

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 247 (April 29, 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 3246 on Wednesday, April 29, 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, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Dutton; **PRH**: Eric Lau; **NCEP**: Joe Byerly; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Jim Totusek, Dave Cokely, Heather Galan; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White; **Data Management (CIO office)**: Cynthia Cromwell;

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

a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB9.0.2: Several issues related to the recompiling of the FORTRAN code and hydro software have been observed at various RFC sites since the OB9 install. In addition, a couple of WFO related issues are also included. Nine additional DRs have been accepted into the release. Additional development and testing time will be needed to accommodate the additional DRs. Specific release dates are currently being calculated with deployment expected to begin in late July.

OB9.1: Installations have not yet been scheduled. The read/write packet size has been adjusted from the default value of 32k to 8k. No significant performance issues have been discovered in lab testing since the switch. Specific release dates are currently being calculated with deployment expected to begin in August.

OB9.2: This release is the regular planned maintenance release following the OB9 major release. Specific release dates are currently being calculated with deployment expected to begin in November.

OB9.3: This release is the final planned maintenance release prior to the release of the AWIPS migration software. Specific release dates are currently being calculated with deployment expected to begin in January, 2010.

b. Preventative Maintenance for the Postgres fxatext Database: Over the past few years it has been observed that the Postgres fxatext database on AWIPS contains a lot of products that don't need to be in the database. To help identify products that can be removed from the fxatext database, Wayne Martin is writing a suite of database analysis and management tools. The tools will show what is in the fxatext database so that the ESA/ITO can make decisions about whether the products should be removed. The goal is that by removing these unnecessary products, the fxatext database will be: smaller and requiring less disk space for storage of required products; and smaller allowing for a faster, more efficient storage and retrieval of text products from the database.

One of the database tools show a high level view of the database, listing the top 15 text product categories and how much space each product category occupies in the database. The display of how much space a product occupies in the database can be: the total size in bytes of all of the products for a given text category; the total number of all of the products for a given text category.

Wayne has been working with the WFO at site ILN to help identify products in the fxatext database that can be removed. In Wayne's PowerPoint presentation is an example from ILN showing the top 15 text product categories that occupy the most space in bytes. Notice that one of the product categories that takes up the most space in the database are the HML products. Site ILN and Wayne are working to set up a filter on the cpsbn to prevent the HML products from entering into an AWIPS system for storage. Once the filter is in place, then the HML products that are already stored in the fxatext database can be removed. We have already implemented a filter for the QPG products which are NAWIPS Vector Graphics products for use by the RFCs but these products also store in the WFO's fxatext database and occupy a lot of space. Another way to examine the database is to view all of the products that are more than X days old. [**Editor's note:** Wayne Martin took the action item to verify from Mark Glaudemans that a filter can be set up so sites don't store the HML products (but instead using a PIL based HML filter on the StdDBDecoder) and that sites can also remove those products existing in their data base. Mark replied to Wayne that the above actions can be taken.]

There are additional database diagnostic and analysis tools but Wayne just wanted to introduce this topic. The tools are installed on all AWIPS systems and Wayne is writing the documentation on how to run the tools. The goal is that by removing these unnecessary products, the fxatext database will be: a) smaller and requiring less disk space for storage of required products; b) and smaller allowing for a faster, more efficient storage and retrieval of text products from the database.

Please refer to Wayne's PowerPoint presentation file for some more details and examples.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: Greg asked Wayne Martin when the updated severe weather checklist for operational sites might be issued? Wayne responded that it is near final and he should be sending it out by the end of the week.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: Eric asked Jim Lane for a briefing on the status of the upcoming new hardware replacements. His briefing is below:

The NAS deployment is back on schedule so remaining sites can schedule on the calendar. Concerning the PX server replacement, the OT&E is nearly over and the mod note should be sent for final routing. The NAS will be a pre-requisite to the PX installs.

The PX shipments will begin soon and the first group should start receiving the FMK by May 8, with the last group getting theirs by June 5. The first group is the regional headquarters sites and the AWIPS II OT&E sites.

We are planning on testing the LDAD firewall replacement FMK in a few weeks on our test beds here at headquarters. The new River Ensemble Processor (REP) replacements will come after that and the new modems later in the year.

Concerning the new routers, WFOs will have to perform the updated NAS mod note 46A which is a prerequisite for the new routers. Sites cannot yet sign up on the calendar for the router replacement as we are still in the middle of that OT&E.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 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.