Interactive Forecast Preparation System
Training Team

IFPS Training Aid

Grid Manager Display Modes

Introduction:

In previous versions of IFPS, there were two Grid Manager display modes; normal and history. In IFPS 16, there are four additional display options; save, modified, published and sent.

The following table summarizes all six Grid Manager display options:

Normal	The initial grid information of grid source, editable and locked grids.
History	Indicate information about the grid source, origin, and modification states.
Save	Time since the grid was saved to the database by any user. If a grid has been modified but not yet saved, the grid will be gray.
Modified	Time since the grid was modified by any user. A grid can be modified, but not saved. A grid can be saved, but not modified.
Published	Time since the grid was published. Once a grid is modified after publishing, the grid is no longer considered published and is shown as "gray".
Sent	Time since the grid was sent out via intersite coordination. Note: If you publish to official and then send the Official grids out via ISC, the Fcst grids will not indicate that its grids were sent (since they really weren't).

Objective:

View the Grid Manager in the six display modes to diagnose information about the timeliness of grids.

Procedure:

1. MB3 (right mouse click) on a grid in the Grid Manager and select Display Info to obtain the Grid Information window.

2. Select Grid History and note the information

3. Switch to the Grid Manager to the History mode as shown in the following figure:

In IFPS 16, the grid blocks are color coded according to the origin and source of the grid. Each model source can be assigned a unique color, e.g., Eta can be yellow while grids populated from gfsLR can be green. Each origin's color can also be set, e.g., Interpolated grids are blue, Calculated grids are red. In addition, the grid block appearance can be solid or hatched according to the following convention:

Grid Block Appearance	Meaning
Solid color	Grid has not been modified by you or anyone else. Grid has been either interpolated, created from scratch, or populated from a model.
Hatching pattern	Indicates that the grid has been modified by you or someone else. If properly configured, the pattern can indicate whether the grid was modified by you, or whether someone else has modified it.

4. Switch to the Saved mode and note the different colors. These colors and time intervals are configurable by your IFPS Focal Point. The following table shows the default colors and time intervals:

Time Interval	Color
0 – 59 min (< 1 hr)	Green
60 – 179 min (< 3 hrs)	Turquoise
180 – 359 min (< 6 hrs)	Blue
360 – 719 min (< 12 hrs)	Orange
720 – 1439 min (< 1 day)	Yellow
1440 – 2879 min (< 2 days)	Red
>= 2880 min (>= 2 days)	Grey

Each time interval in the Grid Manager contains a number. Depending upon the length of the time interval, it may difficult to distinguish if the time indicated is in minutes, hours, or days. Hourly time intervals only show one digit, so, you may not see the second digit, i.e., 1 for one minute vs. one hour. Minutes vs. hours could be distinguished by the color code shown in the above table.

Another method to distinguish the time to the nearest minute is to expand the time scale.

5. Select the Expand Time Scale button several times. This the double arrow pointing outward (third button from the left) in the main button bar. If you keep selecting this button, the entire time will be indicated in the hourly time interval such as 1h6m, 23h, etc.

6. Switch to the Grid Manager to the Modified mode. The color convention is the same as indicated in the above table.

7. Switch to the Grid Manager to the Sent mode. The color convention is the same as indicated in the above table.

END