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Service Change Notice 24-71
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1130 AM EDT Wed Jul 3 2024

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From: Stephen Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Upgrade to RIDGE II (radar.weather.gov) Enhanced and Standard
(Low Bandwidth) Images: Effective July 2, 2024

On Tuesday, July 2, 2024, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Central Operations (NCO) upgraded the Radar Integrated Display with Geospatial Elements (RIDGE) application to improve the user experience by giving users more control and also improving usability by adding more plain language for radar locations and radar product names. In addition to several functional improvements, additional bug fixes were made as well. The full list of changes can be seen below. The changes will proceed after expiration in the event of a Critical Weather Day (CWD) or an Enhanced Caution Event (ECE).

The RIDGE II application has been producing both low bandwidth images (deemed "Local Standard Radar") and the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based application that displays NWS radar data on <https://radar.weather.gov> (known as Enhanced Radar) since its operational replacement of RIDGE Version I in December of 2020.

Changes to the Enhanced Radar:

- Plain language titles for radar products and radar location names (e.g. 'Super Resolution Base Reflectivity' instead of 'SR_BREF' or 'Birmingham, AL' instead of 'KBMX')
- Adding the ability to search enhanced radar by station ID
- Adding current/high/low temperature values and a weather icon to the hourly forecast when selecting a location on the radar.weather.gov map
- Removal of non-U.S. radars
- Allow users to have a direct URL to a radar site (e.g., /station/KEAX or /region/alaska or /location?lat=39&lon=-93).

New functionality and improvements to Standard Radar:

- Allow users to access the high-resolution contiguous U.S. (CONUS) image
- Introduce the velocity product for users to select within the standard radar
- Add Snow Squall Warnings to standard radar image legend.

Technical updates and bug fixes:

- Update the mapping library
- Update the configuration
- Correct a few minor wording and spelling errors
- Add support for KHDC
- Display the location name when it is set by a hazard
- Improve the ability to select the nearest local radar by clicking on the map
- Resolve broken hazard geometry across the 180th meridian
- Resolve the bug that causes the map legend/loop/toggle to disappear
- Update the pan to the NW for the KDAX standard radar.

For complete information about the RIDGE II radar page on radar.weather.gov, including the associated available data products and services, please view Service Change Notice (SCN) 20-85:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf2/scn20-85ridge2_aab.pdf

A general Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page for the <https://radar.weather.gov> Geographic Information System (GIS)-based page can be found here:

<https://www.weather.gov/radarfaq>

For comments or questions regarding the information in this notice, please contact:

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For issues regarding outages and the operational support of the RIDGE II application, please contact nco.ops@noaa.gov.

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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