

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 193 (2/21/07)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Craig Schmidt; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Administrative Housekeeping: Occasionally, this conference call can last past 3 PM since there are many issues being discussed. Since a number of key people here at WSH need to attend the 3 PM Developer's Organization meeting, it has been suggested that we possibly go to a weekly RACC call so it can end by 3 PM. After some discussion, the consensus was to keep the RACC calls on a bi-weekly basis and for the moderator to attempt to limit the discussions in a reasonable way.

b. Status of OB7.2 and OB8.1: The installation of OB7.2 at WFOs is going well and no major issues are being reported. The installation takes about 3 hours to complete. At RFCs, the installs take about 8 hours due to the backup of log files and a system upgrade of the AX system.

Concerning the kernel upgrade for OB7.2, a Revision A to the mod note will be issued next week. For those sites that have already upgraded to OB7.2, the sites should schedule on the Oracle calendar for the NCF to retrofit the kernels for their sites. This will be pushed by the NCF to the sites and the sites would follow the install instructions in Revision A to the mod note.

Concerning OB7.2.0.1, this release, containing security patches, is now being tested and will be shipped to sites via a CD and a mod note by next week. The sites need to be at OB7.2 before installing 7.2.0.1 and then they can install 7.2.1.

We have lined up 5 sites for beta testing OB7.2.1. The DRs in this software release are attached and titled "OB7.2.1\_RBD.xls".

Tomorrow, the AWIPS Support Branch will send out to the Regions a request for OB8.1 beta sites. The first WFO to test OB8.1 will be on May 2.

c. Impact of New Start date of Daylight Saving Time (DST): The DST change will be 3 weeks earlier in the Spring and 1 week later in the Fall (Starting 2 AM on Sunday, March 11, 2007 and Ending at 2 AM on Sunday, November 4, 2007). There will be some changes to the software at all sites. A second issue is that Pulaski County, Indiana, which is currently in Central Time, will switch to Eastern Time. The SST will prepare an instructional note for the affected sites on this

second issue. Below is a listing of the software changes required for both problems.

DST Extension Changes:

- Update the tzdata for Java on RHEL platforms from tzdata2003d to tzdata2005p
- Update the tztab file on the HP-UX hosts (note that this is included in OB7.2 as well)
- Update the zonefiles on the NetApp filer (NAS)
- Update the shefdecoder files for OB7.1 sites only

Pulaski County, IN Changes:

- Update the shapefiles and perform localization
- Update the postgres db, ifps
- Restart ifps
- Update NWRWAVES

d. Update on WarnGen Template Problems: The SST corrected the WarnGen templates in OB7.2 several weeks ago. These corrected templates were placed on the NOAA1 server and are available before sites install 7.2. The corrected templates will also be placed in upcoming maintenance release OB7.2.1.

e. Update on a2a File for the Extreme Wind Warning Product: Beginning June 1, 2007, the WFOs will have the capability to issue an Extreme Wind Warning (EWW) product for land falling hurricanes. The EWW product is an event driven product issued when sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to impact a coastal or inland area. So while the main use will be for land-falling tropical cyclones, it has other uses. It could be issued for downslope (Santa Ana) winds, derechos, or any wind of over 115 mph. More information about the EWW product can be found at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane/eww.shtml>

The web page also contains the list of 47 WFOs approved to issue the EWW and a list of the WMO headers and PILs for the EWW products. OB7.2 delivered two new WarnGen templates for the EWW product and the OB7.2 WarnGen WFO Implementation Instructions provide more information about the new EWW templates. In addition to configuring the two EWW WarnGen templates, the afos2awips.txt file should be updated to include the new PILs and WMO headers for the EWW product. All WFOs which are approved to issue the EWW product should update their afos2awips.txt file to include the new EWW products that they may issue. WFOs which may provide service backup for one of the WFOs that are approved to issue the EWW product should also update their afos2awips.txt file.

Attached to these minutes is Wayne Martin's Power Point presentation file titled "Information\_About\_Extreme\_Wind\_Warning.ppt".

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

Andy Nappi: The AWIPS system currently uses the X.400 message transfer protocol on the DS servers. As part of the DS decommissioning requirements, AWIPS will be switching from X.400 to the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) running from the Linux DX servers. Testing on February 16 was successful at WFOs LUB and MAF. Additional testing at 6 WFOs

will be attempted over the next two weeks. The Alaska Region sites will be the first to permanently make the switch in the first half of March. The remaining regions will switch between the third week of March and second week of April.

Alaska Region: We plan to have all of our sites upgraded to OB7.2 by the end of March.

Central Region: We are testing the security patches OB7.2.0.1 at BCQ and so far it is going well.

Eastern Region: The installs of OB7.2 are going well. There has been reported a problem with a radar going down and no red banner coming from Guardian. Eric Howieson stated that the same problem has occurred intermittently in the Southern region. Trouble tickets have been opened up by the sites seeing this problem. There was also a question of the name change of the Partial Backup button. It was Eastern Region's understanding that the switch from the Partial Backup button to the Dam Break Partial Backup button was supposed to occur in OB8.1 not OB7.2. Ashley Kells stated that there was confusion on this issue. A software change was made to rename the Partial Backup Button. But, this name is misleading. According to Jim Ramer of GSD, the Dam Break template uses the Partial Backup infrastructure, but there is no need to use this button when issuing Dam Break warnings for Dams along a CWA border. The Dam Break Partial Backup button will be removed in a future release.

Southern Region: It would be helpful to the sites if the contractor or the government could issue a "lessons learned" document and a "known issues" document while a new software load is being distributed to the field. Also, an RFC in our region had a problem recently with the archiver unit failing. The NCF was able to solve the problem by having a spare unit shipped to the site. But, the number of spare units is running low and WSH is aware of the problem.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007. 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.**