

NWS Weather Event Simulator 9.7

Release Notes

NOAA NWS Warning Decision Training Branch
Norman, OK

WES 9.7 Installation Package

This release contains 3 DVDs for NWS offices to accomplish the following objectives:

- 1) Install the WES 9.7 Software
 - a. Refer to the **INSTALL_WES97.pdf** document on the “**WES 9.7**” install DVD for instructions on completing this process.
- 2) Install OB9.7 Localizations and customizations for all WDTB training cases located in /data/awips.
 - a. Refer to the **Instructions.txt** document on both “**OB9.7 Localizations Update DVDs**” for guidance on completing this process.

1.1 What’s New in WES 9.7

What’s New in WES 9.7

1. Updated with AWIPS Software Builds from OB9.2.12 - OB9.7:

- With the last DVD release of WES being with build OB9.2 and the last online update (WES 9.2 Update 2) bringing the software to OB9.2.10, this DVD release brings in the software updates from AWIPS OB9.2.12, OB9.3, OB9.4, OB9.4.1, OB9.5, OB9.6, and OB9.7. These builds consisted of Discrepancy Report (DR) fixes for various AWIPS software components, including WarnGen, FSI, GFE, and various D2D display tools.

2. Faster Conversions to DRT Format:

- The WES code was optimized to minimize processing overhead when converting radar data to DRT format. Speed tests at WDTB show a 10%-20% decrease in time taken to convert a new case to DRT format.

3. Miscellaneous Bug Fixes to WES software:

- The .cshrc file was updated to check if the \$LD_LIBRARY_PATH was written to /tmp/environs.csh before attempting to write it. This has caused performance slowdowns in the past and is fixed in this build.
- The logic SCAN uses to read case directories in order to build its prep files was changed to allow for the usage of unconventional case names (e.g. 2011DPexercises). In previous builds, WES cases with unconventional names had

their SCAN data deleted every time the case was prepared. This issue is fixed in this build.

- Additional checking was added to the FFMP 'mv' command in simu.tcl in order to stop the simulation from hanging when moving data from the radar/raw directory when FFMP is triggered.

4. WES 9.7 Overview Training in the LMS for NOAA users

- All NOAA WES installation focal points and WES training focal points (see <http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/tools/wes/admin/WES-IOP-Final.pdf>) must take this short training in the LMS (see <http://doc.learn.com/noaa/nws>). To take the module, you will need to search for "WES 9.7" in the LMS catalog.

Known Issues in WES 9.7

- FFMP localizations delete FFMP data on live AWIPS and on the WES. Every time you relocalize with the "-ffmp" switch, you will need to recreate the FFMP data with the "Create FFMP Dataset" accessed through the "Tools" button in WES.
- start_simulator sometimes erroneously detects an existing simulation. If you get a warning popup stating another start_simulator program has been detected, and you know another simulation is not running, you may disregard it.
- The OB9.7 and WES9.7 requires a 32-bit Redhat Enterprise 5 operating system.
- The surface observation monitors from MDL (SNOW, SAFESEAS, Fog Monitor) have not been integrated into WES.
- A small feature in GUARDIAN designed to allow the user to move the GUARDIAN status bar to different screens does not function correctly.

WES 9.7 Post Install

As with all major WES releases, new localizations (including the -scan and -ffmp switches) must be built for cases to display properly with OB9.7 in WES 9.7. (For more information, see Section 7 of the WES 9.7 installation instructions.)

WES Development Timeline

The development of additional WES-1 builds beyond WES 9.7 will be dependent on how future DR fixes and AWIPS-1 enhancements support the WES training environment. This will continue until AWIPS-2 is completely fielded. Because AWIPS-2 will not come with training capability designed in the baseline, WDTB is leading the development of a totally new WES-2 Bridge that will work with the AWIPS-2 software.

The WES-2 Bridge platform will utilize the HP Z600 machines deployed to NOAA offices in December 2010. Upon transition to AWIPS-2/WES-2 Bridge, the existing HP xw6200 WES-1 will become a "WES-2 Lite" to provide multiple forecasters access a second AWIPS-2 machine for case processing and playback. WDTB will release the WES-2 Bridge prior to the release of AWIPS-2 along with a case converter to provide continuity between the old archived cases and the new AWIPS-2 format. WDTB plans to maintain the WES-2 Bridge until training capability is developed in the AWIPS baseline. Stay tuned to the WES web page or email list for the latest information.

Questions

Questions regarding WES 9.7 installation or support should be sent to the WES info list at wes@infolist.nws.noaa.gov. Questions regarding shipping or obtaining WES for non-NOAA use should be sent to the Warning Decision Training Branch.