

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What is the purpose and scope of this effort?

NWS is conducting an assessment of our current data dissemination architecture and considering ways to improve and create a future-facing architecture. Our primary goal is to fulfill our mission to ensure the protection of life, property, and the enhancement of the national economy. We seek to improve how we do this by disseminating the necessary data using strategies and methods that make use of new and emerging technology.

NWS infrastructure includes all dissemination media we currently support, such as the NWS Telecommunications Gateway, All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio, NOAA Weather Wire, Family of Services, NOAAPORT, Emergency Managers Weather Information Network system, NWSChat, and iNWS, as well as all web-based email, and telephone services.

2. What is the estimated timeline for this effort? When will implementation take place?

Requirements gathering and input will take place from June 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011. During this phase, the NWS will solicit input and recommendations from the public, conduct an internal government survey, which includes a sampling of interviews. Analysis and recommendations development will occur from August 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011.

Currently, we are in the requirements gathering phase. Developed recommendations, due October 31, 2011, will drive implementation decisions and schedule.

3. Will this requirements gathering effort affect accessibility, availability or frequency of weather data?

Currently, we are assessing the needs and requirements of users of the dissemination system. This requirements gathering effort will have no affect on accessibility, availability or frequency of weather data.

4. When will the new system implementation take place?

Recommendations developed from input gathered during the requirements gathering phase will drive implementation decisions and schedule.

5. How does this requirements gathering effort impact products and services now?

The requirements gathering effort will have no impact on current products and services.

6. Will services, products, or data formats be eliminated? If so, which ones?

There will be no elimination of services products or data formats during the requirements gathering effort. NWS will use the information collected during this requirements gathering phase to improve current weather data dissemination. Your input, including service and product recommendations, will help determine how those improvements are made. You may provide input at <http://nwsresearch.ideascale.com/>.

7. Will new products or services be provided as a result of this effort?

NWS will use the information collected during this requirements gathering effort to improve current weather data dissemination. Your input will help determine how those improvements are made; comments can be provided at <http://nwsresearch.ideascale.com/>.

8. Will we receive updates or the final recommended requirements?

NWS will provide a to-be architecture announcement following completion of the recommendations which are due October 31, 2011.

9. How can we make sure the changes NWS makes will continue to provide the products and services we need?

Your input will help us improve our services to you. You may submit suggestions, recommendations and comments via the following: <http://nwsresearch.ideascale.com/>

10. Will my organization be required to make any technical or system changes to continue accessing weather data? Who will pay for those changes?

Your organization will not be required to make any technical or system changes to access weather data during the requirements gathering effort. Any technical or system changes will be driven by user comments and, as such, any resulting financial outlay will be the responsibility of users.

11. How will Family of Services (FOS) fees be affected as a result of this effort?

The requirements gathering effort will have no effect on current FOS fees.

12. Will the Family of Service (FOS) provider agreements be affected as a result of this effort?

The requirements gathering effort will have no effect on current FOS provider agreements.

13. Who should I contact if I have additional questions, concerns or want to provide input?

You may provide input – comments, recommendations or suggestions – at <http://nwsresearch.ideascale.com/>. Alternatively, you may call or send an email with any questions to:

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