

ASOS OT&E TRR Meeting

September 29, 2011

Attendees

NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD:	
Peggy Hoch OPS23	Bob Brashears Central Region
Joe Fiore OPS24	Matt Ferrell Eastern Region
Sergio Marsh OS7	Bill Ryman Central Region
Ruth Parmerlee OPS12	Tim Rutkowski Eastern Region
Khien Nguyen OPS24	Jim Durr Alaska Region
Christopher Stark AOMC	Bob Retzlaff Central Region
Chet Schmitt OPS22	Mike Esip ESA BOX WFO Eastern Region
Jennifer Dover OPS22 SFSC	
Gregory Dalyai OPS12	
Joseph Devost OPS12	U.S. Navy
Jim Zdrojewski OS4	Wayne Knight SPAWARSYSCEN
Chris Stark AOMC	Pete Dashnaw SPAWARSYSCEN
NWS Regions and WFO's	Bobby Aires SPAWARSYSCEN
Lew Harrington Southern Region	Kirby Johnson SPAWARSYSCEN
Timothy Rutkowski Eastern Region	Todd Collier SPAWARSYSCEN
John Bush Pacific Region	Rick Swindler SPAWARSYSCEN
Ron Quillan ESA BGM WFO Eastern Region	Paul Howard SPAWARSYSCEN
Tom Townsend Central Region	
	U.S. Air Force
	Absent
	NCAR
	Absent
	FAA
	Absent

On Thursday, September 29, 2011, the National Weather Service Test & Evaluation Branch (OPS24) and Software Branch (OPS23) hosted the ASOS OT&E TRR Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to kick off the ASOS Software Version 3.05 OT&E which is scheduled to begin in early October.

Discussions

Peggy Hoch began the meeting by discussing V3.05 which has been in development for many years and contains 58 new capabilities and 24 fixes to the software. There have been many improvements to the software over the years and the load seems to be very stable. The System Test wrap up meeting was held on September 28. The test team did a very thorough job of testing the software by running 219 tests. There are no major issues and 3 minor "watch item" TTRs for OT&E in the area of ice accretion. This version of software is critical to meet the POAMs in the ASOS IT Security Plan and it is critical to get the software installed at field sites for testing over the winter to gain experience with the software and ensure that it meets requirements before full deployment. Peggy reminded everyone to use CAPS lock or the Shift Key when entering all passwords (to enter all passwords in CAPS) after the first installation of V3.05 before the passwords are changes to mixed case.

Joe Fiore presented his slides. Joe briefed the group on the overall purpose of the OT&E, the pre-requisites, test strategy, operational risk reduction, and tentative schedule.

Jim Durr asked if it was ok to install the software next week and the answer was yes. As soon as the software is posted on the web site, an email will be sent out by the OT&E director stating that everything is ready to go, probably on Monday, October 3 or Tuesday, October 4.

Lew Harrington asked if all prerequisites were met and the answer was yes, everything is ready. He also asked if the FAA is getting ready for Phase 2 of the OT&E and for nationwide implementation of the software. The FAA can continue to use old passwords and never change them if they obtain a waiver to do so and notify the NWS in writing of their intentions. Jerry Kranz and Paul Armbruster of the FAA are working on training and union issues. One question came up about TTR 292 (invalid ice accretion remark I1000) with regards to and how and if observers would be briefed on the issue (they could manually edit out the I1000 remark). For Phase 2: NWS will ask the FAA (Jerry Kranz or Paul Armbruster) if during the CWO and ATC training, they would like to add an explanation of the creation of I1000 (trace ice accretion) remark when the observer edits FZRASN or FZDZSN into the PWX field. The OBS or ATC can edit out I1000 remark in PWX field if this rare situation occurs. Joe stressed that this situation will only occur if an OBS or ATC edits a mixture of freezing precipitation and snow (FZRASN or FZDZSN). Joe also said that in data set testing during the System Test (ST) actual ice accretion amounts (i.e. I1001, I1002, etc.) were calculated correctly. The FAA was not present at TRR meeting.

Jim Durr asked about lockouts due to expired passwords. There are no lockouts in ASOS as long as you have the correct password. A password expired message will be seen after 60 days, but the passwords will continue to allow access. OPS12 will run a script every 60 days to change four of the passwords. The ATC and OBS passwords will not change until Phase 2 or later. Joe and Peggy stressed that after V3.05 is installed and the TEC uses the default password or after site data (with existing passwords) is downloaded from

the AOMC the user **must enter the existing passwords in CAPS, until 60 days after install when OPS12 will download the new 12 character passwords to the 16 phase 1 sites.**

Lew Harrington asked if the final version of the OT&E Plan and the IT Security SOP could be sent to all participants. Joe stated that they could be sent very shortly, after the final revisions are made to the OT&E plan.

Tom Townsend had concerns about the FAA. The FAA has not yet decided on what to do about passwords. Tom wondered if the FAA says no passwords, what will happen? It was mentioned that the ASOS has never been hacked.

Central Region (Bob Brashears) stated that they will now use the PIN tables provided by SFSC and follow the flowchart process (to be provided by OPS24 and AOMC) for lost passwords. Bob Brashears will speak with Jen Dover about getting PIN numbers for Central Region. Jen will then inform AOMC and Central Region of PIN numbers. Jen also needs a list of authorized users from Central Region.

Tim Rutkowski stated that some offices use DCM and asked if the observers would need a PIN, the answer was no, users only need PINs to recover a lost password.

NOTAMS were discussed next, they are required when installing the software and must be cancelled when the installation is complete. The MIC at each site will contact the FAA so they can send a NOTAM when the OT&E site is going to install the software and cancel the NOTAM after V3.05 has been successfully loaded at ASOS site. The FAA will be tracking this. The national PNS has already been sent out for distribution via AWIPS.

Joe asked if (possible) during the OT&E, someone from the ASOS site, WFO, or NWS Region could let the OT&E data analysis team know (via email) if a meteorological event (ice storm or freezing rain, thunderstorms in the vicinity (VCTS) of the site, validation of precipitation accumulation "false tip/accumulation" after snow or rain has ended, erroneous wind [] in the 12 hour archive (IFW -QC), and IFR sky conditions) is occurring or about to occur. This help may be limited for NWS sites during Phase 1 because they are non augmented (no observer or air traffic controller present) sites. Joe stated that any help the sites could provide during OT&E would be appreciated. The Navy sites will have observers present, so they may be able to provide more help to the data analysis team with meteorological events during OT&E. OPS24 will be dialing into all 16 phase one OT&E several times a day and downloading data that will be sorted into meteorological events so the data analysis team can evaluate the events.

At the end of the meeting, Peggy reminded everyone that it is very important to read Mod Note 80G before installation of V3.05 since this load has new features that have not been seen before especially in the area of IT security. This information is also in the OT&E plan. Since the technician is automatically logged out after the AOMC download of site specific data, they then must use AOMC downloaded passwords in **upper case** to gain

access. Ensuring that the mod note (80G) is read will help keep serious problems during installation to a minimum.