Interactive Forecast Preparation System
Training Team

IFPS Training Aid

Installing Smart Tools

Introduction:

Occasionally, there is the need to install new Smart Tools and Procedures from the Smart Tool Repository. This training aid provides a step-by-step method to transfer a Smart Tool or Procedure from the Smart Tool Repository to your IFPS.

Objective:

Provide a step-by-step method to transfer a Smart Tool or Procedure from the Smart Tool Repository to your IFPS.

Procedure:

1. Go to the Smart Tool Repository at the following address:

   http://140.90.90.253/~applications/STR/index.php3

   Then Select the Sites Interface from the menu, your Region or Office and login.

2. Select “Info on Tools” from the menu and select the appropriate first letter in the name of the Smart Tool you want to download.

3. Select your tool from the alphabetical list, download the tool and any documentation and install instructions.

   Note: There are a couple of ways you can save the tool. You can save it on a local hard drive and transfer via LDAD onto AWIPS to a mounted directory where you can access it from a workstation or you can save it to a diskette and use the a-drive (floppy) on a workstation where you will be installing the tool in IFPS to copy the tool to a /tmp directory.

4. Start GFE as user SITE since you want to have your new tool accessible by all IFPS users.

5. Under GFE in the Main Menu Bar, select Define Smart Tools from the pull-down menu. This opens the Edit Actions window. Since you want to load a new Smart Tool either select File, New Item in Window… and Smart Tool or MB3 in the white area where the tolls are listed and select New. This opens the MyTool window.

6. Type in the tool name and select Ok. It really does not matter what weather element is selected to be edited at this point since the entry will be changed when you copy the tool into the Python editor.

   Note: When the Python editor opens, the WeatherElementEdited variable will be defined to be the element you had selected in GFE when you opened the Edit Actions window.

7. Select File and Open…

8. Go to the /tmp or the directory where you copied the Smart Tool.

   Note: Most Smart Tool from the Repository do not contain the .py or .txt extensions, so, you will need to change the Files of Type window to All Files (*).

9. Select your Smart Tool and then select Open. Your Smart Tool will appear in a new window.

10. Hold down the <Alt> key and hit the A key to highlight everything in the window containing your new Smart Tool.

11. Select Edit and Copy. You can now either close the window or minimize it.

12. Go to the window containing the Python Editor and hold down the <Alt> key and hit the A key to highlight everything in the window.

13. Hit the backspace key to erase everything in the window.

14. Select Edit and Paste to paste everything in the buffer into the Python Editor.

    Note: The original text which was black and white is now colored indicating the Python Editor is recognizing the syntax.

15. Scroll through the Smart Tool and make any changes such as unique office names embedded in the code.

Note: If you see any /n symbols in the tool, you will need to eliminate these by:

a. Select Edit, Replace…
b. In the Find box, type /n and leave the Replace with box blank.
c. Select Regular expression.
d. Select Replace All.

16. Select File and Save. Any Python syntax errors will be noted.

17. Select File and Exit. Your new Smart Tool should show up in the Edit Actions window and be available for immediate use.

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