

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 209 (10/03/07)

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, October 3, 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; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Heather Galan; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **ROC**: Mark Albertelly; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **NCF**: Matt Kensey, Kristen Delack
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

- a. Status of OB8.1, OB8.1.1, and OB8.2: OB8.1 has been installed at 163 sites with only three more remaining. Guam is looking to do the install on October 16 and that will leave the two systems at the Hurricane Center. The NHC may not be able to upgrade until November when the season is winding down. The OB8.1.1 Maintenance release began yesterday and already 36 sites have installed it.

The Eastern Region Headquarters installed the alpha version of OB8.2 this morning. The part 2 of the beta readiness review will be held tomorrow (October 4). We plan on starting the operational beta installs the week of October 9. The first beta site will be the WFO and the RFC at Minneapolis on October 10. The first beta teleconference call will be held this Friday (October 5) and will continue on every Monday beginning October 15 and running until December 17.

- b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases: Karen Tepera of Raytheon gave the following briefing:

OB8.1.2: Indiana Emergency Release (see Matt Kensey's agenda item c below).

OB8.1.3: This release would correct issues that were discovered during the Hydro VTEC OT&E relating to the dam break FFW. The workset and draft release plan should be available after October 5. Deployment is expected in the middle of November.

DS Decommissioning: This activity is for the WFOs only and it began on this past Monday.

OB8.3: This development is in process and is moving along. 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.

OB9.0: The SREC is close to finalizing the requirements and we will soon finalize a schedule.

The satellite preventive maintenance schedules were sent to all the regional focal points for

further distribution to their respective sites. If anyone has not received the schedules, contact the NCF.

c. Upcoming Indiana Time Zone Changes: There are 5 Indiana counties switching from Central to Eastern Time Zone on November 4, 2007. The developers are working to code and check in the items for the release by October 10. The release is only for 5 Central Region WFOs. The remaining sites would get the updates in OB8.2. Deployment is expected on October 30. More details are in the attachment to these minutes titled "Indiana TZ Changes."

d. Associated Radar x.25 Dial Backup:

AWIPS supports 2 types of "dial" access to a remote WSR-88D radar: A "dial" access which uses the AWIPS WAN as the communications path and another dial access which uses the X.25 phone lines as the communications path. For AWIPS systems that are not the official sender of radar products to the NCF, these AWIPS systems perform a One-Time Request "dial" to the radar in which the communication path between the requesting AWIPS system and the radar is the AWIPS WAN. For the AWIPS WAN "dial" to function, both the requesting AWIPS system and the radar must be on the AWIPS WAN. In the event of a communications outage that severs the AWIPS WAN communication line to a radar, an AWIPS system can request products from a radar via the Simpack X.25 dial line. For each radar, the NWS funds (2) X.25 dial backup lines. The X.25 line 1 is used for National Centers and RFCs. The X.25 line 2 is used by surrounding WFOs. This is the line that the associated AWIPS system would use to request products that will be transmitted to the NCF. It appears that when the radar acquisition software was moved from the DS servers to the DX servers, the X.25 dial functionality was not fully configured on the DX servers. The result is that when there is a WAN communications failure between a given radar and the AWIPS WAN, AWIPS is not able to establish the X.25 dial backup functionality. The problem is most critical for DoD and FAA radars. For DoD and FAA radars, a frame relay circuit connects the DoD/FAA radar RPG to AWIPS. In the event that the DoD/FAA frame relay connection is severed, AWIPS must use the X.25 dial circuit to communicate with the DoD/FAA radar.

DR #19383 addresses this X.25 radar dial problem in which the Simpack Freeway software was not properly configured on the DX's. The AWIPS Network Control Facility (NCF), Radar Operations Center (ROC) and Raytheon's Application Support Maintenance (ASM) have identified the deficiencies in how the Simpack Freeway software was configured on the DX servers. A workaround has been developed in which the ESA or ITO at an AWIPS system will manually correct the configuration problems with the DX Simpack Freeway software. The instructions for the ESA/ITO will be emailed to the affected AWIPS systems after October 9. The ESA/ITO will be correcting problems with directory permission settings and symbolic links to the Simpack Freeway software. If an ESA/ITO has problems implementing the instructions, the ESA/ITO should open a trouble ticket with the NCF at (301) 713-9344. The NCF lead for these trouble tickets is Kristen Delack who generally works Sunday through Thursday from 2 PM to 11 PM Eastern Time.

The ROC maintains site specific radar configuration files such as the dialRadars.txt file. If there is a problem with the X.25 dial out line or the phone number your AWIPS system is using to

access a radar, contact the ROC. The ROC lead is Mark Albertelly at (405) 573-8841. Starting October 9, ESAs/ITOs whose AWIPS system is an associated AWIPS system for a DoD or FAA radar will receive an email with instructions on how to correctly configure the DX AWIPS servers for X.25 radar dial backup. The instructions will be sent to the sites with DoD/FAA radars because their connection to AWIPS is the most vulnerable. We don't yet have a plan for fixing this problem for the 121 NWS radars.

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

Wayne Martin: At the September 19 RACC, Wayne discussed the problem of the /usr partition filling up to 100 percent. Wayne gave an update on this situation. 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 has been approved by the Steering Committee. This solution will be included in OB8.2. Until sites install OB8.2, the NCF will monitor the situation at each site and take appropriate action. Also, each site needs to monitor their non-baseline systems and take the appropriate actions.

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: We put in our new LDAD system this week and it is up and running.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: We have scheduled Guam to install OB8.1 on the calendar for October 16.

Southern 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, October 17, 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.