

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 207 (9/5/07)

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, September 5, 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**: Joshua Watson; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Mark Mollner; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel, Duane Carpenter; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Jim Totusek, Heather Galan; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White; **HSD/OCWWS**: Randy Rieman
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of Current Software Installs: Sites are currently installing OB8.1 and OB8.1.0.1 with no issues noted so far. As of this morning, there are 105 sites that are at OB8.1.0.1 or greater.

During the OB8.1 beta testing, Trouble Ticket #295950 was created concerning WFO Indianapolis, IN (IND) experiencing a halt in hmIngest processing files from /data/ldad/hmIngest. After some very long and detailed analysis, it has been determined that this was happening because hmIngest and the Java interpreter are too slow on the old HP-UX hardware and DR19376 has been written. This problem does not exist on the new Linux-based LDAD servers. The current LDAD deployment schedule has the delivery of all new LDAD servers to the sites by October 15 with actual install dates depending on when the sites sign up. (The LDAD OT&E has resumed and OT&E replacements are being imaged and shipped this week.) Based on the effort to rewrite the software for the old HP-UX hardware and timing of the LDAD server upgrade, our recommendation is that the sites use the following workarounds and we would verify the issue is resolved after the server upgrade and then cancel the DR. At this time, no other site has indicated that they experienced this problem.

Suggested workarounds the site could use:

- (1) Reduce the amount of data that is sent to hmIngest.
- (2) Install and use LDM. The new LDAD servers will be using LDM anyway. If WFO IND does not have customers using the WebDissem interface, this is probably the best option.

Any site having this problem should contact the NCF. They know about these workarounds and can assist the sites.

- b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

*DS Software Decommissioning*: We are in beta testing and should begin deployment on October 8.

*OB8.1.1:* There are 31 DRs in this release and it should take about 1-1.5 hours to install. We have begun beta testing and plan to begin deployment on October 1. We will coordinate with the NCF to see how many *installations* a day they can support.

*OB8.2:* The updates for the GFE Pre-release will be posted on September 10. Several installation issues were discovered on the RFC test system NMTR while attempting to install OB8.2 this morning (September 5). The GFE application is new functionality for RFC systems in OB8.2. However, numerous errors were encountered on NMTR while attempting to set up the environment for the application. The install has been suspended until corrections can be made.

*In terms of the full OB8.2 Install,* the next WFO install is scheduled for September 12 at Central Region Headquarters (site BCQ). Regular deployment is expected to begin around January 3, 2008.

*OB8.3:* This release performs a lot of service backup requirements. Code check-in is expected to begin on September 25. Forecaster testing during the Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase is planned for December 11-14. Regular deployment is expected to begin around June 11, 2008.

*Fall Satellite Preventive Maintenance:* This activity will begin shortly and schedules will be sent to all field sites. Bill Gery of the Central Region asked that the regional focal points also receive a copy of the schedules.

c. Status of ECMWF Data on the SBN: The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF) data is close to being issued onto the SBN. This could occur today or tomorrow or at the latest by the middle of next week. The current ECMWF data received via the AWIPS SBN are 2.5 degree resolution. An additional suite of ECMWF data, ECMWF Hi-Res at 1.0 degree resolution, will become available with AWIPS OB8.1. Some time after this ECMWF Hi-Res data are received, the ECMWF 2.5 degree resolution data will be dropped from the AWIPS SBN. The ECMWF Hi-Res data will be in Grib2 format and decoded on site arrival into NetCdf files. This ECMWF Hi-Res data will be useable/viewable in GFE and D-2D.

NOAA, the NWS, and the ECMWF have an agreement restricting the distribution of ECMWF products outside of NOAA/NWS. **Simply put, ECMWF graphics and data shall remain internal to NOAA/NWS operations and receive no wider distribution.** To support this, the ECMWF data are encrypted on the AWIPS SBN.

To spell this out further, no ECMWF products received by NOAA/NWS shall be ported to a NOAA/NWS web page, nor hard copied or electronically transferred for use outside a NOAA/NWS facility. This includes supplying ECMWF products to an emergency manager, local university, private research firm, or external customer – including other federal, state, and local government agencies. ECMWF products or graphics shall not be used in GoTo meetings, Webinar, or other types up on-line briefings, due to recording issues, unless such briefing is for internal NOAA/NWS use only. ECMWF products may be viewed by visitors to NOAA/NWS facilities and used by IMETs and other meteorologists/hydrologists during fire, emergency response, and other disaster related briefings.

Once this data is authorized to be issued onto the SBN, an e-mail will be sent by Mark Mollner to all the regional SOD chiefs who will be asked to forward the information to all of their WFOs, RFCs, and CWSUs.

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

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: We are currently installing OB8.1 on our headquarters system today, otherwise, nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 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.**