



The PDA Animated Weather (PAW) Service

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Recent advances in wireless broadband services and coverage have made access to the internet possible in remote locations. Users can now access the web via an ever increasing number of small, handheld devices specifically designed to allow voice and data exchange using this expanding service. So called PDA phones or smart-phones blend the features of traditional PDA devices with telecommunications capabilities. The University of Wisconsin - Madison, Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC) has produced a web site holding a variety of meteorological image and text displays optimized for this new technology. The site features animations of real-time radar and satellite clouds with value added graphical overlays of severe weather watches and warnings. Products focus on remotely sensed information supplemented with conventional ground observations.

The PDA Animated Weather (PAW) website has rapidly been adopted by numerous institutions and individuals desiring access to real-time meteorological information independent of their location. Of particular note are users that can be classified as first responders, including foreign and domestic based police and fire departments.