

# WebOSB™ – Operational Status Boards

In an emergency situation, the ability to obtain, track, and share critical status information is crucial for emergency operations centers, incident command centers, hospitals, shelters, and other key facilities. Researchers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have developed an innovative web-based operational status boards capability that allows emergency-related information to be quickly and easily accessible to all components of a virtual operations center, regardless of their physical location.

WebOSB™ technology far exceeds outdated information-sharing methods using whiteboards, Word and Excel documents, or even locality-specific websites. WebOSB's improved capabilities include the following elements:

- **Multi-user status boards.** WebOSB provides a summary list of all status boards shared across multiple Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and jurisdictions. Information about the status boards' content, who owns it, when it was last modified, and other context about all of the status boards within a hazard is provided. WebOSB provides visual cues for users to “see” which status boards and records have been updated.
- **Secure access.** Multiple users can access information on WebOSB from any personal computer with Internet access and a secure ID. In addition to a secure connection and user access codes, privileges are used to control access and distribution of status information and to identify users who are authorized to add or edit information.
- **Simultaneous update.** WebOSB provides options for users to add, display, and update dynamic information simultaneously at all locations involved in the emergency management effort. A single status board can be updated from multiple locations, for example, enabling shelters and hospitals to post bed availability or list specific resources such as decontamination capability.



- **Publisher/subscriber notification.** As users access and view individual status boards, the notification system tracks their entry and automatically marks them as subscribers. Each subscriber will automatically receive notification of any new information relating to that specific status board. The publisher/subscriber notification provides visual cues for users to “see” which status boards and records have been updated. Each user is automatically notified of any new information relating to that specific status board.
- **The Designer.** WebOSB’s Designer allows users to quickly design and implement specific status boards in real time without consulting a software developer or web page designer. The Designer allows a local administrator to establish the structure of the status board, the layout of the display and input forms, what privileges are needed to access/update the status board, and how broadly the status board is shared between hazards and emergency operations centers. A new status board can be added in minutes during an exercise or real-world incident providing the ability to acquire, track, and share highly dynamic information in real time.
- **On-the-fly modification.** Allowing the design of an existing status board to be modified on-the-fly can be an asset to an EOC during an emergency, where information requirements can change quickly. The Designer allows a local administrator to quickly modify the layout or expand the contents of an existing status board. The updated design is applied the next time a user accesses or refreshes that status board. Because the existing design is expanded, pre-existing information remains within the status board. Users only enter information into the new elements of a status board without having to re-enter previously provided information.

WebOSB can be installed to fit the specific needs of an emergency management community. Because it was originally developed to concurrently support multiple EOCs at the local, county, and state level, it can also support multi-user environments for other types of projects.

WebOSB is the status board standalone application based on **EMADVANTAGE**<sup>®</sup>, which is an automated decision support system that supports emergency planning and response for local facility accidents or global disasters. It provides situation planning (“what if” scenarios) and response capabilities for a large multi-user environment.

**EMADVANTAGE** provides users at an EOC with the following major capabilities:

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| • Activity Descriptions                               | • EOC Activation/Emergency Declaration |
| • Hazard Modeling and Threatened Area                 | • Facility/Resource Management         |
| • Risk Identification and Protective Action Decisions | • Activity Tracking and Status Boards  |
| • Electronic Plan Generation/Execution                | • User Defined Status Boards           |
|   | • Operational Status Boards            |

For more information, see the WebOSB web site at <http://webosb.pnl.gov> or the **EMADVANTAGE** web site at <http://www.pnl.gov/emadvantage>.

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