

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 177 (6/21/06)

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, June 21, 2006, 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**: Joe Palko, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards, **NWSTC**: Dave Cokely; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of OB7.1 and other Software: Concerning OB7.1, the System Integration Testing (SIT) period began May 22 and continues through July 7. The System Acceptance period (which includes beta installations) will begin July 10. There were some hardware problems with the PX1 and DX1 servers which complicated the alpha install at EHU last week. Otherwise, the additional installation issues encountered were relatively minor. Installation scripts and instructions will be updated for the next installation. The next alpha test will be next week at site PBP. We are looking for more volunteer beta sites and in particular another RFC for beta testing.

Concerning OB7.2, incremental software builds continue to be loaded on one of the national headquarters test system (NHDA) as the OB7.2 Pre-Integration Test (PIT) platform. A group of field forecasters and other field personnel are on site this week evaluating the current load. Raytheon's Release Integration and Testing will begin with the pre-SwIT phase on July 10.

DX3/DX4 installations: The installation at one of the national headquarters test system (NMTW) last Wednesday was an improvement over previous installations, but several modifications were still needed. The latest set of scripts and instructions are being evaluated today with the installation at the national headquarters system NHOR. Additional installations are planned at Western Region Headquarters (VHW) next Tuesday and at Pacific Region Headquarters (PBP) sometime in the next two weeks. The next WFO to install will be at site ILN, following a successful install at VHW and PBP. The DX3 and DX4 servers must be installed prior to OB7.1, since the OB7.1 install transfers a number of processes to those new servers.

b. HazCollect Activation: Mike Moss briefed the RACC on the status of HazCollect Activation. The details of the HazCollect activation have not been totally worked out and the exact details and date of implementation will be forth coming.

c. Postgres fxatext Database Preventive Maintenance: Wayne Martin sent out to the RACC mailing list the Power Point presentation titled "Postgres fxatext database.ppt" and basically referred to this document during his talk. In summary:

The way that Wayne defined the procedure, the local AWIPS system administrator is responsible for the Postgres fxatext database maintenance: a) identify old/obsolete products using the fxatext-diagnose.sh script b) delete old/obsolete products using the purge-by-time.sh and fxatext-delete.sh scripts c) vacuum the database.

Wayne is estimating that the preventative database maintenance should be performed once per month to keep the database at approximately 30% full.

The NCF will monitor the size of all Postgres fxatext databases and notify an AWIPS system if their database approaches 100% capacity.

The NCF will have access to the procedures for deleting products from the database and vacuuming the database so if the ESA or ITO is not available for performing the database maintenance, it is possible that the NCF may perform the database maintenance.

Alternatively, the NCF has a quick procedure for deleting all products in the fxatext database and then restoring only the warning products and the products which were created by the local AWIPS system.

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

Alaska Region: We installed the firewall replacement system on our headquarters system recently. It installed okay but we have some questions since we don't really trust the LDAD information coming in from a non-trusted computer system. James Washington of the NCF suggested that Phil contact Duane Culmore of Raytheon and John R. Gordon with the CIO office.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: We have three sites which will be testing OB7.1 about 3 weeks from now. Since the installation of the new DX3 and DX4 are necessary for OB7.1, what can we tell those sites since the DXs have been delayed. The WSH response was the DXs were tested at NHOR this week and Mary Buckingham is planning on testing their installation at a regional headquarters site next week. It is a question if she will continue to test it at a WFO after that before she issues the mod note in final.

What is the status of the firewall mod note for RFCs? The WSH response was the mod note will be ready in draft form later this week and could be posted as final sometime next week if Mary Buckingham okays it.

An incident occurred over the weekend when an AWIPS contractor came into the RFC systems in the region and changed the /etc/profile on all their linux workstations and servers. It caused the RVF product composition program to crash at site RHA. A trouble ticket was written up by that site. James Washington of the NCF stated that he has been discussing the problem with the affected sites and that he will issue an e-mail in a day or two about this matter.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: When will the regional firewall mod note be issued? Tim Hopkins replied that Jim Lane is working on this issue and there is no firm date yet set. When will the new replacement printers be issued? James Washington of the NCF replied in the late July, early August timeframe that they could begin shipping.

Western Region: What is the status of the start of the on-line documentation of the System Manager's Manual? Frank Lucadamo took the action item to find out the status.

ACTION ITEM 177-1: Find status of the start of on-line documentation of the SMM. (Frank Lucadamo) [Editor's note: Action completed. See Word attachment titled "Summary of the SSM updates."]

What is the status of the start of the on-line trouble ticket system that the NCF is working on? James Washington replied that they hope to get it up and running by later this summer although no firm date has been set.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: Shannon mentioned at the last RACC about an event that occurred whereby a site could not do a re-transmission of a short duration warning. Instead, the system will send out the same warning as a new warning product and the ETN number increases. This problem began back in OB5 and continues in OB6. This issue was brought up at the Short Duration Warning Working Group meeting and we are working with GSD to find a workaround since a permanent fix may not be possible until OB7.2.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2006. 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.