Regional Workshop at Plymouth State
Brendon Hoch, JGMI Technology Manager and Workshop Organizer

Editor's Note: the article was submitted in fulfillment of an Equipment Award requirement to provide an article detailing use of funds awarded.

The Judd Gregg Meteorology Institute at Plymouth State University recently hosted a successful Unidata Regional Workshop. From May 18 to the 20th over 25 participants representing 13 different educational institutions from 8 states across the U.S. met at the Boyd Science Center. Unidata software engineers Don Murray, Jeff McWhirter, and Yuan Ho provided hands on instruction with the Integrated Data Viewer (IDV), a visualization tool that provides the ability to perform three dimensional analyses of meteorological and other environmental data sets. Guest speakers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Lyndon State College, and the U.S. Geological Survey at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute provided presentations on using the IDV in teaching and research.

Feedback from the workshop was positive. "This software should take care of my requirements for visualizing radar data," said Sam Miller, a faculty member at Plymouth State . When asked whether the workshop met expectations, one participant wrote, "Yes, I learned a lot and became a much more comfortable IDV user."

Computers used during the workshop were obtained with funding from a recent Unidata Equipment Award combined with cost matching funds provided by Plymouth State. We purchased 25 Dell Optiplex 755 workstations configured with 2.33 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Processors and 4 GB of memory. These systems will provide the next generation of visualization technology for our students. They are already being used in a variety of meteorology courses throughout our undergraduate and graduate programs.

The new systems made an impact on Plymouth State well before the workshop. "Our graduate students in Applied Meteorology have utilized the workstations for thesis based research on topics such as air quality monitoring and evaluation of road weather information systems in New Hampshire ," said James Koermer, Director of the Judd Gregg Meteorology Institute and Graduate Program Coordinator. He added, "The research performed with the new equipment also helps us satisfy our mission requirements as a regional public university by serving the people of the granite state."

Undergraduate students have benefited from the new technology as well by using it to perform research on such diverse topics as forecasting winds in the Gulf of Maine to seasonal frequency of fronts in the Great Lakes. Research using the new systems has been presented at venues such as the 88th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in New Orleans which took place in January, and the 33rd Northeastern Storm Conference in Springfield MA in March.

CONDUIT Data Streams: what are your thoughts?

Bill Gallus, Iowa State University

The Cooperative Opportunity for NCEP Data Using IDD Technology (CONDUIT) provides high resolution, real-time, operational model data originating at NCEP to a large number of users throughout the research and academic communities. Evidence of its widespread use can be seen in the latest Real-time Statistics Feed Type break down: approximately 72 domains and 125 sites are receiving CONDUIT data through Unidata's Internet Data Distribution protocol.

Unidata CONDUIT IDD Topology 06./03./08
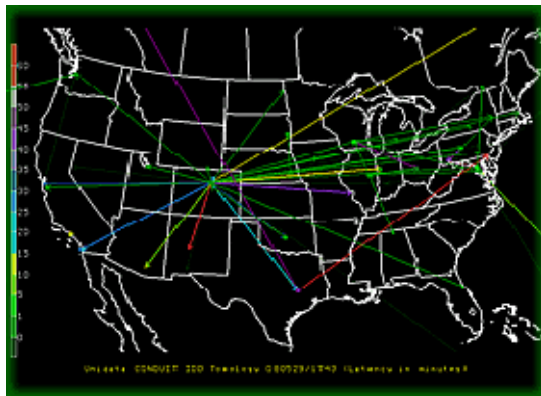
CONDUIT originated as a component of the U.S. Weather Research Program (USWRP) whose Scientific Steering Committee and Interagency Working Group recommended that the NCEP operational model output be included in Unidata's Internet Data Distribution (IDD) to ensure real-time distribution of NCEP model data to the research community. Planning and testing began in 1998, with a T-1 link via NASA Goddard to three university sites. It didn't take long before the volume of data grew beyond the T1, leading to an evolutionary change of NGI/Internet2 and Abilene. This development, along with upgraded technologies at Unidata and NCEP created the infrastructure needed to ensure reliable delivery of high resolution data to users throughout the community.

At present, CONDUIT is a cooperative project with National Weather Service (NWS), National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), and the Unidata Program Center that makes model data (not currently available on NOAAPort) available from the NCEP and NWS FTP servers to universities and US Weather Research Program communities using Unidata's Internet Data Distribution (IDD) technologies.

We'd like your input on the composition of the CONDUIT datastream. Although there are a lot of data there, we'd like to know if there are additional model data you'd like to see included, or if we can remove some of the data currently being distributed -- that would be very useful information for us.

We have created a CONDUIT forum http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/forums/index.jspa that you may access, and additional information can be found at: http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/data/conduit/

Together with my fellow committee members, Chris Herbster, ERAU, Gary Lackmann, NCSU, and Linda Miller, Unidata, I request that you take a few minutes to respond these questions and that you send your responses to conduitinfo@unidata.ucar.edu.

Thank you.

TUG: TIGGE Users Group

Doug Schuster and Steve Worley, NCAR CISL

Editor's Note: the Unidata CommunitE-letter is happy to respond to a request that originated at the last TIGGE WG meeting to promote the TIGGE forum. Unidata is pleased to support the TUG .

The TIGGE User's Group (TUG) forum's importance is based on its being open to all in the international community that have interests in TIGGE data or related THORPEX research. The TUG functions both as community-wide email service and a web interface for sharing questions, solutions, and ideas. The services are provided complimentary by Unidata, a UOP Program and frequent collaborator with NCAR.

The TUG forum has been created as an open platform for TIGGE data users to exchange information and ideas to one another. Messages informing users of newly released features available on the NCAR TIGGE web portal (http://tigge.ucar.edu) will also be presented through this forum.

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Weekly cumulative volume [received] summary for ultrazone
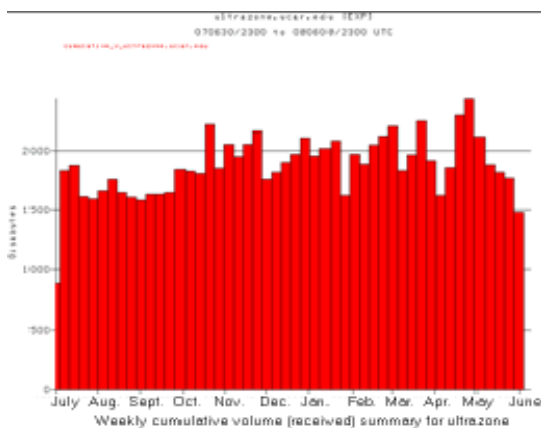
The forum provides multiple options for users to ask questions and exchange ideas amongst one another. Two of them are:

- -Direct e-mail:
  - o TUG members can start topic discussions by sending an email to tiggeusers@ucar.edu. All members will receive the email and have the opportunity to respond.

- -Web interface:
  - All e-mail discussions are recorded on a web interface, allowing for a topic to be revisited in the future (http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/forums//forum.jspa?forumID=5).

Additionally, members can post questions, add to a topic discussion, or start new topic discussions directly through the web interface. Any messages posted directly to the web interface are emailed out to the entire TUG community as well, allowing members to respond via email.

To sign up to the TIGGE User's Group, go to the following:
http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/mailing_lists/

GEMPAK/N-AWIPS Transition Input

We are taking this opportunity to once again request your input on this critical topic. We've provided information at this location, and we have created a forum to provide you with a venue for discussing this change. You are also welcome to provide your input to the following e-mail address: nawipsmigration@unidata.ucar.edu as well.

Step number one in this transition will occur in August 2008 with a moratorium on N-AWIPS development at NCEP. Unidata will continue to support GEMPAK/N-AWIPS for as long as that is feasible.

Our request to you, GEMPAK community, is to help us by providing insight into how this will affect your work, what capabilities we can incorporate into other software, and how you would prioritize those capabilities. We stand ready to facilitate the transition from N-AWIPS to AWIPS-II, but we need your help.