

SPoRT / AWIPS II

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Jason Burks and Matt Smith

Since its inception almost 10 years ago, NASA's Short-term Prediction Research and Transition (SPoRT) Center has integrated NASA data into the National Weather Service's decision support system (DSS) – the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS). SPoRT has, in some instances, had to shape and transform data sets into various formats and manipulate configurations to visualize them in AWIPS. With the advent of the next generation of DSS, AWIPS II, developers will be able to develop their own plugins – to handle any type of data. Raytheon is developing AWIPS II to be a more extensible system written mainly in Java, and built around a Service Oriented Architecture. The plugin architecture will allow users to install their own code modules, and (if all the rules have been properly followed) they will work hand-in-hand with AWIPS II as if it were originally built in. Users can bring in new datasets with existing plugins, extend existing plugins to handle a nuance or desired new functionality, or create an entirely new visualization layout for a new dataset. SPoRT is developing plugins to ensure its existing NASA data will be ready for AWIPS II when it is delivered, and to prepare for the future of new instruments on upcoming satellites. SPoRT has developed plugins to help forecasters easily assess lightning jumps in total cloud lightning; to visualize air mass identification and fog detection using RGB products; and to aid in fire and smoke plume identification.