Data sharing and cooperation: the usage of IDD in Portugal

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The Internet Data Distribution (*IDD*), developed by the Unidata Program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), provides access to hydrometeorological datasets in real-time over the Internet. During the past decade the *IDD* has grown to become the leading Internet2 advanced-application, delivering over 20 terabytes of data per week to more than 160 US and international institutions.

This network operates seamlessly with several visualization packages, developed by Unidata and cooperative institutions. One of these tools, the **GE**neral **M**eteorology **PA**c**K**age (*GEMPAK*), is used operationally on national meteorological agencies in Brazil and US, and also in over 100 Universities. This package provides a facilitated access and manipulation of weather data, lowering the barrier in educational efforts and improving meteorological research.

University of Aveiro was one of the first European users of this system, taking advantage of the Local Data Manager (*LDM*), the software behind *IDD*, to receive several model outputs to run mesoscale simulations locally. Nowadays, in cooperation with *IDD-Brasil*, Portuguese Universities are transferring not only data, but also knowledge between Portuguese speaking countries and US institutions.

This international cooperation is capable of addressing a gap in data sharing, since it has no cost for educational and research purposes, therefore a major priority is to promote outreach efforts, such as training sessions, in order to increase the general awareness of the scientific community about this network.

The capabilities provided by ***IDD*** were proven to be a major enhancement in meteorological research and education, fostering new collaborations among universities and national meteorological agencies across the globe, and setting new paths and opportunities for cooperative research and education.