

NWS Weather Event Simulator 9.2

Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch
Norman, OK

WES 9.2 Installation Package

This release contains 4 DVDs for NWS offices to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1) Re-Image the WES machine from a 32-bit RedHat 4 OS to a 32-bit RedHat 5.2 OS.
 - a. Refer to the **Instructions.pdf** document on the “**WES RHEL 5.2 Disk Image DVD**” for directions on completing this process.
- 2) Install the WES 9.2 Software
 - a. Refer to **INSTALL_WES92.pdf** document on the “**WES 9.2**” install DVD for instructions on completing this process.
- 3) Install OB9.2 Localizations and Customizations for all WDTB training cases located in /data/awips.
 - a. Refer to **Instructions.txt** document on the “**OB9.2 Localizations Update DVD**” for guidance on completing this process.

Starting with this release, WES releases for NWS sites will be managed through the Engineering Management Reporting System (EMRS). EMRS provides a centralized location for distribution information about WES for a more structured release cycle. Information on accessing WES 9.2 release information in EMRS will be provided by your Regional WES Focal Point.

What's New in WES 9.2

1. Updated with AWIPS OB9.2:

- AWIPS OB9.2 is a maintenance release consisting of DR fixes for various AWIPS software components, including WarnGen, AvnFPS, GFE, and other D2D display tools. Normally WES releases are not common for minor releases such as this but the operating system changes coupled with the important warning fixes warrants a special release. See Appendix B of the **INSTALL_WES92.pdf** document for a list of DR fixes incorporated into AWIPS OB9.2.

2. WES FFMP Supports Additional Sources:

- In previous builds, WES supported radar DHR and RFCFFG sources, as well as the following specific sources:
 - o HPE, QPFHPE, BiasHPE, BHPE, QPFBiasHPE, QPFBHPE, SCANQPF_XXXX

WES 9.2 supports additional sources using an FFMPuserConfig.dat file in /data/awips/<case>/ffmp. See section 12.4 for additional information.

3. WES AvnFPS Must Use 30-Hour TAF Formatting:

- All cases using Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) must have the files in the 30-hour TAF format (implemented on November 1st, 2008) in order to work with AvnFPS OB9.2. This includes case dates prior to November 1st, 2008. A comparison of the 2 formats can be seen below:

Old TAF Format (24-hour):

```
KABC 131128Z 131212 14005KT P6SM SCT025 OVC040
      TEMPO 1216 OVC025
      FM1600 13015G23KT P6SM OVC015
      FM2100 13015G22KT P6SM OVC008
```

New TAF Format (30-hour):

```
KABC 131128Z 1312/1418 14005KT P6SM SCT025 OVC040
      TEMPO 1312/1316 OVC025
      FM131600 13015G23KT P6SM OVC015
      FM132100 13015G22KT P6SM OVC008
```

4. WES FSI Case Review Improved:

- In case review mode, FSI will now build a 4-hour dataset backwards from the user input time. This will provide a more useful initial FSI display time and allow access to a longer time period relative to the user input time.

5. Flash Upgrade from Flash 9 to Flash 10:

- The process of manually installing the flash plugins is no longer required as WES 9.2 includes an updated version of the Adobe Flash player which is controlled by a “flash-plugin” rpm.

6. WES 9.2 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>) must 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 9.2” in the LMS catalog.

Known Issues in WES 9.2

- OB9.2 contains a known bug in SCAN (DR 20981). The “Storm Cells / Site Storm Threat” hexagons do not plot and Guardian errors messages will display. This issue will be patched in WES 9.2 Update 1.

- 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 “Create FFMP Dataset” accessed through the “Tools” button in WES.
- 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.
- The OB9.2 and WES9.2 requires a 32-bit Redhat Enterprise 5.2 operating system.
- 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 9.2 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 OB9.2 in WES 9.2. (For more information, see Section 7 of the WES 9.2 installation instructions.)

WES Development Timeline

WES 9.2 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 winter of 2011. 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 that will work with AWIPS-II software. A new machine based off the new LX Replacement is currently planned to be procured for use with WES-II Bridge. The existing WES machine is planned to become a “WES-II Lite” to provide multiple forecasters access to simulation and playback. WDTB will release the WES-II Bridge 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 format. 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 9.2 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.