* settings, messages, and password protection.



The screen layouts may vary, depending on which device type you are using, but the icons and functionality are the same across all devices.

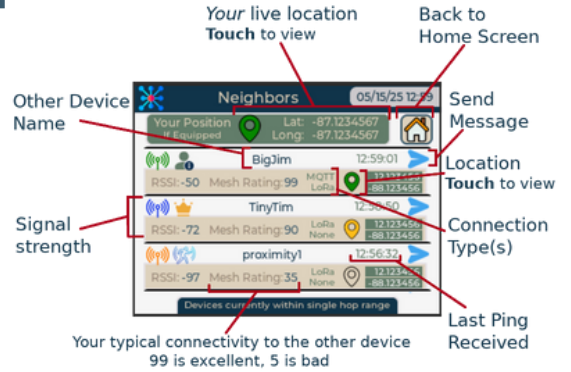
## Home

View/reply to messages, device status.  
This is the main screen of ChatterBox.



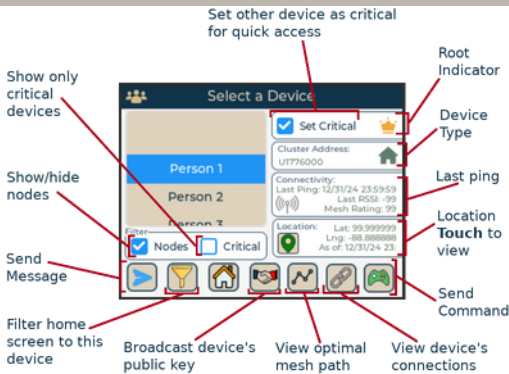
## Neighbors

View live signal strength & GPS coordinates of in-range devices



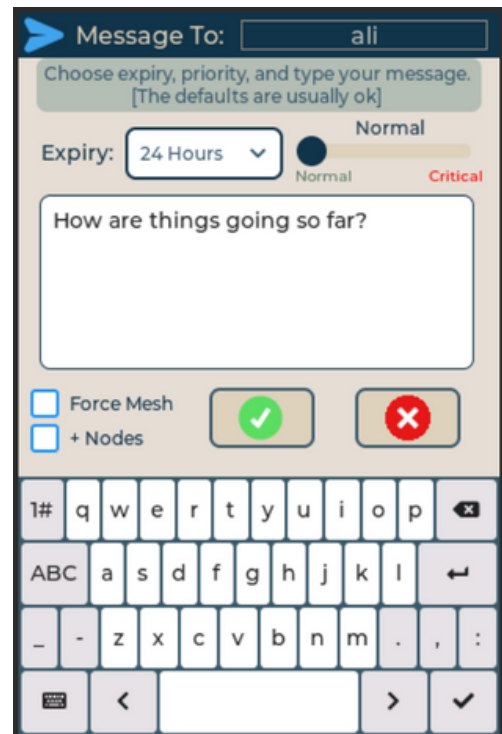
## Cluster Devices

See all devices in the cluster (even out-of-range), filter your message view, more.



## Sending a Message

Touch the send button, type your message, and touch the OK button.



# Important Icons

	You sent DM (not mesh)
	You received DM (not mesh)
	You sent DM via mesh
	You received DM via mesh
	You sent a broadcast
	You received a broadcast

	All message packets sent directly, not yet confirmed
	<b>DM:</b> Message was decrypted/validate and fully delivered to the other device
	<b>Broadcast:</b> At least one other device is now re-broadcasting your message
	Message packets are waiting to mesh in your out queue
	Your message was accepted into the mesh cache, and other devices are pushing it toward the recipient
	Your message is confirmed delivered & accepted by the end recipient via mesh



	Live GPS
	Stale GPS
	No GPS

	Excellent
	Very good
	Decent
	Fair
	Weak or none

	Communicator
	Root
	Link
	Proximity Sensor
	Relay Link
	Thermal Camera

	MQTT connected & healthy
	MQTT not enabled
	MQTT enabled, but not healthy - WiFi connected
	MQTT enabled, but not healthy - WiFi disconnected

## FCC Compliance Statement

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

**CAUTION:** The grantee is not responsible for any changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance. Such modifications could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

**NOTE:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This equipment has been tested and meets applicable limits for radio frequency (RF) exposure.

