

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 160 (10/19/05)

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 19, 2004, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal Dipasquale; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo, Doug Rankin; **FSL**: Johanna Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of OB6: We expect all operational sites to get to OB5 by the end of the contract which is the end of this month. A few national centers may not make it (e.g., Hurricane Center) and we will look for other ways of supporting them when they upgrade to OB5 after the contract with NGIT expires.

We have received feedback from the OB6 beta sites and some DRs will be generated. Any critical DRs generated from this feedback will be sent back out to the beta sites in the form of ATANs. The install procedures for OB6 will be updated based upon this feedback.

Edwin Welles brought up the question that was raised at the last RACC which was is there a way to speed up the OB6 schedule? He stated that there may not be much that can be done to speed up the schedule but they would like to make a strong effort to prevent the schedule as posted from slipping. To stay on schedule, we need to test the software as early as possible. Concerning future builds, we don't want to do any alpha testing at operational sites. But the regional headquarters can help out if they are willing to bring in forecasters to retest any critical DRs that will be fixed in OB6.01. Edwin also stated that it is important that the current OB6 beta sites call into the NCF any trouble tickets for problems encountered. This way, the problems can be tracked in the system so nothing falls through the cracks versus the higher probability of that happening using the e-mail process, phone calls, etc.

Frank Lucadamo stated that he sent out to the regions on October 7 a list of DRs that might be potential patch candidates for a possible OB6.01 release. They need to categorize these DRs from 1 through 6 with a six being the most critical and the most likely to make it into the final cut of a OB6/OB6.01 release. He asked the focal points to get this feedback to him as soon as possible.

Sanford Garrard stated he is tracking all WFOs that need to install OB5.1 **and** IFPS 17.6, which is need for the activation of long duration VTEC. Long Duration VTEC will be activated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He sent out via e-mail the list of sites that yet have to install this software. The affected regional focal points felt that their sites could accomplish this task by the end of the month.

b. Change in site location identifiers for SPC's Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watch Bulletins:

On Tuesday, October 25, the Storm Prediction Center is scheduled to change some of the site location identifiers which are used for the SPC's thunderstorm and tornado watch bulletins. These site locations are used in the SPC's SAW products to define the corner points for the SPC's watch boxes.

Concurrent with SPC's change, a similar change must be made on AWIPS. AWIPS uses the SPC SAW products to map the SPC thunderstorm and tornado watch bulletins on D2D. When the SPC site location changes occur, AWIPS must make the same changes in the AWIPS configuration files. The AWIPS selsAnchors.txt configuration file is used to define the latitude and longitude for each of the SPC's site locations. For mapping the SPC's SAW products on D2D, the selsAnchors.txt configuration file is used to determine the latitude and longitude for each of the SPC watch box corner points.

The AWIPS selsAnchors.txt configuration file resides on each workstation. Previously when the selsAnchors.txt configuration file required updating, the SST updated this configuration file. This was done to ensure that the file was updated on all workstations at the desired cutover time. After the SST updated the file on all workstations, the NCF would then send an ADMIN message instructing all offices to logout and login back into the workstation in order to activate the new selsAnchors.txt file. The same update procedure will be used for the October 25 SPC site location identifier changes.

The notice for this change is Service Change Notification 05-32 which can be found at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notif.htm>

The change is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday October 25 at 13 UTC. If there are active convective watches at the time of the scheduled switch, the switch will be delayed for 24 hours until 13 UTC on Wednesday October 26.

Since the selsAnchors.txt file must be updated on every workstation, all AWIPS sites should ensure that each of their baseline AWIPS workstations are powered up and running. This includes both the text and graphics workstations. The forecasters do not have to log out of the workstations but each workstation should at least be powered up so the file can be updated on the workstation.

The selsAnchors.txt file will only be updated on the baseline AWIPS workstations. For non-baseline workstations, the ESA or ITO will be responsible for copying the /awips/fx/data/selsAnchors.txt file from a baseline workstation to the same file name on the non-baseline AWIPS workstations.

c. Updated wmoSiteInfo.txt file for FAA Terminal Doppler Weather Radars:

In order for AWIPS to support the connections to the FAA's Terminal Doppler Weather Radars

(TDWR) radars, a variety of AWIPS radar configuration files must be updated. In OB5, most of the TDWR configuration files which are identical on all AWIPS systems were updated. Other AWIPS TDWR configuration files which are site specific files are updated during the procedure which activates the connection between an FAA TDWR radar and an AWIPS system.

However the wmoSiteInfo.txt radar configuration file must be downloaded from the NOAA1 server in order to support the TDWR radar connection. This file is an AWIPS wide description of all of the dedicated connections between each radar and the AWIPS systems that have a dedicated connection to that radar. For each AWIPS system that has a dedicated radar connection to one or more radars, there is a one line entry. For each AWIPS system, the wmoSiteInfo.txt file defines the dedicated radar connections which that AWIPS system supports. The ROC maintains the wmoSiteInfo.txt file and the ROC has updated this file to list the connections between AWIPS systems and TDWR radars. We try to keep this file identical on all AWIPS systems.

One additional change has been made to the wmoSiteInfo.txt file. For each AWIPS to radar connection there was a description of the modem line speed between AWIPS and the radar such as 56K or 14.4K. Since we have updated the radar connections to LAN connections, the modem line speed connection descriptions are no longer meaningful. In place of the modem line speed connections, the ROC has updated the connection descriptions to more accurately reflect the type of dedicated connection: such as whether the connection is to a NWS radar, a DoD radar, and a FAA 88D radar or a FAA TDWR radar.

Because we would like to keep this file consistent at all AWIPS systems, we are asking all AWIPS systems to download the updated wmoSiteInfo.txt file from NOAA1. For AWIPS systems that will have a connection to a TDWR radar, it is mandatory that these systems download the wmoSiteInfo.txt file before activating the connection between AWIPS and the TDWR radar. For all other offices, we are strongly requesting that the wmoSiteInfo.txt file is downloaded from NOAA1 so that we can keep this file consistent on all AWIPS systems.

The instructions for updating the wmoSiteInfo.txt file will be posted on the following WEB page:

[https://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/Secure/awips\\_install.htm](https://www.ops1.nws.noaa.gov/Secure/awips_install.htm)

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

Edwin Welles: Edwin introduced Karen Tepera to the RACC. She is the Raytheon/Keene quality assurance manager. Her job will be to assure that the software will be of the highest quality before being implemented in the field. Edwin also mentioned to the group that a separate team will test the software that the developers provide for field implementation.

Alaska Region: All of our sites are at least at OB5.0 with the regional headquarters system on OB6, phase 3. Recently, VRH received a DX4 and will we receive a DX3 and what will we do with this new equipment? The response was that you will also soon get a DX3. Instructions on what to do with this new hardware is contained in Information Note #18 which was sent out as an Oracle e-mail on October 13.

Central Region: Concerning Information Note #18, it states that a property sticker must be placed on the hardware but it's our understanding that property stickers should not be placed on all the separate pieces of AWIPS equipment in the office. The WSH response was that this part of the note #18 is incorrect and the appropriate people should be informed of this error. Also, we need to know the cost of each de-mod that was deactivated so we can properly fill out the paper work in order to dispose of the equipment. Eric Howieson looked it up and provided Bill Gery with the cost.

Eastern Region: We have had issues with the week long flooding in the Northeast, especially at Albany and Taunton. Some trouble tickers were opened up by these offices and are being worked on. Also, since IFPS, GFE, and GHG were part of the RAP process but are now baselined, how will this affect the RCs for these programs? Edwin Welles responded that the RC procedure for these programs will be the same as those used for changes to the baseline files.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: We found out that a correction will be made to Information Note #18 and thus nobody needs to affix property stickers to the new DXs. [**Editor's note:** a corrected Information Note #18 was sent out by the Oracle e-mail on Thursday, October 20.]

FSL: We have begun work on OB7. We conducted a requirements review for the radar last week and will distribute it for further review soon.

NWSTC: We can assist with installing the new firewalls on some of our systems here at the Training Center. Mary Buckingham thanked Randy Schubach for the offer and would take it under serious consideration.

Warning Training Branch: At the last RACC, we reported a slowdown with the FFMP processing and are now working with MDL to find the solution. Next week, we will issue a patch for the WES 5.0. It had a problem with the system administrator using mounted file systems that caused the volume browser not to work. If you have any problems with the volume browser in the WES 5.0, look for the patch on the Warning Training Branch's web site next week.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2004. 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.**