



Making large amounts of meteorological plots easily accessible to users

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The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is an international organisation providing its member organisations with forecasts in the medium time range of 3 to 15 days, and some longer-range forecasts for up to a year ahead, with varying degrees of detail. As part of its mission, ECMWF generates an increasing number of forecast data products for its users. To support the work of forecasters and researchers and to let them make best use of ECMWF forecasts, the Centre also provides tools and interfaces to visualise their products. This allows users to make use of and explore forecasts without having to transfer large amounts of raw data. This is especially true for products based on ECMWF's 50 member ensemble forecast, where some specific processing and visualisation are applied to extract information. Every day, thousands of raw data are being pushed to the ECMWF's interactive web charts application called ecCharts, and thousands of products are processed and pushed to ECMWF's institutional web site

ecCharts provides a highly interactive application to display and manipulate recent numerical forecasts to forecasters in national weather services and ECMWF's commercial customers. With ecCharts forecasters are able to explore ECMWF's medium-range forecasts in far greater detail than has previously been possible on the web, and this as soon as the forecast becomes available.

All ecCharts's products are also available through a machine-to-machine web map service based on the OGC Web Map Service (WMS) standard.

ECMWF institutional web site provides access to a large number of graphical products. It was entirely re-designed last year. It now shares the same infrastructure as ECMWF's ecCharts, and can benefit of some ecCharts functionalities, for example the dashboard.

The dashboard initially developed for ecCharts allows users to organise their own collection of products depending on their work flow, and is being further developed. In its first implementation, It presents the user's products in a single interface with fast access to the original product, and possibilities of synchronous animations between them. But its functionalities are being extended to give users the freedom to collect not only ecCharts's 2D maps and graphs, but also other ECMWF Web products such as monthly and seasonal products, scores, and observation monitoring. The dashboard will play a key role to help the user to interpret the large amount of information that ECMWF is providing.

This talk will present examples of how the new user interface can organise complex meteorological maps and graphs and show the new possibilities users have gained by using the web as a medium.