

# AWIPS Build OB7 D2D software release notes

These are changes from Build OB6.

*Note:* These are working notes on GSD's part of the Build OB7 work. Some items may be modified or removed before OB7 hits the field. Official Release Notes will be posted at the NWS AWIPS site once the field release is ready.

These notes cover both OB7.1 and OB7.2 features. Items are released with OB7.1 unless marked.

---

---

## Infrastructure

- The continuous purging mechanism introduced in OB5 is now extended to cover everything else. Maritime and Synoptic observations now feature variable time frequency purging similar to that previously applied only to METARs. (GSD) [OB7.2]

## Graphics/image workstation

### New features

- Keypad loop speed adjustment moves from the up/down arrows to the Page Up/Page Down buttons. **Caution:** If you hit the up or down arrow in a standard (not all-tilts; see below) display, looping and stepping are disabled until you hit either the left or right arrow.
- Radar:
  - For all-tilts displays, the four arrow keys on the keypad now control the motion up and down or forward and back in time, without using the shift key. Once you have set the mode of motion (vertical or time), the Page Up/Page Down keys will start and adjust loop speed.
  - Plan-view and perspective displays of winds are available from radars in your Regional area. These are found on the Upper Air menu, in a new Radar section.
- Satellite:
  - A new POES Imagery section is added to the Satellite menu, containing selectors for IR Window, Visible, 3.7 $\mu$ , and 11-3.7 $\mu$  products. These are viewable on the Regional, State(s), and WFO scales.
- Volume Browser:
- WarnGen:
  - WWA has been decommissioned, and the Send to WWA button is gone from WarnGen. [OB7.2]

## Improvements

- The maximum frame count has been increased to 64.
- Combined-image displays have been improved by removing the valid time for non-forecast products and removing the date string (time is kept) from the left-side legend. In particular, this makes all-tilts radar legends more usable.
- Radar:
  - A suite of snowfall products is available on the Precip submenu. These include One Hour Snow Water Eq (OSW), One Hour Snow Depth (OSD), Storm Total Snow Water (SSW), Storm Total Snow Depth (SSD), User Selectable Snow Water Eq (USW), and User Sel Snow Depth (USD). All are available for request (OTR, RMR) and the first four can be added to an RPS list.
  - Essentially all products that can be requested from your local radar can now be requested from non-associated radars, as well. The only exceptions are RCS, VCS, and SWA products for RMR, since these need a baseline or point, which is ambiguous for multiple radars. [OB7.2]
  - Alert Request now includes two new MDA Strength Rank monitoring categories.
  - The display of Digital VIL (DVL) now reacts to the scaling coefficients that come with the data. This will be more significant when ORPG 9 comes out, but for now, the effect is to increase the coverage of low-VIL areas.
  - Three new range-unfolding VCPs are available in the RPS list editor application. In addition, unused VCP 112 has been removed.
  - 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:
  - Time series, including the meteogram, now include labels on the y-axis to identify the displayed parameter.
  - You can now sample the data in a time series.
  - Radar data are now available in the VB for use in cross sections. This feature allows you to display cross sections of radar reflectivity or velocity along specified baselines. The radar to use is identified by placing the Home location. Other fields available include plan views of Z, V, and column max reflectivity.
  - New grid source rfcMPE provides composite QPE grids from multiple RFCs. Fields include 1, 6, and 24hr estimates. (I believe this will also be on the NCEP/Hydro menu, but I've not seen a design for it yet.) [OB7.2]
- WarnGen:

## Non-GSD work that affects the UI

- GUARDIAN (General User Alert Display Panel), a general user-notice manager, is the new interface for managing and delivering messages on AWIPS screens. This subsumes the function of the Flash Flood and Svr Wx (and SAFESEAS at coastal sites) buttons on the right side of the D2D Tool Bar, so those are removed. (MDL) [OB7.2]

- GFS soundings are activated on the rearranged Sounding-derived plots submenu under NCEP/Hydro. Available products are similar to those from the existing NAM soundings. (SEC) [OB7.2]
- A new grid source, GriddedMOS, gives you access to gridded MOS data. Fields include max/min temps, 6/12h PoP, 3/6/12h thunderstorm prob, and 24h snowfall, and are found in a new MDL MOS submenu under Sfc/2D. This dataset is now included (as MOSGuide) in the Grid Data monitor page. (Raytheon)
- Short-range ensemble forecast (SREF) products are now available via the Volume Browser. Sources include SREF (grid 212), AK-SREF (grid 216), and PR-SREF (grid 243). (Raytheon/SEC) [OB7.2]
- Significant wave height grids from the Ocean Prediction Center and Tropical Analysis Branch (OPC-TAFB) can be displayed using the Volume Browser. The grid sources are OPCWave-W-ATL (grid 180), OPCWave-NE-PAC (grid 181), and OPCWave-TE-PAC (grid 182). (SEC) [OB7.2]
- NCEP/EMC produces hourly Real-Time Mesoscale Analysis grids of T, Td, u, v, sky cover, and precip. These are displayable via the Volume Browser (grid source RTMA) and also integrated with GFE. (SEC,GSD) [OB7.2]
- RUC13 grids are available in the VB, and integrated with GFE. The grids (source RUC13, grid 130) are clipped to your Regional scale. (SEC,GSD) [OB7.2]
- A new 1/12-degree sea surface temperature grid from NCEP is now available in the Volume Browser (grid source RTG\_SST\_HR-Analysis). The analyses are done once per day. (SEC) [OB7.2]
- Simulated reflectivity from the new WRF model (in the NAM slot) can be viewed using the Volume Browser. Reflectivity is already available under the Other heading in the VB *Fields* menus. (SEC) [OB7.2]
- TDWR menus now include VAD, VWP, and ULR. (SEC) [OB7.2]
- The LAMP and LAMP QPF sections of the LAMP/MOS forecasts menu are retitled NGMLAMP and NGMLAMP QPF, respectively, and a new GFSLAMP section is added. GFSLAMP is also available via the Volume Browser. There's a new color table under LAMP for CTSTM Best Category. (MDL) [OB7.2]
- The GOES DPI menu now includes a cloud amount product, and the color table menu has a new Cloud Amount entry in the Sat section. (SEC) [OB7.2]
- Menu items for SSM/I and AMSU (microwave) rainfall rate and total precipitable water are added to the Satellite menu. The data probably won't be available until late in the OB7 game. (Raytheon) [OB7.2]
- SCAN (MDL):
- FFMP (MDL):
- LSR (MDL):
- SAFESEAS (MDL):
- SNOW (MDL): A winter weather monitor similar to SAFESEAS is now available. SNOW stands for System for Nowcasting of Winter Weather. [OB7.2]

## 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 WRKWX 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.