

September 2003

Domestic 1.75 Release Notes

Weather Star XL®



Release Overview

The Weather Channel Domestic 1.75 release contains enhancements to all the domestic Weather Star XL units®. These enhancements are identified in this document.

Scope

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

Document Purpose

This document describes the enhancements made in Domestic 1.75 release. Each item in the release is described in terms of what the home viewer would see on a television screen.

Release Deployment

This release will be deployed by satellite transmission to each domestic Weather Star XL in the field. No assistance from the cable headend engineer is required.

During installation, viewers may temporarily experience one or more of the following anomalies:

- Screen briefly locks and jitters
- Ad tags display and end late
- Local Ad Crawl freezes during Local Forecasts
- Local Forecasts start and end late or are missed
- Screen flashes to pink/black, etc.
- Audio briefly not operational

Each of these issues will rectify itself after a very short time.

After the release is installed, the Weather Star XL will reboot. Observe the following when the Weather Star XL powers on:

- In the hole to the left of the power switch, observe a red LED for about 30 seconds; then the LED will turn green (you may have to look in the hole at an angle to see this).
- The Weather Star XL will pass audio approximately one minute after the unit powers on.
- The Weather Star XL will pass video approximately one minute and 30 seconds after the unit powers on.

Solution Center
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The Domestic 1.75 release was tested in The Weather Channel Quality Assurance Lab and verified to be working. The QA lab is configured as follows:

Test Environment Description

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

Items Included in the Domestic 1.75 Release

Improvements to the Lower Display Line

What You Saw Before . . .

The Weather Star XL displayed a limited variety of local weather information in the lower portion of the screen (the "Lower Display Line") during national programming. The Lower Display Line included a forecast for today or tomorrow and the current weather conditions for a particular area.

The Lower Display Line was opaque; this meant that on occasion, weather data plotted at the "bottom" of a national map was obscured by the Lower Display Line. The time and the date displayed continuously but the weather information the viewers were most interested in: the current local temperature, did not.

The content of the Lower Display Line remained the same regardless of the type of national programming. This would result in insufficient local forecast information during the specific shows, such as "Storm Stories," where the "Local on the 8s" segments are less frequent.

What You See Now . . .

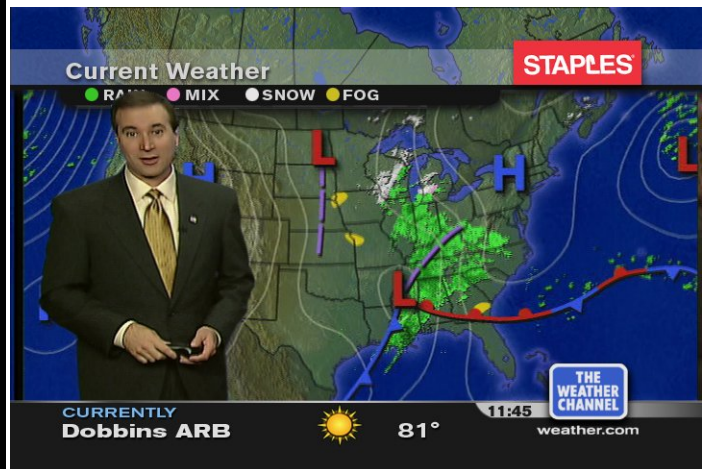
The Weather Star XL Lower Display Line has been redesigned with a solid background and new lower placement so the maps are not blocked. The date has been moved to an element in the rotation of information to allow room for a continuous display of the current local temperature.

The content has been increased during the specific shows such as "Storm Stories." The forecast for today or tomorrow now includes a more detailed text description of the expected weather as well as a daily planner, providing specific forecast information for different key times for the day. Additionally, an extended forecast is also part of the rotation in the Lower Display Line during the specific shows.

NOTE: The Lower Display Line during the "Local on the 8s" did not change.



Previous display line over national

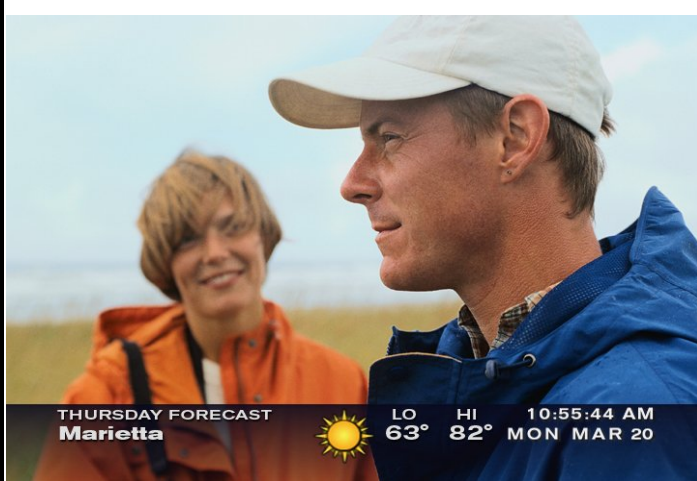


Current display line over national

Items Included in the Domestic 1.75 Release (Continued)

Improvements to the Lower Display Line (Continued)

What You Saw Before . . .



Previous display line over special shows, such as "Storm Stories"

What You See Now . . .



Current display line over special shows, such as "Storm Stories"