

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 181 (8/23/06)

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, August 23, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARRH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **ROC**: Mark Albertelly; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB7.1 and Other Software Issues: We have done 3 alpha installs and 8 beta installs of OB7.1. We had to place the Pacific Region headquarters install on hold due to their having hardware problems and their need to order a new PX2. The Alaska Region headquarters has recently completed their install. We are going to recommend that sites reboot their hardware a week before installing OB7.1 and hopefully this will help identify the many current problems associated with the OB7.1 software. Raytheon is considering a power cycle instead of a total hardware reboot but nothing definite has been decided.

We will not perform any more WFO installs until there is a fix for the IFPS service backup problem. Raytheon is developing a utility script that will support IFPS service backup between OB6.1.1 sites and OB7.1 sites. The developers are testing the script this week. They would like to verify next week that the script works in various scenarios with selected OB7.1 beta sites, and their secondary backup sites at OB6.1.1.

We have asked that the OB7.1 test procedures be posted to the AWIPS workstations at all sites and onto the One Stop web page. These actions should be completed by Friday. The test procedures can be used at beta test sites to evaluate new functionality (such as new data sets in D2D) and all fixes and enhancements in OB7.1.

- b. Remote Access to the Remedy Trouble Ticket System: Randy Chambers stated that the NCF has recently implemented remote access to the Remedy trouble ticket system. A video conference call will be held with the regions on or about September 12. Access for the regional offices will be available on September 21 and be available to all field sites at a later date. One can search for trouble tickets using the site ID, the DR number, a date search, etc. The system will contain only those trouble tickets that have been escalated and will include information such as whether the ticket is open or closed, the escalation history, and a summary line. Randy noted that this is an incremental step and the process can be refined at a later date.

Also, concerning the LDAP access to the NOAA3 server, the field can access the NOAA3 server and the one stop AWIPS web page which contains the SREC and DR web sites via the LDAP.

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

Alaska Region: We have installed the beta version of OB7.1 on the VRH system. We offer kudos to Ben Brinkley and Brad Scilio for their efforts in assisting us through a very long install.

Central Region: What is the status of the radar displacement emergency release (OB6.1.2)? This emergency release contains the radar displacement correction. Initial evaluation at the beta sites indicated that the fix has corrected the problem. If all of the beta sites report positive results, then the release will be finalized and installed by the NCF in a week and half. The maintenance release (OB6.1) and emergency releases (OB6.1.1, OB6.1.2) **must** be installed in sequence (i.e. 6.1.2 won't be installed until the site has 6.1.1). Also, the two emergency releases will be included in a delta upgrade of sites currently having OB7.1.

When will the new DX3 and DX4 be approved for field installation? James Washington stated sometime in September and he thinks at this point that the NCF can support 5 installs per day (Monday through Thursday). A question was asked of James of how many sites can the NCF support with the upcoming OB7.1 installs and he said that a decision will be forthcoming very soon.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: We also offer kudos to Ben Brinkley and Brad Scilio of the NCF for their tireless and dedicated efforts.

Southern Region: Concerning the 56k dial backup product list, is it time to revisit this list to ensure there are valid products and the proper products on this list? A response was that this list was originally set up for a degraded functionality and it is for text products only. Its purpose might be a bit outdated. Bill Gery stated it probably could be looked at but no action item was assigned at this time.

The AWIPS software upgrades cause changes at some sites to the SSH keys such that sites cannot perform IFPS service backup. Why is this happening? Several theories were kicked around. The Training Center is aware and is looking into a solution. Jamie Vavra stated that it is important that a site call the NCF to have a trouble ticket written up so the appropriate people can be assigned to work the problem. Eric gave Jamie one TT number and will find several others so Jamie can assist the NCF in assigning these related TTs.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

Radar Hotline: We circulated a review of the WAN dedicated operations guidance and this was posted on the hotline web page. We are awaiting more comments before we go final.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 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.