NWS Weather Event Simulator 6.0
Release Notes

NWS Warning Decision Training Branch
Norman, OK

WES6.0 Installation

To install WES6.0, please consult the INSTALL_WES6.0.pdf file on the install CD. All WFO's, including those who were WES6.0 beta test sites, need to install WES6.0.

What's New in WES6.0

1. **Updated with AWIPS OB6.0**

   - New VIL density product in SCAN
   - Time of arrival tool
   - Basin trace in FFMP
   - IGC_Process updated with the OB7.1 fix that will fix the 3x slowdown in D2D's FFMP display introduced in OB6.0 baseline

2. **WES6.0 Baseline Changes to Redhat Enterprise 3 Along with AWIPS**

   - Redhat Enterprise 4, other Linux versions continue to work

3. **PostGres Database**

   - Major change from using flat files as a database proxy to using Postgres for the AWIPS databases
   - If you would like to remove Informix from the old WES installation, copy rminformix.sh from the release CD to the WES machine as root, and run.

4. **WESSL Improvements**

   - LSR Importer tool (provided by Brian Walawender and George Phillips WFO Topeka KS) for inserting local storm reports directly into the WESSL builder. The storm reports are retrieved from the SPC website and can be filtered by time range and/or WFO
   - Added -pause tool which allows a WESSL script to pause itself and a simulation at a pre-determined time
   - WESSL pop-ups will no longer steal window focus from D2D
   - Added a button which allows video, sound and commands to be replayed in the WESSL station log. The green "RUN WESSL COMMAND" button

appears in any log entry containing a –command, -sound or –video WESSL command

5. **WESSL Plays Videos and Articulate Version 5 Presentations**

   - With easy XINE video application install option for Redhat Enterprise 3 and 4
   - Added -video tool which allows a WESSL script to launch videos using the Xine video application
   - With easy Flash plug-in install instructions for your Linux browser (In Summer 2006, WDTB will be working on providing Articulate Version 5 files for the severe and core tracks of AWOC)

6. **User Adaptable Grid Product Delay**

   - Now control the time delay of Grid files with a user adaptable file

7. **Miscellaneous WES Enhancements**

   - All patches following WES5.0 have been included in WES6.0
   - New instructions to use other machines with WES to run multiple forecasters through a simulation
   - The "Create FFMP Data" tool has been modified with assistance from MDL to create FFMP data ~40x faster (~20 sec instead of 10-15 minutes)
   - When a simulation is paused, a colored border appears around both D2D and the simulation status window alerting the user that the simulation is paused
   - New WES tool for initializing the Postgres database with archived text data
   - D2D startup and simulation software will inform you of any version differences between the localization and the AWIPS
   - The start_awips and enhanced_case_review now have default settings. During case review (no simulation) the default settings will be the previous values used. During a simulation, the default settings will be the settings used in the simulation

8. **New WES6.0 Training at WES Website**

   - A WES6.0 Articulate presentation is now available from the WES website http://wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/wes60.htm
   - WDTB maintains a WES website located at the following address: http://wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/index.htm
   - This site contains valuable information regarding WES development, WES fixes, WES troubleshooting and AWIPS status

WES6.0 Known Problems

1. **TextQC.config Settings**

    - The textQC.config file in the nationalData directory has been configured to eliminate some QC pop-ups. If you would like to fully enable the QC checking on text products, copy over your textQC.config file from your operational AWIPS.

2. **Pre-OB6 AVN Grid Products are Accessed in new GFS Directories**
    - The GFS directory and product changes in AWIPS OB6.0 were not designed to work with older archived cases. A workaround was developed in WES6.0 to automatically fix old cases by linking the new GFS directories to the old AVN directories, which allows viewing older AVN data. The byproduct of this solution is that the GFS models will be mislabeled with the OB6 menu item label (e.g. GFS 40) rather than the old label (e.g. GFS 80).

Older Cases (WES4.0 / OB4) Known Problems

3. **SCAN and DMD Data**

    - SCAN and DMD data that worked in WES5.0 should continue to work with no modification necessary
    - For SCAN and DMD data that was created in WES4.0 (OB4) or older, you must create new SCAN and DMD data by running a simulation. After this, a script needs to be run to update the original files. (refer to Chapter 12 of the WES6.0 install instructions for full instructions)

4. **FFMP Data**

    - FFMP data that worked in WES5.0 should continue to work with no modification necessary
    - For FFMP data that was created in WES 4.0 (OB4) or older, you must recreate the FFMP data by using the “Create FFMP Data” function under the WES tools menu using an OB6.0 localization. Section 11.1 of the WES6.0 install instructions details this process

WES6.0 Post Install

As with all major WES releases, new localizations need to be built for older cases to display properly with the OB6.0 in WES6.0. For more information, see the WES6.0 installation instructions.

WES6.0ww Additional Development

The next WES release is planned for Spring 2006 with support for GFE and its use in the 2006 Winter Weather Advanced Warning Operations Course (WWAWOC)

Questions

Questions about WES6.0 installation or support should be sent to the soo_wes mailing list (soo_wes@comet.ucar.edu). Questions regarding shipping or obtaining WES for non-NWS use should be sent to Timm Decker (Timothy.B.Decker@noaa.gov) at the Warning Decision Training Branch.