

# HOWTO GET NEXRAD DATA FROM THE NCDC

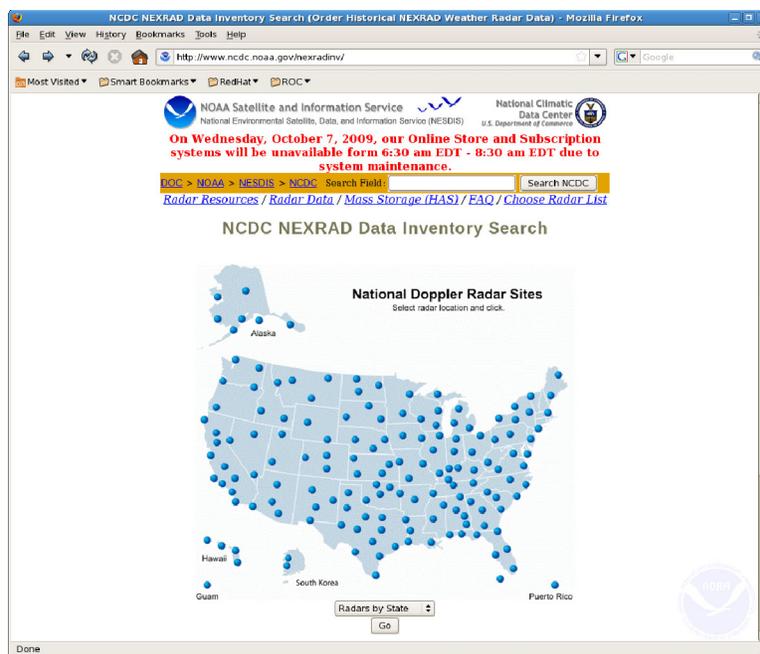
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## 0.0 PREREQUISITES

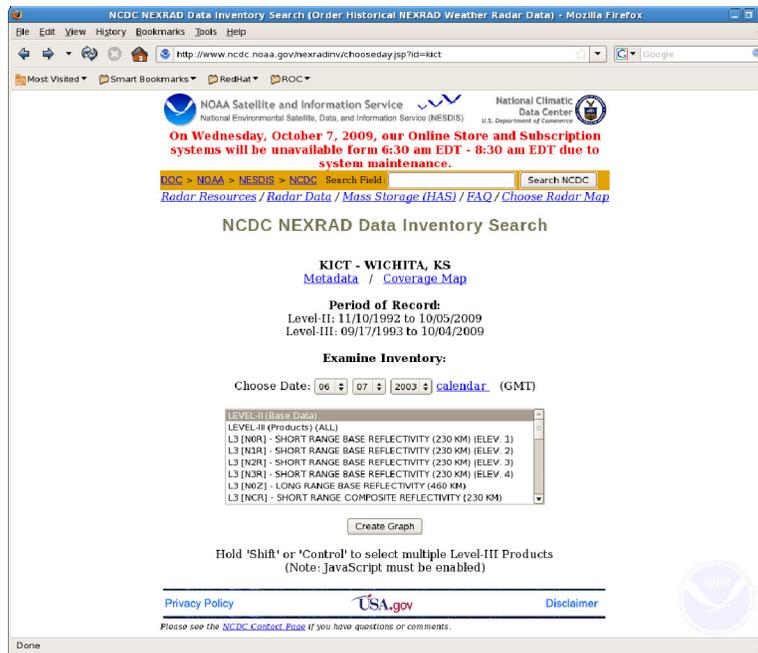
0.1 None.

## 1.0 REQUEST DATA FROM THE NCDC FOR A SINGLE DAY

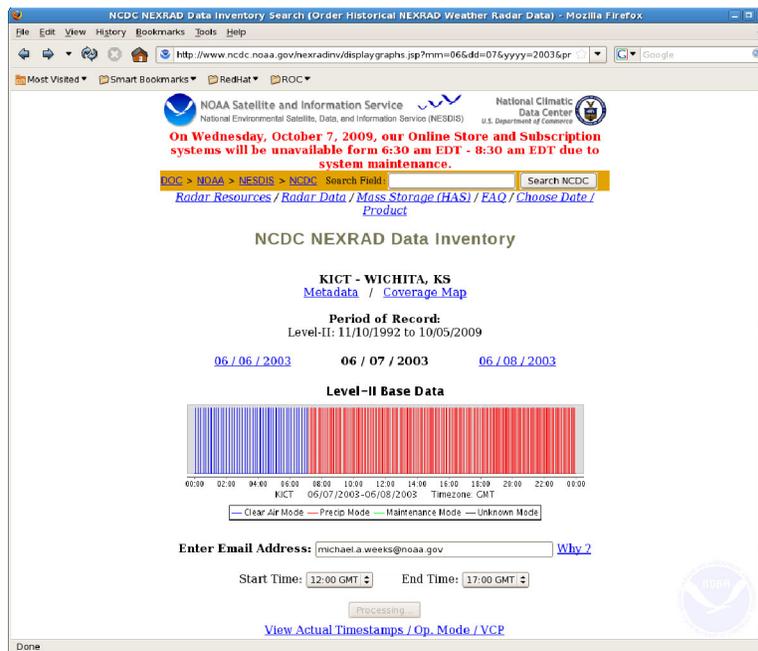
1.1 Visit the NCDC’s NEXRAD Data Inventory web page (<http://www.NCDC.noaa.gov/nexradinv/>). This page allows users to download up to 24 hours of data from a single day for a single site. Select a NEXRAD site by clicking on the blue button representing that site.



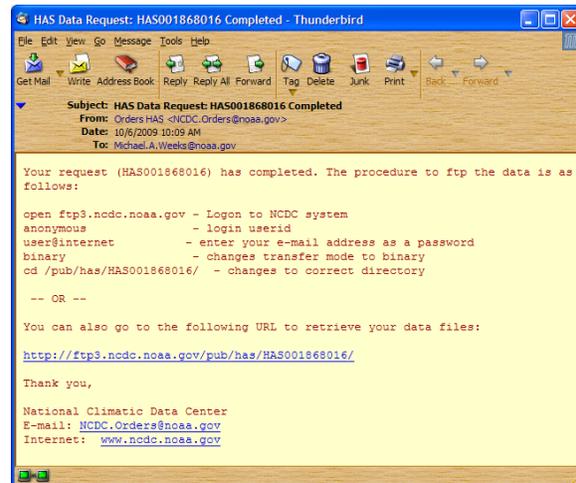
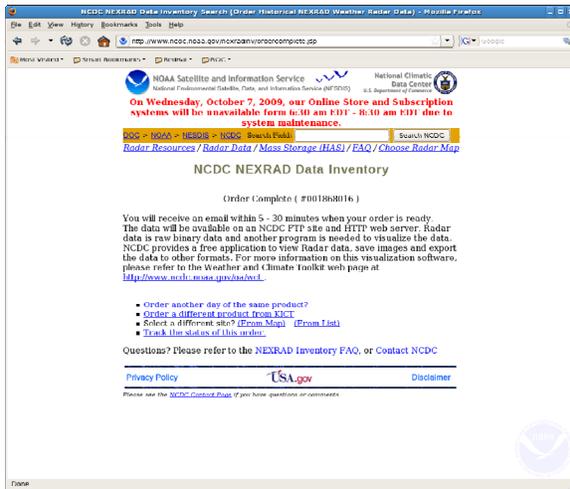
- 1.2 Choose a **Date** and **LEVEL II (Base Data)** (or other data type you want) and press the **“Create Graph”** button.



- 1.3 Enter your **Email Address** and select **Start Time** and **End Time** for the range of data you wish to view.

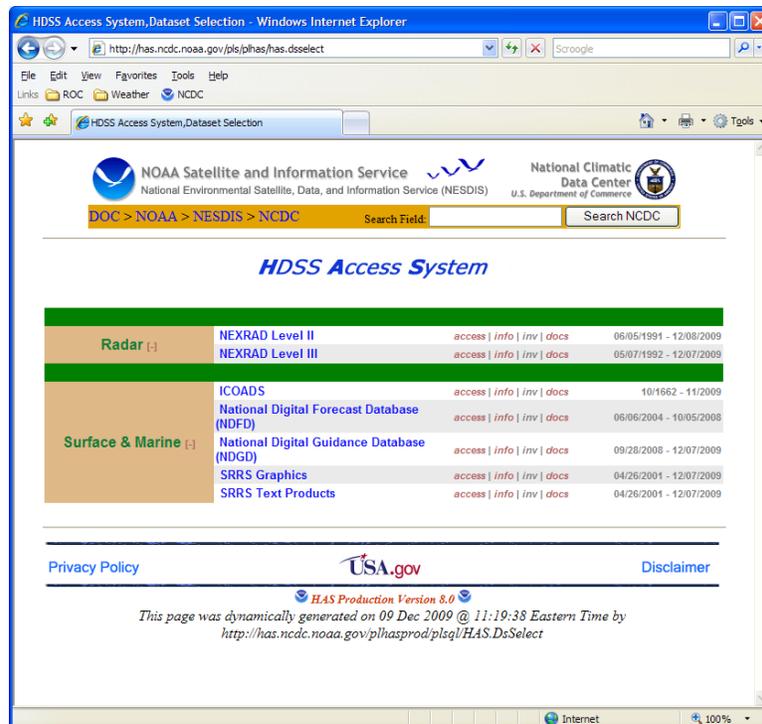


- 1.4 The NCDC server will collect the data you requested and send you an email when it is ready to be downloaded.



## 2.0 REQUEST DATA FROM THE NCDC FOR MULTIPLE DAYS

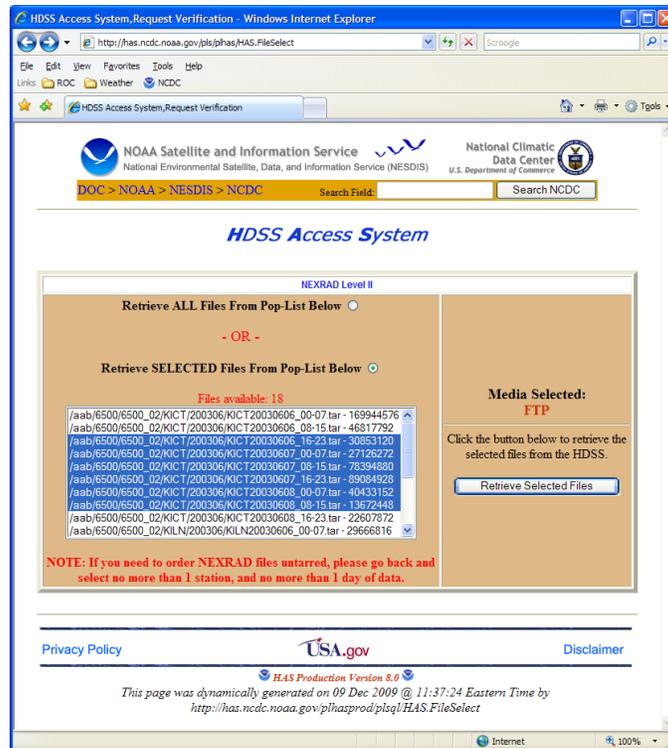
2.1 Visit the NCDC’s Hierarchical Data Storage System (HDSS) Access System (HAS) Dataset Selection web page (<http://has.ncdc.noaa.gov/>). This page allows users to download data from multiple sites for multiple days. Select NEXRAD Level II or NEXRAD Level III data by clicking on the appropriate links.



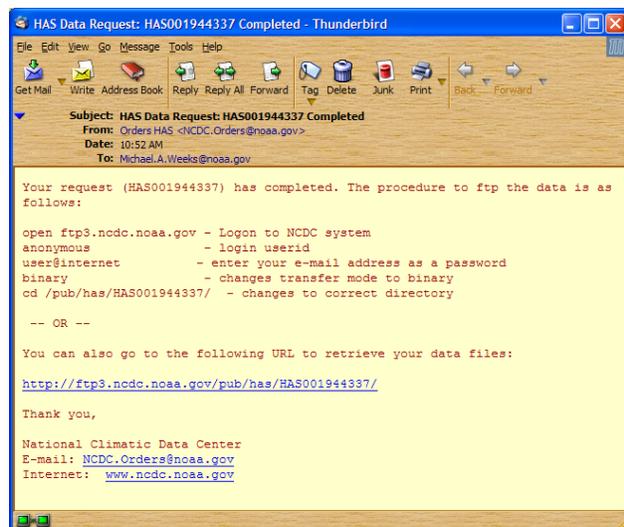
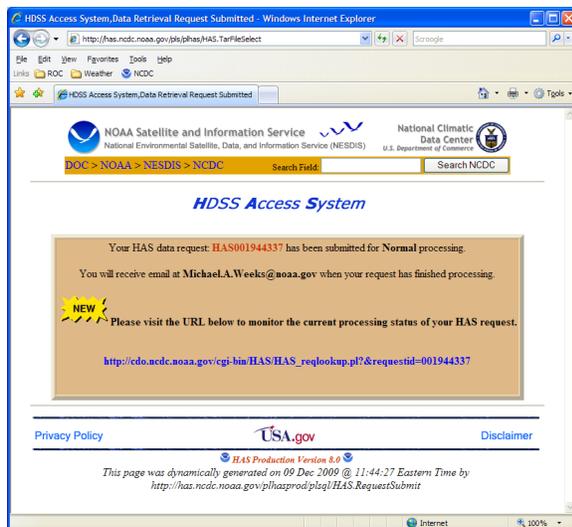
- 2.2 On the Station Selection page, enter your **Email Address** and select a **Station**, a **Start Date** and an **End Date** for the range of data you wish to view. Multiple stations may be selected by holding down the [Ctrl] key while clicking on the station names. Press the **Continue With Selection** button to verify your request.

The screenshot shows the 'HDSS Access System' interface. At the top, there are logos for NOAA Satellite and Information Service and the National Climatic Data Center. Below the logos is a navigation breadcrumb: 'DOC > NOAA > NESDIS > NCDC'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search Field' and 'Search NCDC'. The main content area is titled 'HDSS Access System' and contains a form for 'NEXRAD Level II' data selection. The form has two columns: 'Station(s):' and 'Date Range'. The 'Station(s):' column contains a list of stations with their date ranges, including KHGX, KHNX, KHPX, KHTX, KICT, KICX, KILM, KILN, KILX, and KIND. The 'Date Range' column has 'Start Date: (YYYY/MM/DD)' and 'End Date: (YYYY/MM/DD)' dropdown menus. Below the date range is an 'Output: FTP' field. At the bottom of the form is an 'Email Address' field with the value 'Michael.A.Weeks@noaa.gov'. There are two buttons: 'Continue With Selections' and 'Reset Form'. The footer of the page includes 'Privacy Policy', 'USA.gov', and 'Disclaimer' links, along with a version number 'HAS Production Version 8.0' and a timestamp 'This page was dynamically generated on 09 Dec 2009 @ 11:27:41 Eastern Time by http://has.ncdc.noaa.gov/pls/prod/plsql/HAS.StationYearSelect'.

- 2.3 The Request Verification page will display a list of all data available based on your selections on the Station Selection page. To retrieve all files listed, select the button next to **Retrieve ALL File From Pop-List Below**. To retrieve a subset of the files listed, select the button next to **Retrieve SELECTED Files From Pop-List Below**. Then click on the files listed you wish to retrieve while holding down the [Ctrl] key. Press the **Retrieve Selected Files** button to request the files.



- 2.4 The Data Retrieval Request Submitted page will show a verification of your request. The NCDC server will collect the data you requested and send an email when it is ready.



## 3.0 DOWNLOADING DATA FROM THE NCDC

- 3.1 Log in to one of the numbered orpg accounts on the Linux PC and make sure you are in the \$HOME directory.

```
lnxeng1 ~orpg2:/export/home/orpg2/data> cd $HOME [ENTER]
```

### 3.2 Create a directory to store your data.

```
lnxeng1 ~orpg2:/export/home/orpg2> mkdir level2 [ENTER]
lnxeng1 ~orpg2:/export/home/orpg2>
```

### 3.3 Start the ftp program and open a connection to the NCDC address provided in their email.

```
lnxeng1 ~orpg2:/export/home/orpg2> ftp [ENTER]
ftp> open ftp3.ncdc.noaa.gov [ENTER]
Connected to ftp3.ncdc.noaa.gov (205.167.25.146).
220 ProFTPD 1.3.1 Server (ProFTPD Default Installation) [205.167.25.146]
Name (ftp3.ncdc.noaa.gov:mweeks): anonymous [ENTER]
331 Anonymous login ok, send your complete email address as your password
Password: michael.a.weeks@noaa.gov [ENTER]
230 Anonymous access granted, restrictions apply
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
```

### 3.4 Change to the directory specified in the email from NCDC.

```
ftp> cd /pub/has/HAS001868016 [ENTER]
250 CWD command successful
```

### 3.5 Set the ftp environment variables to copy multiple binary files without being prompted for a “y” after each file.

```
ftp> binary [ENTER]
200 Type set to I
ftp> prompt [ENTER]
Interactive mode off.
```

### 3.6 Make your data directory the default location for downloaded files.

```
ftp> lcd /export/home/orpg2/level2 [ENTER]
Local directory now /export/home/orpg2/level2
```

### 3.7 Transfer all the data files.

```
ftp> mget * [ENTER]
local: KICT20030607_120321.Z remote: KICT20030607_120321.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,251,175).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_120321.Z (839101 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
839101 bytes received in 1.9 secs (4.3e+02 Kbytes/sec)
local: KICT20030607_120908.Z remote: KICT20030607_120908.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,235,197).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_120908.Z (833405 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
833405 bytes received in 1.56 secs (5.2e+02 Kbytes/sec)
local: KICT20030607_121456.Z remote: KICT20030607_121456.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,240,28).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_121456.Z (832589 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
832589 bytes received in 1.93 secs (4.2e+02 Kbytes/sec)
local: KICT20030607_122043.Z remote: KICT20030607_122043.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,246,43).
```

```
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_122043.Z (839156 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
839156 bytes received in 2.29 secs (3.6e+02 Kbytes/sec)
:
:
:      {REMOVED SEVERAL LINES OF TANSFERRING FILES}
:
:
local: KICT20030607_165347.Z remote: KICT20030607_165347.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,249,147).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_165347.Z (810087 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
810087 bytes received in 1.6 secs (4.9e+02 Kbytes/sec)
local: KICT20030607_165935.Z remote: KICT20030607_165935.Z
227 Entering Passive Mode (205,167,25,146,239,248).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for KICT20030607_165935.Z (800765 bytes)
226 Transfer complete
800765 bytes received in 2.25 secs (3.5e+02 Kbytes/sec)
```

### 3.8 Log out of the NCDC ftp server.

```
ftp> bye [ENTER]
221 Goodbye.
lnxeng1 ~orpg2:/export/home/orpg2>
```