National Weather Service
Product Description Document (PDD)
KML – Keyhole Markup Language support for RIDGE/Radar

Part 1 - Mission Connection
1. Product Description:
NWS is responsible to make its weather, water and climate information widely available to taxpayers using commonly accepted standards and technologies. Currently, the NWS provides weather radar information for all Weather Service Doppler Radars (WSR 88-D) in the United States on the NWS Internet page.

The National Weather Service Southern Region and National Weather Service Office in El Paso, TX, has developed a method to display the latest RIDGE http://radar.weather.gov/ridge radar and polygon warning images through a language called KML/KMZ.

2. KML Background
Background and additional information on the NWS use of KML is available here: (KML PDD)

3. Feedback Method:
Comments will be compiled through August 30, 2006 and will be evaluated by the appropriate NWS Radar Program Team. Feedback will be obtained through the survey available on the KML page webpage which will be linked off of the RIDGE radar pages.

http://weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=kml
Technical questions may be addressed to: Paul.Kirkwood@noaa.gov
Webpage architecture questions may be addressed to: Dennis.Cain@noaa.gov
Geospatial Information questions may be addressed to: Keith.Stellman@noaa.gov
KML questions may be addressed to: Tim.Brice@noaa.gov or Corey.Pieper@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical
1. Format and Science Basis:
The radar and warning image overlays are the same as those used in the RIDGE radar webpages. This methodology saves the National Weather Service bandwidth by directing the user to the images (which can be cached) through the KML file rather than through the webpage the runs on the server.

2. Availability:
This service will be available 24 hours/day, seven days a week by visiting the website http://radar.weather.gov/ridge/kmzgenerator.php. All radar products including the sector and national mosaics and polygon warning layers are currently available.

3. Additional Information: This experimental service will be tested for all National Weather Forecast Offices.