

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 244 (March 18, 2009)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 12246 on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joshua Watson; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Carl Gorski; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **GSD**: Carl Bullock; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **NCF**: John Seeger;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB9: A total of 124 sites have installed as of the morning of March 18. Selected sites are in the process of testing the solutions for the slow loading of large radar mosaics and unit hydrograph processing. Once testing completes, the NCF will automatically install the fixes at all sites via OB9.0.1 emergency release. Sites with customized WarnGen templates that need to incorporate the new CTA markers are being encouraged to complete staff training and to make the necessary template and software changes by mid-May when NWS partners and users will expect these changes to be implemented.

OB9.1: Installation on the HQ test system NHDA was completed last week. There were several issues identified with the installation. Software engineers are working on resolving the issues prior to the next scheduled installation at BCQ. Regional focal points are in the process of selecting additional beta sites for the release. Due to the recent addition of the PX hardware as a prerequisite, the beta period (beginning April 6) and deployment start date (May 11) may be extended since regular deployment of the PX is not expected to begin until May.

OB9.2: There are 49 DRs that have been accepted and assigned to the release. Code check in date is April 28. SWIT is expected to begin on May 18. The beta is currently planned to begin June 8 with regular deployment to all sites around July 6. The readiness review is planned for June 23.

b. Customization of Watch/Warning/Advisory/Statements Templates with CTA Markers: Art Thomas asked the regional focal points to help raise the awareness by using your communication methods to inform your contacts at the regions and WFOs of the need for WFOs to complete staff training and to make the necessary template and software changes by mid-May when NWS partners and users will expect these changes to be implemented. Shannon White reports fewer than 20 offices whose operational staff have completed the CTA Marker training and dozens of offices that have zero completions. Mike Moss reports many sites have not yet customized their WarnGen templates.

We are also working with the SST and Mike Moss on bi-weekly updates on how many sites have

still not made the changes to WarnGen templates, GHG, and RiverPro that we can use to bring the issue to the attention of the Regional Focal Points, the MSDs, the HSDs and others as we get closer to the mid-May implementation date.

More information on this topic will be forwarded to the participants in this call. This will be an e-mail message written by Herbert White and titled “CTA Markers in OB9 W/W/A/S products.”
[**Editor’s note:** Action completed by Jim Stenpeck on March 18.]

c. Partial Service Backup: Beginning with OB8.3, partial service backup is no longer available in WarnGen. Many sites have removed certain shapefiles and get better geographic precision when issuing warnings with WarnGen. Mike Moss is reminding the sites that they need to run the F-WWlocalization for their sites and their backup sites too. Mike is composing a script to check to make sure that the obsolete shapefiles are removed not only at their sites but for their backup sites. Mike is planning on running a script to check this action.

d. Severe Weather Checklist: The AWIPS Severe Weather Checklist is a list of actions that the AWIPS System Administrator (ESA/ITO) can perform to ensure that their AWIPS system is running at optimum performance. The checklist is divided into 2 sections: Section 1 provides the actions to be taken just prior to anticipated severe weather; Section 2 provides longer term preventative maintenance actions.

The Severe Weather Checklist is updated to reflect the changes in the current operational AWIPS Build. The last update was in Spring 2008 with changes introduced by OB8. The AWIPS upgrade from OB8 to OB9 does not require any changes to be made to the Severe Weather Checklist: all of the OB9 processes run on the same server that did in OB8 and OB9 introduced one new process, VAR, which runs on the PX1 server (see the OB9 Architecture slide in the attached PowerPoint file). Since no changes were required by OB9 for the Severe Weather Checklist, Wayne decided to focus on enhancing the current list of actions.

Section 1 provides actions to be taken just prior to anticipated severe weather. He provides instructions for restarting AWIPS software on all of the servers and workstations. He optionally suggested rebooting the servers and workstations. He will now add specific instructions on how to reboot the servers and workstations and to test the WarnGen to ensure that it is functioning properly. Call the NCF and request that the NCF monitor your AWIPS system more closely and ask for the NCF’s Critical Weather Monitoring mode.

Section 2 provides longer term preventative maintenance actions. Most of the preventative maintenance actions are the same but in this section we are providing tools to measure the impact of the preventative maintenance actions. A preventative maintenance action was to limit the number of Postgres fxatext triggers in the WatchWarn table. We are changing that recommendation to focus not so much on the number of triggers but rather the impact on system performance of those triggers. We added 2 new programs that measure the triggers and CPU/Memory. The countTriggers.jar – parses the TextDB_Server log file to compute the number of text products written and the number of triggers executed during the previous day. The CPUMemMetrics.jar – shows the CPU, RAM memory and swap memory usage.

A NAS Directory recommendation is to ensure that all directories on the NAS are properly purged of old products and that directories have not grow so large that they impact NAS read/write performance. Wayne wrote the countRadarProducts.jar program to measure how long it takes AWIPS to process incoming radar products from the ORPGCommsMgr to RadarStorage process.

In conclusion, Wayne will have the Severe Weather Checklist updated by March 27 with instructions on how to use the new tools. Wayne will email the web site for the Severe Weather Checklist when it is completed. He is also working on a set of Postgres database tools to help perform preventative maintenance on the fxatext database.

Carl Gorski asked for the URL for the OB8.2 Severe Weather Checklist:

<https://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/Secure/awipsnew/install/SvrWxHealthOB82.pdf>

e. Updating NCF Points of Contact List: Wayne Martin will shortly send out the updated NCF Points Of Contact listing for each AWIPS system so that the offices can verify that their changes were entered correctly. Any time that there is a change to the Points Of Contact for a given AWIPS system, that AWIPS site should email the changes to ncf@noaa.gov.

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

Alaska Region: We are doing the NAS upgrade on our headquarters system today. We have about a half dozen TO-10 software packages installed on our AWIPS II systems in preparation of the local applications migration.

Central Region: We installed the new PXs on our headquarters system yesterday and are ready to install OB9.1 next week. There have been reports in the region of CRS crashing with the NAS replacements. Jim Lane of OS&T will be working closely with Raytheon on solving this issue.

Eastern Region: We are also seeing quite a few NAS replacement issues at our sites. Buffalo is scheduled to install the new NAS next week and 4-5 more sites the week after that. We have installed the new PXs on our headquarters system.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: We are installing the new PXs on our headquarters system.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2009. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc

Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.