

CAP Webinar Meeting Minutes:

Date: Oct 26, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Eastern time

Webinar Objectives:

- Ensure CAP users understand how NWS is using CAP and use correct documentation
- Convey NWS alert lifecycle for met and hydro hazards that move in time and space.
- Want to bring new/prospective CAP users up to speed
- Want to refresh existing NWS CAP users and point out some details they may not know
- Convey desire to evolve CAP in line with the OASIS CAP standard best meeting the needs of partners and NWS

Question/Answer

- **Live Q&A Log**

- Which methods to access CAP alerts are redundant (or backup systems)?
There are multiple ways to receive a listing of CAP alerts (ATOM listing, NWS API in XML format, HTTP listing, etc.). Are these all sourced from the same servers? Is the ATOM listing now sourced from the API?
 - Brian Miretzky: Yes, there are multiple ways to receive the CAP alerts and they are all produced by the same servers. There is a need to be careful about using multiple sources as that could lead to duplicate alerts (e.g. IPAWS and an NWS source).
 - Mike Gerber: The ATOM format does not contain all of the CAP alert content.
- Changes to 1 alert message with segments are great but will break our integration. Will that be a new version for backward compatibility?
 - Mike Gerber: NWS is required by policy to give ample time to prepare for the transition.
- What is the timing of having CAP messages generated locally at the WFOs?
 - Brian Miretzky: 3-5 years
- Are WFO forecasters going to be given full control of the dynamic fields in CAP like severity, urgency, and certainty?
 - Mike Gerber: NWS has put some initial thought into this. The tools are being designed for the forecaster to be given control of the fields, but forecaster editing of the fields would have to go through significant internal review involving policy, operations, and

resources before NWS would go about it. For example, forecasters would need to be able to make edits without delaying the alert from getting out the door.

- Is there a CAP system status page? Link?
 - Brian Miretzky: Not specific to CAP but there is a status page to the overall status of all of NWS systems (linked in the deck)
- When the alert includes a polygon, could a centroid lat/long be also included? All the static shapefiles do include centroid info for Forecast, County, Fire, and Marine zones in the GIS data.
 - Mike Gerber: Many but not all NWS alerts are storm-based or done by polygon. Some of them (tornado, severe storm, flash flood, etc) contain a storm centroid along with direction and speed of movement.
- Is there a timeline for CAP via XMPP OI? Will it have a similar delivery time as satellite? Around .1% of messages are delayed by 10+ minutes via API in our experience.
 - 2nd part of XMPP OI question: will it be reasonable to use BOTH API + XMPP with XMPP as primary and API as backup (assuming it's slower) and de-dupe them by ID?
 - Brian Miretzky: Would be interested in feedback for the reliability and latency and always working to improve this, and definitely don't want delays for this. Looking at the requirements for how timely they should be. Would like them to be as quick as possible, but need to set requirements first.
- Weather.gov forecasts include Hazardous Weather Outlook alerts, but neither alerts.weather.gov nor the API includes them. Why are Outlooks not included in the API?
 - Mike Gerber: CAP is only for alert messages. CAP is not produced for outlooks aren't alerts per se.
- NWS-issued CAP alerts will occasionally have some datetime fields updated (e.g., effectiveTime) without changing the CAP identifier or issuing an Update message type alert. Is this intentional? This requires full deduplication to detect.
 - Herbert White: That should not be happening, send an example because that should be fixed. Send them to Mike Gerber's email address.

- Thanks for the great presentation! Is it possible to filter the CAP messages by any element/parameter within the feeds? For instance, if I'd like to access all the emergency CAP messages, can I filter for that?
 - Mike Gerber: CAP messages from the National Weather Service will not include non-NWS CAP messages sent to the FEMA IPAWS by other public safety agencies. However, there are a few cases where a public safety agency doesn't use IPAWS and will ask NWS to relay an alert on their behalf. In those cases, the alert will be available from NWS sources in CAP format. However, the NWS has no authority to send those non-weather alerts to IPAWS.
 - Brian Miretzky: You can do some filtering based on if the alerts are active or not and by some elements and parameters because they're in the API. There isn't a parameter for emergency vs. non-emergency within the CAP.
- Outstanding webinar. With the API event expirations are appearing, but not early event cancellations. Any thoughts? Cancellations are very important. With thanks.
 - Herbert White: Would want examples of this to try to resolve this.
- Hi all. Making sure I understand the NWS CAPs regarding having multiple CAP messages. So if the same alert has expanded, there will be a CAP message for the continued area and another CAP message for the new area? And I assume there's an ID to group the CAPs together for a full pic of the same alert?
 - Mike Gerber: Yes. CAP users should refer to the CAP "references" element and NWS "expiredReferences" CAP parameter for alert tracking. See <https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/nws-common-alerting-protocol/cap-documentation> for more information. As described in the slides, at some point in the future, NWS would like to use multiple "info" blocks in a single CAP message to convey all of the information for a single alert rather than sometimes having to break an alert out into multiple CAP messages like we have to do today.
 - Participant: There have been no complaints in Canada regarding the use of multiple "info" blocks to convey the entirety of the alert in a single CAP message.