IFPS Training Aid

Using the Formatter Launcher to Create Products

Introduction:

Products are now created in IFPS using the Formatter Launcher. This interface contains many functions.

Objective:
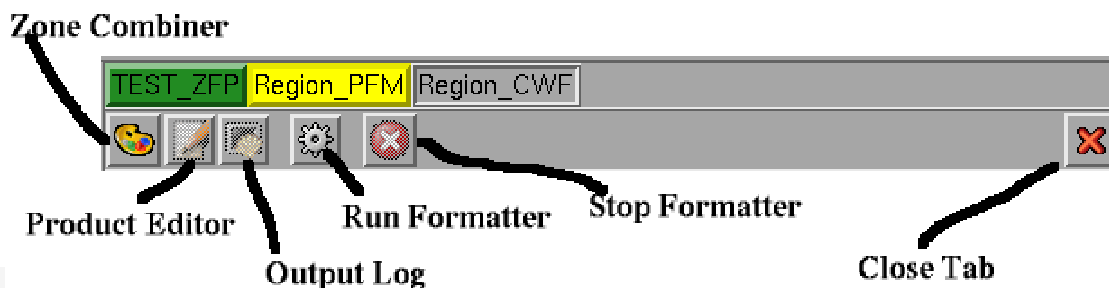
Demonstrate how to use some basic functions of the Formatter Launcher to issue selected products.

Procedure:

1. Before using the Formatter Launcher you must ensure you have recently saved grids to the Official Database.

    - To save your grids, under Products in the main menu bar, select Publish to Official and then Publish.

2. Under Products in the main menu bar, select Formatter Launcher…

3. In the Formatter Launcher, select Products and either All, Baseline, Region, or Site. Initially, you may have only baseline products such as Baseline_ZFP. These are products using the baseline formatters. Perhaps your Focal Point has setup some local Site product formatting.

4. Select one of the baseline products such as Baseline_ZFP. This displays your CWA with colored counties in the canvas area, the product as a Tab, a row of control panel buttons, and some Combo options as shown in the following figure:

5. If this is the first time you are creating this product, there will be a multicolored one county, one zone display as shown in the above figure. Otherwise, the previous zone combo for that product is displayed.

6. Select the Run Formatter button shown in the following figure:

This opens a product values window containing the Product Issuance times on the left and Issuance Type (Routine, Update, or Correction) on the right.

7. Select a forecast period, an issuance type, and select OK.

When the product formatter is running, the product tab turns green and the product canvas area becomes blank. Depending upon the amount of time it takes for the formatter to run, it may be several seconds before the product is displayed in the product canvas area.

The color state of the product tab buttons indicates if the product is queued, running, or finished.

Tab Color	Meaning
Gray	Product has not been requested to be started.
Yellow	Product is queued for execution.
Green	Product is currently running.
Blue	Product has finished.

8. To check to make sure the product formatter is running, select Products from the main menu bar and Process Monitor from the pull-down menu.

    • Your product should be running under the Server Scripts column under Pending.
    • When the product formatting is complete, the product is listed under Finished.

9. Select Dismiss to close the process Monitor window.

10. You can now edit the product using the options listed under the Edit pull-down menu.

11. When your product is ready to be stored and sent on AWIPS … select your options from the File pull-down menu.

12. Select the Dismiss button at the bottom of the Formatter Launcher to exit.

END