The Iris Project at Five Years:

How a Grassroots Rapid Prototyping Project has Grown to Support NWS Operational Needs
Where did Iris come from?

• Iris grew from a series of separate, but related projects during the period 2008 to 2010.
• Developers saw a need to standardize a framework to provide consistent data storage and georeferencing capacity for contact, impact, event, and communications data used by the NWS.
• The Iris team has always been virtual: field offices, regional offices, and now headquarters.
What can Iris do?

• Manage all contacts for an office, including NWS specific data.
• Display all observations in an area of concern, rank them in any way needed, display criteria alerts, and directly create LSR text products from observations.
• Generate storm reports in any format desired by clicking on a map.
• Provide a heads up display for situational awareness use mashing together warnings, reports, and contacts on a map.
• Drives iNWS to alert customers to warnings, and powers Wireless Emergency Alerts to provide cell phone alerts to the public.
• Full impact management capabilities are now in development.
So, what is Iris?

• At the core, Iris is a PostGIS enabled Postgresql database.
• Wrapped around the database is the Iris framework, providing methods for storing and retrieving the stored information via web services.
• Using the framework are clients like the Iris Web Interface, iNWS, and others.
Iris and the Virtual Lab

• The Iris team heavily uses the Virtual Lab Redmine and Jenkins development tools.
• The Iris Web application actually opens directly to the Redmine ticketing system to allow users to open tickets (works great!)
• All source code is managed by the Virtual Lab git repository.
• Framework builds and Java documentation is automatically generated upon commit.
Let’s have a look:
