

AWIPS Build OB9 D2D software release notes

These are changes from Build OB8.3.

Note: These are working notes on GSD's part of the Build OB9 work. Some items may be modified or removed before OB9 hits the field. Official Release Notes will be posted at the NWS AWIPS site once the field release is ready.

Infrastructure

- The interpretation of radarsOnMenu settings has changed. Prior to OB9, scales following an optional colon did not have four-panels enabled. Now that panel/combo rotate is available and each panel can be viewed full screen, this option has been eliminated. A colon in radarsOnMenu.txt now has no function.
- Note also that FAA radars will be added automatically during localization, in the absence of a LLL-radarsOnMenu.txt file. If such a file is used, however, it will need to include any desired FAA (and TDWR) radars.

Graphics/image workstation

New features

- Feature-following zoom: Using the distance/speed tool, one can set a motion vector along which frame animation will proceed. This allows you to view a storm in a Lagrangian reference frame. Once you have established the feature motion with Distance/Speed, select Feature Following Zoom from the Tools menu and the frames will reload with the tracked location remaining in the center of the display.
- Radar:
 - Data from FAA (ASR-11/ARSR-4) radars are available at most sites. These surveillance radars provide fill-in coverage in data gap areas. The ASR-11 uses a vertical fan beam that produces something like an 88D composite reflectivity, and the ARSR-4 product is similar to a hybrid scan as it uses lower-angle beams at increasing range. Since they differ from 88D/TDWR products, it was decided to call them simply "Reflectivity" on the menus, which appear in the top section of the Radar menu. When appropriate, these will also participate in radar mosaics – by default, as part of the Hybrid Scan Reflectivity mosaic.
 - A new feature for four-panel displays is the ability to view each of the products individually, full-screen, while optionally sampling the contents of all (up to eight) components. Pop-up menu selectors and keyboard shortcuts allow you to

select the component of interest. While this is primarily directed at radar data (future dual-polarization products, in particular), it can be used for any four-panel presentation.

- Satellite:
- Volume Browser:
 - A new Temp column appears in the Planes section to accommodate new temperature-level CAPPIs.
- WarnGen:
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Improvements

- Radar:
 - The as-delivered 88D radar menus are the same as in OB8.3. However, a turnkey script is included in OB9 to convert the menu layout to a dual-pol-focused form, should dual-pol data become available from your radar(s).
- Satellite:
- Volume Browser:
 - With the addition of several more grid sources, the Sources menu became unwieldy. To reduce the length of the menus, the former Grid and Other sections were refactored into Volume, SfcGrid, Point, and (optionally) Local. The components of these menus are laid out in a new configuration file, /awips/fxa/data/vb/browserSourceMenuMaster.txt. New in OB9 is also the ability to include submenus in the Sources menus (via settings in this file), though none are present in the default version.
 - A site may now choose to use two rows of selectors in the volume browser menus (Sources, Fields, Planes). This will be of interest primarily for those sites that use the "ingredients based" Fields layout, as the newly organized menus may result in a too-wide window. The two-row configuration is effected by a setting in ws.config.
 - Some display features that previously did not work for VB-based radar displays now do. These include Original and Current, based on the Home location; Alter to select another radar; and Data Scale.
 - The Planes > Misc > Radar Tilts submenu has been replaced by a **Tilts** menu under Planes.
 - Planes > Layers now includes a **thin layers** submenu and a **Temp** section containing some temperature layers.

Non-GSD work that affects the UI

- METAR plots now include peak wind, when reported. (DR16907; Raytheon)
- New polar orbiter-based blended precip water products (total and percent of normal) are added to the Satellite > Derived Products Imagery menu. Default color tables for these are added, under Sat > Precip Water. (DCS3491; Raytheon)

- A new set of satellite winds is added. The MTSAT High Density Winds submenu is found in Satellite > Derived Products Plots between GOES High Density Winds and Scatterometer Winds. (DCS3492; Raytheon)
- The NCEP/Hydro > CPC Outlook Grids menu now consists of three submenus – "Short Range, 6-10 day", "Medium Range, 8-14 day", and "Long Range, 30 day or above" – the latter being the previous menu. The new products are delivered daily. (DCS3496; Raytheon)
- Several WarnGen templates have been changed to include a "No call to action" selection. When there is a Call to Action, it now will be surrounded by Common Alerting Protocol tags - a header reading "PRECAUTIONARY/PREPARADNESS ACTIONS..." will precede the Call to Action text, and a "&&" marker will follow. (DCS3494; Raytheon)
- New Great Lakes wave model grids will be added to the Volume Browser at selected WFOs. (DCS3497; Raytheon)

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

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.
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