



GUARDIAN: General User Alert Display Panel

Alpha Test

April 13, 2006

Participating WFOs and Contacts

Agency	Office	Contacts	Meetings attended	Install/Training Date	Install on machine?	Date of Next AWIPS Update		AWIPS Build at initial install
						OB5	OB6	
WFO	Amarillo (AMA)	Scott Plischke (ITO) David Hennig (AFP) Ken Hunter (ESA)	5/18/05, 8/31/05, 4/13/06	6/7	1x1-4	7/26	3/23/06	4.2
WFO	Juneau (AJK)	Tom Ainsworth (MIC) Paul Shannon	5/18/05, 8/31/05, 4/13/06	6/4	1x1-4, xt1-4	7/6	6/26/06	4.2
WFO	Boulder (BOU)	Eric Thaler (SOO) Larry Mooney (MIC) Dave Tomalak	5/18/05	6/9	1x2, 1x5	8/30	4/11/06	4.2
WFO	Wilmington (ILN)	Tom Johnstone (ITO) John Distefano (SOO) Stephen Hrebenach	5/18/05, 8/31/05	6/17	xt2, xt3, xt5	9/1	2/06	4.2
WFO	Salt Lake City (SLC)	Larry Dunn (MIC) Dwight Williams(xxx) Randy Weatherly (ITO)	5/18/05, 8/31/05	6/24	1x5	9/7	5/9/06	4.2
HQ	MDL	Tom Filiaggi (Task Lead/Developer)	5/18/05, 8/31/05, 4/13/06	n/a		n/a		
Region	AFPs	Eric Howieson (SR) Neal DiPasquale (ER) (Joe Palko(ER))	5/18/05 (Eric late), 4/13/06	n/a		n/a		

**Milestones**

Milestone	Description	Date Scheduled / Completed	
Volunteers	Volunteers are identified for the Alpha Testing of Guardian, preferably with each region being represented.	January, 2005	
Kick-Off	Scheduled for May 18, 2005, 3pm Eastern Time. A kick off teleconference will be held before installation. Issues to be discussed include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation: initial schedule, needs, updates • Mini-Training: Informal, basic • Communication: use of listserver? • Functionality: details of what Guardian can and cannot do. • strengths/weaknesses: • desired intent: What benefits Guardian is expected to produce. • Duration: Length of Alpha Test 	May 18, 2005 3pm Eastern	
Installation	Tom Filiaggi will personally, manually install Guardian at each Alpha Site, on at least one workstation. Tom will install on multiple workstations if requested. If multiple installations are requested after initial visit, either the site will have to install it, to the site will have to give certain system privileges to Tom so he can install remotely.	BOU: 6/1,2 AJK: 6/4 AMA: 6/7 ILN: 6/17 SLC: 6/24	
Mini-Training	On the day of Installation, Tom will also conduct a brief training session. It is expected that each Alpha Site will appoint at least one person to be the Guardian Expert for the site. The GE will provide information and instruction to any who do not attend this training.	Same as install	
Build Updates	When a site gets scheduled for an AWIPS upgrade, they will inform Tom of the date and work with Tom in establishing a time at which Tom can either update Guardian or provide the necessary files and instructions for the site to upgrade it.	A1: week of Aug. 1, 2005 A2: week of Sept. 12, 2005	
Feedback	Though it is hoped that Feedback will be continuous and the Alpha Test last as long as all participants want, perhaps occasional teleconferences would be worth scheduling and attending (perhaps one a month?).	complete	
Conclusion	The intent is for this Alpha Test to really shake-down the Guardian software. The Alpha Test Sites have a great opportunity to be leaders, when it comes to how Guardian gets used and what the 'best practices'	April 13, 2006 3pm Eastern	



Milestone	Description	Date Scheduled / Completed																											
	<p>may become. As such, it is also intended for this Alpha Test to last as long as participants want, which means it could last through the development cycle for OB7 (April, 2006), if indeed Guardian is deemed ready for operations in the OB7 timeframe.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="380 394 1358 792"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="380 394 1192 427"><u>Goal</u></th> <th data-bbox="1192 394 1358 427"><u>Goal Met?</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 427 1192 459">▪ Work software bugs out of Guardian</td> <td data-bbox="1192 427 1358 459">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 459 1192 492">▪ Work UI bugs out of Guardian</td> <td data-bbox="1192 459 1358 492">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 492 1192 524">▪ Evaluate number of priority levels</td> <td data-bbox="1192 492 1358 524">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 524 1192 557">▪ Polish UI (look and feel).</td> <td data-bbox="1192 524 1358 557">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 557 1192 589">▪ Test Local Application Port</td> <td data-bbox="1192 557 1358 589">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 589 1192 621">▪ Provide software updates to address bugs and user concerns.</td> <td data-bbox="1192 589 1358 621">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 621 1192 654">▪ Conduct training on Guardian</td> <td data-bbox="1192 621 1358 654">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 654 1192 686">▪ Implement and use Guardian listserver</td> <td data-bbox="1192 654 1358 686">Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 686 1192 719">▪ Conduct periodic teleconferences to enhance communication.</td> <td data-bbox="1192 686 1358 719">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 719 1192 751">▪ Evaluate/Define delivered categories</td> <td data-bbox="1192 719 1358 751">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 751 1192 784">▪ Define each Priority Level</td> <td data-bbox="1192 751 1358 784">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 784 1192 792">▪ Define Task-oriented delivered Configurations</td> <td data-bbox="1192 784 1358 792">No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Goal Met?</u>	▪ Work software bugs out of Guardian	Yes	▪ Work UI bugs out of Guardian	Yes	▪ Evaluate number of priority levels	Yes	▪ Polish UI (look and feel).	Yes	▪ Test Local Application Port	Yes	▪ Provide software updates to address bugs and user concerns.	Yes	▪ Conduct training on Guardian	Yes	▪ Implement and use Guardian listserver	Yes	▪ Conduct periodic teleconferences to enhance communication.	No	▪ Evaluate/Define delivered categories	No	▪ Define each Priority Level	No	▪ Define Task-oriented delivered Configurations	No		
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	<p><u>Meeting Notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Software updates – seem ok (interval, timeliness) ▪ Training (AJK) - ?? – perhaps more documentation on available configurations and what Guardian would be doing. ▪ Training (AMA) – Adequate User Documentation, but need more for Guardian message arguments. ▪ Operational training – who does it and how? Tele-training (unscheduled – freeform) is popular with the field. Ask Shannon White for help? ▪ Next time!: Have regularly scheduled teleconferences – to encourage more feedback. ▪ Priorities;: For most situations, 3 will do, but considering Monitors, 5 should be adequate. Need good definitions for the big 3. ▪ Paul (AJK): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At first, folks thought Guardian would be ‘monitoring’, not just communicating. ○ Found not too much utility because the Alpha version did not do much that was new. ▪ Dave (AMA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office was initially resistant, but grew to see the flexibility. ○ Need good documentation for operations - general configuration issues. ▪ Eric (SRH): 																												



Milestone	Description	Date Scheduled / Completed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Alpha Test was needed = good idea○ Liked documentation▪ Joe (ERH):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ User-saved configs? – yes○ Able to turn off completely? – not a good idea○ Came in late in the game (Neal's replacement), thus has many more questions than comments/suggestions.		

**Builds/Updates/Version**

Version	Contents/Issues	Date Scheduled / Completed	
A0	Initial Installation	varies	
A1	<p>A0 Bug Fixes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing the pop-up bitmap widget for pop-up bitmap naming does not yield the “Apply Changes” button like other priority setting changes do, but it should. This will be investigated. ▪ Guardian does not seem to be changing the color of the monitor buttons as it should. ▪ Main GUI will appear in middle of screen. Will eventually change this to have it appear at top (if possible). Also need to make the main GUI more narrow (by about 50 pixels) and adjust width differently, adjusting for the variability of the logGuardian.gif file used (based on V modes). ▪ System beep does not seem to be working. Issuing “bell” from a wish works, but not from tcl direct(!?) ▪ Key coloring is messed up (when creating a new monitor??) ▪ If a monitor key gets deleted, and is included in the main GUI, it is not getting removed from the main GUI. ▪ The blink color seems to stop on the wrong color occasionally. Was stopping appropriately, but needed to blink with fore and back ground colors. ▪ Text box arrow needs to have different focus color. ▪ If no categories in the layout box, it yields a ‘one-space’ name, which is bad. Layout section needs attention. ▪ When writing a key into the config file, “0” is being written for blank actions. ▪ When a file entry widget (for the priorities) is closed, the contents of the widgets needs to be cleared. ▪ SCAN seems to be sending a blank key, causing an occasional crash/re-start in Guardian <p>New Functionality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For text blink, switch fore/background colors (don’t just use yellow) ▪ When a priority entry widget is hidden, clear the contents variable ▪ When writing a key to a config file, do not allow “0” for action. ▪ Layout section: clear boxes when layout does not use them (and other layout widget issues) ▪ Make the default configuration workstation-specific ▪ Provide method to clear a text box ▪ Provide method to clear a text log – according to category and ‘all’. ▪ Enable the play of audio files (.wav and .au, source is \$FXA_HOME/data/sounds) 	Week of August 1, 2005 AJK: 8/3X BOU: 8/4 AMA: 8/3 pmX ILN: 8/3 amX SLC: 8/4X	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide color select method that does not use color words (or hex colors) ▪ Provide additional tips for black title buttons 		
A2	<p>A1 Bug Fixes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ System beep. Issuing “bell” command from a wish works, but not from tcl direct(!?). ▪ Main GUI does not update Layout when a new configuration is retrieved. <p>New Functionality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If a configuration change has been applied but not yet saved to a file, note this in the file label. ▪ Check for valid color before trying to save a new Source Key. ▪ Blink issue: 1) start blink, 2) new, no-blink message comes in, 3) blink continues with <i>original</i> colors? Need to use new colors. ▪ Ensure ‘acknowledge text’ also properly halts beep/blink (halts “repetition”) ▪ Provide format without text (monitors only). ▪ Allow the Configuration to dictate on what screen Guardian will appear. ▪ Confirm when saving or deleting the default configuration file. ▪ Provide a graphical method to display and acknowledge an audio response. ▪ Provide a graphical reflection of when one message comes in right on the heels of another. ▪ Enable perpetual repetition. ▪ Handle lack of Monitor Executable better (disable when no exec available). ▪ Ensure tips pop-ups move with the Configuration window. 	<p>Week of Sept. 12, 2005 AJK: 9/13X AMA: 9/15X SLC:9/14X ILN:9/20 BOU:9/20</p>	
A3 (OB7.2)	<p>A2 Bug Fixes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Message Log order (use reverse chronological). ▪ drag/drop issues in Layout Section ▪ Ensure Button3-clicking on ‘New’ selection in List Boxes does not yield choice menu. ▪ Ensure omit/Include a Monitor yields the ‘red X’ by the config filename label. ▪ Make sure Config and Log windows go to parent screen <p>New Functionality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do not allow the saving of Config files with “delivered” in the name. (Reserved term). ▪ Provide Menu Button dash for Layout and 1Cat. ▪ Ensure valid priority values are being used in GDNmessage (QC). ▪ Ensure special characters in the message text does not interfere with tcl scripting (use Tcl_Merge). ▪ Have configuration retrieval automatically choose the first Source Key to ensure no blank attribute values. ▪ Use –exportselection for the Source Listbox, to ensure focus does not cause 	<p>AJK: 1/10/06X</p>	



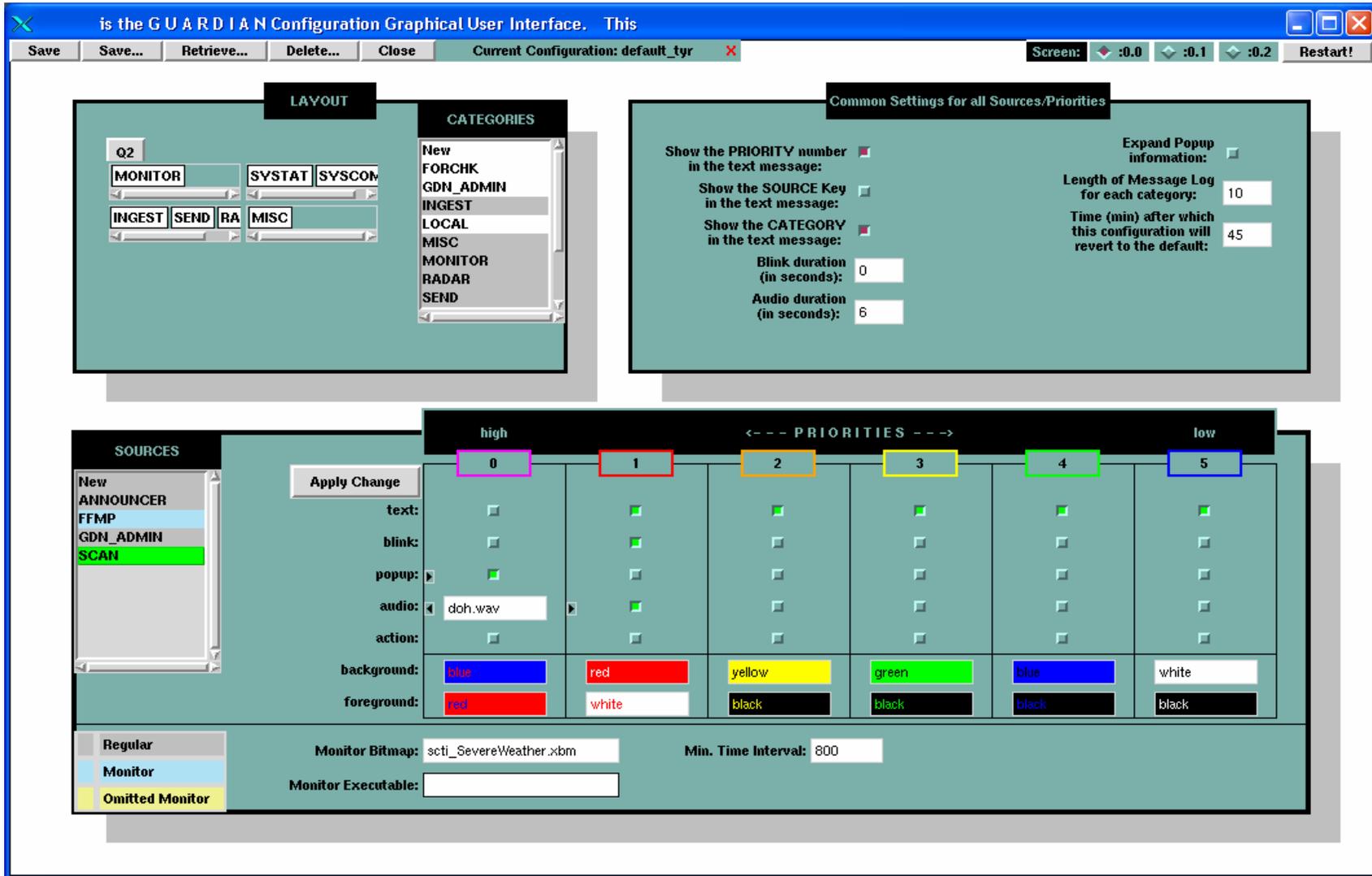
	<p>problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ensure the Config window appears fully below the main window's default position.▪ Change Guardian directory from /data/fxa/Guardian to /data/fxa/workFiles/Guardian.▪ Provide method to acknowledge Monitors.▪ Provide re-start button.▪ Ensure Config files get written with specific access permissions (664).▪ Have Pops appear without taking focus! This seems to work, but needs to be tested operationally.▪ Ensure LOCAL messages behave properly (appear only on local machine). This seems to work, but needs to be tested operationally.▪ Ensure an audio file response behaves just like a system beep response (re: repetition, acknowledge, graphical representation, etc). This seems to work, but needs to be tested operationally.		
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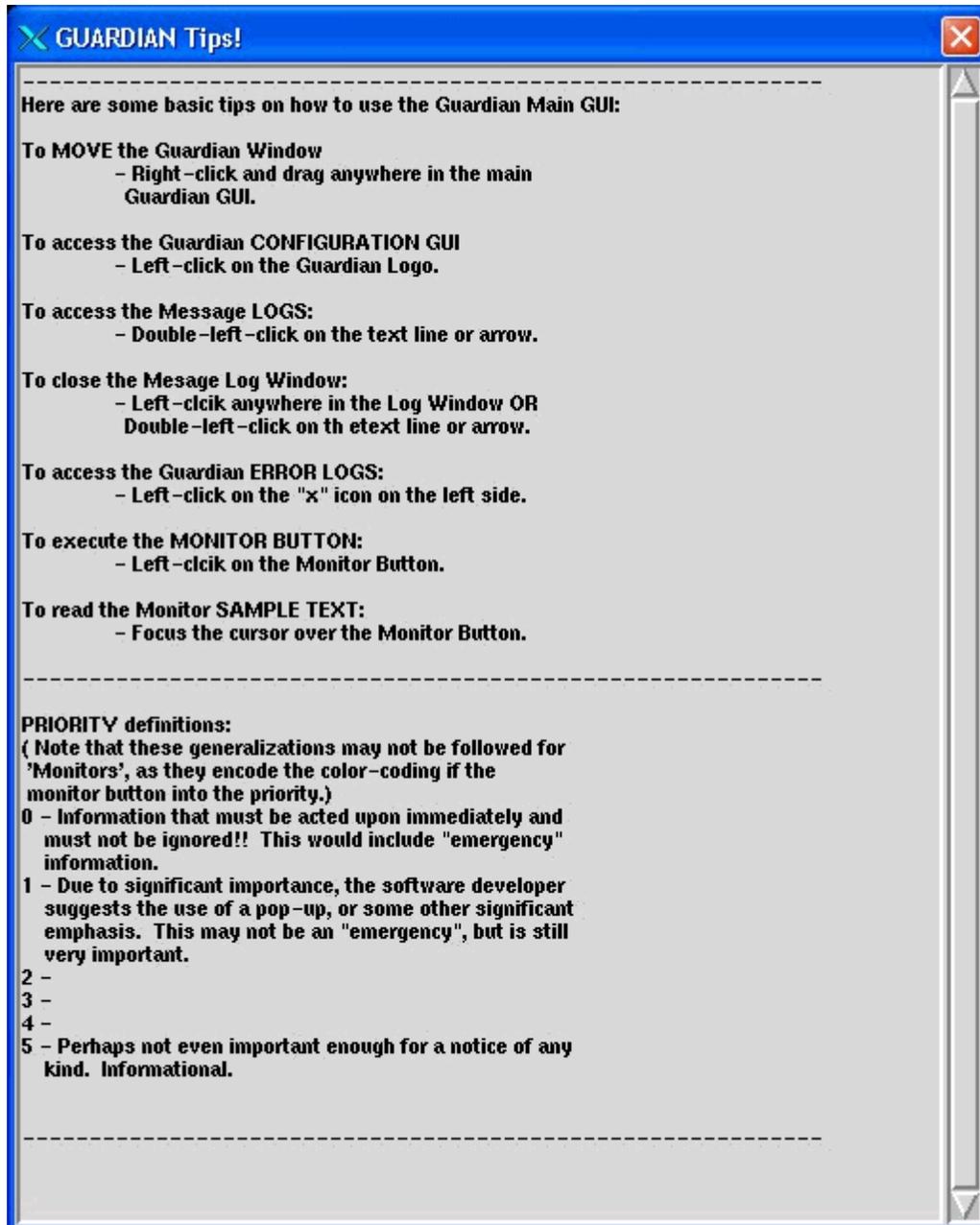
Functionality Issues Identified by Alpha Test Sites

Site	Date	Issue	Action	Difficulty	Priority	Target	Complete
several	5/18	Provide workstation-specific default configurations.	Tom F. will implement this.	easy	high	A0	A1
AMA	6/7	Provide method to clear (acknowledge) a text line	Tom F. will implement this.	moderate	moderate	A2	A1
ILN	6/17	Allow the Layout selection to determine which screen Guardian runs on.	Tom F. will investigate and experiment	easy-mod	low	A2	A2
AJK	8/3	Amount of text in log – too wide for screen? Actually may not be a problem – need to verify.	Tom F. will limit width, beyond which the horizontal scroll will need to be used.	easy	low	?	

Sample image captures:







X GUARDIAN Tips!

Here are some basic tips on how to use the Guardian Main GUI:

To MOVE the Guardian Window
- Right-click and drag anywhere in the main Guardian GUI.

To access the Guardian CONFIGURATION GUI
- Left-click on the Guardian Logo.

To access the Message LOGS:
- Double-left-click on the text line or arrow.

To close the Message Log Window:
- Left-click anywhere in the Log Window OR
Double-left-click on the text line or arrow.

To access the Guardian ERROR LOGS:
- Left-click on the "x" icon on the left side.

To execute the MONITOR BUTTON:
- Left-click on the Monitor Button.

To read the Monitor SAMPLE TEXT:
- Focus the cursor over the Monitor Button.

PRIORITY definitions:
(Note that these generalizations may not be followed for 'Monitors', as they encode the color-coding if the monitor button into the priority.)

0 - Information that must be acted upon immediately and must not be ignored!! This would include "emergency" information.

1 - Due to significant importance, the software developer suggests the use of a pop-up, or some other significant emphasis. This may not be an "emergency", but is still very important.

2 -

3 -

4 -

5 - Perhaps not even important enough for a notice of any kind. Informational.

**Workstation Information**

		AJK	AMA	BOU	ILN	SLC
lx1	desktop responsibilities	gnome Public Service, Nowcasts, Period 1 update	gnome Short-term, Aviation, short-fuse warnings	Long term (IFPS/GFE)	gnome Public	gnome Public Service
lx2	desktop responsibilities	gnome Back-up	gnome Long-term	Public Service	gnome Short-term, Aviation	gnome Fire Weather
lx3	desktop responsibilities	gnome Long-term forecast/Lead	Primary Back-up, Admin, secondary short-fuse	Severe Weather Ops, Nowcast, warnings, fire	gnome Long-term, Public	gnome Aviation
lx4	desktop responsibilities	gnome Short-term forecast/aviation	gnome HMT/Intern (climate, hydro)	Severe Weather Ops, Nowcast, warnings, fire	gnome Severe Weather Ops	gnome Lead
lx5	desktop responsibilities	gnome	gnome Secondary Back-up, HAMS, Admin, tertiary short-fuse	Short Term (TAFs, Nowcasting)	gnome Data Collection	gnome Short-term
other	desktop responsibilities	gnome rpp-ajk: development		na2: Severe/Hydro		gnome lx6: Severe weather

General Task List

- Public Service
- Nowcast
- Short-Term Forecast / (Nowcast?)
- Long-term Forecast
- Aviation
- Short-fuse Warnings / Svr Wx Ops
- Climate
- Hydro
- Fire Wx
- Lead
- Marine
- XX Data Collection XX
- XX HAMS XX
- XX AdministrativeXX
- XX Service back-upXX
- XX MiscellaneousXX



Now, for each of these Tasks, we need to try to define what categories of information would be pertinent to each task. (**And this requires operational expertise!**)

For example: While a forecaster is working the aviation task, perhaps he/she would want Guardian to pass on messages relating to radar and metr obs and upper air obs, and while a forecaster is working the marine task, perhaps he/she would want Guardian to pass on messages relating to buoy obs (wave height, etc) and metr obs. Considering just this oversimplified case, our Category list would be:

METR OBS

MARINE OBS

RADAR

UPPEROBS

Another example: While a forecaster is working the Short Fuse task, perhaps he/she would want Guardian to pass on messages relating to radar and warnings and spotters, and while a forecaster is working the Long-Term task, perhaps he/she would want Guardian to pass on messages relating to models and profiler obs. Considering just this oversimplified case, our Category list would be:

WARNING

RADAR

MODEL DATA

UPPER OBS

The Category List below is evolving and **requires operational wisdom to validate!** We need to discuss and come up with a Category list that is comprehensive, general, and not too overwhelming.



Potential Categories	Description / Notes	Examples
RADAR	Announcer category RADAR	
LOCAL	Announcer category LOCAL	
SYSTAT	Announcer category SYSTEM, also can be info from the Netscape Monitor , system health issues	
SYSCOM	System Communications issues	notificationServer or CommsRouter issues
WARNINGS	Info directly related to Warnings	Expiration messages
TAF	Aviation data	
TWEB		
METAR	Probably will be included in SFCOBS below	
WSW	PIL piece – need to generalize? (PIL is too general too)	
MPW	PIL piece – need to generalize? (PIL is too general too)	
LSR	PIL piece – need to generalize? (PIL is too general too)	
SFCOBS	Databased on surface observations	METAR thresholds
UPPEROBS	Upper air data, soundings, profilers	
FRCST	Forecast-related data	
HYDROFRCST		
ALL	For messages that should be of interest to all users (like AMBER Alerts?, DHS issues?). Perhaps rename this to describe these better.	
WINTER?		
GAGE	Hydro gage based	
MONITOR	(special category)	
GDN_ADMIN	(special category)	
MISC	miscellaneous	
MODEL	Based on various model data.	
SECURITY	DOC security issues.	
<i>each task</i>	Each Task from the General Task List will also have a Category. We want the Categories to be more general than the tasks and we want the decision on how to use information to be that of the forecaster, not the software developer, but it might be an operationally good fallback for when the developer does not know what category to	



	use, but knows how the message is likely to be used.	
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