

NWS Weather Event Simulator 8.1

Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch
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WES8.1 Installation

Enclosed you will find a WES8.1 Install DVD. To install WES8.1, please consult the INSTALL_WES81.pdf file on the install CD. All WFO's, including those who were WES8.1 beta test sites, need to install WES8.1.

What's New in WES8.1

1. Updated with AWIPS OB8.1

- Storm Based Warnings capabilities in WarnGen.

2. WES8.1 Overview Training is available in the LMS for NOAA users

- All NOAA WES installation focal points and WES training focal points (see <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/admin/WES-IOP-Final.pdf>) should take this short training in the LMS (see <http://doc.learn.com/noaa/nws>). To take the module, search for "WES8.1" in the LMS catalog.

3. WES8.1 updated with AvnFPS 3.4

- WES8.1 includes AvnFPS functionality and AvnFPS data processing during simulations. AvnFPS is driven on a minute-by-minute basis by the hourly METAR files in a standard AWIPS archive, and it also requires a set of TAFs to initialize correctly. For background information on how AvnFPS works with WES, see Section 19 of the WES8.1 Installation Instructions.
- WES8.1 test case has been updated with AvnFPS data.

4. Changes to point data processing in WES

- Prior to this release, WES revealed the hourly point files (e.g. METAR, lightning, etc) at the top of the hour. This would at times reveal future point data. In the current WES, you will no longer see future point data. The current processing model makes point data visible closer to the end of the hour, at the time of the last data in the file.
- As in previous WES builds, the display and updating of point data in D2D is problematic. Enhanced point processing is planned for future builds. METAR and

Maritime point observations are now processed on a five minute basis, but the data will not consistently display and update at these sub-hourly resolutions.

- There are a few configuration files that can be manually modified to change the default delay of the METAR/Maritime data and the number of hours of AvnFPS METARs (See Section 16 of the WES8.1 Installation Instructions). In general, users should not modify these files. The default delay for individual METAR/Maritime observations is two minutes.

5. National Files Updated

- The shapefiles used for Interstates and Cities have been updated.
- All RAOB configuration files have been updated.

6. Flash Update

- To support Storm Based Warnings training, WES8.1 contains an updated version (version 9) of the Adobe Flash player for Linux. This update will need to be manually installed per the installation instructions.

Know Issues in WES8.1

- OB8.1 requires Redhat Enterprise 4. The OB8.1 AWIPS will not work with Redhat Enterprise 3.
- The surface observation monitors from MDL (SNOW, SAFESEAS, Fog Monitor) have not yet been integrated into WES.
- SPC watch polygons under the NCEP/Hydro menu do not display from SAW products (they use WOU products). To view watch polygons from archived SAW products see Section 11 of the WES8.1 Installation Instructions.
- A small feature in GUARDIAN designed to allow the user to move the GUARDIAN status bar to different screens does not function correctly.
- As in all prior WES release back to WES5.0, any pre OB5 SCAN and FFMP data need to be recreated.

WES8.1 Post Install

1. As with all major WES releases, new localizations must be built for older cases to display properly with the OB8.1 in WES8.1. (For more information, see Section 7 of the WES8.1 installation instructions.)

2. Update existing cases for new point processing in simulations

- All existing cases in DRT format will need to be updated to support the new point processing in WES. If WES detects an old DRT format, it will offer to update the point data for you.
- For existing cases in original format, you do not need to do anything different to prepare your case for the new point processing and running AvnFPS.
- We recommend updating all DRT format cases in `/data/awips` overnight by using the new “Batch Mode Point Data Conversion” tool under the WES Tools button.

WES Development Timeline

The next WES release is planned to immediately precede the release of AWIPS OB8.2. Currently OB8.2 is planned for release in January 2008.

Questions

Questions regarding WES8.1 installation or support should be sent to the WES info list at wes@infolist.nws.noaa.gov. Questions regarding shipping or obtaining WES for non-NOAA use should be sent to Timm Decker (timothy.b.decker@noaa.gov) at the Warning Decision Training Branch.