

AWIPS Build OB6 D2D software release notes

These are changes from Build OB5.

Note: These are working notes on FSL's part of the Build OB6 work. Some items may be modified or removed before OB6 hits the field. Official Release Notes will be posted at the NWS AWIPS site once the field release is ready.

Infrastructure

- The logged-in user's name is set at startup, so procedures and color tables are available immediately. Setting the name in the window frame, introduced in OB5, still happens after 15 seconds, and the `igc_mgr_priv` error can still happen on a slow/overloaded system.

Graphics/image workstation

New features

- Radar:
- Satellite:
- Volume Browser:
 - Grids produced by the Multisensor Precipitation Estimator algorithm are available for display on the State(s) and WFO scales. These can also be found in the Hydro section of the NCEP/Hydro menu, under QPE. MPE grids are displayed using a new 'truncated' grid color table which shows zero values in gray to let you see the limits of the site-specified domain.
 - GFE grids can be exported to allow display on the Volume Browser. Fields available include WindWave, WaveHeight, Swell, T, Td, RH_Sfc, MinT, MaxT, Heat Index, Wind (no spd/dir or u/v components), Gust, PoP, QPF, Tp.
- WarnGen:
 - The background color of the WarnGen window changes to reflect the Test/Practice mode setting (see below).

Improvements

- The Hydro area of the NCEP/Hydro menu is reorganized for display of QPE grids.
- Radar:
 - The Radar Multiple Request application (RMR) now accommodates TDWRs.

- The product selection menus for RPS List Editor, OTR, and RMR applications have been reorganized into functional groupings with pull-right submenus.
- There is a new format for the Clutter Filter Control product. When requesting a CFC product, you now specify the segment number (1-5).
- Satellite:
- Volume Browser:
- WarnGen:

Non-FSL work that affects the UI

- A Test/Practice mode GUI is available that allows you to generate warnings tagged "TEST" or that will not be sent out. You start this "Test Mode Control Program" from the appLauncher menu (click over workstation root menu). (SEC)
- MAROB displays (station plot, sea state, clouds and visibility) are added in the Maritime area of the Obs menu. (SEC)
- Additional GFS grids are available for OCONUS sites. These include Grid 160 (47.5 km polar stereographic for Alaska, replaces 190 km Grid 203), Grid 161 (0.5 deg lat-lon for Puerto Rico, replaces 190 km Grid 205), and Grid 254 (40 km Mercator for Pacific Region, replaces 80 km Grid 225 and 40 km Grid 204). For CONUS sites, GFS40 (Grid 212) replaces GFS80 (Grid 211). All of these are 6h intervals to 240h, four times per day. (SEC)
- New GFS VB planes include Low, Middle, and High Cloud Base pressure; and 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 PV surfaces. (SEC)
- A GFS Ice Accretion and Visibility Guidance NH lat-lon grid (232) dataset is now available. The VB data source is GFSGuide, with forecasts at 3h intervals from 3-24h, 6h from 30-72h, and 12h from 84-168h. Fields available are Visibility and (new) Ice growth rate (under Sfc/2D>Marine). (SEC)
- TPC Tropical Cyclone Gridded Probabilistic Wind ("TPCWindProb") grids are available via the Volume Browser. Fields include probabilities of 34kt, 50kt, and 64kt surface winds. Selectors for these are found in a new TPC Guidance submenu on the *Fields>Sfc/2D* menu. (SEC)
- SSM/I wind speeds (ocean areas) can be displayed from the Satellite menu, just below Scatterometer winds. (SEC)
- Additional color tables developed by CIMSS and SSEC are added for GOES sounder imagery. These are added to new Sat:Precip Water, Sat:Lifted Index, and Sat:Skin Temp submenus. (SEC)
- A new Time of Arrival tool is available on the Tools menu
- SCAN (MDL):
 - a new Hail Diagnostic Grids section on the SCAN menu includes VIL Density, Digital VIL Density, and Enhanced Digital VIL Density; a VIL Density color table is added to the new MDL section of the color tables menu.
- FFMP (MDL):
- LSR (MDL):
- SAFESEAS (MDL):
 - sampling station plots now shows a table of values

- Fog monitoring includes a new Fog Monitoring Table tool on the SAFESEAS menu. A new MDL:Fog Monitor Levels color table is added to the menu.

Remaining bugs

Our old list of not-quite-what-we-want features...

- The default load mode (Valid Time Sequence or Latest Model Run) is restored after a swap, instead of whatever mode you had set when that information was in the large pane.
- Once you're in 4-panel mode, you stay there until explicitly **Clearing** the screen. If you select products on a different scale, you'll get the same thing loaded in each panel.
- Samples on skewT charts include a degree sign in front of K.
- If you turn lat/lon readout on, then bring up a skewT and sample it, you'll get lat/lon info for the previously displayed map (in addition to the chart information that you want). The pop-up correctly does not include the lat/lon toggle button, so you can't turn it off.
- Sounding plots are computing bad wet-bulb zero heights near the surface when there should be no wet-bulb zero crossing.
- The Product Maker provides access to satellite images only on the Northern Hemisphere, CONUS, and Regional scales.
- If you select MSLP as the field in the Product Maker, you must select a(ny) pressure level, in order to display it.
- When as1 fails over to as2, you see a red banner that tells you so, and says that you may need to restart in order to continue to get auto update and product time updates on the menus. In fact, this is not necessarily the case. To minimize the disruption for restarts, you should monitor radar or other frequently-updated products to see if you are getting notification of new products (display or menu update). Only if not should you restart the workstation.
- A torn-away Product Maker Source menu does not respond to scale changes. This can lead to one selecting a model source that is invalid for the scale.
- This is not really a bug, but the way the alert area request application works may be a little confusing.

The alert area request can display/edit only two areas at a time, one Area 1 and one Area 2. They can be for the same radar or, for those sites that have more than one dedicated connection, for different radars. For example, you can use Area 1 for radar A and Area 2 for radar B. However, if you start with Area 1 for radar A and then try to display/edit Area 1 for radar B it won't work; you must first clear the display and select another radar if you want to display/edit another Area 1.

Text workstation

Non-FSL work that affects the UI

- When in Test or Practice mode, the background of the text window changes to dark gray or orange, respectively. (SEC)
- When in Practice mode, WMO/AWIPS ID queries are not supported. (SEC)
- Help files for text scripts are once again available. (SEC, FSL)

New or remaining bugs

This is the standard bugs list. These have been around long enough that we could call them "undesirable features" at this point...

- The WarnGen window occasionally doesn't pop up automatically. Workaround: Request WRKWGx from any window. (The warning expiration reminder won't work in this case.)
- The text subsystem still uses 3-character station IDs. As a result, the Help function in the browser and the button-2 popup station ID info on METAR messages can't distinguish between Kxxx and Pxxx. Usually, both are shown, leaving it to the user to figure out which one applies.
- Like many other products, pilot reports come in a collective and are stored under the site ID instead of your local CCC. Thus, a pilot report referenced to DHN would be stored as BHMPIRDHN. Some erroneously get stored by 2-letter state ID under your local CCC, e.g., PIRAK. Most of the latter are duplicated in the site-ID style.
- The "ss.NNN" construct does not work.