



Dedicated Workstation or a Rich Intranet Application for the Operational Forecaster?

H.H. ter Pelkwijk and K. Lemcke

KNMI, de Bilt, The Netherlands, (pelkwijk@knmi.nl)

In our search for a new meteorological workstation for the forecaster at KNMI it appeared that half of the forecasters prefer intranet above the dedicated meteorological workstation to gain their information. Therefore KNMI decided to investigate the possibility of a more operational use of the intranet.

The operational intranet environment has been set up as a portal in which the forecaster has a quick access to a pile of information at one interface. With the web techniques used it is not important anymore where the information is stored. All the information is labelled with a unique product number. This makes it possible to access the information in many different and smart ways. Apart from the conventional way of accessing the data the system makes it possible for the forecaster to present the information by weather type (e.g. fog, gusts). Also other applications can directly link to it to very specific information, for example including a link to a forecast map for a specific forecast time. Using this system makes it also possible to have a context sensitive help or information page.

With the experience gained with the building process of this portal and the fast ongoing developments of new web techniques the question can be asked whether a weather service still needs a dedicated meteorological workstation.

In this talk we discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both systems with respect to changing working environments.