

## Desktop Satellite User's Manual Version 2.0

*This manual is for documenting the functionality and control settings in the Desktop Satellite. It does not pertain to installing, upgrading, uninstalling or troubleshooting the software. For help on these topics, please refer to the Desktop Satellite Website at <http://www.desktopsatellite.com/>.*

The Desktop Satellite is composed of multiple windows. Each of the windows has unique functionality that is described in the following sections:

### **Currents Window**

The Currents Window is the main window from which all other windows are shown or hidden. The Currents Window displays the current weather data that is received by the Desktop Satellite from the weather data feeds server. The weather variables are displayed in pairs.

To change the pair of current variables which are displayed, select the arrows in the bottom-left corner of the window, to go forward to the next (or back to the previous) data display.

The weather variables include Temperature, Humidity, Dew Point, Heat Index/Wind Chill, Wind Direction, Wind Speed, Barometric Tendency, and Barometric Pressure.

The variables will update automatically with the latest data received.

The Currents Window display is effected by the following settings that are modifiable via the Preferences Window (see Preferences Window):

- Auto-Rotate the Current Weather – if checked, the pairs of weather variables will automatically rotate after displaying for so many seconds. This will continuously loop through the variable pairs and display the latest data received by the satellite. The user can still use the arrows to go forward and backward in the displays even while auto-rotate is on.
- Show Metric Units – if checked, the units of measure for the weather variables will be displayed in International Metric Units instead of the default US English units.

Right clicking the mouse on the Currents Window, will bring up the Pop-up Menu. The Pop-up Menu, described in another section, provides access to additional functionality of the Desktop Satellite.

Occasionally, advertisements or special notices will be displayed in the Currents Window. Clicking on the ad graphic will send the user to a special link or website associated with the ad. The ad will automatically be replaced with the currents variable again after a brief display.

Note: The Currents Window may not be hidden but can be minimized.

## **Weather Center Window**

The Weather Center Window is the main display window for weather information. The window has tabs that when clicked on display the corresponding information.

The tabs are:

- Outlook – an extended weather outlook summary
- Forecast – scrolling detailed weather forecast
- Doppler – Doppler RADAR images
- Almanac – weather records for the day
- Cam – live weather images
- NWS – National Weather Service Warnings, Watches, & Advisories

The Forecast, Almanac, and NWS tabs all have scrolling text information which can be paused by placing the mouse over the text. The text can be scrolled again by moving the mouse off of the text. Clicking on the text will link the user to a related website.

The Doppler and Cam tabs have the ability to either display the most current image from the data feeds server or to display a sequence of images. This sequence is known as looping. Looping can be turned on by the corresponding preference setting.

The Weather Center Window display is effected by the following settings that are modifiable via the Preferences Window (see Preferences Window):

- Show Weather Center on Startup – if checked, the Weather Center will automatically be displayed along with the Currents Window whenever the satellite is started.
- Loop Doppler RADAR and Cam – if checked, the RADAR and weather cam displays will display a sequence of images instead of just the most recent. The displays will then continually loop through this sequence giving animation to these displays.

The displays will update automatically with the latest data received.

To show or hide the window select the Show/Hide Weather Center Window option in the top section of the Pop-Up Menu (see Pop-Up Menu).

## **Alerts Crawler Window**

The alerts crawler window is a horizontal "ticker-tape style" crawler that will appear when special alerts have been received by the satellite. These alerts can be from the local affiliate or from the National Weather Service.

The Alerts Window has the ability to display multiple alerts at the same time. Each alert will have a corresponding link to a website with more information if the user clicks on the corresponding text in the Alerts Crawler Window.

The Alerts Crawler Window, by default, will appear automatically when an alert is received. It will also hide itself when an alert has ended.

The user may manually hide the Alerts Crawler Window after an alert has been received and it will not appear again until a new alert is received.

The Alerts Crawler Window display is effected by the following settings that are modifiable via the Preferences Window (see Preferences Window):

- Play Audio during Alerts – if checked, an audio message is played when an alert is received by the satellite.

To show or hide the window select the Show/Hide Alerts Window option in the top section of the Pop-Up Menu (see Pop-Up Menu).

## Preferences Window

The Preferences Window allows the user to set how the satellite communicates with the weather data feeds server and how it displays the data. After making the appropriate preference selections, the SAVE button will store the user's preferences locally so that on subsequent runs of the satellite the preferences will remain in effect.

The window has tabs that when clicked on display the corresponding preference settings.

The tabs are:

- Update – preferences for the update rate of various weather data. Unless the user is experiencing problems or on a known slow connection, these settings are best left as is.
- Settings – preferences for how various information is displayed. Most of these settings have already been described in the other sections of this manual.
  - *Show Weather Center at Startup* – (see Weather Center Window)
  - *Loop Doppler RADAR and Cam* – (see Weather Center Window)
  - *Auto-Rotate Current Weather* – (see Currents Window)
  - *Play Audio During Alerts* – (see Alert Crawler Window)
  - *Show Metric Units* – (see Currents Window)
  - *Check for Newer Version* – will check on start-up to see if there is a newer version of the Desktop Satellite available than what the user has installed. If there is, a small dialog box will appear to inform the user.
  - *Check for Beta Version* – works the same as the newer version check does except that it looks for beta releases instead of official releases. For users interested in the latest cutting edge and some times experimental features, this is the preference to set!
- Proxy – for satellites running behind firewalls/proxies this allows users to be able to still receive live weather data. It is important to note that not any-old value will work here. Check with your network or system administrator for the appropriate values to work with your network setup.
- Timeout – for slower connections, the data connect and receive timeouts can be changed. It is recommended that unless experiencing specific problems, that these settings should be left as is.

To show the Preferences Window, select "Preferences..." near the bottom of the Pop-Up Menu.

To hide the window select the CANCEL button at the bottom of the window.

### **Pop-Up Menu**

The Pop-Up Menu can be shown by right clicking inside the Currents Window when it is not displaying an advertisement. The menu will appear and an option can be selected by highlighting it and clicking the mouse again.

The menu is divided into sections and are described here in order from top of the menu to bottom.

- Show/Hide Windows – allows windows to be shown or hidden
- Dynamic Links – these are links to websites that are related to the weather. The links are dynamic in that they may change from time to time. For example, seasonal links may exist for snowfall totals in the winter. These links are controlled by the affiliate.
- Refresh – manually refreshes all currently displayed windows (currents, weather center, and alert crawler)
- Preferences... – launches the Preference Window
- About – version and build information for the satellite. If the user needs to know what version of the satellite is running, this will show him.
- Exit – exits the satellite software

To hide the Pop-Up Menu click anywhere off of the menu and it will disappear.