



Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center Receives Technology Excellence in Government Award

Monterey, CA--The winners of Post Newsweek Tech Media Group's Technology Excellence in Government Award were recognized recently, and the Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC), located in Monterey, was among the chosen few. Ten programs were selected as winners from 130 of the government's most successful information technology projects.

The Technology Excellence in Government Award honors those federal organizations that have supported new or changed program or policy requirements, improved management or IT operation, improved services delivery or shown innovation in the application of information technology. Corporate sponsors for the award include CDW•G, Hewlett-Packard Company, Dell Computer, Gateway, Corel Corporation, NEC-Mitsubishi, and VERITAS Software.

FNMOC, the principal Department of Defense center for computerized meteorological and oceanographic prediction products, was selected as a winner for its innovative "MyWxmap" (or My Weather Map) system, which delivers to authorized users the ability to define areas of interest and receive well crafted, near real-time images of meteorology and oceanography products using only a common Web browser, without the need for custom viewing software. MyWxmap displays and animates the latest and most useful weather prediction charts produced by computer models at FNMOC and the National Weather Service. These charts are used by professional weather forecasters, TV meteorologists, scientists, and even the general public.

FNMOC introduced the MyWxmap capability in October of 2001, and customer response was immediate and formidable. The MyWxmap capability produced a positive reaction from customers all over the world, as both government and private sector weather forecasters continue to use the Navy weather prediction products.

Mr. Earl Ravid, a member of FNMOC's Software Engineering and Technology Advancement Group, accepted the award on behalf of the Navy at a recent ceremony in Washington, DC. In his acceptance of the award, Mr. Ravid stated, "Advances in web technology, open standards, and the Open Source software communities opened our eyes to new application development techniques that could reduce risks and costs. Combining these advances with our observation that 80% of our users prefer web-access to graphical weather information, we initiated the development of "My Weather Map" and hosted it on a cluster of 32 PC's, with a production capacity of 150 thousand weather charts per hour for about a tenth of the cost of conventional computing approaches."

For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office at <mailto:fn-pao@fnmoc.navy.mil>.