Caveat Lector!

The Science and Training Resource Center (STRC) Environmental Modeling System (EMS) is a complete and relatively easy to use state-of-the-science numerical weather prediction (NWP) modeling system. Nonetheless, users (that would be you!) should be forewarned that running any numerical model requires some understanding of both meteorology and computers. Even the most NWP-savvy individuals experience complete and demoralizing failure, some of which is their own fault whether they want to admit it or not. Occasionally these issues are the fault of others, but they’re not going to admit it either. Other times, stuff just happens for completely unexplained reasons that are outside the control of anybody or anything. This is real science, and while it isn’t perfect, it’s getting very close. Consequently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS), Forecast Decision Training Branch (FDTB), and the Science Operations Officer (SOO) STRC will take no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of your forecasts, even if you ask nicely.

In addition, the world of NWP can be a dangerous place regardless of your forecast. Understand that while attempting to mine the potentially vast riches that the EMS has to offer, stuff can happen and things may break that can’t always be fixed by the lone forsaken support person. That’s just the way life is, sometimes unfair and difficult. But this cold hard fact shall not be a deterrent, as you are a ray of simulated sunshine, blinding the eyes of evil and illuminating a path for unicorns at night. With the unbridled power of the EMS, your glass of wheat grass juice is almost always half full. And please don’t look behind the curtain, as the EMS Overlord is not wearing any clothes.

When asking for help from EMS Support Central, be kind and patient. Adulation and offers of baked goods sometimes work, but not always (although it’s always worth the risk). If you are confused and/or concerned then stop reading now, close this guide, wash your hands, and run far, far away; otherwise, if you want the thrill and adventure of running your own NWP system, then carry on citizen modeler!

This document provides nearly unlimited guidance for using the EMS. However, it should be noted that while a half-hearted attempt has been made to ensure that this guide is complete, the prose was written under the influence of sleep deprivation, a highly precocious 11-year old, and an exceptionally intelligent and beautiful wife; not necessarily in that order. Consequently, there is a good chance that errors, both intentional and unintentional, may exist.

Any questions or suggestions for improvement should be sent directly to the author, just because he cares.

And as the EMS marketing and campaign manager requires me to say:

“Think Globally, Model Locally”

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