

NWS Weather Event Simulator 9.0

Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch
Norman, OK

WES 9.0 Installation

Enclosed you will find a WES 9.0 Install DVD. To install WES 9.0, please consult the INSTALL_WES90.pdf file on the DVD. All WFO's, including those who were WES 9.0 beta test sites, need to install WES 9.0.

What's New in WES 9.0

1. Updated with AWIPS OB9.0:

- High-resolution Precipitation Nowcaster (HPN)
- FFMP Advanced basin traces, interpolated FFG
- TDWR data in FSI
- Dual Polarization display capability
- ARSR-4 and ASR-11 FAA radar capability

2. AvnFPS changes:

- WES 9.0 includes changes to AvnFPS to accommodate a change in TAF format in November 2008. WES 9.0 can handle TAFs in both old and new formats with no user intervention required.
- We have modified WES to make it easier to manage switching between different sites when running AvnFPS simulations. In the past, two files had to be manually modified in the avnfps directory: `/awips/adapt/avnfps/etc/ids.cfg` and `/awips/adapt/avnfps/etc/tafs/DEFAULT`. Starting with WES 9.0, you will add these files to your data case instead. When AvnFPS starts up, WES will look for these files (`DEFAULT` and `ids.cfg`) in the `$FXA_DATA/drt/avnfps` directory. If it finds them, it will use them (via links in the appropriate `/awips/adapt/avnfps` subdirectories). If not, default versions of these files will be used.

3. Tool to save modified GFE grids

- WES 9.0 includes a new Tool to save user modified GFE grids, as well as the ability to initialize a GFE simulation with these user modified grids rather than the default grids. See Section 18.5 for details.

4. GFE watchautomater and tcvautomater

- WES 9.0 now includes modified versions of the GFE watchautomater and tcvautomater scripts which can be called from WESSL. Detailed information and instructions are in Section 18.6. Thanks to Ron Miller of WFO Spokane for his contribution to this update.

5. Networked WES Working

- Running a networked WES with multiple machines (see Section 21) used to have problems with WarnGen window popups and FSI updates. Those problems have now been solved, and the networked WES configuration now works fine.

6. WES 9.0 Overview Training in the LMS for NOAA users

- All NOAA WES installation focal points and WES training focal points (see <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/admin/WES-IOP-Final.pdf>) should take this short training in the LMS (see <http://doc.learn.com/noaa/nws>). To take the module, you will need to search for “WES 9.0” in the LMS catalog.

Known Issues in WES 9.0

- FFMP localizations delete FFMP data on live AWIPS and on the WES. Every time you relocalize with the “-ffmp” switch, you will need to recreate the FFMP data with the tool in WES 9.0.
- start_simulator sometimes erroneously detects an existing simulation. If you get a warning popup stating another start_simulator program has been detected, and you know another simulation is not running, you may disregard it.
- OB9.0 requires Redhat Enterprise 4. The OB9.0 AWIPS will not work with Redhat Enterprise 3 or Redhat Enterprise 5.
- The surface observation monitors from MDL (SNOW, SAFESEAS, Fog Monitor) have not been integrated into WES.
- A small feature in GUARDIAN designed to allow the user to move the GUARDIAN status bar to different screens does not function correctly.

WES 9.0 Post Install

As with all major WES releases, new localizations (including the –scan and -ffmp switches) must be built for cases to display properly with OB9.0 in WES 9.0. (For more information, see Section 7 of the WES 9.0 installation instructions.)

WES Development Timeline

WES 9.0 may be the final first generation WES release prior to the release of the new Java-based AWIPS-II. AWIPS-II is scheduled for release in spring of 2010. Because AWIPS-II will not come with training capability designed in the baseline, WDTB is leading the development of a totally new “WES-II Bridge for AWIPS-II”. The WES-II Bridge will be released prior to the release of AWIPS-II, and we plan to have a case converter to provide continuity between the old archived cases and the new AWIPS-II. As a preliminary step in this evolution, we are providing an AWIPS-II “sandbox” on WES workstations sometime after WES 9.0 and before the WES-II Bridge is released. WDTB plans to maintain the WES-II Bridge until training capability is developed in the AWIPS baseline, which is currently planned for subsequent AWIPS-II builds. Stay tuned to the WES web page or email list for the latest information.

Questions

Questions regarding WES 9.0 installation or support should be sent to the WES info list at wes@infolist.nws.noaa.gov. Questions regarding shipping or obtaining WES for non-NOAA use should be sent to Darrel Kingfield (darrel.kingfield@noaa.gov) at the Warning Decision Training Branch.