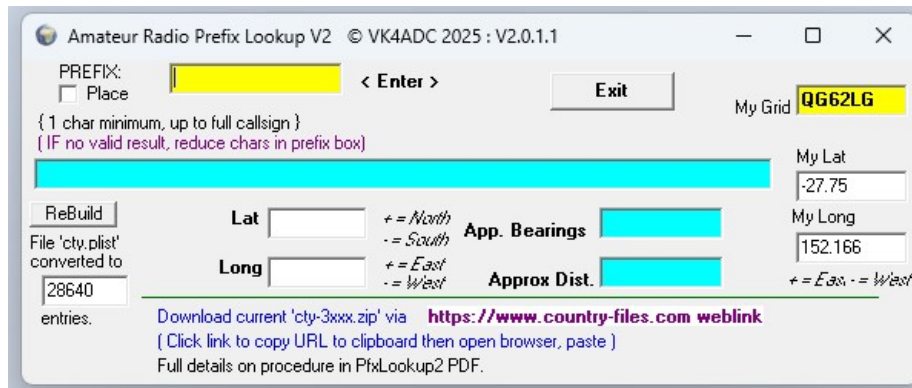


## Quick Amateur Radio Prefix Lookup Software V2

\*\*\*\* PfxLookup2.exe \*\*\*\*

....FREEWARE .....



Illustrated: V2.0.1.1

4th February 2025

This software is an updated release of the PfxLookup (V1) originally released in 2018. Look for that specific PDF on the VK4ADC.COM web site for those details.

{  
[https://vk4adc.com/web/4ADC\\_PDFs/Quick%20Amateur%20Radio%20Prefix%20Lookup%20Software.pdf](https://vk4adc.com/web/4ADC_PDFs/Quick%20Amateur%20Radio%20Prefix%20Lookup%20Software.pdf)  
}

This release (V2) has revised callsign matching routines - but more importantly, utilises a more detailed data file with more prefix and callsign data.

It takes a little longer to start up depending on whether the reference data file has been updated since it was last run but it is worth the wait !

The main display looks similar to V1, screen layout a little different, but the lower LHS references a data file 'cty.plist' that it converts to a more-compact local working file. This data reference file is still downloaded from <http://www.country-files.com/> but has a different name and is within a ZIP archive.

This gives it about 28K prefix references - versus about 7K for V1 using the CTY.DAT file. This software also supports the ability to add or remove entries from the reference data file too utilising two TXT files named 'pfx-includes.txt' and 'pfx-excludes.txt' respectively, where the exact formats are specified in the top lines of these files supplied in the distribution ZIP. Edit these text files only with Notepad or Notepad++ or similar true text editor - and NOT with Wordpad or MS Word !

As per the downloaded ZIP, the 'pfx-includes.txt' a line to add my callsign to the reference data. If updating the actual application to a newer release, you will need to preserve this file (copy and rename) if you have added and 'extras', then copy it back over [ or copy/paste the contents into ] the newly-downloaded and extracted file from PfxLookup2.zip. Ditto with the 'pfx-excludes.txt' file.

It still runs on Windows 7+ to Win 11, 32 or 64 bit versions, using files only within a nominated folder, eg C:\PfxLookup2 suggested.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
pfxlookup2 a.zip	2/02/2025 9:39 AM	WinRAR ZIP archive	558 KB
pfx-includes.txt	2/02/2025 8:24 AM	TXT File	1 KB
PfxLookup2.exe	2/02/2025 9:36 AM	Application	431 KB
cty.plist	28/01/2025 12:58 PM	Properties file Sou...	13,872 KB
ctylist.txt	2/02/2025 9:35 AM	TXT File	1,199 KB
dat.txt	2/02/2025 9:35 AM	TXT File	1,173 KB
pfx-excludes.txt	31/01/2025 11:40 AM	TXT File	1 KB

After being run, these files will exist in the application's folder..  
(Dates and times will be different, but similar.)

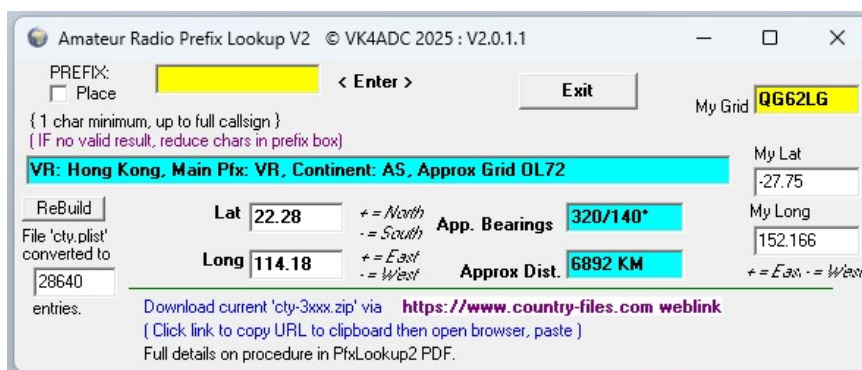
File ctylist.txt is the local working file created from cty.plist and includes any inclusions or exclusions.  
File dat.txt is the immediate file conversion, no inclusions or exclusions.

The minimum files requirement is PfxLookup2.exe and cty.plist in a single folder.

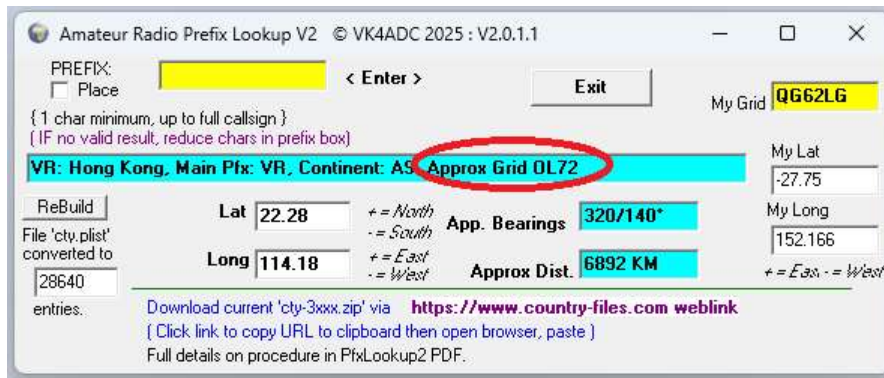
USE:

First time : enter YOUR 6 character grid square data in the RHS Grid Square box, it will convert to approx Latitude and Longitude values. This will be saved for subsequent uses.

The desired callsign search data is entered in the input box near the CALLSIGN tag, press the Enter key.



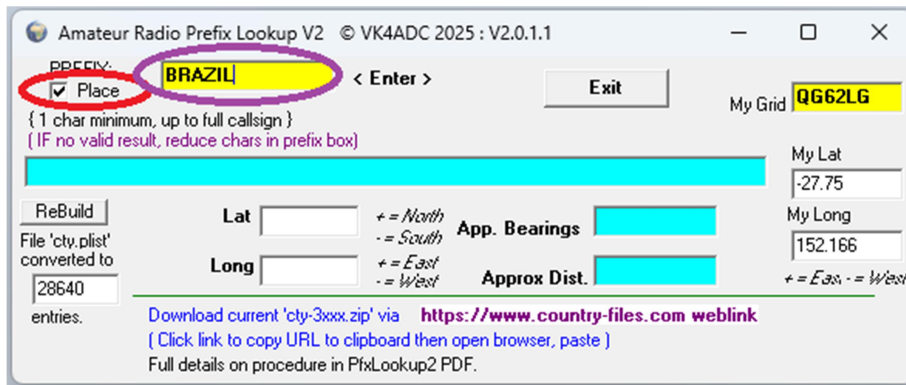
Entering VR (ie for Hong Kong) in the callsign search box..



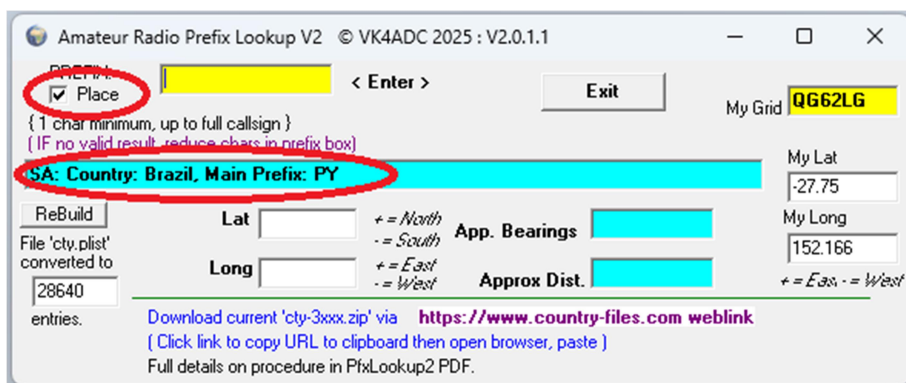
Note that V2.0.1.x onwards also calculates an approximate grid square from the Lat and Long in the search results..

Here is a hint : if the resulting display has only the detail you entered and no continent (etc) value then you need to reduce the number of characters in the search data. eg searching for VK1AA gives "VK1AA: , Main Pfx: , Continent: ", but reducing it to the prefix only (VK1) gives "VK1: Australia, Main Pfx: VK, Continent: OC" plus Lat, Long, Bearing and Distance in KM.. The Approx Bearing box shows two calculated values, the Short Path / Long Path eg "320/140". The calculated Distance value is Short Path only.

V2.0.1.x onwards also includes a quick lookup for "Places" by marking the box with a tick, simply clicking it will change from unticked to ticked and vice versa. The Places option allows a user to put a partial or full place name in the 'Prefix' box and search for the main prefix for that place.



Tick the Places checkbox, enter a country name (or part thereof) and press Enter key.



Gives the main prefix for Brazil as 'PY', and the area as SA, South America.

It is also possible to use a prefix with the Places tickbox, and it will do a simple display using the same format as the 'normal' places results.

Please remember that this is *primarily* a prefix lookup application, not a callbook..

Yellow boxes are user input boxes, the white and aqua are for outcomes...

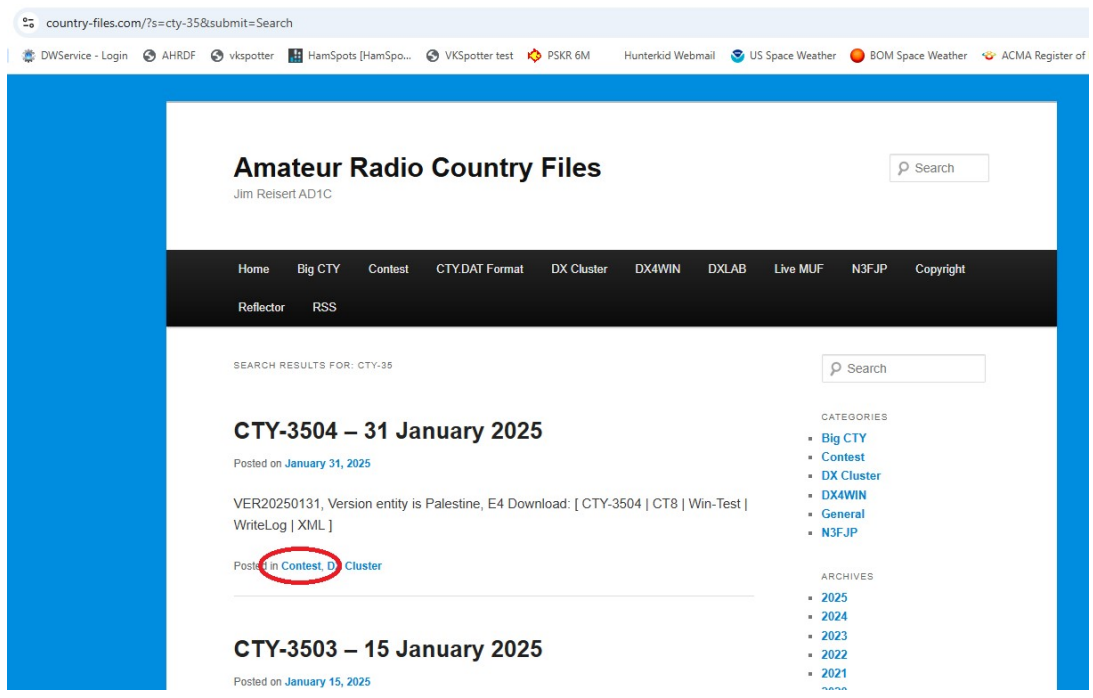
=====

To keep the CTY.PLIST file up to date requires a sequence of actions that needs to be followed precisely.

There is an on-application web link at lower centre. Click on the text and the value will be copied to the Windows clipboard. No program action is apparent at the time.

<https://www.country-files.com/?s=cty-35&submit=Search>

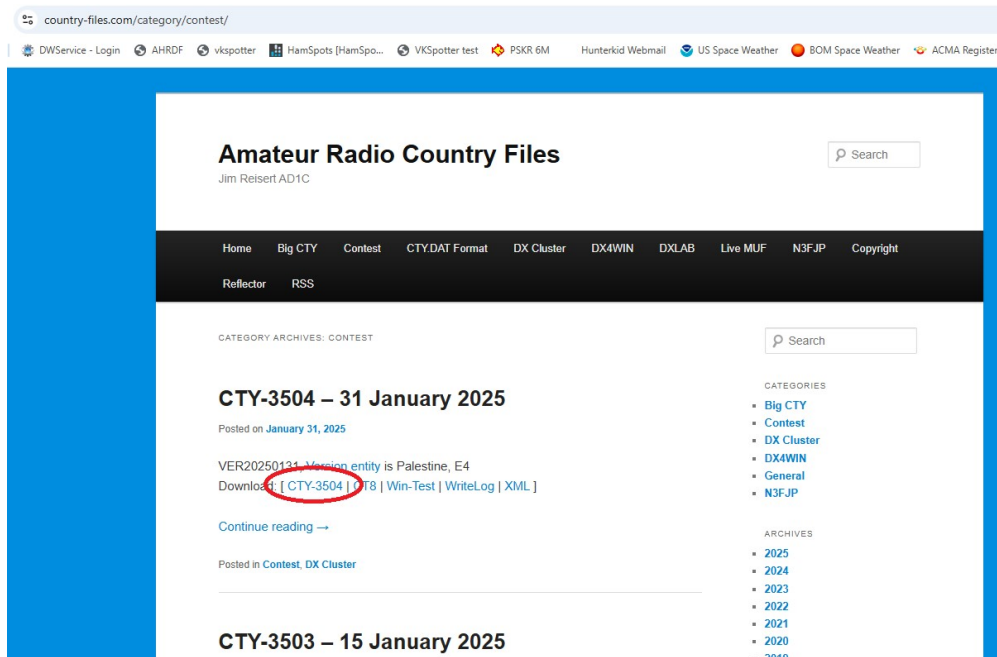
Open your preferred browser and paste (Control-V) into the address bar box. The above web address should appear. Press Enter.



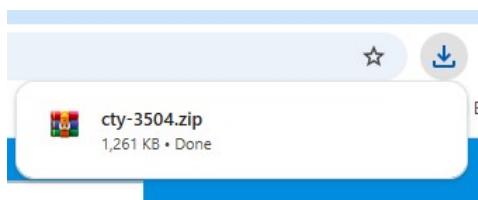
Note that the file you are searching for will have a filename like CTY-3504 (eg CTY-3\*\*\* format), but the result will ALWAYS be the TOP one.

Click on its link marked 'Contests' and the browser will change to "https://www.country-files.com/category/contest/"

Note : CTY-3504 is valid at 2nd Feb 2025, the 3504 will change to larger values as time elapses.



Against the text 'Download: [ CTY-3504 ( or CTY-3\*\*\* ) ]', you need to click on that blue 'CTY-3\*\*\*' weblink. A ZIP file will then download to your Downloads folder.



Use Windows Explorer to then copy that ZIP from Downloads to the PfxLookup2 folder (eg C:\PfxLookup2), overwriting any previous download (if prompted).

It is best if you close PfxLookup2 now so you do not get any Windows extraction errors.

Now use Windows Explorer to extract that ZIP to THE CURRENT PfxLookup2 FOLDER and you will need to edit the destination so it just shows as C:\PfxLookup2. It will probably prompt about over-writing files but definitely allow it to replace any existing files.

{In fact we only utilise ONE file from the ZIP archive, 'CTY.PLIST', in this application, but it is simpler in practice to extract all files).

Restart the PfxLookup2 application.

The new data file will be processed into the application automatically on start-up, or you can use the ReBuild button on LHS to update the local data file manually.

This is also useful if you have added/edited entries in either the 'pfx-includes.txt' and 'pfx-excludes.txt' files (and then saved/closed the file) without the need to restart the application.

It is up to the user to ensure that the file 'CTY.PLIST' is more-or-less up to date. There is NO automatic notification process to remind you.

#####

Supplied file "pfx-includes.txt" :

```
# uses *New prefix call/group; normal prefix; country name; continent; Lat; Long; Exact match required; (
eg full callsign match rather than a prefix - True or False only}
# format of new line MUST be as above EXACTLY else data corruption could occur, NOTE: Long values use '-
' for East and '+' or no indicator for West
*VK4ADC;VK;Australia;OC;-27.75;-152.166;True;
```

Supplied file "pfx-excludes.txt" :

```
# Pfx entries in CTYList.txt to be ignored, just a callsign per line
*IZ1KHY/IA0
*IA0/IZ1KHY
```

Note that both of these files need to be edited with Notepad or Notepad++ to ensure no corruption occurs. Do NOT use Wordpad or MS Word..

#####

=====

There may be updates to the V2 application from time to time, and it is a relatively simple matter of downloading the ZIP via the link supplied above. Before you extract the ZIP into the desired destination folder (eg C:\PfxLookup2 ), copy any custom 'pfx-includes.txt' and 'pfx-excludes.txt' files into another folder (or rename them).

Then extract the PfxLookup2.exe from the ZIP to the folder, overwriting the previous version file.

=====

Will it ALWAYS provide the correct country results ??? In short, NO

Use on a continent with large prefix/call areas can/will often produce invalid (but generalised) or no results. The physically closer and larger the prefix area, the greater the bearing error is likely to be.

The V2 application is better than V1 in this respect, fewer invalid matches.

Otherwise, the callsigns most likely to have lookup errors are the special event callsigns which sometimes have very unusual construction, weird prefixes and the like. Easily fix-able - no...

It does the country lookup correctly MOST of the time so is still a useful FREE software tool.

=====

The ZIP of the V2 Prefix Lookup application may be downloaded from [HERE](https://vk4adc.com/web/ZIPs/PfxLookup2.zip)  
<https://vk4adc.com/web/ZIPs/PfxLookup2.zip>

Version currently at V2.0.1.1

ZIP size around 560KB, giving an EXE around 440KB plus a CTY.PLIST around 1400KB, plus a few extra TXT format files and this PDF.

(Please do not copy this file and make available from other websites - the latest version will only be available via this link.)

=====

Installation is simple. Just extract the file PfxLookup2.zip into any folder (preferably C:\PfxLookup2 but any new/empty one), make a Desktop shortcut to the EXE by right-clicking then select 'Send to' and then "Desktop'. . It has a copy of CTY.PLIST included in the ZIP file so nothing else is required immediately to make it function. It is probably still a good idea to update CTY.PLIST to get the best lookup accuracy.

To remove the application, delete the folder containing the executable and CTY.PLIST.

=====

By all means virus scan it before you execute it !

Please note that V2 is early in development so may have some issues to be resolved as yet.

Notify of any bugs found direct to 'doug at vk4adc dot com' with subject 'PfxLookup2 Bug'.

THE SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE COPYRIGHT HOLDERS OR ANYONE DISTRIBUTING THE SOFTWARE BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR OTHER LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT OR OTHERWISE, ARISING FROM, OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE OR THE USE OR OTHER DEALINGS IN THE SOFTWARE.