Department of Commerce ·National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration ·National Weather Service

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-1
OCTOBER 7, 2019

Information Technology

TECHNICAL AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNET SERVERS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes NWSP 60-1, "Technical and Content Requirements for Internet Servers," dated November 7, 2017. No content changes were made.

1. National Weather Service (NWS) data and products form a national information data base and infrastructure that can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community. NWS will utilize the Internet's World Wide Web presentation tools and technologies, where applicable, to ensure timely and cost effective access to all users of NWS information and to make NWS information more easily accessible and useful to the public. This directive provides policy to address the technical and content requirements for NWS Websites.

2. This policy establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

2.1. Each Regional and Office Director is responsible for implementing the technical and content requirements of this Directive.

3. Technical Requirements. All NWS World Wide Web presentations will:

3.1. Use consistent page layout templates and standardized graphics as defined in NWS Instruction 60-101 Standard Web Page Layout.

3.2. Follow applicable Government-wide and Departmental standards and policies.

3.3. Comply with Section 207(f) of the E-Government Act of 2002 Accessibility, Usability, and Preservation of Government Information

3.4. Comply with Technical standards 1194.22 (Web-based intranet and internet information and applications) of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998 for web accessibility by persons with disabilities.

3.5. Comply with Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, "Privacy Policies on Agency Web Sites.

3.6. Comply with NOAA's Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information.

3.7. Constructed following standards, specifications, and guidelines developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). Pages should minimize use of third-party plug-ins or proprietary technologies. If plug-ins or proprietary technologies are used, pages must ensure information and functionality is also available for users without the plug-in or proprietary technologies.

3.8. Include software for monitoring utilization.

3.9. Provide adequate security via a server under the supervision of an officially identified NWS Information Technology Security Officer. Services provided by or shared with a partner (e.g., other Federal agency) or commercial service under contract will have security in place and enforced which is equivalent to Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and NWS Information Technology (IT) security requirements.

4. Content Requirements. All NWS World Wide Web presentations will comply with all Office of Management and Budget (OMB), DOC, NOAA, and NWS requirements for page presentation and content as defined in NWS Instruction 60-102 Content requirements.

5. Linking Policies. All NWS World Wide Web presentations will comply with:

5.1. Links to Federal Government sites (.gov, .mil, Fed.us, etc.) are considered "internal" links. These internal links must comply with OMB Memo M-05-04, Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites, dated Dec 17, 2004 and have reasonable management controls to assure links remain active or otherwise continue to provide the level of quality (including objectivity, utility, and integrity) as intended by the agency and expected by users.

5.2. Links that direct a visitor to a site not under the control of a Federal Government agency or organization are "external" links and require a clear notification that the visitor is leaving the site for a non U.S. government site in accordance with the Department of Commerce Policy 11 for Offsite Notification. The notification should include the statement:

   "NOAA's National Weather Service provides a link to this external Web page because it may contain related information of interest to you. This link does not constitute an endorsement by the NWS of any information, products or services on this external Web site. The NWS does not own or operate these sites and is not responsible for site maintenance or data accuracy. Use this data at your own risk."

5.2.1. Links to commercial organizations or interest groups present special challenges with respect to maintaining agency objectivity and thus must be used judiciously. External links to data not available from other Federal Internet sources must meet the following criteria:

- Links are necessary for and material to the presentation of agency information or the delivery of services in the proper performance of an agency function;
- Reasonable steps are taken to ensure the presentation is accurate, relevant, timely, and complete; and
- Reasonable steps are taken to assure that links remain active or otherwise continue to provide the level of quality (including objectivity, utility, and integrity) as intended by the agency and expected by users.

5.3. When data from sources not under the immediate control of a Federal Government agency or organization is included through use of frames, server-side includes, PHP includes, or other technologies on NWS web sites, a clear identification of the source of the content is required. This notification should include:

> "This data is provided by [identify content owner/provider]. This does not constitute an endorsement by the NWS of any information, products or services by the content provider. The NWS does not own or operate these sites and is not responsible for site maintenance or data accuracy. Use this data at your own risk."

Signed   9/23/2019

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

<u>GLOSSARY TERMS</u>

PHP - In Web programming, PHP is a script language and interpreter that is freely available and used primarily on Linux Web servers. PHP, originally derived from Personal Home Page Tools, now stands for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor.

Frames - In creating a Web site, "frames" is the use of multiple, independently controllable sections on a Web presentation. This effect is achieved by building each section as a separate file and having one "master" file identify all of the sections.

World Wide Web Consortium (WC3) - The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) develops interoperable technologies (specifications, guidelines, software, and tools) to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C is a forum for information, commerce, communication, and collective understanding.