

iCluster

by Manuals

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1. General

This Manual can be opened from inside the App or directly using the following link:

<http://go-to.me/icluster-manual>(<http://go-to.me/icluster-manual>)

If you prefer a printed version, just tap on the PDF Icon on the first page to download a PDF file.

2. About this App

iCluster was my first App on the App Store in 2008, the year when the App Store started.

This version has been completely rewritten, now in Apples new Development language called Swift 3.

I can't remember how often it has been rewritten in the past almost 10 years.

With every update, there are changes in the user interface and like always, I hope you will get used to the new user interface soon. The old one was quite old-fashioned and some users had their problems with it and some even complained.

This new version has some nice new features (which I already used a lot while testing and in contests) like showing the Spots on a Globe and displaying distance and bearing of a call. It's also interesting to see the Grayline-DX spots on the Globe.

Settings are now Synchronized via iCloud so you can now easier use multiple devices.

Also, in addition to QRZ.com I added HamQTH call lookup and both have been integrated far better than before.

Like always with brand new versions, there might be bugs or you might miss a certain feature. In either case, **please let me know**. Like always, I am **most interested in receiving your feedback**. Please use the **support button** inside the App for your feedback.

3. Using the App

3.1. Main Screen

After starting the App, the left Main Tab "DX-Cluster" will be selected and you may see an empty screen and the message "Tap Start button to connect".

By tapping the Start button, which is the round button in the top right corner, a first query will run on the default DX-Cluster server and after a while, you should see a screen similar to this:

09:28 UTC		DX-Cluster		
Waiting...			Map	
YT1T Serbia	14160.4 5 Okean,Nr.444,WAS SM01	YU1ATA-@	09:27	
HA7UL/P Hungary	7172.0 haff-0031 Feri	HA0LG	09:27	
I6KYL/P Italy	7165.0 DCI MC026 DAI MH0105	IK1NDD	09:26	
OF6GAZ Finland	14034.0	JA1SFL	09:25	
9H1ET Malta	18145.0 mny tnx John	DF7ER	09:25	
R8700 Asiatic Russia	14165.0 TNX RDA MA-01	SM5HPB-@	09:28	
JH1MDJ Japan	18125.0	IK4GRO	09:28	
DR60PAS Fed. Republic of Ge...	7088.0 ses	PD0RWL-@	09:28	
DS2JJV Republic of Korea (...)	10110.0 Heard in NH	W3LPL	09:27	
VK3AXH Australia	144131.0 QF12wi eme JN54oe -18 tnx lan	IK4ADE	09:27	
UA3GDJ European Russia	7122.0 5 ocean tnx QSO	RA3GFI-@	09:27	
RZ3QWW European Russia	7086.0 5 OKEAH CPBC SSB vv	RA9FAH	09:27	
PD9DX Netherlands	14205.0 Thanks. 5\8	BG0BAC	09:27	
JH1FSF	14078.0	GOLFF	09:27	

The green lines will appear after a while and indicate new entries that were added since the last DX-Cluster

query.

The red lines are lines matching the Alarm criteria. (Please see the next Chapter for an explanation on how to setup Alarms).

This list will be **updated automatically** according your Settings.

If you like to **stop updating**, just hit the top right Start button once, and again when you like to continue.

This list is **sorted by date and time** and all new spots will be displayed at the top. An exception to this are Alarms. Alarms are always on top of the List.

Entries in the list are removed depending on your Settings. If you want to **remove old entries manually**, just pull the list down and release.

Each line in the List represents one spot in the DX-Cluster database. The Bold Call-Sign is the Call-Sign of the station that has been heard. The other Call-Sign is the Spotter Call-Sign who heard and reported that station.

The line also contains information about each Call like the country as well as the Spot Frequency and Spotters comment.

You can tap on the top right "Map" button to get a Map representation of all Spots in the list:



By tapping a line in the list, you will get more Details:

[← DX-Cluster](#) **Spot Details**

[Show on map](#)

CALL

Call IQ1TO

[HamQTH Lookup](#) [QRZ.com Lookup](#) [View on QRZ.com](#)

Country Italy

DXCC 248

Continent EU

CQ-Zone 15

ITU-Zone 28

SPOTTER





Call IK1JNP

[HamQTH Lookup](#) [QRZ.com Lookup](#) [View on QRZ.com](#)

Country Italy

DXCC 248

Continent EU

 DX-Cluster  Filter  Alarms  Settings

For further details, you can tap on HamQTH or QRZ.com Lookup.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to use these features, you must enter your HamQTH or QRZ.com credentials on the Settings screen of this App.

[← Spot Details](#) **QRZ.com Results**

Location	Show on Map >
DXCC	230
ITU-Zone	28
CQ-Zone	14
License Class	A
Accepts ESQ1	YES
Accepts LOTW	YES
Returns Paper QSL	YES
Email	mail@DL8MRE.de >

Image



You can also display more information about the location of a Call and Spot by hitting the **“Show on Map”** button

on top of the Spot Details screen.



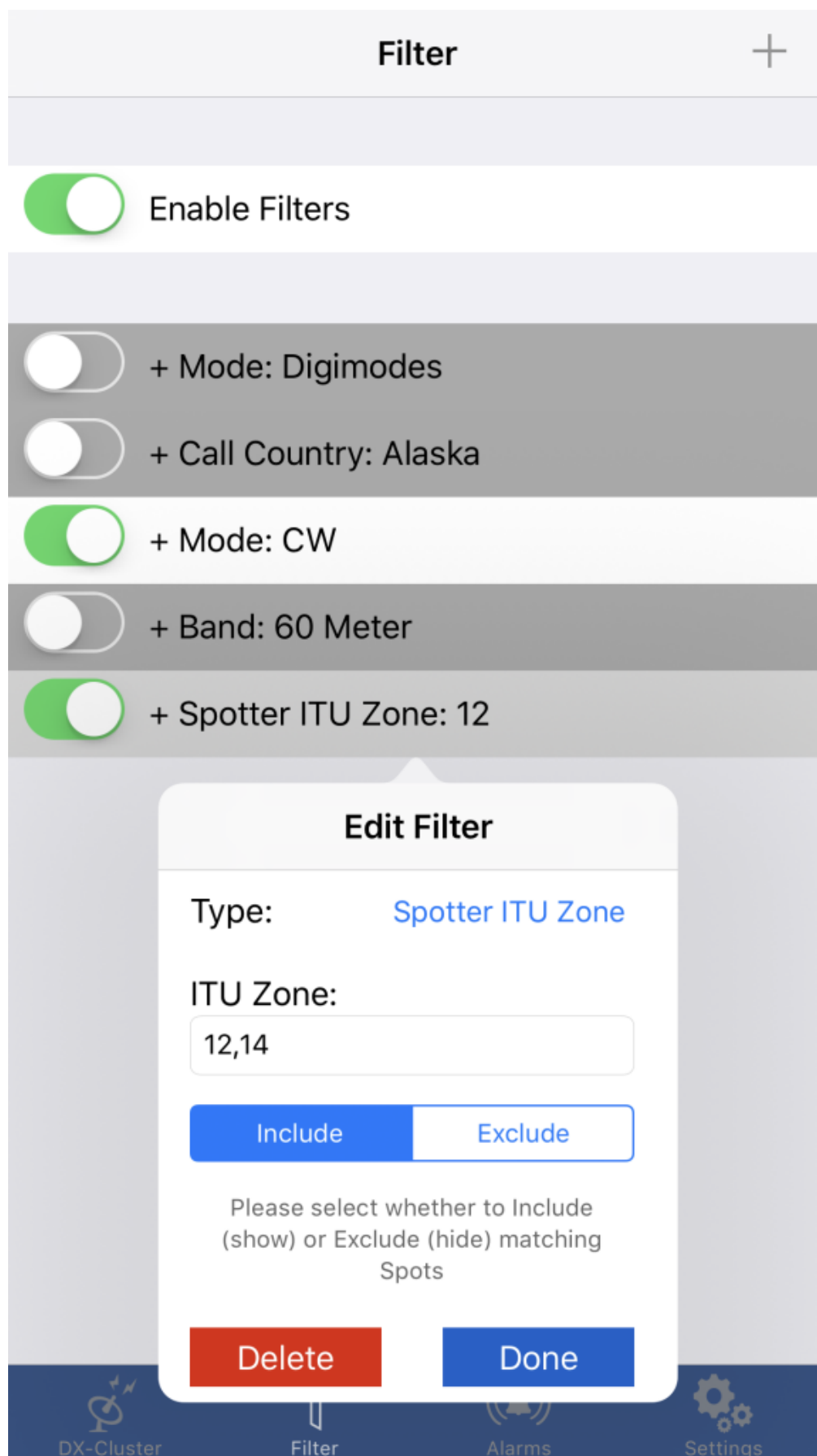
At the top, you can see the Distance and Bearing to the Call.

PLEASE NOTE: For this, you need to enter your home QTH Grid location on the Settings screen.

3.2. Filters and Alarms

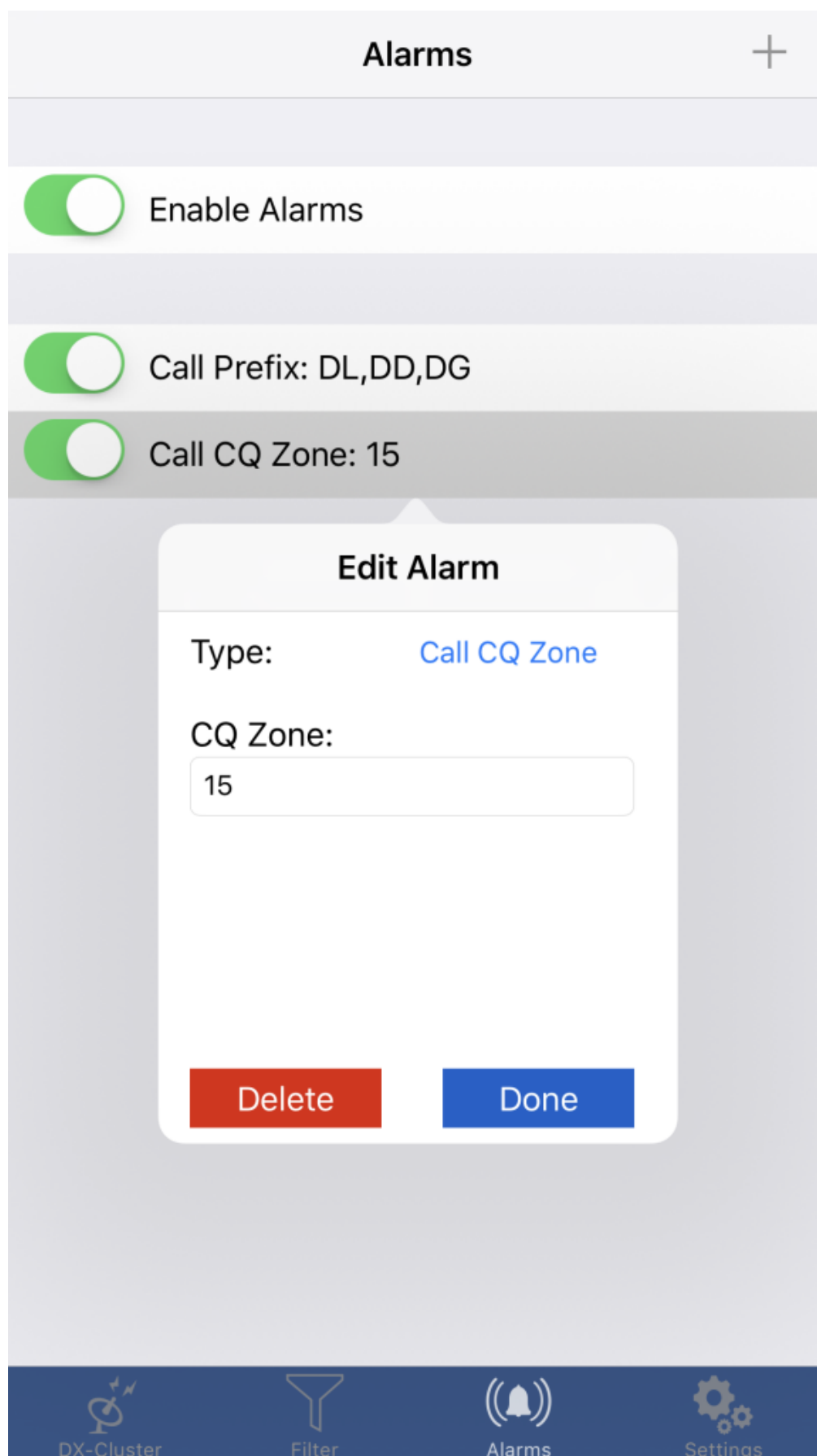
The Alarms and Filter screens (which can be displayed by hitting the Tap at the bottom) look and can be maintained in a very similar way.

You can set Filters, to reduce the amount of DX-Cluster entries in the List so that entries you are not interested in are not displayed.



In addition, you can set Alarms and let the App highlight and ring a Sound when Spots you are interested in will

appear.



Using the switch at the top, you can quickly **enable or disable** all Alarms or all Filters.

The entries, further down on the screen are single Alarm or Filter entries which can also be enabled or disabled individually using the switch.

A new Alarm or Filter entry can be added by hitting the + button in the top right corner.

An existing Alarm or Filter can be **modified** by hitting the entry in the List.

To **delete** an Alarm or Filter, either slide the entry in the list to the left and confirm or open the Alarm or Filter for editing and hit the red Delete button.

For each Filter entry, you can decide whether Spots matching the criteria should be **included** (displayed) or **excluded** (not displayed). You will find the corresponding selection while editing or adding Filters. In the List, call entries that should be included have a + sign on the left side. Entries that should be excluded have a – sign.

When adding or altering Alarms or Filters, you first need to select a **Type** out of the following choices:

Band, Mode, Comment, Spotter and Call CQ-Zone/ITU-Zone/Prefix/Area and Country.

Next, depending on the Selection, you need to select the Band, Mode or need to enter the CQ-Zone, ITU-Zone etc.

PLEASE NOTE: You can enter multiple Prefixes, CQ-Zones, ITU-Zones etc. by separating each by a comma (,).

Also, even though it is called Prefix, you can enter as many characters as you like that should be used for matching. Even a complete Call-Sign if you like.

Usage tip:

If you like to create complex filters, I would suggest to start by adding include (+) filters, switch all filters off and enable each filter individually to check if each one is working as expected. If that's the case, add your exclude (-) filters to remove entries you don't want to see.

3.3. Settings

In the App settings (lower right hand tap), you can change various settings, open this Manual, get Support and check for Data updates.

The first thing I would recommend to do is to enter your IARU Region and Grid (see further below).

Settings

GENERAL

Prevent device sleep



DX-Cluster

Autostart



Max. Spot age

10 Min.

1 Hour

1 Day

All

Update interval (Sec.)

10

Server

Standard Server

Server Login (your Call)

DL8MRE

Alarm

Alarm Type

Beep-Beep

Volume

22.0



Test Alarm

GENERAL

By enabling “**Prevent device sleep**”, your device will stay switched on all the time and will not shut down, as usual, after a certain time. This allows you to let iCluster run all the time and ring alarms etc.

PLEASE NOTE: This is necessary to let iCluster continuously work as by today, Apple doesn't allow this kind of App to run in background mode. Please keep in mind that this will DRAIN YOUR BATTERY and is only recommended when your device is connected to a power supply.

DX-CLUSTER




By enabling “**Autostart**”, the App immediately queries the DX-Cluster database so you no longer have to hit the Start button.


“**Max. Spot age**” defines, how long an entry should be kept in the list.

“**Update Interval**” is the time in seconds, a DX-Cluster server will be re-queried.

With “**Server**” you can select which DX-Cluster Server should be used. iCluster comes with a number of pre-defined Servers. You may want to change to another Server if the Standard Server is not working (e.g. due to maintenance) or you prefer a certain Server, closer to your own location.

You can also add another Server manually.

 **Settings** **DX Cluster Server** Edit  

Standard Server 

DX Cluster UK

DL4RCK's Digital Cluster (DL)

EA4RCH DX Spider (Madrid,ES)

AE5A CC-Cluster (MN,USA)

Reverse Beacon Network

DB0SUE (Flensburg,DL)





EA4URE (Spain)

HA6DX (Balasagyarmat,HU)

VE7CC (Maple Ridge,BC)

GB7UJS (UK)

My CW Skimmer

 **DX-Cluster**  **Filter**  **Alarms**  **Settings**

If you hit + at the top, you can add an individual or even your own Server (e.g. CW-Skimmer):

DX Cluster Server Edit Settings

Cancel

Title	My CW Skimmer
Address/IP	192.168.1.79
Port	7310
Type	Standard Skimmer

Here, you need to enter a **Title**, the **IP Address** (or network address) and the **Port**. This information is provided by the Server you like to add or, if you like to add your own Server, you will usually maintain these values in the settings of this Server.

If the Server conforms to the regular Skimmer standard, you can select “**Standard Skimmer**” as type. Otherwise, try one of the other Types.

To modify these settings, just highlight the recently added Server in the list and tap on “Edit” at the top.

PLEASE NOTE: Most Skimmer Servers require a CALL for logging in. For this, you can enter the Call that should be used for login on the main Settings screen below the Server selection.

ALARM

With “**Alarm Type**”, you can select the sound for the Alarm.

Using the **Slider**, you can control the volume of the Alarm.

YOUR-INFO

Here you can select your local **IARU Region**. This will be used for Mode Alarms and Filters to consider the right frequency ranges for the selected Modes for your current location.

In “**Grid (QTH Locator)**” You can enter your current location in Grid coordinates. This will be used in the Maps to show your current location, distance and bearing.

CALL DATABASES

Calls can be looked up using either HamQTH or QRZ.com. Here you can enter your credentials in order to use these features. After entering your credentials, please use the **Test** Button to check if the credentials are working.

PLEASE NOTE: For using HamQTH and/or QRZ.com you need an account on each platform. For QRZ.com, in addition, you need an active XML Logbook data subscription (see <https://ssl.qrz.com/products/index.html>).

HamQTH and QRZ.com lookup are not only useful to get more detailed information, including pictures, Email addresses etc. They also (when maintained) usually provide more accurate location information.