NWS Weather Event Simulator 9.14 Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch

WES 9.14 Installation Package

This release contains 2 DVDs for NWS offices to accomplish the following objectives:

1) Install the WES 9.14 Software
    a. Refer to the **INSTALL_WES914.pdf** document on the "**WES 9.14**" install DVD for instructions on completing this process.
2) Install OB 9.14 localizations for all WDTB training cases located in /data/awips
    a. Refer to Instructions.txt document on the "**OB9.14 Localizations Update DVD**" for guidance on completing this process.

What's New in WES 9.14

1. Updated with AWIPS Software Builds from OB9.11 - OB9.14

- The new WES 9.14 release includes updates for OB9.11-OB9.14 software builds.

2. WES compatible with SAILS data

- Supplemental Adaptive Intra-Volume Low-Level Scan (SAILS) is now compatible with the WES. SAILS will add an extra 0.5 degree tilt into the "middle" of a volume scan (dependent on AVSET) for VCPs 212 and 12. FSI does not display the extra SAILS tilt operationally or in WES. For more information see http://www.roc.noaa.gov/wsr88d/PublicDocs/NewTechnology/SAILS_FAQs.pdf

3. Changes to WarnGen Templates

- With the release of AWIPS OB9.13, the WarnGen templates were updated to include Tornado and Flash Flood Emergency text. When the WarnGen GUI is launched, the emergency text options will be the top bullet under "Optional bullets:".

4. WES documentation INSTALL_WES914.pdf updated

- Updates include: importing forecast grids to GFE (section 18.3), forcing flash flood guidance (section 12.4), and configuring desktop shortcuts (Appendix B).

5. WES 9.14 Overview Training in the LMS for NOAA users

- All NOAA WES installation focal points and WES training focal points should take the short WES 9.14 training in the LMS (search for "WES 9.14" in http://doc.learn.com/noaa/nws).

Known Issues in WES 9.14

- You need to relocalize your cases after installing WES9.14.
- Relocalizing with the "-ffmp" switch deletes FFMP data (AWIPS convention), so data needs to be recreated after using the "-ffmp" switch (see section 12).
- start_simulator sometimes erroneously detects an existing simulation. Disregard this message if another start_simulator is not running.

WES Development Timeline

The current plan is for WES-1 to be updated at the beginning of each calendar year and supported until all sites have migrated to AWIPS-2 and WDTB's AWIPS-2 WES capability, WES-2 Bridge. The initial release of the WES-2 Bridge development to early AWIPS-2 Activation Groups is planned to occur a couple of months after the WES-2 Bridge Discrepancy Reports (DRs) are fixed in the AWIPS baseline, perhaps in early to mid-2014. As more capability is added to WES-2 Bridge (e.g. AWIPS-1 to AWIPS-2 case conversion capabilities, OS support for 64bit AWIPS-2, etc), a more widespread release is planned for all sites. Current AWIPS schedules have AWIPS-2 completely fielded in 2015, so the WES-1 to WES-2 Bridge transition will likely extend into 2015. The long-term development of training capability in the AWIPS baseline has been delayed more years due to budget cutbacks.

The WES-2 Bridge platform will utilize the HP Z600 machines deployed to NOAA offices in December 2010. Upon transition to AWIPS-2/WES-2 Bridge, the existing HP xw6200 WES-1 will become a "WES-2 Bridge Lite" to provide multiple forecasters access a second AWIPS-2 machine for case processing and playback. While some sites have had to use the Z600 WES-2 Bridge machine for WES-1 due to hardware failures, sites need to know that the WES-2 Bridge software will come with a disk image that will overwrite anything put on the WES-2 Bridge Z600 workstation. The ideal strategy for hardware failures (e.g. graphics card, hard drives) is to find spare parts (contact Regional HQ). As NWS budgets improve, hardware parts replacement may return.

Questions

Questions regarding WES 9.14 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 the Warning Decision Training Branch.