

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 208 (9/19/07)

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 19, 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, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig, Timm Decker; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of OB8.1.1 and OB8.2: The DS decommissioning beta test is winding down. The mod note is ready for signature and the readiness review is scheduled for September 25. We expect deployment to begin on October 1.

The OB8.1.1 beta test is winding down and a readiness review is scheduled for tomorrow, September 20. Deployment is scheduled to begin on October 2. This maintenance release fixes 32 DRs and takes only about an hour and half to install.

OB8.2 is in the alpha phase. The Central Region Headquarters installed it last week and they have forecasters in town to test the software. Site OSFW and the Southern Region Headquarters is installing the software today. A beta readiness review will be held next Monday, September 24. If all goes well, the first WFO will install it on October 10. National deployment is expected to begin in early January.

b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB8.3: This release is moving along with the DRs having been selected. A requirements and review is underway. A lot of work is going into improvements to the service backup in this release.

OB9: The first round of development estimates has been completed and is review by the SREC.

c. /usr Partition Filling up to 100%: On September 4, Mark Keehn at WFO Houston (site HGX) reported that the /usr partition on HGX's PX2 server was 90% full and HGX's PX1 server was 89% full. Mark determined that the reason why these partitions were so full was due to a high number of system log files located in the /usr/local/perfdat directory. Daily system performance log files are normally retained for 30 days in the /usr/local/perfdat directory to provide a 30 day history of the system performance. Unfortunately, starting in OB7.1 the boxstats_cleanlogs script stopped working. The boxstats_cleanlogs script is run once a day to delete system performance log files which are older than 30 days. The result of the boxstats_cleanlogs script

not working was that AWIPS systems were accumulating more and more system performance log files which could eventually fill up the /usr partition.

On an AWIPS system configured as a WFO, the system performance logs are created on all DX servers, PX servers, AX servers, LX workstations and XT workstations giving approximately 17 devices on a typical WFO system whose /usr partition could fill to 100%. On an AWIPS system configured as an RFC, the system performance logs are created on all DX servers, PX servers, AX servers, RP servers, LX workstations and XT workstations giving approximately 27 devices on a typical RFC system whose /usr partition could fill to 100%. Across the entire AWIPS spectrum, this problem affects approximately 3,000 servers and workstations. Mark Keehn reported that HGX had system performance log files dating back to December 2006, the time when HGX installed OB7.1.

Mark posted this information on the AWIPSINFO listserver because he suspected that other AWIPS systems had the same problem. A number of other offices reported similar problems by posting emails on AWIPSINFO. Also responding to Mark Keehn's e-mail was Greg Heavener from the NCF. The NCF had discovered this problem in May 2007. While analyzing the problem, the NCF determined how to correct the boxstats_cleanlogs script so that it would properly delete old log files. The NCF wrote DR 18999 to document the problem and in DR 18999 the NCF provided the solution to the problem. Unfortunately, DR 18999 was rated with a low priority and it has yet to be assigned to any future software build. After reviewing the history of this problem, the SST of the AWIPS Support Branch (W/OPS21) decided to intervene to see if the problem could be resolved sooner. The SST tested the NCF's solution and determined that it corrected the problem. The SST submitted Release Adjustment 8-115 for OB8.2 to install this solution with the OB8.2 installation. The Release Adjustment Committee has approved this and it is waiting for final approval by the Steering Committee. Because this is a problem right now affecting approximately 3,000 AWIPS servers and workstations, W/OPS21 is negotiating to allow the SST to deploy this fix immediately. By the next RACC meeting we will discuss what the outcome is for this problem.

d. Updating Site Focal Points Contact List: Wayne Martin sent to the regional focal points an updated NCF Points of Contact list. He is asking that they in turn forward the list to all of their sites for review. Any comments should be sent back to the NCF by October 19 so they can update the accuracy of the list.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: The installation of OB8.2 went well on our headquarters system last week. We have some forecasters in town who are presently testing the software.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: We realize that Guam is not yet scheduled on the Oracle calendar to install OB8.1/8.1.1. The site is short staffed and the earliest that they might install the software will be

in the mid October time frame.

Southern Region: We installed OB8.2 on our regional headquarters' system the other day. The MSAP install failed again but Joanne Edwards of GSD reported that they are working with Raytheon on fixing the problem.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are working hard on fixing a possible operational bug in the WES 8.1 for site PAH (Paducah, KY). We are working on the WES 8.2 software and also planning the training. We are preparing training for the SFMP SCAN alerts and plan to place some Guardian alert changes in the WES 8.2.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 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.