

Status Report December 2003

First off, the team would like to thank the 8 offices that returned the evaluation form prior to the Nov. 18-19, 2003 RFC Archive Database Update and Maintenance (RAXUM) team meeting as well as 1 or 2 other offices that e-mailed some comments. This information provided the team with much needed input.

The team meeting went very well. Several decisions were made and a path has been plotted for the OB4 delivery and to some extent for the OB5 delivery. Emphasis by the team will continue to be on fixing bugs in a timely fashion as possible but enhancements to the system will not be ignored.

Here are some of the highlights from the meeting which may be of interest to your office.

- ①. Decision trees for bugs and enhancements were developed and are in the process of being finalized. All problems/bugs/suspected bugs are to be reported to the RFC Support Group. If the bug has previously been reported and a patch is available the RFC Support Group will work with your office to install the patch. The RFC Support Group (Randy Rieman) and the RAXUM team leader (that's me) will have a weekly conference call, generally Tuesday mornings, to discuss new bugs and the status of patches for previously reported bugs. The RFC Archiver bug list on the RFC Support group website will be updated within 24-48 hours of that call. I, as team leader will coordinate with team members who will investigate the reported bug. In some cases, the team may go back to the original programmer for support. Once a patch is developed it will be tested at 2 RFCs before the patch is delivered to RFC Support Group.

For enhancements/new requirements, these shall be submitted to the RFC Support Group. A list of these requests will be attached to the bottom of the RFC Archiver bug list. These new requirements shall be reviewed by the RAXUM at least two times a year. The team will survey the RFCs to prioritize this list. The RAXUM team will use this list to guide it in determining its goals for each AWIPS delivery.

- ②. A major recommendation was made about the many problems with the SHEF decoders provided with the version 1 release. Many of the bugs reported and complaints since spin-up of the RAX began mid-summer has revolved around the SHEF decoders. The team listened and heard you. The direction proposed for SHEF decoders is as follows: Basically, it's a wholesale change of direction with the decoder. In addition, there was near universal desire for log output that was consistent with the national operational shefdecoder. These issues were in addition to reports of decoders dying, slowing, etc. The team recommendation is to rewrite the archive SHEF decoders. The recommendation this time is to use the national operational shefdecode software as the starting point, have one archive database SHEF decoder that posts to all the SHEF data value tables. This is not likely going to be done quickly but trying to make band-aid fixes to the current one wasn't working well and couldn't explain the parsing problems or the mysterious crashes of the decoder. Target completion is for delivery to AWIPS for OB4 in the early April timeframe. This depends on getting appropriate resources to make the SHEF decoder changes. OHD management is currently reviewing the recommendation and determining how best to allocate resources to this major

task.

- ③. Various comments about improving existing documentation and providing new supplemental documents were received. The team feels good documentation is important and one team member has been tasked to take the lead on beefing up existing documentation that has been identified by the offices. In addition several new pieces of documentation have been identified and will be developed over the next several months.
- ④. A new and improved web page will be developed that will make information on the RFC Archive Database/Files System more easily accessible.
- ⑤. Decision was made to eliminate the FAM Operational Manager. This application was accidently provided without documentation. Feedback received by the originating programmer has lead the programmer to the conclusion that there are easier more effective ways to do the task the FAM was designed for. The software will be eliminated in OB4 and any bugs reported for this application will not be worked on.
- ⑥. The data dictionary and charts will be completed before or by September 2004.

Some of the enhancements the team will be working on for OB4 include the following:

- remove date-time limitation from the level 1 processors
- new level 1 processor that will move stage data from pccrsep table to the pehpsep table (in support of the new version of the river verification package that will be delivered as part of OB4)
- changes to the database structure for the new river verification package that will be delivered as part of OB4.
- new application - slopeprofile (carryover from phase 2 team)
- new system and database administrative tools to help the RFCs better monitor the RAX system
- investigate the use of the archecker script from the IIUG. The archecker is designed to validate a level 0 archive without impacting the production system, ensuring that all data required to restore a system exists on the archive tapes in the correct format.

In addition to these enhancements, several other enhancements to software are being considered for OB4. The RFCs were asked to rank six applications with their proposed enhancements on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is highest priority from your office's perspective and 5 is lowest priority from your office's perspective. Results of this survey will be included in the January 2004 status report