

# NWS Weather Event Simulator 8.3

## Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch  
Norman, OK

### **WES8.3 Installation**

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Enclosed you will find a WES8.3 Install DVD. To install WES8.3, please consult the INSTALL\_WES83.pdf file on the install CD. All WFO's, including those who were WES8.3 beta test sites, need to install WES8.3.

### **What's New in WES8.3**

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#### **1. Updated with AWIPS OB8.3:**

- FFMP Advanced
- Hydrologic Precipitation Estimator (HPE)
- FSI8.3 with cursor readout
- Integrated Radar Sampling (environment cursor readout, popup skewT)
- WarnGen can list basins for flash flood warnings
- Dual Pol support for future radar upgrades
- WESSL "-logall" to store popups

#### **2. Postgres Freeware Changed in OB8.3**

- A significant upgrade in Postgres freeware occurred in AWIPS OB8.3. Old Postgres tables will not work with the new Postgres in AWIPS OB8.3. WES will move any old pgdata directories from a pre WES8.3 case to a saved directory, and it will untar a new blank database that will work with the OB8.3 Postgres freeware. Archived text files can be written to the new database as with the previous WES releases.

#### **3. FFMP-A in WES8.3 Major Change**

- WES was modified to support the major changes to FFMP Advanced in OB8.3. FFMP data changed format and location, so all old cases with FFMP data must be recreated for use with OB8.3 and WES8.3. A tool exists in WES to create OB8.3 FFMP data from old archive cases and new archive cases.
- FFMP in OB8.3 has some significant limitations for training. Running localizations with the "-ffmp" switch will delete all accumulation data in your real-time AWIPS or

your archived case. Also, the basin files in nationalData do not support running multiple cases from different CWAs. To limit the impact of these issues, we modified the D2D startup scripts and AWIPS localization scripts to better support multiple cases from different CWAs. For more information on OB8.3 FFMP in WES8.3, please consult the updated Section 12.

#### **4. HPE is Supported in WES8.3**

- The new mosaic precipitation estimates from the Hydrologic Prediction Estimator are supported in WES8.3. Archived HPE files can be played back in WES and can be used to generate files for use with FFMP. There is no known way to create raw HPE files from older cases that don't contain these data, so it is important to configure HPE to run at your local site and set up your archiver to save HPE data. For more information on this please see Section 12.

#### **5. FSI Processing Changed in OB8.3**

- FSI8.3 changed its configuration and processing in OB8.3 to support Super Resolution products. WES8.3 was modified to support these changes, and most of these should be transparent. The WES installation scripts will delete all existing WES FSI inventories in the <your\_case>/drt/fsi directory. New WES inventory files for a particular radar will be created with OB8.3 the first time the FSI is launched, and an RPS list file will be created for each radar to be consistent with the data.

#### **6. WESSL “-logall” Better Manages Initial Popups**

- The new “-logall” command will store all existing WESSL popups into the WESSL Station Log. This is particularly helpful at the start of simulation when lots of popup windows are launched. Once the popups are stored in the WESSL Station Log, they can be retrieved in an organized manner using the Station Log player buttons.

#### **7. WES8.3 Overview Training 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, you will need to search for “WES8.3” in the LMS catalog.

### **Known Issues in WES8.3**

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- All FFMP data need to be recreated with WES8.3. The format of the FFMP data changed again in OB8.3, and recreating the FFMP data is necessary to use FFMP with OB8.3.
- FFMP localizations delete FFMP data on live AWIPS and on the WES. Every time you relocalize with the “-ffmp” switch, you will need to recreate the FFMP data with the tool in WES8.3.

- If you are using multiple machines to run simulations (Section 21), FSI will update on the server automatically, but it will not update automatically on the client machines. FSI uses “rssd” to update FSI, and we have been unable to get this to work on a network of WES machines.
- OB8.3 requires Redhat Enterprise 4. The OB8.3 AWIPS will not work with Redhat Enterprise 3 or Redhat Enterprise 5.
- The surface observation monitors from MDL (SNOW, SAFESEAS, Fog Monitor) have not yet been integrated into WES.
- A small feature in GUARDIAN designed to allow the user to move the GUARDIAN status bar to different screens does not function correctly.
- If you are running WES with multiple workstations (see Section 21), there is a known limitation of WarnGen always popping up on the server machine.
- AVNFPS config files changed in OB8.3. If you customize your AVNFPS config files, then see Section 19 for how to update them for OB8.3 in WES8.3.

## **WES8.3 Post Install**

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- As with all major WES releases, new localizations (including the –scan switch) must be built for cases to display properly with the OB8.3 in WES8.3. (For more information, see Section 7 of the WES8.3 installation instructions.)

## **WES Development Timeline**

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- There will be one more AWIPS/WES release (OB9/WES9.0 around February 2009) prior to the release of the new Java-based AWIPS2. AWIPS2 is scheduled for release in spring of 2010. Because AWIPS2 will not come with training capability designed in the baseline, WDTB is leading the development of a totally new “WES2 for AWIPS2”. WES2 will be released prior to the release of AWIPS2, and we plan to have a case converter to provide continuity between the old archived cases and the new AWIPS2. As a preliminary step in this evolution, we will also be providing an AWIPS2 “sandbox” on the WES workstations with WES9.0. WDTB plans to maintain WES2 until training capability is developed in the AWIPS baseline, which is currently planned for subsequent AWIPS2 builds. Stay tuned to the WES web page or email list for the latest.

## **Questions**

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Questions regarding WES8.3 installation or support should be sent to the WES info list at [wes@infolist.nws.noaa.gov](mailto:wes@infolist.nws.noaa.gov). Questions regarding shipping or obtaining WES for non-

NOAA use should be sent to Shannon Key ([shannon.key@noaa.gov](mailto:shannon.key@noaa.gov)) at the Warning Decision Training Branch.