XEFS Planning Meeting – 16 July 2009

Attendees: John Lhotak, Kevin Werner, Limin Wu, Hank Herr, Satish Regonda, DJ Seo, Gautam Sood, Julie Demargne, Xuning Tan, and Mark Fresch

EPP3
John Schaake completed coding to handle CFS temperature grids within EPP3, and Limin successfully tested the new executable on a Linux – AWIPS environment. The new executable has been made available on the ftp site for field testing. We assume Rob H will test as soon as he's able, and Kevin W said CBRFC would also download and test the new executable. John S. will be on leave through next week.

EPP3 Model Adapters and Integration Testing
For integration testing of EPP3, the model adapters, and FEWS, Hank and Xuning have run into a snag. A recent change to FEWS by Deltares to the way FEWS reads XML/ASCII (grids) data requires a change to one of the model adapters (EPP3GridModelAdapter). Hank and Xuning need Deltares to provide more information before making the change to the model adapter. Albrecht said he'd ask folks at Deltares to get the information. [7/20/09 update Deltares (Onno) provided the info.]

Xuning added the ability to read location sets to the EPP3 model adapters. Xuning unit tested the new code but hasn't integration tested it yet because of the reason mentioned above.

EPP3 Hindcasts
We don't believe EPP3 can currently be run in hindcast mode as part of a FEWS workflow because FEWS can't read the hindcast files because they're in NWS netCDF. DJ will provide Albrecht with GFS hindcast files in netCDF for Albrecht to test whether FEWS can read them.

An alternative solution is planned. Albrecht says Deltares plans to update FEWS by Sept. 09 to read datacard ensemble forecasts. Afterward, EPP3 will be able to be run in hind-cast mode by running the hind-caster from the command line.

Rob H and Kevin W were asked what they were archiving for hindcasting. Kevin W replied CBRFC is archiving all GFS forecasts. Rob H will check.

EnsPost and HMOS
Mark F told the group that he, DJ, Hank, and Satish met a few weeks ago to map out how latest HEP versions of EnsPost and HMOS will be integrated into CHPS.

DJ reported that the first step, HEP's comparison of the AWIPS baseline and research versions of EnsPost and HMOS, hasn't started. However, HEP is now able to run their research version of EnsPost within CHPS, but not HMOS. DJ

said HEP would like to take the lead with help from HSEB in writing or modifying the model adapters for their latest EnsPost and HMOS. Originally, HSEB had planned to write or modify the model adapters. I reminded DJ that tested XEFS components are due in October 2009.

DJ said by the end of July that HEP would define what HMOS and EnsPost enhancements (vs. baseline AWIPS versions), including adaptable parameter files(s), are targeted for XEFS in Oct 2009.

Terminology: BOC, BOC I, vs. BOC II and XEFS vs. HEFS
There was confusion and discussion about what these terms meant, especially related to XEFS. To clarify, here are definitions of these terms.

BOC and BOC II refer to CHPS Basic Operating Capability for CAT and CAT II sites, respectively. BOC I is a misnomer for BOC. BOC is minimum set of baseline operational software, hardware, and infrastructure to operationally support the first four CHPS RFCs. BOC II is similar to BOC, but to support the remaining nine CHPS RFCs. Folks sometimes are incorrectly using BOC and BOC II to refer to dates, usually when parallel operations begin at CAT and CAT II sites in October 2009 and March 2010, respectively.

XEFS and HEFS are a set of new ensemble-related components. The difference is XEFS components are non-baseline or experimental prototypes, and HEFS components are part of the CHPS baseline. We are trying to have initial XEFS capabilities integrating into CHPS plus the initial (Phase 1) HEFS Graphics Generator done by October when CAT RFCs begin parallel operations (with CHPS and NWSRFS).

Graphics Generator
Hank reported that at his regular Graphics Generator Meeting, he provided a demo of the limited functionality and initial lay-out of the Graphics Generator. The demo was difficult to follow, and the participants asked to provide a more complete demo at the next Graphics Generator Meeting with a realistic example. Folks expressed confusion about the meaning of the tabs labeled “arguments” and “references”.

One Stop XEFS support web-page
Mark reported that OHD will start a ‘one-stop’ XEFS support page to make it easier for RFCs to use XEFS and participate in field tests. OHD will be hiring someone about October to help set-up and run the support.

XEFS Field test plans
DJ said he’d provide a summary of his team’s (HEP’s) XEFS field testing plans by the end of July.

Next Meeting

The next XEFS Planning Meeting will be next week, July 23rd.

Mark Fresch