

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 184 (10/4/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT in Room 3246 on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations calling in) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB7.1: The beta version was installed at EAX and CLE this past Monday and Tuesday and things went well. The installs took about 9 hours. The SVR will occur on this Friday, October 6, and we have two days to determine if we deploy nationally. If a positive SVR occurs, then we will begin national deployment around October 18. This will allow time to update the installation instructions and to post them on the web site. Jamie Vavra cited all the sites for completing the OB7.1 test case procedures, especially site MHX. The OB7.2 alpha period begins on October 9 and next week Jamie will contact the regions to look for test sites.

Sanford Garrard stated that he would send out the scheduling instructions to the regions later today. To summarize, we will begin the installs on October 18 and do 3 sites per day until November 9. Four sites a day will be scheduled between November 13 and December 7. Between December 11 and January 23, we will ramp up to 5 sites per day. There is a reminder that the DX3/DX4 installs are a pre-requisite.

Jamie also reminded the group that the beta conference call will be held tomorrow afternoon. Another conference call will be held a week later on October 12 but this call will be a sort of lessons learned type of call to review all aspects of the alpha and beta testing process. If the regional focal points have any ideas on improving this process, please be prepared to bring them up at this call on October 12.

b. Recommendation for DS Local Application Migration: The following is the complete recommendation for the DS local application migration:

1. Programs should be placed in /awips/dev on the NAS.
2. Local data required by the applications should be placed in /data/local/localdata.
3. To facilitate backups, a soft link has been created from /awips/dev/localdata to /data/local/localdata in the OB7.2 installation scripts.
4. When running the executables:
 - if the application is not a persistent process, run from a workstation.
 - persistent processes should be distributed logically according to the AWIPS application they are most affiliated with, e.g., querying databases on DX1, radar

on DX2, decoders on DX3, GFE/IFPS on DX4, FFMP on PX1, AVNFPS on PX2, etc.

- special resource balancing (e.g., CPU, network...) should be considered to minimize system impact if a persistent process runs on any of the servers.
5. For cron jobs, which are used for persistent processes (i.e., keeping them alive) or for running routine processes and that have moved from the DS to the DXs, PXs or RPs, local app failover should utilize the heartbeat setup. In /etc/ha.d/cron.d there are SITExxxcron files which the site can place their cron entries in, so they are failed over if the box goes down, where xxx is the primary box where the application will reside (SITEdx1cron, for example). If dx1 goes down, this file will be loaded into dx2's cron job. Note that this file would need to be modified on both pairs.

c. System Manager's Manual (SMM) Pilot Project: Frank Lucadamo will forward to the regional focal points in a few days the details of this pilot project. This project will allow sites to make a document change to the OB7.1 version of the SMM. How a site can request technical changes to the SMM will be included in the information that he sends to the regions. These changes will be sent to Frank Lucadamo and Ron Smith who will in turn forward them to the appropriate Raytheon personnel. It is expected the review by Raytheon will take 3-6 weeks. By early November, we could expect some changes could be posted to the SMM on the One Stop web page and to AWIPS behind the firewall.

This pilot project will last from October 6 – January 5, 2007. If the project is continued in January for another 3 month trial period, then changes can be made to the OB7.2 version of the SMM.

d. WarnGen Duplicate ETN Problem: In the past, approximately 16 sites have had problems with the duplicate ETN numbers. The problem has been tracked down to a dropping of the data base. How does WarnGen deal with VTEC? It does not have a VTEC table like in GHG. Instead, it relies upon the WarnGen products in the text data base to keep track of VTEC. A possible workaround for this problem is that if a site needs to drop the data base, the site should call the NCF. Before the NCF drops the data base, they will save off the WarnGen products and restore them afterwards. Otherwise, the ETNs will be messed up and cause confusion and result in lost warnings.

e. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: When will the schedules for the site's preventative maintenance be available? James Washington of the NCF replied that this information from the company performing the maintenance will be available in a day or two and the NCF will forward this out immediately to the regional focal points.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are finishing up the WES 7.1 today and are burning the CDs and we plan on shipping them out to sites next week.

Shannon White: If the SVR goes well this Friday, the Training Division of OS will make available on October 11 the training sessions for OB7.1.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2006. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.