

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 197 (4/18/07)

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, April 18, 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; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **GSD**: Carl Bullock; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Jim Podischek; **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. Status of AWIPS OB 8.1: Four installations of the alpha software have been completed as planned to date during the AWIPS OB8.1 Alpha Testing Phase. A week of testing of the alpha software at BCQ resulted in the identification of several critical defects which are now being investigated by Raytheon developers. These issues were discussed in detail at the OB8.1 Alpha Teleconference held on April 18. The Regional Focal Points have provided feedback on the issues for which fixes are required prior to the first WFO beta site installation of the software. An OB8.1 Beta Readiness Review meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM this coming Friday. If we are ready to transition to beta, then two regional headquarters sites, PBP and VUY will install the software next week and the first WFO, BOX is scheduled to install the beta version of the software on May 2. We plan to start the first routine weekly Beta Teleconference calls on Monday, April 30. The beta version zero was installed today on the headquarters' NMTW test platform system and the installation took approximately 3 hours to complete.

OB8.1 Beta Test Phase: We are looking into ways in which we can formalize the testing done during the OB8.1 Beta Test Phase. Jamie Vavra's proposal for a new activity in OB8.1 is a more formal tracking of official product generated during the Beta Test Phase. The proposal is presently being reviewed by the Regional AWIPS Focal Points.

We propose that at each WFO and RFC that have volunteered to serve as an OB8.1 beta sites, the AWIPS Focal Points make a list of all NWS operational products (those issued by WFOs and RFCs) which are prepared and disseminated via AWIPS during the OB8.1 Beta Test Phase. This would be a list of products by product ID and name, not a list of the number of products issued. By compiling this list of products, we would know if any products have not been issued as we approach the end of the Beta Testing Phase. We could then select beta sites volunteers to prepare and internally issue these products that have not been operationally prepared by using practice mode or other methods used for practicing. This would provide a way to ensure that all official NWS WFO and RFC issued products have been issued during the OB8.1 Beta Test Phase.

Joe Palko from the Eastern Region has stated that he is responsive to this proposal. Jamie would like to get a formal response from the other focal points within the next 2 weeks, by Wednesday,

May 2. If no response is provided, she will assume the Regional AWIPS Focal Points concur with this proposal and it will be adopted in the Beta Test Phase.

Storm Based Warning Capability in OB8.1: Raytheon did not approve the Release Adjustment Request which was submitted to have the OB8.1 WarnGenWish executable loaded to a non-operational directory and therefore leaving the OB7.2 WarnGenWish executable active. Therefore, the new Storm Based Warning software functionality will be deployed to all sites as they install the OB8.1 release. Due to the fact that the draft training will not be available until May 14, we will follow up with the AWIPS Regional Headquarters Focal Points to advise them and find out if the planned beta installation schedule for the site installations will change. Jamie did an informal poll of the 4 AWIPS Focal Points from the contiguous regions to see if a change may be needed to the installation schedule for the first few planned beta test sites. The opinions were split evenly, so there was no real consensus on whether the new functionality in AWIPS OB8.1 is significantly different enough from OB7.2 to warrant a delay until the new draft training material is available. A formal poll will be sent out via e-mail in the next few days. Mike Rega of the SST will work on the instructions for customizing the WarnGen templates and these instructions should be available in early May.

b. Other software Issues: Maintenance release OB7.2.1 is in national deployment and the CDs were shipped to all sites which should receive them by April 23. If a site has not gotten their CD by that date, they should contact their focal points who will in turn contact Raytheon. We have begun a final analysis for OB8.2 and have identified the required DRs. Also, the software development is underway and forecaster testing is scheduled here in Silver Spring the third week of June.

A change has been made to the MHS architecture at sites due to the SMTP roll out. This will be handled like the GFE ISC grid transfer by being pushed to all sites by the NCF. No additional action will be needed by the sites themselves.

c. Status of Radar Service Backup and the AWIPS/MPLS: A test was performed at the supplemental sites for the radar service backup and its functionality. A team will get together and look at the analysis and determine how to proceed. Concerning the MPLS, a CDR was conducted last Friday and we are looking at the data and to see if we can proceed with this project.

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

Jim Lane: Several focal points have recently brought up 2 non critical issues concerning the replacement LX workstations. One dealt with the superfluous users that have SSH keys that came with the new image workstations. The other issue dealt with the Netscape log rotate issue. The NCF will go back and work out some corrections/fixes as needed for the sites that have already replaced the new workstations. The upcoming sites needing to replace the workstations will have the issue corrected.

Another issue that came up with the new workstations was the mouse scroll and it crashing a pane. The NCF is looking into this issue and would like the first few sites that initially

encounter this problem to contact the NCF so they can look into the site's log files. This action could assist the NCF with solving this problem.

James Washington: Since OB7.2 has been installed, password aging has been out there in 4 users (ldad, fxa, oper and ifps). We went to the NOAA security people and received permission to eliminate the password aging for these users because of their impact on operations. We will generate a plan on how to take off the password aging and present it to the focal points for review. We hope to get this issue resolved by the end of next week.

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

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.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 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 Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.