

AWIPS II Topic of the Week -- A Letter From The AWIPS PM III

All,

The following is "A Letter from the AWIPS PM" from Tim Hopkins regarding recent AWIPS II activities:

We are making concrete plans for how to move forward through the critical next few weeks of the AWIPS II project. The AWIPS II project is large and complex and sometimes difficult to clearly explain without either leaving out important details or giving so much detail as to make it confusing. The information we are providing here is an attempt to balance those two competing forces. While it might seem like this is a lot of information, it represents the most critical aspects of a much larger more complex picture. We hope that you find this information useful and that it helps you understand how we will navigate these next few weeks. I am closely coordinating with Raytheon during this process and, while Raytheon is pushing to meet the March 15 date, they recognize and support our efforts to plan how we will proceed from that date.

Thanks to all who are helping and will help us through this period.

March 10th Preliminary Readiness Review (PRR)

- ❖ This is a contractual milestone in the TO11 task and also will be used as a key decision point for the government to decide whether or not to proceed with System OT&E start on March 16th. We will use a checklist in the following categories:

- System Stability
- FBSO fixes
- Localization
- Local App Infrastructure
- Service Backup Infrastructure
- Critical Local App Migration
- LAPS Migration
- MSAS Migration
- NMAP Migration
- BOIVerify Migration
- TO12 in place
- Raytheon MDM Test Coverage
- NWS MDM Test Coverage
- Functionality

TO11 Documentation
Draft variance training from NWSTD
Critical Hardware upgrades
Performance

This meeting will be chaired by OST but attended by OPS and other key stakeholders, including field focal points. The primary outcome of this meeting will be a decision whether we are ready or near ready to hold the System OT&E Test Readiness Review (STRR). We will then put forth alternative schedules based on our level of readiness.

System Stability

System stability is of primary concern to moving forward. Criteria for what is good enough for System OT&E, is not clearly defined, so we have the following plan to address this critical issue.

- a. Move the Preliminary Readiness Review (PRR) from March 5th to March 10th, to allow a test of the March 1st software delivery for stability, prior to PRR as this is a major indication of readiness. To date, stability as seen at the FITs (Forecaster Initial Test) is inadequate to begin System OT&E.

- b. We will run a FIT forecaster testing on Friday, March 5th and then monitor ingest over the weekend. We will continue testing on Monday, March 8th and finish up on Tuesday March 9th. Four field personnel have volunteered. Success will be no generalized CAVE crashes (i.e. multiple workstations simultaneously or massive performance slowdowns), no edex crashes, no loss of ingest data, no data base crashes, no corrupt file systems and in general, no significant loss of testing time (i.e. no single event causes greater than 15 minutes of lost test time such that all testing at all workstations is halted). Over the weekend, we would also expect no generalized crashes longer than 15 minutes. If it passes these criteria, then we would consider stability sufficient for TO11 exit and for beginning System OT&E.

As a precaution and to ensure sufficient lead time for field forecasters, regardless of the outcome of the March 10th PRR, we

will begin to make preparations for further FIT readiness tests, after March 15th. If these further tests are not needed, they will be canceled.

Fix Before System OTE (FBSO) fixes

- ❖ We are in the process of determining the final number of FBSOs that will be required to be fixed before System OT&E can begin. It is likely that this number will be in the hundreds. The government is the only one who can officially close a FBSO and in order to do so, has to independently test it and declare it fixed. Per the TO11 terms, it is also possible for Raytheon to provide a workaround for a problem and if the government determines that the workaround is acceptable, the FBSO could be re-classified to a lower priority, though not actually closed. The government will test all of the submitted FBSO fixes from the latest delivery and determine which have passed and which have failed. The failures will remain as FBSOs and will be resubmitted to Raytheon. The government will also review the FBSO workarounds that Raytheon submits and will determine which are acceptable and which are not. Those that are unacceptable, will remain as open FBSOs and will be resubmitted to Raytheon for rework and redelivery in a subsequent software build.

We will iterate with Raytheon until the FBSOs are fixed or have acceptable workarounds and the stability test (FIT) completes satisfactorily. We rely on your continued participation and support during this process.

--Tim Hopkins

To join the mail list for these messages, please contact Fran Curnow at Frances.Curnow@noaa.gov.

To UNSUBSCRIBE please use the following URL for instructions: <http://www.weather.gov/ndm/listhelp.html>

Regards,
Olga Brown-Leigh

Olga E. Brown-Leigh
Systems Engineering Center, Support Branch Chief
Office of Science and Technology
NOAA, Nat'l Weather Service
(301) 713-1570 ext. 156 ofc
(301) 873-3320 cell
(301) 713-0003 fax
Olga.Brown-Leigh@noaa.gov