

Unidata Usercomm Report to PolComm  
Jim Steenburgh, Chair, Usercomm  
5 February 2004

**Items of note:**

- State budget cuts, tech support, and pay-per-byte remain serious concerns amongst the University community based on surveys by Rich Clark and Charlie Murphy, and the opinions of the Usercomm. Of particular concern is the potential impact of pay-per-byte on the IDD. The *Usercomm requests PolComm to send a letter to the Dean, Internet Technology (IT) Department, and Chair of the Departments of University sites providing IDD relay service thanking them on behalf of the Unidata community.* Consideration might be given toward providing a “certificate of appreciation”.
- UserComm and the Unidata community are concerned about the future of the COMET case study library. COMET and the NWS have moved to the AWIPS-based Warning Event Simulator (WES) which has a proprietary Informix database. It also uses software that is not presently supported by Unidata. *The Usercomm has asked the UPC to explore options for the continuation of the case-study library.* It should also be noted that community members are interested in using AWIPS/FX-NET, with this issue a regular item of discussion at UserComm meetings. No decisions have been made, however, for Unidata to distribute/support this software package.
- Thanks to the efforts of Anton Kruger, Mark Laufersweiler, Mike Morgan, and Jo Hansen, the Usercomm has been invited to submit a series of articles for BAMS based on presentations made at the Unidata 2003 “Expanding Horizons” workshop.
- The 2004 Russel DeSouza Award for Outstanding Community Service Awarded to Dan Vietor, Unysis, for his development and support of WXP and service to the Unidata community
- The Usercomm is beginning the process of regular phone conversations with Unidata institutions (6/year) to gauge their satisfaction of Unidata services and solicit other input from their “constituents.”
- UPC will be holding a regional workshop at Millersville during the spring based on demand expressed to and by the Usercomm. If it proves successful, additional workshops will be held. Such workshops will hopefully entrain a larger number of users (including students), particularly given the pressures on university budgets.
- A member orientation was held for new User committee members prior to the fall meeting and was extremely successful.
- At the request of Unidata, NCAR/SCD is developing an SCD Portal-Delay Model to IDD Data Products. The Usercomm believes this will enhance education and research at member institutions, and have asked SCD to expand product availability. A resolution (#2) was passed thanking NCAR/SCD for this effort.