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US 4.12 Release Notes

Weather Star 4000



Release Overview

The Weather Channel US 4.12 release contains an enhancement to the Weather Star 4000 units that is identified in these release notes. The enhancement made by this release was first successfully reproduced in The Weather Channel Quality Assurance Lab. Then, it was subsequently tested in The Weather Channel Quality Assurance Lab and verified to be working after applying the 4.12 release.

Release Deployment

This release will be deployed by satellite transmission to each Domestic Weather Star 4000 in the field. No assistance from the cable headend engineer is required. When the release installation is complete, the screen will briefly flash to black, and then the National video will return. The next 6-8 local segments will be unavailable

(regional maps will show instead). For the following 1 to 1-1/2 hours, the products in the local segment will gradually rebuild. After 1-1/2 to 2 hours, all local products will be available. During this time period, the National video will continue as normal.

Document Purpose

This document describes the item which the US 4.12 release enhances for the Weather Star 4000 units. The enhancement in the release is described in terms of what the home viewer would see on a television screen.

Scope

The information in this document applies to US Weather Star 4000 units only. Corrections to any other unit types are not addressed in this document.

Items Corrected:

Improve Warning Display for Star Units Serving More Than One County 2

Improve Display of Updates to Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm Warnings 2

Can't Immediately Stop Display of Incorrect/Invalid Severe Weather Bulletins 2

Test Environment Description

The US 4.12 release was tested in The Weather Channel Quality Assurance Lab and verified to be working after applying the 4.12 release. The QA lab is configured as follows:

Satellite Receivers

Standard Agile Omni Professional Channel 13
Frequency 6500—Medium

Drake Earth Station Receiver (ESR 1255) Channel 13
Frequency 3.960

Video Cipher

Wegener VideoCipherII Plus (model 2900)

Video Distribution Amplifier

Lenco PFM-300 (with PVA-350 cards)

Commercial Insertion Equipment

Channelmatic, Inc. Spotmatic Jr.
Channelmatic, Inc. Moneymaker

Solution Center
(800) 554-7354
starops@weather.com

The Weather Channel Solution Center is staffed 7x24, 365 days a year to respond to any situation. We welcome any questions, suggestions, or comments on our products, services, and support.

Items Corrected in the US 4.12 Release

Improve Warning Display for Star Units Serving More Than One County

What You Used to See . . .	What You See Now . . .
<p>Although cable systems may use one Weather Star 4000 to serve more than one county, currently each Weather Star 4000 replaces existing National Weather Service (NWS) warnings when a new one is issued, regardless of priority.</p>	<p>Now each Weather Star 4000 unit can display NWS warnings by priority. The following rules apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This enhancement applies to immediate threat, county-based, very localized severe weather NWS bulletins only: Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Tornado Warnings, and Flash Flood Warnings. Also included are the new Hurricane Emergency Management Bulletins (applicable only to coastal areas). • Warnings for the county with the most viewers (primary county) will have priority over any other county served by that Weather Star 4000 unit (secondary counties), unless it is a Tornado Warning. Tornado Warnings have priority over all other warnings in the display. • The display will change when a new warning is received or a displayed warning expires.

Improve Display of Updates to Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

What You Used to See . . .	What You See Now . . .
<p>The NWS occasionally issues updates to Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Warnings with more specific critical information (tornado on the ground, damage reported, etc.). These messages were not automatically displayed in the TWC crawl.</p>	<p>These updated warning messages will replace the original Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Warning in the crawl.</p>

Can't Immediately Stop Display of Incorrect/Invalid Severe Weather Bulletins

What You Used to See . . .	What You See Now . . .
<p>If an old or incorrect NWS Severe Weather Bulletin was displaying, there was no method to immediately stop the crawl.</p>	<p>If an old or incorrect NWS Severe Weather Bulletin displays, we can now take down the crawl and stop the bad information from displaying.</p>