

Status Report December 2004

FY05 RAXUM Team

The team for FY05 will be comprised of the following individuals:

Juliann Meyer, CR/MBRFC
Arleen Lunsford , AR/APRFC
Patricia Wnek, ER/MARFC
Randy Rieman, OCWWS/HSD
OHD/HL representative

The team will seek help from others in the field as needed.

Survey

A survey was sent out in early December. So far (as of Jan. 5) responses from eight RFCs have been received, they are: ABRFC, APRFC, CBRFC, LMRFC, MARFC, MBRFC, SERFC and WGRFC.

Build OB6 Plans

The focus of the OB6 software delivery due in February will be as follows:

- new versions of nearly all executables compile in Linux 3.0 OS
 - the adbinit suite applications either will be rewritten to access postgresQLbased operational db or will be phased out
 - the vfyprogs applications will be discontinued
 - all bug fixes since ob5 software check-in last fall
 - 1 db change, eliminate quality_code column in unkstnvalue table
- Maybes...*
- new version of datview application
 - new "arcnav" application

Lessons Learned

The following is a repeat of a message sent in mid-December.

Recently there have been some major problems at two RFCs which resulted in the loss of the archive database and/or files stored on the RFC Archive System. In the first case where the database was lost because

of accidental deletion of the cooked file for the Informix root dbspace. Fortunately the office had a good level0 backups tape and once the dbspaces were recreated, they were able to restore the archive database from the backup tape. In the 2nd case, it is a much more serious problem. Because the RFC Support Group was not initially contacted, the office thought the solution to their problem was to reinstall from the original ob1 CD (at least that is my understanding). This resulted in a loss of the database plus all RFC archive and Linux OS updates made since ob1. In addition, no backup tapes were available to use for restoring the Linux files or the archive database.

I cannot stress enough.. that if your office is starting to rely upon the RFC Archive System for storing flat files and/or data in the database, the importance of also implementing routine backups.

From the very start the importance of backups was recognized and the ob1 delivery included scripts for establishing backups for both Informix and Linux files. Documentation on these scripts can be found at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/rfcdev/archive_datadoc/pdfs/BkupRecov_doc.pdf In addition, if your office is on ob4, there is script that can check the level0 backups tape to verify it is good. Documentation on this script can be found at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/rfcdev/archive_datadoc/pdfs/archecker.pdf. It is also recommended that you alternate between at least 2 tapes on the level0 backups, so that you always have a level0 backup tape available in case the tape drive has problems while making a new backups.

Note that due to security changes made to the system in the ob4 delivery that only user root can now access the tape, cd-rom, and dvd drives. So if your office was running the level0 backups in the informix cron, this will need to be moved to the root cron. If you have any questions, contact the RFC Support Group.

As a reminder if your RFC Archive system crashes, shefdecoder(s) crashes, Informix IDS crashes or you think its not running properly, a partition fills to 100%, you think you have found a bug in an application, etc., contact the RFC Support Group. The problem your system may be having may have a known solution.