AWIPS II Topic of the Week -- User Functional Evaluations

One of the key ingredients in all our AWIPS development is user feedback. With the current AWIPS, we solicit input throughout the life of our software projects. We start with reviews of requirements and test plans, then we bring forecasters in to headquarter offices for Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) and Alpha testing, and we conclude with Beta testing. Since our experiences with the current AWIPS have shown us the great value of user testing, we are are creating opportunities for users to test AWIPS II. As the first opportunity, we are conducting User Functional Evaluation (UFE) testing. Any site can download the current AWIPS II software, install it and then run it. We have set up a database so sites can report problems through Test Trouble Reports (TTRs). All user feedback will be captured and tracked to closure. So help us ensure a high quality build, take an early look at the AWIPS II software and give us your feedback. To find out more about the UFE check the test page on the AWIPS Evolution web site (http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/SEC/AE/Testing.htm) or contact our UFE test manager Bob Rood (Robert.Rood@noaa.gov).

Edwin Welles
Chief, Development Branch
Systems Engineering Center