

## Welcome to the Unidata Users Workshop

By the time you read this, the Unidata Users Workshop, *Using Operational and Experimental Observations in Education*, (<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/events/2009UsersWorkshop/>) likely will be in full swing. The combined efforts of the Users Committee and Program Center staff have resulted in an agenda that is an intriguing mix of hands on activity, scientific and technical presentations by an impressive array of outstanding community members, a poster session, and relaxed social events.



As is usually the case, the journey to a successful users workshop has been a challenge, requiring collaboration among many segments of the community. Special thanks to co-chairs, Sean Arms, Brian Etherton, and Larry Oolman, and to the Users Committee chair, Gary Lackmann.

We are using Unidata's data management system, RAMADDA, to manage all of the content around the presentations and ancillary datasets used in the workshop. We invite you to use it as a reference tool. There's a calendar containing a wealth of information, let's call it an annotated calendar.

This year's participants, 81 in number, are arriving from four foreign institutions, 32 universities (foreign and domestic), and 3 US government labs.



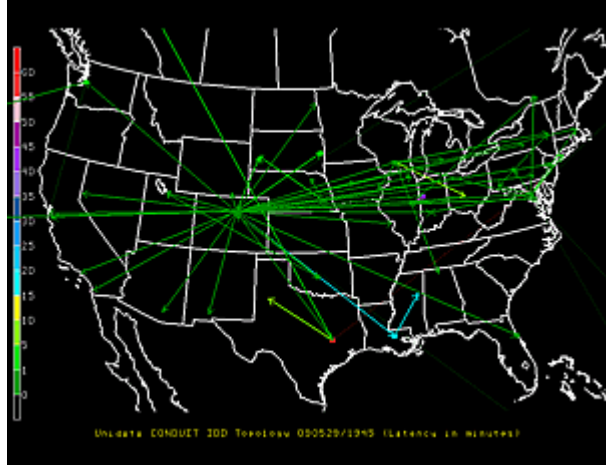
## The Data Series: CONDUIT

The Cooperative Opportunity for NCEP Data Using IDD Technology (CONDUIT) provides high resolution, real-time, experimental and 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 77 facilities and 143 computers are receiving CONDUIT data through Unidata's Internet Data Distribution system. CONDUIT's data volume average is 1.7GB/hr with a peak of 4.7GB/hr.

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.

The CONDUIT community, working with the Collaborative Radar Acquisition Field Test (CRAFT), was responsible for developing strategies for Internet access to real time (streaming) meteorological observations, as well as output from both experimental and operational forecast models, for use by the education and research communities. CONDUIT and CRAFT began as components of the US Weather Research Program (USWRP)-Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The SSC and the Interagency Working Group (IWG) of the USWRP recommended that the datasets be included in Unidata's Internet Data Distribution (IDD). For a few years, CONDUIT and CRAFT were merged to discuss techniques that would serve both projects. Additional information is available about (CRAFT), and for the archived information about CONDUIT and CRAFT (C2).



To see the products that are available on CONDUIT at this time, visit: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/newsletter/2009jun/workingdocs/productstable.htm> . The near future will see the addition of the early hours of NDFD as well as the individual members of the SREF ensemble. Short range ensemble forecast. National Digital Forecast Database.

One satisfied CONDUIT data user is Steven Businger, University of Hawaii and Unidata Policy Committee chair, who says:

*The Mauna Kea Weather Center (MKWC) relies on the CONDUIT feed to obtain GFS grib files. The grib files are used as initial and boundary conditions for the custom LAPS/WRF mesoscale modeling system running operationally at MKWC. The output from WRF provides guidance to help anticipate accurate summit-level conditions including optical turbulence, cloud cover, summit temperature, winds, and precipitable water, etc. The GFS grib files are also processed to create images and animations of the evolving synoptic environment (e.g., GFS forecasts for the central North Pacific). These products in turn are used to create longer range forecasts of the conditions for the telescopes on the summit of Mauna Kea out to 5 days.*

This is one evidence of the CONDUIT data's value to the University Community, there are many, many others. We invite you to explore.

Unidata is indebted to NCEP director, Dr. Louis Uccellini, for his excellent collaboration in getting this data to the University Community and for taking a personal interest in the evolution of the effort.

## AWIPS II

In an effort to keep the Unidata community informed about developments surrounding GEMPAK/NAWIPS transition to AWIPS II, we are pleased to inform you that the National Weather Service (NWS) has notified us that Unidata is free to distribute AWIPS II software, including migrated NAWIPS functionality, to its community. As you know from our previous messages, Unidata has been in ongoing discussions with NWS to make AWIPS II software available under an open source licensing arrangement. As Don Berchhoff, Director, Office of Science and Technology states in his letter (<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/committees/polcom/2009spring/awipsltr.pdf>). "One of our primary objectives as we move forward is to strengthen our partnership with the university community to enable faster and more effective infusion of new science from research to operations in AWIPS. We look forward to our continued partnership with Unidata to meet this objective." The AWIPS II software, including source code and binaries, will be made available to the public. Current AWIPS and NAWIPS development schedules show that the AWIPS II software will be available at the start of FY 2011. We believe this is an important step forward for the Unidata community.

The Unidata Policy Committee was briefed at its recent meeting by NWS and NCEP staff on the progress of AWIPS II and NAWIPS migration and the committee and UPC staff have begun discussing the next steps

for Unidata. The UPC is currently evaluating AWIPS II software and its suitability and resource implications for an eventual deployment in our community. Meanwhile, we are also working with our governing committees to develop plans for migrating GEMPAK users to AWIPS II and IDV.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for GEMPAK until suitable replacements are available. Please be assured of Unidata's commitment to a smooth and orderly transition of GEMPAK users as we continue to work closely with AWIPS II developers at NWS and NCEP in bringing AWIPS II to the Unidata community. You can find additional information, including previous announcements and FAQ on GEMPAK migration, at: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/gempak/nawipsmigration/>

We will continue to keep you all updated on our plans and any new developments as they occur. Please feel free to provide input on this process by sending an e-mail to [nawipsmigration@unidata.ucar.edu](mailto:nawipsmigration@unidata.ucar.edu).

Sincerely,

Mohan Ramamurthy, UPC Director ([mohan@ucar.edu](mailto:mohan@ucar.edu)),  
Steven Businger, Chair, Unidata Policy Committee ([businger@hawaii.edu](mailto:businger@hawaii.edu))  
Gary Lackmann, Chair, Unidata Users Committee ([gary@ncsu.edu](mailto:gary@ncsu.edu))

### The 2009 Equipment Awards

Unidata is happy to announce the six Equipment Award recipients for 2009. Institutions receiving funding this year are Lyndon State College, Madison Area Technical College, St. Louis University, University of Louisiana-Monroe, University of Puerto Rico, and University of Wisconsin-Madison. The focus for this year's awards was:

- Enhance participation and advancement of underrepresented populations, particularly proposals by investigators in community and baccalaureate colleges and minority serving institutions. The primary purpose of this focus is to give the broader community access to Unidata tools and datasets that could be relevant to their teaching and research. Up to two awards will be made in this category.
- Provide useful datasets using Unidata technologies to the Unidata community to support education and research.

We received a total of eight responses to the 2009 RFP and, as noted, funded six of them. That's a pretty impressive success rate! We invite you to provide suggestions for the focus for future Equipment Award RFPs and to keep your eyes open for the 2010 announcement which will likely appear in the month of January; maybe you'll find a nice fit for your own program's needs for equipment upgrades. To give you an idea of the wide range of recipient institutions for the last seven years and for more information on this year's recipients, visit: <http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/community/equipaward/>.

### News Briefs

#### Honoring Unidata's 25-year History

Throughout the year we will be celebrating Unidata's 25-year history with a series of events. Toward the end of October we will hold a seminar and reception to mark the anniversary. October 15 and 16 are the days being set aside for this event when a joint meeting of our governing committees will be convened as well. Keep those dates in mind!



#### UCAR Community Programs

The UCAR Office of Programs has a new name and will now be known as UCAR Community Programs. The new name reflects the community roots of the eight programs that comprise the UCP:

- COMET (Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training)

- COSMIC (Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere and Climate)
- DLS (Digital Learning Sciences)
- GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment)
- JOSS (Joint Office for Science Support)
- NSDL (National Science Digital Library)
- Unidata Program Center
- VSP (Visiting Scientist Programs)

**NOTE:** This name change is for real, unlike the April Fools announcement.

### Unidata's 2009 Software Training Workshops

Unidata's 2009 Software Training Workshops will take place 29 July - 15 August 2009. You can register by using reg online: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=707561>. Here's the schedule broken down by individual packages:

July 29 – August 1	McIDAS
August 3	Basic netCDF
August 4	Advanced netCDF
August 5 and 6	TDS
August 7 and 8	LDM
August 10-12	GEMPAK
August 13-15	IDV

The display and analysis packages are McIDAS, GEMPAK, and IDV. The data access and management tools are the Local Data Manager (LDM), the Network Common Data Form (netCDF), and the THREDDS software for cataloging, browsing, and accessing remote data and metadata.

The cutoff date for registration and return of registration fees is June 30, 2009. While it may seem like that date is a long way off, it will be here before we know it. In addition, some sessions fill up very quickly so early registration is advised. Detailed information is available at:

<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/events/2009TrainingWorkshop/>.

Please send comments to [support-eletter@unidata.ucar.edu](mailto:support-eletter@unidata.ucar.edu)  
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