

User Guides

TF5800

www.topy.org.uk

A guide to the May 2005 firmware - upgrading and using

Written by Nigel Whitfield, for Topy.org.uk

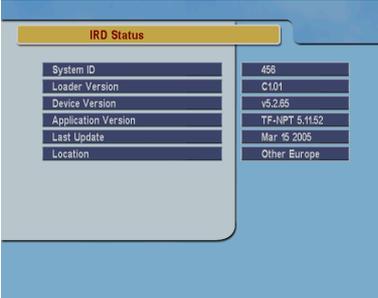
Introduction

This guide explains how to upgrade your TF5800 to the new (May 2005) firmware, and how to start using the new features that firmware contains. It also contains a partial list of all the changes in the new firmware.

Do I need to upgrade?

The simple answer is "Yes." Although the Topy works well out of the box, some people have reported a few problems and niggles with it. Many of those are addressed by the update. Additionally, there are new features and, since the new firmware makes the TF5800 compatible with TAPs (third party enhancements) written for existing models, it's unlikely that many developers will consider making versions for TF5800s with the original firmware.

If you have a Topy with more recent firmware, then you don't need to upgrade, but at the time this document was written, there weren't any with it pre-installed. You can check the firmware version of your TF5800 by pressing the Menu button on the remote, moving to Information with the up and down keys, then pressing OK. On the next screen, select IRD Status, and press OK again. You should see a screen like the one on the right, with various software versions shown. The important information is the Application Version.



IRD Status	
System ID	456
Loader Version	C1.01
Device Version	v5.2.85
Application Version	TF-NPT 5.11.52
Last Update	Mar '05 2005
Location	Other Europe

If you have Application version 5.11.52, your Topy has the original UK firmware, and we strongly recommend that you upgrade to a newer version.

What do I need to do the upgrade?

There are three ways that the firmware on your TF5800 can be upgraded:

1. By using a USB cable to connect to a PC running Windows
2. By using a serial cable to connect to a PC running Windows
3. By using a serial cable to connect to another TF5800 that's already been upgraded.

In this guide, we shall cover the first option only, since most people will also want to use USB to transfer recordings and/or TAPs. Note that we have not yet tested the upgrade procedure using a PC emulator on a Mac. You can find out more about other ways of doing the upgrade in [Topfield's own guide to upgrading](#), available from their site.

You will need the [Topfield PC utilities](#) installed, which you can access via their site or from the Topy.org.uk software library. Install the utilities, including the TFDN USB application, which is the tool used to transfer the firmware. You'll also need to download the update from Topfield's web site. It is supplied as a Zip file, and will contain a text file with notes, and a file with the extension *.tfd*, which is the update itself.

If you have not installed the Topfield utilities yet, you may find it helpful to read the brief notes contained in our [Beginners' Guide to installing TAPs](#), which you'll find at www.topy.org.uk/documents/.

Step 1: Preparing to install the update

Install the Topfield PC utilities if you haven't done so already. Download and unzip the update file, and make sure you know where you stored it on your disk. You can connect your TF5800 to the PC now; turn it on and start the Altair file transfer program, to verify that the connection is working. If you can't make Altair work, you won't be able to do the firmware update either.

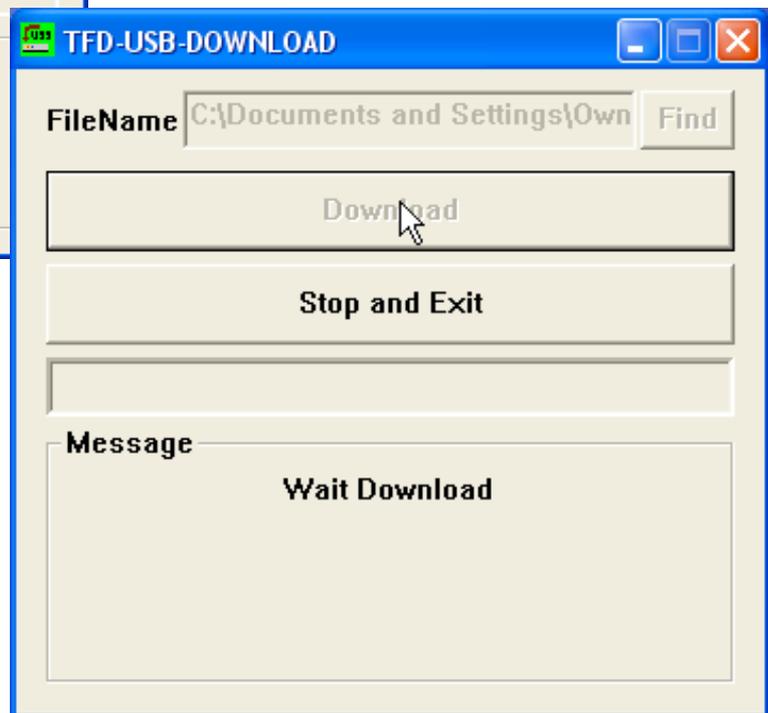
When you are satisfied that you can connect to the Topy, switch it off by pressing the Standby button on the front panel. *You must not turn it on again until you have the firmware prepared for download.*

Step 2: Start the download application

Click the Start button, choose All Programs and find the Topfield Windows Applications group. Select the icon *TFDN USB* within that folder, and you'll see a screen like the one shown here. Click the Find button at the top right and the normal Windows file open dialogue box will appear, looking for .tfd files.



Browse to the folder on your hard drive where you extracted the files that you downloaded from the Topfield web site, and highlight the firmware file, and then click on the Open button.



Step 3: Prepare the download

When you've located the update file on your hard drive, you'll be returned to the screen shown above, with the name of the update file visible in the FileName box at the top.

Click the Download button. It will grey out, as shown in the screen to the right, and the message Wait Download will appear in the bottom part of the window.

Step 4: Turn on the TF5800

Turn on your TF5800. Instead of the usual C456 message that appears during startup, the firmware will be loaded from the PC via the USB port. With a USB 2.0 connection, the actual transfer time is around ten seconds.

After the file has been transferred, you will see the letters Ap on the front panel display, counting down. At the end of the countdown, the display will flash the word End, indicating that the update is complete, and you can now turn your Topy off. On our test system, the whole process took about thirty seconds from turning on the TF5800 to completion of the update. If you have slower USB ports, it may take much longer.

Do not turn your TF5800 off until the word End appears on the front panel display, or you risk damaging it!

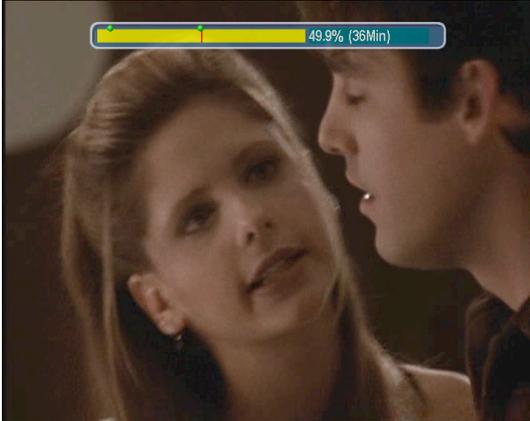
When you press the Standby button on the front panel, you may see a series of dots flash across the display, before it returns to the clock display. Your TF5800 is now updated with new firmware. You can check the version using the procedure outlined on the first page of this document.

Using the new firmware - 1: Bookmarks

One of the more useful features added by the new firmware is bookmarks. These allow you to set markers while you're playing back a recording, and to jump to those markers when you want to.

To set a bookmark

Call up the progress bar while you're watching a recording, by pressing the Play button on the remote. You'll see the yellow progress bar appear at the top of the screen. Press the Green key to set a bookmark; a small green mark will appear on the progress bar at the current position, just like in this picture. You can make the progress bar go away again by pressing Play once more.



To go to a bookmark

Call up the progress bar and press the Yellow button. Playback will jump to the next bookmark. Press Yellow again to jump to the next bookmark in turn.

To delete a bookmark

Jump to the bookmark, or scroll to it using the fast forward and rewind keys, and then press Green to delete the bookmark.

To skip adverts

If there are no bookmarks set in a file, pressing the Yellow button when the progress bar is displayed will jump forward by

thirty seconds, making it easy to skip through adverts.

Quick Tip - resuming your viewing

- Instead of just pressing Stop when you want to finish watching a recording, press Play, Green, Stop to create a bookmark.
- When you start playing a recording, press Play, Yellow, Green to jump to the first bookmark and then delete it.

If you don't delete the bookmark, pressing Yellow won't skip 30 seconds at a time.

Notes:

1. One of the most popular TAPs, Progress Bar Keys, adds useful extra functions, such as jumping immediately to a bookmark when you start playing, setting a bookmark when you stop playing, and a short backwards skip via the Blue button. At the moment, the current version (7.2) does not provide the first two functions on the UK model, since on other models without MHEG (the UK interactive services, such as BBCi), it is not necessary to display the progress bar before setting or jumping to bookmarks.

2. It is possible to automatically set a bookmark when you press Stop, using the [Bookmark 2.3 UK TAP](#), which is a version of a German TAP modified to work with the bookmarks system on the TF5800. You can download it from the [Topsy.org.uk](#) software library. Use of the TAP is covered later in this document.

Using the new firmware - 2: Accessing Favourites

With the new firmware, it's much easier to select a group of Favourites. Press the List or OK button on the remote during normal viewing to display the list of channels, and then press List (so that's either OK, then List, or List twice).

The list of Favourites groups will appear on screen. Select one of your groups from the box on the left, press OK and then press OK again.

Remember that you can set Favourites via the main menu (press Menu, select Organizing Favourites), or by using the Red button to display options when you're looking through the channel list and choosing Add to FAV, pressing OK and then selecting the group to which you want the channel added.

Using the new firmware - 3: Sorting the channel list

Press the Red button while the channel list is displayed (press OK or List while watching TV), and the Options box will be displayed. You can now sort the order of your channel list. Select Sorting with the up and down keys and then use the left and right keys to choose one of these options:

- Default. The list will be shown in the default order, by channel number
- Alphabetic. Channels are shown in alphabetical order
- FAT~CAS. Free channels are shown first, followed by pay channels
- CAS~FTA. Pay channels are shown first, followed by free channels
- Provider. Channels are sorted by Provider (ie the broadcaster, for most channels)
- FAV~NOFAV. Favourite channels are listed first, followed by other channels.



When you have made your selection, press the Exit button to make the Options box disappear, and the channel list will now be sorted according to your selection.

Using the new firmware - 4: Using the Sleep function

Another function added in the May 2005 firmware is a Sleep function. This function is accessed by pressing the Opt key on the remote. A new option, *Sleep Time*, appears at the bottom of the menu. Move to it using the up and down keys on the remote, and then select the sleep period by pressing the left and right keys. The default setting is Disable, which means the TF5800 will work as normal.



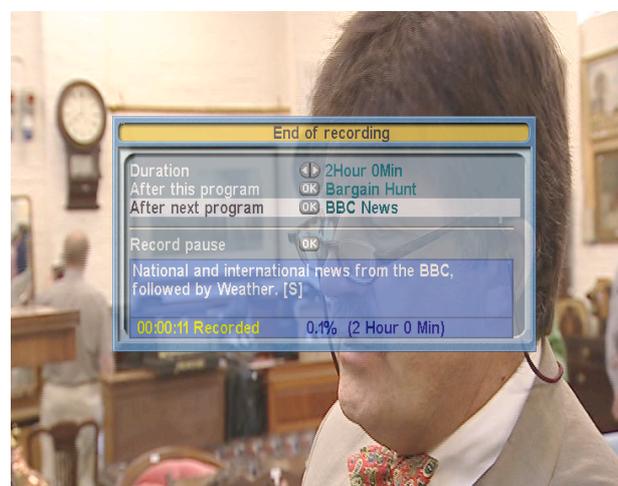
You can set a sleep time in ten minute steps, from 10 minutes up to 120 minutes. Press the Exit or OK key on the remote to start the timer after selecting your delay. At the end of the period, the TF5800 will switch off, unless you are recording, in which case it will switch off one minute after recording ends.

To see how many minutes remain until switch-off, press the Opt key again. The current remaining time will be displayed in the *Sleep Time* entry on the menu. If you want to extend or cancel sleep, scroll to the entry, and use the left and right keys to change the time.

Using the new firmware - 5: Record menu

A new menu is now displayed if you start a recording while watching live TV. Press Record once to start a recording in the usual way. Press it again and you'll see a screen like the one to the right, with additional recording options.

You can now select a duration, or choose one of the options below to stop the recording after the current programme, or the one following it. Just highlight the correction option with the up and down keys, and then press the OK key on the remote. A brief summary of each programme will appear in the bottom part of the box as you highlight it's option.



Enhancement to the new firmware - Bookmark 2.3uk TAP

This TAP is a small application that you can transfer to your TF5800 to provide an extra useful function, automatically setting a bookmark when you press the stop key, making it easier to resume watching at the place where you stopped.

You can download the TAP from the software library on www.toppy.org.uk. Install it in the usual way (for more advice, see our [Beginners' Guide to installing TAPs](#)).

When the TAP is installed, select it from the Program Files list and run it. Now, when you press the Stop key, you'll see a white square appear briefly in the middle of the screen. If you press another key while this box is displayed (one second), the following functions will be performed.

- Stop. Playback will stop and no bookmark will be set
- White. The file list will be displayed, with the file you have been watching highlighted, and selected for deletion. Just choose Yes and press OK to delete
- Blue. The file list will be displayed, with the Options dialogue selected for the file you have just been watching, so you can rename it easily if you wish.

So, for basic operation, press Stop once to stop and set a bookmark, or press Stop twice quickly to stop and not set a bookmark. You can press the Exit key to suspend operation of the TAP, or to stop it running completely.

The TAP was originally written by Satschüssel, translated and tweaked for the TF5800 by Nigel Whitfield.

Other useful TAPs

There is a wide range of other TAPs that you can install on your Topsy; we've not yet had time to test them all extensively with the new firmware, but here are a couple more that are worth considering. You can find them in the Software library on www.toppy.org.uk - just click the TAPs link from the front page.

Jag's EPG

This is a replacement Electronic Programme Guide, which allows you to see what's on several channels at once, without actually having to change channel. You can also set options to, for example, automatically add time to the start and end of a recording programmed from the EPG, and to combine two adjacent timers on the same channel into one recording.

Other features include the ability to search for programmes by keyword, and automatically set recordings for them. *At the moment, this is beta software.*

ImproBox

This TAP replaces the information box that appears when you change channels, and provides extra features, such as quick indications of signal strength and remaining disk space. It can also be configured to manage recordings when you press Record while watching live TV, but that option will conflict with the new record menu added by the firmware update, so is probably best turned off. Additionally, ImproBox can warn you before changing channel, so you don't inadvertently lose the TimeShift buffer. *The software is not free, and costs from €5 to €15, depending on the features you want.*

Issues addressed by the May 2005 firmware update

This is a partial list of issues resolved by the update. Note that at the time of writing, we have not been able to verify this list completely. For more information, see the notes included in the download file from Topfield.

Additional details about bugs that we have confirmed are resolved will be added to the Services section of Topyy.org.uk site, at www.topyy.org.uk/services/bugs.php. You need to register as a user of the site Forums to access Services.

Bug and features logged on Topyy.org.uk

The numbers after entries in this list refer to the ids in the Topyy.org.uk bug tracking list. This information was updated on 8th May 2005.

Critical bugs:

- 0Mb recordings (31)

Major bugs:

- Some recordings appear blank (15)
- Compatibility with TAPs (30)

Minor bugs:

- Subtitles not appearing correctly on live broadcasts (9)
- Favourites option lost when switching from TV to Radio and back (24)

New feature requests:

- Bookmarks (27)
- Sleep facility (39)

Existing feature changes:

- Selecting Favourites requires too many button presses (28)

Other notes

With the new firmware, TAPs can be compiled against the API 1.21 files; this was not possible with the older firmware.

Although the key mapping necessary in the older firmware is not necessary, the design of the UK remote does mean that some keys are not available to TAPs. For example, to a TAP, the TV/Radio and list keys still appear the same; the v+/v- and p+/p- keys are not distinguishable from the movement keys; some keys simply don't exist on the UK remote.

Document revisions

- 1.0 Original public version
- 1.1 10th May, added information about additional TAPs and Record menu features

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