ICVS-LTM Website Demonstration

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Presented at Suomi NPP SDR Science and Product Review
NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP)
5830 University Research Park, College Park, MD
December 18-20, 2013
ICVS-LTM Redesign: ICVS Version 1.0

- ICVS LTM 1.0
  - The original ICVS website (‘version 1.0’) supplied instrument performance metrics for S-NPP and other satellite instruments.
  - Initially built in 2009 and modified extensively over the next 4 years.

- The ICVS team started working in spring 2012 to redesign ICVS.
ICVS-LTM Redesign: Goals and Objectives

• Improve the user experience for finding and viewing satellite instrument status metrics.
  • The first version of ICVS had a bulky banner and interface controls; they took up so much vertical space that the user had to scroll to see charts, which are the entire point of the site.
  • Chart layout and labelling was not consistent.
  • No chart metadata was presented.
  • The new site has reduced the size of banner and form controls to move the metrics up the page so users can see them without scrolling on desktop displays.

• Standardize presentation.
  Standardize the presentation, layout, size, labelling, and branding of the metrics images across satellite instrument teams
  • Make charts easier to read;
  • Easier to produce;
  • Easier for users to share in contexts away from the site, like embedding in presentations and e-mails.
ICVS-LTM Redesign: Goals and Objectives

• Improve system maintainability and extensibility
  Build a site that can easily be edited to house an evolving set of metrics for each satellite instrument.
    • Our goal was to build a site that was maintainable, extensible, and simple for instrument monitoring teams to populate and manage.
    • The site was designed to easily accommodate the addition of new satellite instrument monitoring pages or a different set of metrics for a given instrument with no additional programming.

• Make ICVS accessibility compliant and address other compliance deficits
  • We needed to make the ICVS LTM fully compliant with Section 508 accessibility standards and other requirements associated with a properly compliant government website. This has been achieved by programmatically generating alt tag contents to house specific image metadata. The goal was to give every metrics image displayed meaningful and specific labelling.
ICVS-LTM Redesign: Goals and Objectives

**Search engine optimization:**
- Better chart metadata and consistent labeling for satellite and instrument names has made the ICVS system very ‘discoverable’ via web search tools.
- Producing compliant alt tagging of images not only makes ICVS metrics accessible to users with sensory deficits, it also improves the searchability of specific instrument information through Google and Bing.
- Search on ‘ICVS and instrument name’ from any search engine, and ICVS’ pages are returned consistently in the first page of search results for both image and content searches.

**Animation capability:**
- For the new ICVS, we wanted to develop an animated view of metrics charts that:
  - Didn’t use Flash but –
    - Which would also load quickly regardless of how many metrics were being presented.
- By using a jquery-based animation tool called cycle2 instead of Flash, we provide an animation capability that runs on all major browsers
- With progressive loading, the animation facility loads quickly even when the animation stack contains hundreds of images.
- Browsers and devices supported include:
  - IE8 and newer; Chrome, Firefox; Safari; Opera, iPhone and Android mobile devices.
ICVS-LTM Redesign: Goals and Objectives

• **Access to metrics across S-NPP’s entire operational history:**
  - The new system is designed to store not just current information but will house and present metric charts keyed by date through the life of each S-NPP instrument.
  - The ICVS team will be backfilling the instrument pages’ earlier metrics data with 2014 task funding.
  - ICVS 1.0 presented historical charts for some instruments, but mainly presented only real time information. True monitoring over time is possible in this system.
  - While mainly used to present .jpg, .png and .gif image files, the system is able to house and present .txt and .zip files.
  - As different metrics are developed, the ICVS LTM site can be adapted to house and present them to users.

• **Intelligent error handling**
  - On both the main instrument status pages and on the animation viewer the site is coded to explicitly inform users which metric charts are missing when files are unavailable. Often this is due to data that isn’t yet available or brief computational backlogs. By listing missing files, we give users transparency and accelerate our own ability to identify and address problems.
Instrument status pages:

- All instrument status pages are constructed identically.
- Left hand navigation panel
- Upper right side: label identifies the current satellite and instrument
- Form controls across the middle of the page
- Date selector
- Step buttons to traverse parameter by parameter or day by day.
- Current UTC displayed
- Button to launch animation “Slide Show of All Charts for Selected Date”
How to find metrics:

- Select the satellite and instrument you want to review from the left-hand navigation;

- In the form controls, choose a parameter from the first select box.

- The parameter you select will populate your choice of metrics in the second select box. Choose a metric with the second select box, or use the arrow keys to traverse the entire set associated with the parameter you selected.

- If you want to view a different date than today, click the date select icon and choose another date.
To view an animated sequence of metrics for a selected satellite:

- Select the satellite and instrument you want to review from the left-hand navigation;
- Select a date;
- Click the blue button on the upper right: “Slide Show of All Charts for Selected Date”

To view image metadata, hover over the image.
Each date-specific animation view for a satellite instrument has a unique and permanent web address:

Each combination of satellite / instrument / date has a specific web address that users can share and reference and link as needed – you don’t have to re-navigate to the link if there is a specific date and metric that want to reference in a discussion or e-mail or document. Just copy and share the URL.

Error information for the animation view is rendered at the bottom of the screen:
Next Steps

- Filling in historical data for NPP instrument performance;
- Exploring the incorporation of vector graphics type charts
  - Dynamic jQuery-driven vector charting tools use JSON / text file inputs which are smaller than chart images
  - Vector charts enable users to zoom in on charts and view dynamic labels and other interactive features
  - Such charts have dynamically rendered axes to better present data outliers.
  - The basic architecture of the site could be used to present vector charts in much the same way as it houses images.