

AWIPS II Topic of the Week -- Variances

The goal of the Raytheon AWIPS II development is a "black box" conversion of the existing software into a new architecture. Theoretically, this means a user sitting in front of the system would not be able to tell if they were running AWIPS I or AWIPS II. Of course, this is just a theory, and probably not a very good one if taken to its extreme end. In some cases, Raytheon developers will be able to correct problems with AWIPS I as they port the software to AWIPS II. Certainly we do not want them recoding bugs, just to maintain the current look and feel of the user interfaces! There will be variances between AWIPS I and AWIPS II and it is the NWS's responsibility to provide timely feedback to Raytheon whether or not the variances are acceptable. To provide this feedback, we need forecaster input. We have established a three step process for reviewing variances: forecast offices install the software and run it to see the variances as a part of the User Functional Evaluation (UFE) testing, they report feedback to their Regional AWIPS SREC members, the SREC determines yea or nay for the variance. At this time we have identified 35 variances and are looking for feedback on them. For more information about reviewing the variances you can check the AWIPS Technology Infusion website (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ost/SEC/AE/index.htm>) under the "Testing" link or contact Bob Rood (Robert.Rood@noaa.gov) who is running the UFE.

[Edwin Welles](#)

Chief, Development Branch
Systems Engineering Center