

Date: 9/20/02 10:07 PM  
To: Bulletins  
From: Luis Soltero  
Copy:  
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Subject: Weather Part II

Hello All,

This is part 2 of a multi part series on downloadig weather via MarineNet.

In the first installment we discussed getting weather from nws via ftpmail. In this bulletin we describe procedures for viewing the data received via ftpmail and automating the download process with calypso.

Weather products delivered to you via e-mail from ftpmail arrive as attachments. Textual products can be read and printed directly from calypso. Simply open the mail and read the weather.

Wefax products arrive as attachments in TIF format. To view these you must have a tif viewer installed on your system. To view the image double click on the mail containing the product and then double click on the attachment. If you have a tif viewer installed on the system, the viewer will open up and the weather fax will be displayed. If you do not have a tif viewer then the windows query application dialog will pop up requesting an application to use to view the image (hit cancel if this happens). Note that a web browser will no display TIF images unless a special plug in has been installed...

So... if you double click the image and it doesn't pop up on the screen, you will need to install a tif viewer. Fortunately windows comes with a tif viewer called "Kodak imaging". This viewer usually gets installed by default. If it's not installed on your system then go to the control panel and double click Add/Remove programs. Now click on the "Windows Setup" tab, then double click accessories and select imaging. The system may request your windows CD if your machine did not come pre-installed with windows.

Now you should be able to view your wefaxes...

If you prefer you can save the wefax attachments to a folder by right mouse clicking on the attachment inside calypso and then selecting "Save As..."

Onward...

Typing in the ftpmail commands each time you want to request weather is a pain... Especially since the names of some of these products are so cryptic and impossible to remember.

Say, for example, that you would like to download the following 4 products on a daily basis

Northwest Caribbean of 15N and West of 75W (AMZ082)  
Southwest Caribbean of 15N and West of 75W (AMZ084)  
East Caribbean east of 75W (AMZ086)  
Tropical North Atlantic 07-22° N, 55-65° W (AMZ087)

the ftpmail command would be

```
open
cd /data/forecasts/marine/offshore/am
get amz082.txt
get amz084.txt
get amz086.txt
get amz087.txt
quit
```

Instead of typing this in every day... you can use a calypso e-mail feature called "mail templates" to create a template with a unique name that has these commands permanently recorded in it.

To create a template in calypso select the following menu item

Messages->Compose->Template...

A new window will pop up on the screen. Now enter a unique name for the template such as "Daily text weather". In the To: field enter ftpmail@weather.noaa.gov  
leave the subject blank  
enter the above commands into the body.  
disable the signature by clicking on the "Signature" pull down list and selecting "none"

Save the template by using the "floppy" icon or File->save and then close the window.

Your template is now ready. Whenever you want weather now simply click on the "Template" icon on the tool bar next to "Compose" and then hit "send" that is it... The mail mesg is preformatted for you by the template. Alternately, you can right mouse click on the template click compose. The template is under "Address Book"->"Mail Templates" in the explorer window (top left).

In calypso you can have any number of templates. You might want to use this feature to automate some of your other e-mail tasks..

There is a way to configure the mail robots to send you e-mail weather on a schedule. We discourage you from doing this... Actually let me be a bit stronger here  
\*\*\* DON'T DO THIS\*\*\*

One week off your boat and your mailbox will be swamped. It's best to request the weather when it's needed.

I have had to remove as many as 1500 mail mesgs from user accounts because they forgot to "turn" off their weather mail before they laid up their boat.

That's it for now...

--luis