

**Product/Service Description Document**  
**Experimental Google LSR Webpage product**

**Part I - Mission Connection**

- a. Product/Service Description - A web page that shows our severe weather polygons and Local Storm Reports (LSR) on a Google Map interface
  
- b. Product Type - Experimental
  
- c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental web page is to provide our customers and partners a simple way to display NWS polygon warnings and LSR reports on an interactive map that customers can use to zoom in to their specific location. Right now, most NWS warnings and LSR's are in text form. Those that are plotted are done so on a static background map. By incorporating Google Map technology the user can easily switch from a terrain map to a road map background and quickly zoom and pan around for their location.
  
- d. Audience - The target audience for this experimental product is the general public but Emergency managers may also find this display useful.
  
- e. Presentation Format - The site is a simple page that display the most recent severe weather event showing warning polygons, in different color according to the type of warning. It also shows LSR reports with different icons that indicate the type of report (hail, wind, tornado, flood). When the user clicks on the icon, the reports or warning information is displayed in text form. A side bar also contains warning information that will zoom to the area on the map and display the text when clicked.
  
- f. Feedback Method - May 31, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009

Technical comments for the Google LSR developer may be addressed to:

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**Part II - Technical Description**

- a) Format and Science Basis  
NWS severe weather warnings (SVR,TOR,FFW) contain latitude and longitude information for the polygon it encompasses at the bottom of the warning. LSR reports also contain lat/lon information for the report. This information can be plotted on a Google Map background using the Google Map API.
  
- b) Methods to Construct Page  
During active severe weather NWS warnings and LSR text reports are sent via AWIPS triggers to an LDAD directory so they can be accessed via a local Intranet server. This server scp's the text files from LDAD every 5 minutes where they are decoded and placed in a MySQL database. The database is then queried for all warnings and LSR's for the current

calendar day (Midnight to Midnight). That information is extracted and a KMZ file is made for any LSR reports that have come in for that day. A web page is then made containing Google Map code which displays the warning polygons and a link to display the LSR kmz file and an AWIPS shapefile of the CWA which is also in a kmz format. These files are then FTP'd to the regional web server.

- c) Availability - The website will run 24 hours per day and be monitored by NWS staff.
- d) Evaluation and Testing

The web page location: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ctp/lsr/> is for testing and evaluation purposes. The developer will monitor the page and ensure it is correct. Unfortunately since it is dependant on severe weather there are not many chances to evaluate it in real-time. Perhaps slowly expanding this to other office may help with this evaluation.