

DAS/TAF Update 2022



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DIGITAL AVIATION SERVICES IN THE NWS

In late 2020, the NWS received a [requirements letter from the FAA](#) detailing a desire for gridded and point and click aviation forecasts.

In 2021, team of RAMs, NWSHQ, and AWC developed [DAS Grid Guidelines, Definitions, Collaboration Criteria, and Testing for Future of DAS document](#). This document was reviewed by subject matter experts.



THE DAS DOCUMENT

Lays out potential future expectations for the program such as:

- How often grids should be updated (4x daily)
- Collaboration thresholds (No set values, but should consider flight cats and other critical thresholds when applicable)
- NDFD requirements
- What time grids should be updated
- Common starting points for consistency



THE DAS DOCUMENT

Also lays out...

- Future plans for web presence
- Integration of field efforts into AWC products
- Potential workflow/consistency between WFO/AWC
- Ongoing work with OPG/MDL(i.e. NBM) to improve grids



WHAT TO KNOW...

Gridded aviation data is available to view here: <https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov>

Experimental ceiling, visibility, and LLWS grids are a forecast depicting hourly data from 1-30 hours.

If an office has missing or insufficient gridded data available, it is supplemented with the NBM

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental Product through the NWS survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpCigVisLLWSGrids>

Gridded data is expected to become operational in 2023



THE FORMATTER

- Python 3 compliant version has been baselined. Trouble tickets for any issues may now be opened with NCF.
- For configuration issues, the field can report to awips.field-support@noaa.gov
- Recent issue with Cloud Base Secondary was fixed and will be incorporated soon



WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

- Group of forecasters/SMEs evaluating WeatherRules and have proposed revisions that have been drafted into an experimental formatter
- AWC has reviewed and ensured the experimental version supports their cloud layering
- SMEs have been providing regular feedback to NBM on areas and elements that need improvement

WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

- FAA requirements letter also expresses need for point and click capability
 - Looking into how best to create and display this data in a way that's consistent and uses the grids offices are creating



FINAL NOTES...

- Progress is happening (even if it seems slow)!
- You can always reach out to your Regional Aviation Meteorologists for updates
- We are working to thoughtfully move the program forward in a way that meets all needs!

