

Status Report March 2004

The RFC Archive Database Update and Maintenance (RAXUM) team and programmers have met the initial OB4 software delivery deadline of April 2, 2004 with a few exceptions. The programmer is still furiously working on the major re-write of the shefdecoders and should have it completed by its mid-April deadline. In-house testing right before the check-in deadline showed a problem with the level 1 processors. This problem would only show up if the OB4 database changes had been implemented. The problem was caused by a recent decision to tweak the ingestfilter table structure for the shefdecoders and the change was not communicated/coordinated with the level 1 processors' programmer in case it might affect those applications. This is one of the things that can happen when those persons that do the bug fixes and enhancements are scattered all over the country. The glitch was caught in time and updated versions of the level 1 processors should make it into the OB4 delivery. A preliminary list of the OB4 release changes follows. For specifics on bug fix numbers, see the RFC Archiver Bug List at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/water/RFC_support/Archive_database.shtml.

The following bug fixes are included:

- r1-3, r1-4, r1-6 shefdecoders and related scripts
- r1-10, r1-11, r1-16 datview
- r1-12 dcextract
- r1-13, r1-14 all level 1 processors
- r1-17 process_precip
- r1-21 adbinit

Not on the bug list but fixes are included:

- tcl834 directory, so this library that can be found in its proper location not the pre-prototype system location
- all level 1 processors use the sensok table properly and how it handles the qualifier code 'M' in the processed db tables
- how the level 1 processors handle the data qualifier code "M" in the processed db tables

Enhanced Applications

- shef_decoder_raw
- shef_decode_processed
- display_rc
- datview
- get_states
- process_stage
- arcmenu
- fam_oper_view

New Applications

- find_bigfiles
- check_extents
- run_archecker
- slope_to_stage

New Application, developed separate from RAXUM team

- river verification software package

Database Changes:

- drop tables slopelookup, vlocation and vrivergaugeloc
- add table vfyruninfo
- counties table, changed primary key
- rating table, changed primary key
- ingestfilter table, dropped column 'p' and changed primary key
- change database name to reflect its build OB4

I want to thank all the team members (Larry Ellis, Arleen Lunsford, Joe Intermill, Patricia Wnek) and non-team members (Brenda Alcorn, James Paul and Victor Hom) for their hard work in putting this package of bug fixes, enhancements and documentation together for the OB4 delivery. Thanks also go out to APRFC, NWRFC and NCRFC for testing various applications off and on over the past few weeks. This software delivery went much smoother than the OB1 delivery October 2002 but there is still room for improvement.

On another note, in recent months more than one office has expressed frustration, disappointment, disgust, call it what you want, with the quality of the RFC Archive system (RAX) as delivered last summer. As the person at my RFC that is responsible for the implementation of the RAX locally, I can understand your office's frustration. **Please be patient a while longer, that is all I can ask.**

Many of the bugs in the OB1 delivery were due to inadequate testing or no testing prior to the delivery deadline. To be honest, the seriousness and extent of the problems with the RAX shefdcoders did not come to light until several of the RFCs pointed out the problems after implementation of the systems at the RFCs last summer. It was the prompt implementation by NWRFC, ABRFC, APRFC and NCRFC, that highlighted the numerous problems both big and small. Many if not most of the small bugs should have been caught if adequate testing had been done prior to the software delivery in the first place. However some of the problems, in particular, those connected to the shefdcoders, would not necessarily have been discovered until implementation. This time around the RAXUM team built into its' schedule a 2 ½ week window prior to the delivery check-in deadline for finalizing applications and testing but it still was not enough time as the glitch with the level 1 processors pointed out. The team will endeavor to allow for even more testing time for any software that may be in the OB5 software delivery this fall as well as ensure the communication problem we had this time around as we approached the deadline does not occur again.