The Comprehensive Large Array Stewardship System (CLASS) – Living with a multi-petabyte resource
Outline

• What is CLASS?
• The role of CLASS in NOAA?
• The Future of CLASS
  – Hardware
  – API’s
  – Relation to Data Centers
Why do I care?

- CLASS is a significant source of data for you and your users
- A CLASS API would allow independent usage of the data
- All NOAA data is being integrated either through GEOSS or CLASS
- CLASS is proto-typing a “hosted” data for simple storage
The data vision for NOAA

Observing Systems (NOSA)

http://www.nosa.noaa.gov/

NOAA Operational

Real-Time Distribution

Customers

NOAA COD

NCDC Atmosphere

NODC Wet Ocean

NGDC Everything Else

Satellite Active Archive
NGDC 14 Year Data Archive Growth

- NGDC stewards several hundred distinct types of data from multiple scientific disciplines
- DMSP data currently account for most of the volume displayed above
- Projected high volume data streams include CORS, side-scan, and multibeam

This total includes on- and offsite copies of the data

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NGDC Holdings - % Mbytes by Data Type

Data archived* as of September 2002

* does not include data in processing
Whoa Nellie!
CLASS Vision - 2002

NOAA’s National Data Centers and their world-wide clientele of customers look to CLASS as the sole NOAA IT infrastructure project in which all current and future large array environmental data sets will reside. CLASS provides permanent, secure storage and safe, efficient access between the Data Centers and the customers.
CLASS was selected from “best of breed”

- Competition and selection between multiple existing systems
- SPIDR, SABR, SAA, etc..
- The SAA was chosen as the baseline system
- SAA has been evolving since 1994 and is organized around “campaigns”
CLASS Web

NOAA Satellite and Information Service
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

CLASS Links

The Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System
CLASS is NOAA’s premier on-line tool for Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental (GOES) data, and derived data.

NEWS:

• Additional MetOp Data: ASI data is now available upon request. Please file a request here.

• New Products: New GOES-S product (under Sea Surface Temperature (SST))

• GOES SST Filename Change: Except for the GOES-SST CoastWatch regionals (discontinued on 2007-01-24), the old GOES-SST products are still being created, but the file names are different. The data types to search the old and new products are the same. You can check the new file naming conventions here.

• MetOp Launched: Europe’s MetOp satellite was successfully launched on Oct 19th. CLASS will begin providing the data from its NOAA instruments (AVHRR/3, HIRS/4, and AMSU-A) as soon as the satellite is declared officially operational. The data sets will be found under the product list as “Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR)” and “TiroSAT Operational Vertical Sounder (TOVS)”

Pre-operational MetOp data is available upon request. To request access to this data, send an email to info@class.noaa.gov indicating your affiliation and need for this pre-operational data. CLASS personnel will contact you with access instructions.

www.class.noaa.gov
CLASS Now

Human → Web Interface

Subscriptions → Machine

Providers → Data

CLASS ADS:
- Visualization
- Inventory
- Order
CLASS Boulder

• CLASS Boulder Facilities
  – 1,000 sq ft secure monitored space
  – 60 tons of cooling using two Liebert UH740C CRAC units
  – 80 KVA of Emergency Generator power from an APC 9215RM UPS for all CLASS systems
CLASS Boulder Installed IT Hardware

- 3 Dell 2850 PowerEdge servers running Red Hat Linux RHEL 4.0
- 1 Dell 850 PowerEdge server running MS Windows Server 2003
- 7 IBM p520 dual-cpu servers running IBM AIX 5.3
- 4 IBM p550 quad-cpu servers running IBM AIX 5.3
- APC ISX power management console
- IBM 7310-CR3 hardware management console (HMC)
- ADIC Scalar 100 LTO-2 tape library (backups)
- 2 SGI Origin 350 servers running IRIX OS
- CISCO Catalyst 48 port 6509E network switch w/ PIX firewall
- Data Direct Networks S2A3000 fiber channel SAN – 11 TB
- Brocade Silkworm 48000 4 Gbit SAN switch
- Data Direct Networks S2A9500 SATA SAN – 384 TB
CLASS Boulder Hardware not on site
  • ADIC Scalar 10K LTO-2 tape library (CLASS data archive)
  • Due in Boulder in early April

Sprint/NOAA MPLS network OC3
  – Installed, tested, and ready

Nearly Identical Node at Asheville, NC - NCDC
CLASS Boulder Server Room

- APC UPS, equipment racks, 30 ton CRAC unit
## CLASS – Background

### 1990s

**Satellite Active Archive (SAA)**

**Datasets:**
- POES
- Coast Watch
- DMSP Level 1b data & products
- Radarsat SAR data

**Capabilities:**
- Online delivery via ftp
- Bulk order services
- Subscription services
- AVHRR browse
- Web online services

**Architecture:**
- Big Bird tapes

### 2006

**CLASS Now (SAA Scaled)**

**Datasets:**
- GOES
- POES
- Coast Watch
- DMSP data & products
- Derived products

**Capabilities:**
- Web online access
- Online delivery (FTP, HTTP)
- Off-line delivery
- Subscription services (push/pull)
- Bulk order services
- Limited OpenDAP services
- GOES & POES browse

**Architecture:**
- Data online at Suitland on CLASS equipment,
- Data online and accessible (robotic storage) via NCDC equipment,
- Data archived at Asheville
CLASS Background Summary

- CLASS is a web-based data archive and distribution system for NOAA/NESDIS environmental data
- Archive ... ingest, storage, metadata management, and data quality assurance
- Distribution ... access, visualization, and data delivery
- CLASS is an extension of an 1995 operational system ... SAA (Satellite Active Archive)
  - Transition to the CLASS architecture began in 2001
- CLASS currently supports POES and GOES data sets
  - GOES “campaign” is undergoing pre-operational testing
- CLASS will support additional campaigns, broader user base, new functionality currently being defined
  - CLASS must concurrently support ongoing operations and new requirements implementation
Observing Systems

• The first 7 sources of data for CLASS
  – NOAA and Department of Defense Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (POES) and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) – complete
  – NOAA Geostationary-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) – complete
  – NOAA NEXT generation weather RADAR (NEXRAD) Program and future dual polarized and phased-array radars – prototype in development
  – National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Earth Observing System (EOS) Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS)
  – National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) and NPOESS Preparatory Program (NPP)
  – EUMETSAT Meteorological Operational Satellite (MetOp) Program
  – National Centers for Environmental Prediction Model Datasets, including Reanalysis Products
Role of CLASS in NOAA
What is Scientific Data Stewardship? (SDS)

- “maintaining the science integrity and long term utility of scientific records”
- “the actions which maximize the return on investment for archived scientific data”
NOAA Data Management

- The NOAA Strategic Information Technology Plan and Enterprise Architecture identify CLASS as the primary system to meet NOAA’s data archiving requirements.
- CLASS is: 1) a key component of NOAA Data Management Services, 2) an archive storage system and IT infrastructure for data storage
- NOAA Data Management Service Mission Goals:
  -- To be the most comprehensive and accessible source of quality climate, weather, oceanographic, biological, and geophysical related data and information services
  -- To assess the state of the atmospheric, oceanographic, terrestrial, solar and related geophysical environment
CLASS/Data Centers Concept of Operations
Process Flow View

CLASS – IT Infrastructure for data storage

Data Center Ingest, Scientific Data Stewardship

NOAA Virtual Data System, etc -- Open access & web services

Data Submissions

Users/customers

(Arrows show data flow)
NOAA Data Management

• Data Management – Data stewardship and data management services – NOAA wide

• Data Stewardship - Data Centers and Beyond
  – This includes documenting measurement practices and processing practices (metadata)
  – Providing feedback on observing system performance
  – Inter-comparison of data sets for validation
  – Reprocessing (incorporate new data, apply new algorithms, perform bias corrections, integrate/blend data sets from different sources or observing systems)
  – Recommending corrective action for errant or non-optimal operations.
NOAA Data Management

- Data Management Services
  - Data Centers and Centers of Data
    - This includes adherence to agreed-upon standards
    - Ingesting data, developing collections, and creating products
    - Maintaining data bases; ensuring permanent, secure archival
    - Providing both user-friendly and machine-interoperable access; assisting users
    - Migrating services to emerging technologies
    - Responding to user feedback
  - Data management responsibilities – research, QC, archive, access
  - Fully mature and robust open access systems with E-commerce, free data, browse, FTP, data sub-setting, Web Services, GIS Services, OpenDAP, etc.
  - Includes NOAA/NESDIS Data Centers using the NOAA Virtual Data System (NVDS)
Archival Storage Systems

- CLASS is a subset of Data Management Services
- IT infrastructure to store NOAA’s data (end-to-end hardware solution)
- Data easily accessible via various (Data Center and Centers of Data) access systems – existing and future
- Adherence to standards for dataset integration projects
- Store data with unique formats
NOAA Data Management Concept of Operations Detailed View

Scientific Data Stewardship

Additional Services

Data Centers & Centers of Data

Access Services (Data Center, etc)

Archive Storage Systems (CLASS, etc)

User Input

Data Ingest & Quality Control

Submission Requirements

Observing Systems (current & future)

User Input

Data

Note: CLASS is an Archive Storage System. Access services and web systems are the responsibility of Data Centers and Centers of Data.

Data submission agreements (NOSC-approved) from Data Centers & Centers of Data

(Arrows show data and Information flow)
NOAA Data Stewardship and Management Services Roles and Responsibilities: Lead and Shared

Open Archive Information System – Reference Model – 6 Requirements

**Ingest (Data Centers and Centers of Data):**
- Negotiate and accept information from information producers

**Archive (CLASS in coordination with Data Centers):**
- Obtain sufficient control to ensure long-term preservation
- Follow documented policies and procedures that ensure the information is preserved against all reasonable contingencies

**Access (Data Centers and Centers of Data):**
- Determine which communities (designated) need to be able to understand the preserved information
- Ensure the information to be preserved is independently understandable to the Designated Communities
- Make the preserved information available to the Designated Communities in forms understandable to those communities
NOAA Data Management Vision

CLASS
Open Archive System Architecture

CLASS Capabilities:
- IT tape robotics for rapid retrieval
- High-speed disk access
- End-to-end hardware solution
- OAIS-compliant
- File structures and metadata to support existing & future Data Center systems

Data Center Responsibilities:
- CLASS operations, when CLASS development is complete
- NOAA Virtual Data System (NVDS)
- Service-Oriented Architecture
- Ingest and archive services
- Submission agreements
- Web interfaces for integrated data access (data portal)
- Web Services (SOAP, etc)
- OpenDAP & open access services
- GIS/OGC services
- Subscription services
- OAIS-compliant
- 24/7 operations support

Architecture:
- Dual site: Asheville and Boulder mirror sites
- Data stored on CLASS-funded, Data-Center approved storage systems
NOAA Data Management Issues

- Must have archive standards as determined by Data Centers—abide by OAIS & GEO-IDE principles
- Decision process/oversight for archival
- Metadata are critical
- Participatory design needed in all aspects of IT architecture and system design, so that Data Centers are fully engaged and approve of the final decisions
- Web systems and access services are the responsibility of the Data Centers and Centers of Data to develop and operate
CLASS Future
CLASS – NGDC Prototype Scope
Goals

• First draft of a user focused web-services interface
• Demonstration of the concept of “fundamental separation” of archive and storage from access
• Interaction with and demonstration for users
• Technology discovery and evaluation of cutting edge tools for CLASS
• First integration of multiple data types through CLASS (time-series, grid, swath, etc..)
• Standards not technologies!
Technology Reviewed

• Thredds – The THREDDS Data Server (TDS) is a web server that provides metadata and data access for scientific datasets, building on and extending a number of existing technologies (metadata and data access for NetCDF, HDF5, GRIB, CDM, etc.)

• Rich Inventory – is a highly customizable metadata schema designed to minimize burden on the provider and maximize user search capabilities.

• NASA – EOS ClearingHOuse (ECHO) is a comprehensive data model based data search and access system.

• Unidata Common Data Model -The CDM is a unification of the data models of OpenDAP, netCDF, and HDF5

• OGSA-DAI The aim of the OGSA-DAI project is to develop middleware to assist with access and integration of data from separate sources via the grid

• Native XML Databases (xQuery) and Z39.50

• OGC webservices
Web Services
Advantages

• Interoperability
• Standards based
• Components loosely coupled
• Uses transports that are open e.g., HTTP
• Platform agnostic
• Language agnostic
CLASS Web-App

- Is a high-end web application built on the API
- Integrates managed, provider hosted data
- Integrates time-series, grids, swath data types
- Allows for load and performance testing
Catalog Metadata Search

Introduction to CLASS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System (CLASS) is NOAA’s premier on-line facility for the distribution of NOAA and US Department of Defense (DoD) Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (POES) data and derived data products. CLASS is operated by the Information Processing Division (IPD) of the Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution (OSDPD), a branch of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS).

CLASS maintains an active partnership with NOAA’s National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). NCDC, the permanent US Archive for POES data and derived data products, supports CLASS through a user-interactive Help Desk facility and through the provision of POES supporting documentation, including the NOAA Polar Orbiter Data (POD) User’s Guide and the NOAA KLM User’s Guide. Additionally, NCDC and CLASS share data distribution responsibilities for Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) data under a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the Earth Observing System (EOS) Program.

CLASS provides data free of charge. Anyone can search the CLASS catalog and view search results through CLASS’s World Wide Web (WWW) site. Users who wish to order data are required to register with their names and email addresses. CLASS distributes data to those users via FTP services.

Search to Product

Keywords
Location (Lat Lon)
Time (yyyyymmdd)
Catalog Metadata Search

Search to product

Database

Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP)
The Earth Observation Group at NGDC is home to the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) Archive. In addition to maintaining the archive, the EOOG performs research on the data as well as creating products. The DMSP is a Department of Defense (DoD) program run by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC). The DMSP designs, builds, launches, and maintains satellites monitoring the meteorological, oceanographic, and solar-terrestrial physics environments. Each DMSP satellite has a 101 minute, sun-synchronous near-polar orbit at an altitude of 630km above the surface of the earth. The visible and infrared sensors (OLS) collect images across a 3000km swath, providing global coverage twice per day. The combination of day/night and dawn/dusk satellites allows monitoring of global information such as clouds every 6 hours. The microwave imager (MI) and sounders (T1, T2) cover one half of the width of the visible and infrared swath. These instruments cover polar regions at least twice and the equatorial region once per day. The space environment sensors (J4, M, IES) record along-track plasma densities, velocities, composition and drifts. The data from the DMSP satellites are received and used at operational centers continuously. The data are sent to the National Geophysical Data Center's Solar Terrestrial Physics Division Earth Observation Group (NGDC/STP/EOOG) by the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) for creation of an archive. Currently, data from 4 satellites (3 day/night, 1 dawn/dusk) are added to the archive each day.

Search to Product

Keywords
Location (Lat Lon)
Time (yyyyymmdd)

Go to product
Catalog Metadata Search

- Store multiple metadata schema through native XML database
- Uses a standard protocol xQuery over SOAP/REST

0. Choose collection level metadata set
1. Get capabilities via REST
2. Format REST Query
3. Parse results
CLASS Map Services

Detailed CLASS data request

Time window
Date from: 1950 Jan 1
Date to: 1950 Jan 1

Location map
N=45.36 W=129.24

Parameters
- Temperature[C]: The temperature of the air.
- Total Cloud Cover[%]: The fraction of the celestial dome that is covered by clouds, as observed by a ground observer.
- Precipitation Rate[mm/min]: The average rate of the liquid water equivalent of precipitation that falls over a period of time.

Action
- Plot time series for probe
- View ROI with WorldWind

Product Description
NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis
The NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis 1 NCEP/NCAR project is using a Reanalysis state-of-the-art analysis/forecast system to perform data assimilation using past data from 1948 to the present. A large subset of this data is available from CDC in its original 4 times daily format and as daily averages. However, the data from 1948-1957 is a little different, in the regular (non-QuasiStation) grid data. That data was done at 8 times daily in the model, because the inputs available in that era were available at 32, 62, 122, and 212, whereas the 4x daily data has been available at 02, 62, 122, and 182. Three latter times were forecasted and the combined result for this early era is 8x daily. The local ingestion process took only the 02, 62, 122, and 182 forecasted values, and thus only those were used to retrieve the daily time series and monthly means here.
CLASS Map Services

0. Choose Map Server
1. Get capabilities via REST
2. Format REST MakeMap
3. Present results

Very standard and accepted
Allows for cascading servers/services
Provides standardized mapping services throughout CLASS
CLASS Granule Data

- Dynamically populated from metadata
- Order choices generated from catalog extension
- Order choices can include spatial, temporal, parameter based
CLASS Granule Data

0. Select data set
1. Get order info from catalog metadata
2. Format REST request to API
3. Parse list of entities
4. (optional) choose viewer and display
5. Select granules and pass to order service
CLASS Time-series

Detailed CLASS data request

Time window

Date from: 2001 Dec 24 00:00:00
Date to: 2001 Dec 31 23:59:59

Location map

Temperature [C]
Total Cloud Cover [%]
Precipitation Rate [kg/m²/s]

Parameters

Action

View point
View ROI
Event search

A Component of NOAA Data Management
CLASS Time-series

0. Select data set
1. Get order info from catalog metadata
2. Format REST request to API
3. Results returned as a stream or file entity (URL)
4. Client acts directly on retrieved data
Visualization

- Catalog metadata provides service id
- Services described in WSDL
- Services for granules, time-series, grids
Services

• Services (such as models and transforms) fit the same general pattern as data ordering
• Each has a high level catalog entry describing output
• Each has a ordering extensions definign expected inputs and outputs
Delivery Options

• Time-series
  – Stream (XML)
  – NetCDF (Thredds)
  – File format (via service)

• Granule
  – File handle
  – Common Data Model (DMSP)
  – Subset/Transform (via service)
CLASS Pattern
Conclusion

• CLASS is a key component of NOAA’s IT capability
• CLASS is an evolving operational system with long term goals
• CLASS is a component of NOAA’s data stewardship vision but only a piece
• CLASS issues will dominate NGDC’s IT effort for the next several years
Backup Slides
Data Stewardship – Scientific Data Stewardship

- (NOSC approved definition) Application of rigorous analyses and oversight to ensure that data sets meet the needs of users: Includes
  - Documenting measurement practices and processing practices
  - Providing feedback on observing system performance
  - Inter-comparison of datasets for validation
  - Reprocessing (incorporate new data, apply new algorithms, perform bias corrections, integrate/blend data sets from different sources or observing systems)
  - Recommending corrective action for errant or non-optimal operations
- Some unique attributes for each data set, but an integrated approach to data management
- Allowing opportunities to redirect the program based on advice and feedback
- Integrated suite of functions to preserve and exploit the full scientific value of NOAA’s, and the world’s, environmental data
  - timely ingest
  - quality control processing
  - effective access to new and long-term records (data and metadata)
  - safeguarding of the climate records for future generations
- Generation of authoritative long-term environmental records from multiple observing platforms
Future Integration Plans

**CLASS provide archive storage**
- Data storage for all Data Center holdings & future growth
- Leading-edge technology
- High-performance hardware (disk and tape robotics)
- End-to-end hardware solution as approved by Data Centers
- OAIS-compliant
- File structures and metadata to support existing & future Data Center systems
- Support data mining and complex queries

**Data Centers/NVDS provide ingest, archive, and access services**
- Ingest, quality control, and archive services
- Development of integrated and blended (cross-platform) datasets
- Integrated, open data access
- Web interfaces for integrated data access
- Model, in-situ, radar, satellite data support
- Leverage existing infrastructure + new technology
- OAIS-compliant
- GIS services, Web services, OpenDAP, etc
- Partner locally (eg, AFCCC), regionally (eg, RENCI), and nationally (eg, CUAHSI, DLESE)
Outside World

• **Users**
  – Government
  – Private
  – Public
  – Academia

• **Feedback (workshops, advisory groups, via customer service reps)**

• **Constituents**
Defining NOAA National Data Center Roles and Responsibilities: Archive Required Activities

To ensure information preservation an archive* must:

1. Negotiate and accept information from information producers
2. Obtain sufficient control to ensure long-term preservation
3. Determine which communities (designated) need to be able to understand the preserved information
4. Ensure the information to be preserved is independently understandable to the Designated Communities
5. Follow documented policies and procedures that ensure the information is preserved against all reasonable contingencies
6. Make the preserved information available to the Designated Communities in forms understandable to those communities

*Open Archive Information System – Reference Model
1. **Negotiate and accept information from information producers – Submission Agreement => Data Centers Lead**

- Ensures that science requirements and other user applications are clearly defined with respect to NOAA's archive, access, processing, and reprocessing stewardship activities.
- Provides requirements and prioritization for preserving and maintaining the basic storage of and access to critical data sets and derived products and their documentation, including verifying their quality and compliance with federal standards.
- Assists in establishing requirements for the IT aspects (including security) for implementation of scientific data stewardship.
- Science advisory panel/group input.
2. Obtain sufficient control to ensure long-term preservation => CLASS leads

- The submission agreement will specify how data are acquired including delivery schedule and any copyright and redistribution arrangements.
3. Determine which communities (designated) need to be able to understand the preserved information => Data Centers+ Lead

- Data management services determine what is required to preserve fundamental (raw) records
- Data stewardship determines what is required to preserve thematic (derived product) records
- Roles and responsibilities must be defined as part of the submission agreement
4. Ensure the information to be preserved is independently understandable to the Designated Communities – Data Centers+ Lead

- Data Centers and Centers of Data ensure capture of enough information from data providers to ensure designated user communities can independently understand data.
- This focuses on 4 metadata types – reference, context, provenance, fixity (data integrity).
- Issues

![Diagram showing Data Stewardship, Data Management Services, Archive Storage Systems, and Independent Understanding related to Observation Data Providers.](image)
5. Follow documented policies and procedures that ensure the information is preserved against all reasonable contingencies.

- CLASS ensures IT hardware and software.
- Data Centers and Centers of Data ensure needed metadata on raw data and observing systems.
- Data Stewards (data centers and beyond) ensure metadata on provenance and all higher products.
6. Make the preserved information available to the Designated Communities in forms understandable to those communities

- Users require data and metadata be handed to them in easy to use forms
- This varies by user community
- Issues
  - Service Oriented Architecture
Data Centers
NOAA Virtual Data System (NVDS) Components

Data Access
• “HDSS Access System” (large volume data—satellite, radar)
• “Climate Data Online” (in-situ data)
• Geophysical and Oceanographic Data
• “NOMADS” model data access and CLASS satellite data access to be integrated with NVDS

Online Products and Services
• GIS Services
• Web Services
• Data Visualization (NEXRAD, etc)
• NetCDF, OpenDAP, etc

Data Ordering and E-business
• NESDIS E-government System (Online Store, off-line orders, financial transactions, business statistics, etc)
NVDS Integration with CLASS -- Successes

- NVDS provides GOES access for CLASS (work completed in 2003, continued enhancements)

- NVDS/NES provides satellite data ordering capabilities (off-line media) for CLASS (work completed in 2006)