December 7, 2021

Get new version DroidStar app working:

The problem appears to be that, when the app updated, this new version requires a software vocoder to digitize the audio, which is not included with the app. This looks to be a third-party plugin, since, on the developer's page, he specifically requests that users not email him asking for a vocoder. I was able to find a blog from another ham, however, with instructions on how to get it working. The short version of his instructions:

Go to the DroidStar settings, and, near the bottom, enter the following in the "Vocoder URL" box, depending on which platform you're on:

- Android: http://www.pizzanbeer.net/plugins/vocoder_plugin.android.arm64
- iOS: http://www.pizzanbeer.net/plugins/vocoder_plugin.ios.arm64

Double-check that you entered the URL exactly with no typos (it won't autocorrect anything!), then press "Download vocoder." It will prompt you to check the Log tab for info, and, if you do so, you should see "Downloaded vocoder_plugin.android.arm64' (or iOS if you're using that platform!) at the bottom of the log. If will not give an error if it fails to download, so, if you don't see that entry at the bottom of the log, go back and double-check the URL!

From there, on the Main tab, check all three checkboxes (SWTX, SWRX, and AGC), and then you should be able to connect and use the app like normal. (As an additional note, I also found that you don't have to momentarily key-up to activate the talkgroup/receive audio anymore when first connecting.)

Here is a link to the blog I found, with more detailed instructions and a video going through the process: https://ke0zvd.com/2021/11/14/installing-the-software-vocoder/.

Definitely agree that the documentation with the app needs some work, so hopefully the developer will update it all when he gets the app closer to what he's envisioning!

Hope that helps!!

73 Chris W3CJD