Bloomsburg University Weather Viewer User's Manual

User's Manual

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Not yet typed – Highlighted in yellow
Needs to be updated – Highlighted in green
Completed – Not highlighted

Overview

Welcome

Thank you for downloading the Bloomsburg Weather Viewer! The Bloomsburg Weather Viewer is a program to gather information from the internet and a webcam and put it together for classroom use for an introductory meteorology class. Its purpose is to show the link between webcam images and data from the internet of the corresponding locations and present it in a single window. It also is to allow students to search for historical weather information to view.

This program was designed by the Object-Oriented Software Engineering class in Bloomsburg University's Computer Science program. It is a senior level class that focuses on getting the students to work on a large project while working as teams and using code from previous classes. As a long term goal, we would like to see it as a useful tool for an introductory meteorology class in other universities and schools.

Getting Started

User Types

GUEST: As a guest user, you can view all weather camera, map/loop diagram, and weather station plot data. You can also print and save/export all data. As a guest, you cannot change the default save directory, modify weather resources, change the password, add or edit users or classes, or access lessons.

STUDENT: As a student, you can change the default save directory, change your password, and view your instructor's class notes.

INSTRUCTOR: As an instructor, you can add and edit classes and students in your classes. You can also create class notes, which are viewable to the classes of your choosing. You can also modify web links and edit lessons.

ADMINISTRATOR: As an administrator, you can modify the weather resources, web links, and student databases.

Hardware System Requirements

To install the Bloomsburg University Weather Viewer, the following system requirements must be met before install:

- Space required: 30.82 MB **(will change)**
- QuickTime installed
    - if you need QuickTime, go to http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/ to download the latest version
- Windows XP or later
- 32-bit Java **(WILL CHANGE TO 64-bit)**

Important Note: Please make sure that you are installing as the administrator so that you have the appropriate access rights.

Installation

1. **(WILL BE EXECUTIBLE)**
2. Click install
3. Please read the license for detailed information about the usage of the Bloomsburg University Weather Viewer. After you finish, click continue.
4. The next window will prompt for the QuickTime install location. Browse for it, and then click next.
5. Please then enter your desired settings.
    a. Movie format: saves the movies to your desired format (default is .mov)
    b. Storage host: an IP address is needed to show where the storage host is
    c. Storage Port: A port number where the storage is
    d. Storage Root Folder: the folder where the storage will be kept
    e. Retrieval Host: an IP address is needed to show where the retrieval is
    f. Retrieval Port: A port number where the retrieval files are
    g. Movie Host: an IP address is needed for where the movies are
    h. Movie Port: a port number where the movie is
    i. Time Zone: What time zone you currently are in

    Then, after your desired settings are selected, then click continue
6. Enter the destination on the system where the program will go. It will also show how much memory is needed for the program and how much space you have left.
7. Installation now begins!

Congratulations! Thank you for downloading the Bloomsburg University Weather Viewer Client! For information about the Server install, please contact your system administrator.

Logging In

Once you start the program, a splash screen of information comes up, describing the basics of who created the program and the title of the program. After you click on the splash screen, a login screen pops up (***Figure 1***). The username and password for first time users will be provided by your teacher or system administrator. Enter the provided username and password and click "Login". If you have entered your username or password incorrectly, an error will pop up above the username and password text boxes, letting you know that it is incorrect and to try again (***Figure 2***).

Possible Actions

Login: This button logs the user in to the main program.

Login as Guest: This button logs the user in as a guest.

Email Password: This emails the password to the user to be able to log back in.

Close: This closes the login window

Figure 1

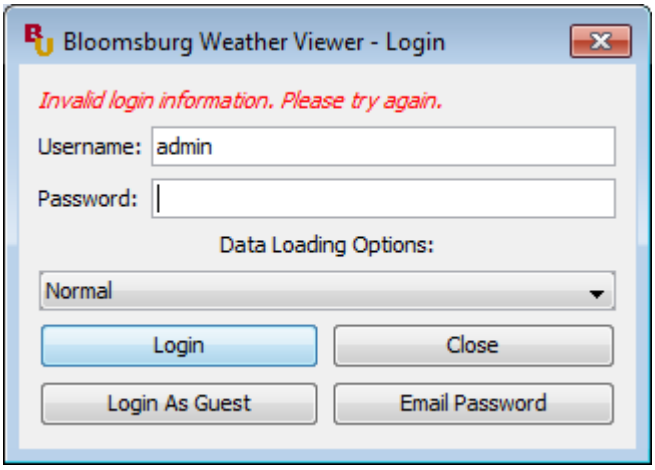


Figure 2

Selective Log In

There are also another few ways that you load the data when you login. One way is "Normal" (***Figure 3***), which is the setting that you would load all of the information normally. Another is "Selective" (***Figure 4***), which lets you choose the weather camera, the map data and weather station plot that you want to see first. You can also change the resource range, which means that you can chose the date range for the information you want. And the last way is "No Data Loaded" (***Figure 5***), which means the program starts without a camera, map or station data plot.

Figure 3

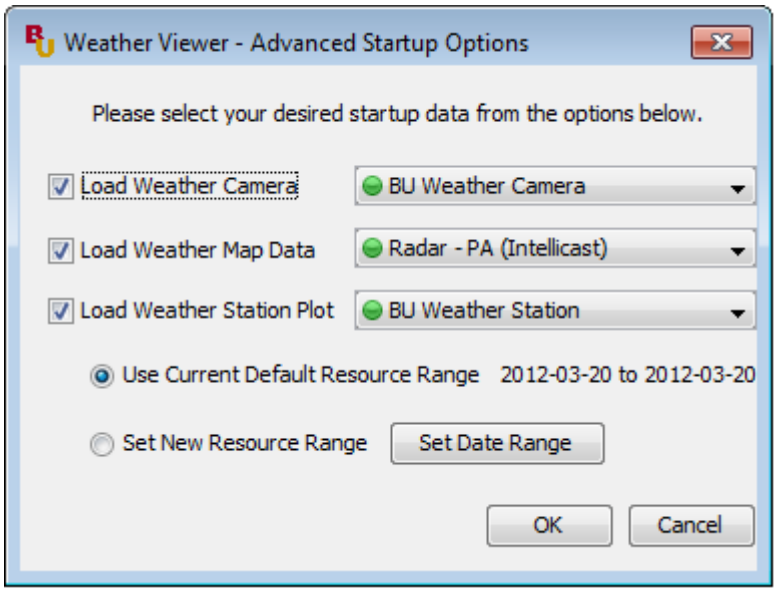


Figure 4

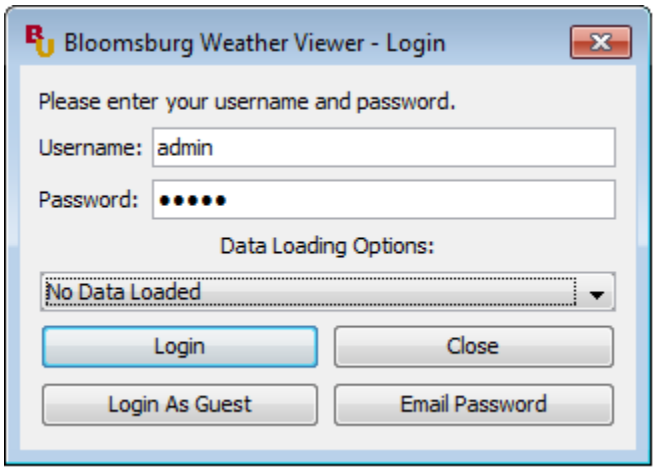


Figure 5

Basic Functions

Main Window Snapshot

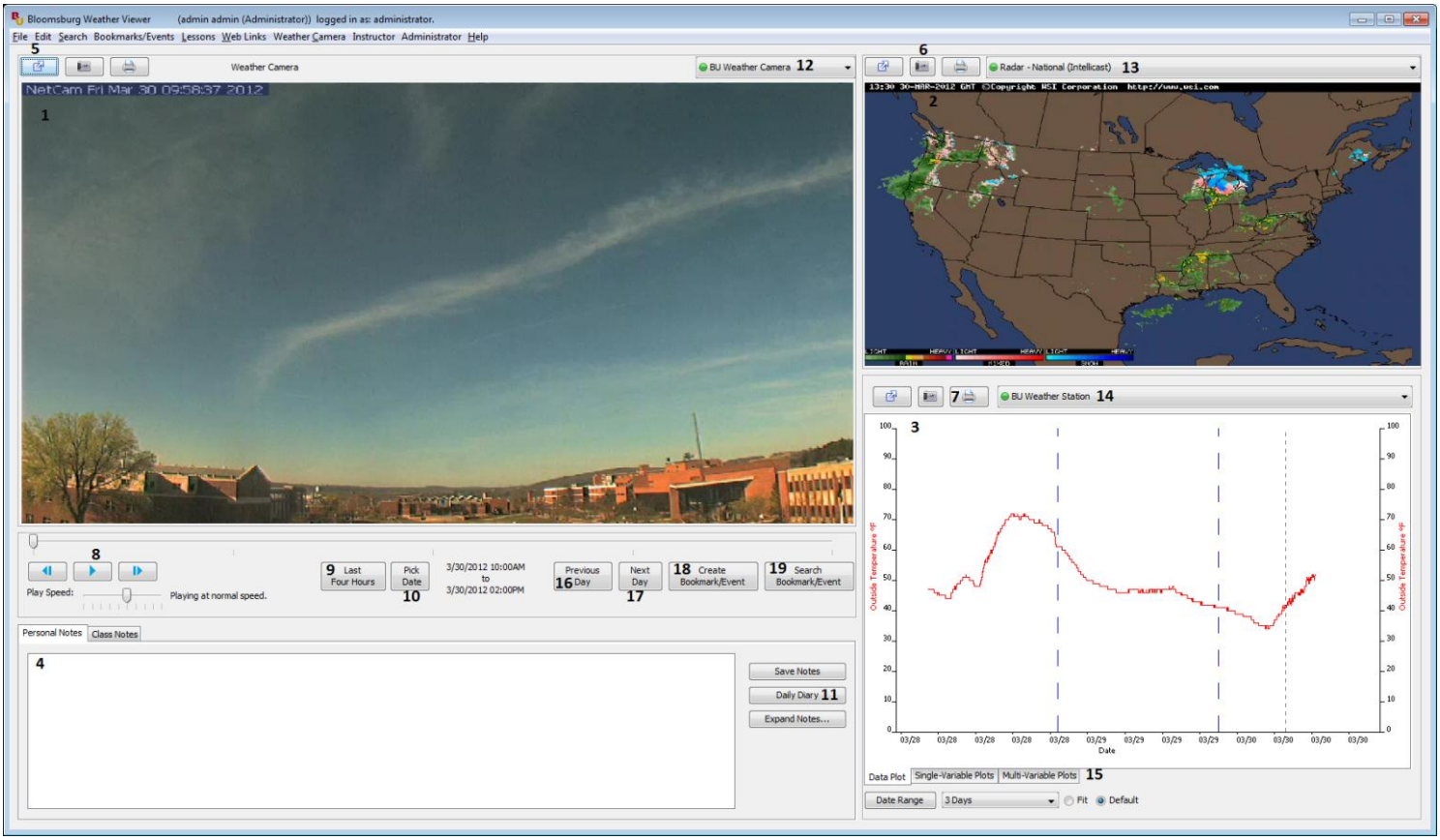


Figure 6

1 → Movie Viewer: This displays the movie that is desired.

2 → Weather Map: This displays different weather maps desired for the same time period as the movie.

3 → Data Plot: This displays different information associated with a time frame similar to the one in the movie.

4 → Notes: This is where the notes for the main window will be kept. There are 3 different types of notes: Personal Notes for you, Class Notes for an entire class using the application and Instructor Notes, for when the Instructor makes a few notes about the information in the 3 other panels.

5 →External Window: This shows an external window of the desired movie, map or data plot. One is attached to each.

6 → Snapshot: This button allows you to take a snapshot of a specific event to save.

7 →Print: This allows you to print out the movie, map or data plot.

8 → Play/Step Forward/ Step Backward: The movie player options to move through the movie.

9 → Last Four Hours: Shows the last 4 hours of the movie in the movie player.

10 → Pick Date: This allows you to choose a certain date range and time range for the movie.

11 → Daily Diary: This allows the user the save more detailed information about the conditions that day.

12 → Dropdown Menu (Movie): This displays a list of possible camera locations where you can view a movie.

13 → Dropdown Menu (Map): Displays a list of different weather maps that you can choose from to correspond to the movie.

14 → Dropdown Menu (Data Plot): This displays a list of different weather station to get information from.

15 → Plots: This allows you to choose a single variable plot or a multi variable plot where you can choose the different data you want to display on the data plot.

16 → Previous Day: Sets the time and day to the day before the one displayed.

17 → Next Day: Sets the time and day to the day after the current one displayed, if possible.

18 → Create Bookmark/Event: Creates a bookmark instance or event for that specific time.

19 → Search Bookmark/Event: Searches for a bookmark instance or event.

Movie Feature

This feature allows the user to view the weather for that specific day or a different day, so they can analyze the weather patterns.

Possible Actions

External Window: Shows the movie in a larger window.

Snapshot: Takes a snapshot of the current place in the movie and saves it.

Print: Prints the current shot in the movie player.

Step Forward/ Step Backward: Goes forward or backwards one image in the movie.

Play Speed: Changes the speed the movie is played.

Last Four Hours: This sets the date and time to the last 4 hours from the current time.

Pick Date: Sets the time and day that the movie should show in the movie player.

Previous Day: Sets the time and day to the day before the one displayed.

Next Day: Sets the time and day to the day after the current one displayed, if possible.

Create Bookmark/Event: Creates a bookmark instance or event for that specific time.

Search Bookmark/Event: Searches for a bookmark instance or event.

Weather Station Dropdown: Gives the ability to change the location of the camera.

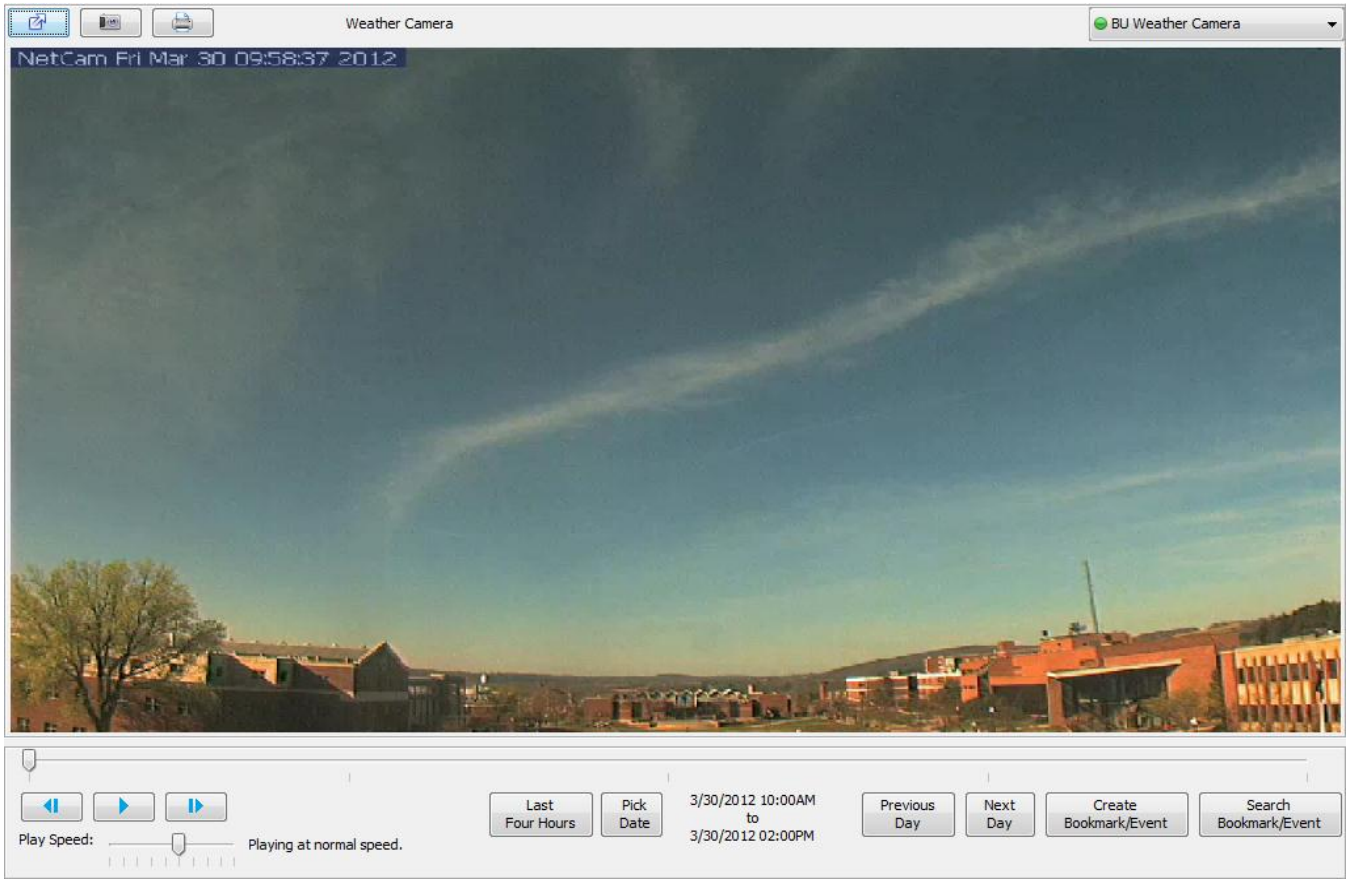

Weather Camera
BU Weather Camera
NetCam Fri Mar 30 09:58:37 2012
Play Speed:
Playing at normal speed.
Last Four Hours
Pick Date
3/30/2012 10:00AM to 3/30/2012 02:00PM
Previous Day
Next Day
Create Bookmark/Event
Search Bookmark/Event

Figure 7

Map Feature

This feature allows the user to see different weather maps to compare the weather in the movie of the maps. They can select different kinds of weather maps to compare the movie with.

Possible Actions:

External Window: Shows the movie in a larger window.

Snapshot: Takes a snapshot of the current place in the movie and saves it.

Print: Prints the current shot in the movie player.

Map Dropdown: Changes the map type desired.

Figure 8

Data Plot Feature

This feature allows the user to view weather data for a specific location on a graph, or compare different types of data on the same graph.

Possible Actions:

External Window: Shows the data plot in a larger window.

Snapshot: Takes a snapshot of the current data plot and saves it.

Print: Prints the current data plot.

Weather Station Dropdown: Gives the ability to change the location of the weather station the data plot information is coming from.

Data Plot: This displays the data plot for the given weather station and the given plot.

Single-Variable Plots: Different single variable data for the data plot to display for each weather station.

Multi-Variable Plots: Different multi-variable data for the data plot to display for each weather station.

Date Range: To change the date range to display in the data plot.

Day Dropdown: To change the number of days to display in the data plot.

Fit/Default: Changes the way the data plot is displayed: Fit shows the data plot in the range the plot is, default shows it in a larger range.

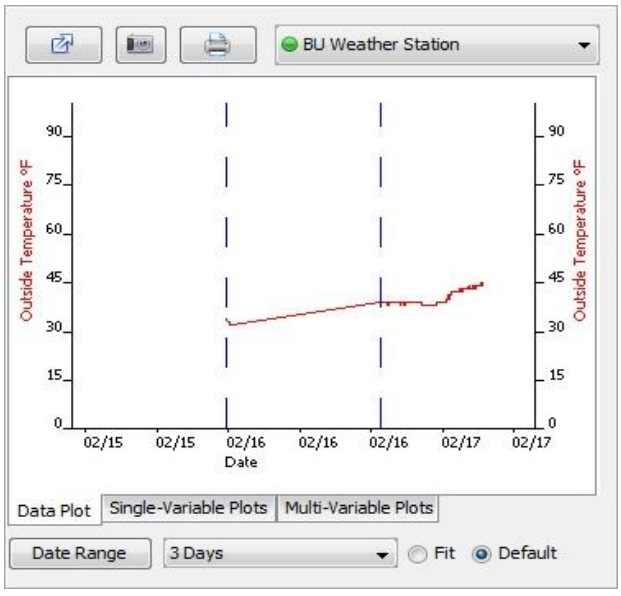


Figure 9

Bookmarks/Events Feature

This allows the user to save a snapshot or event that occurred in the weather. They can open it up at a later time to examine it.

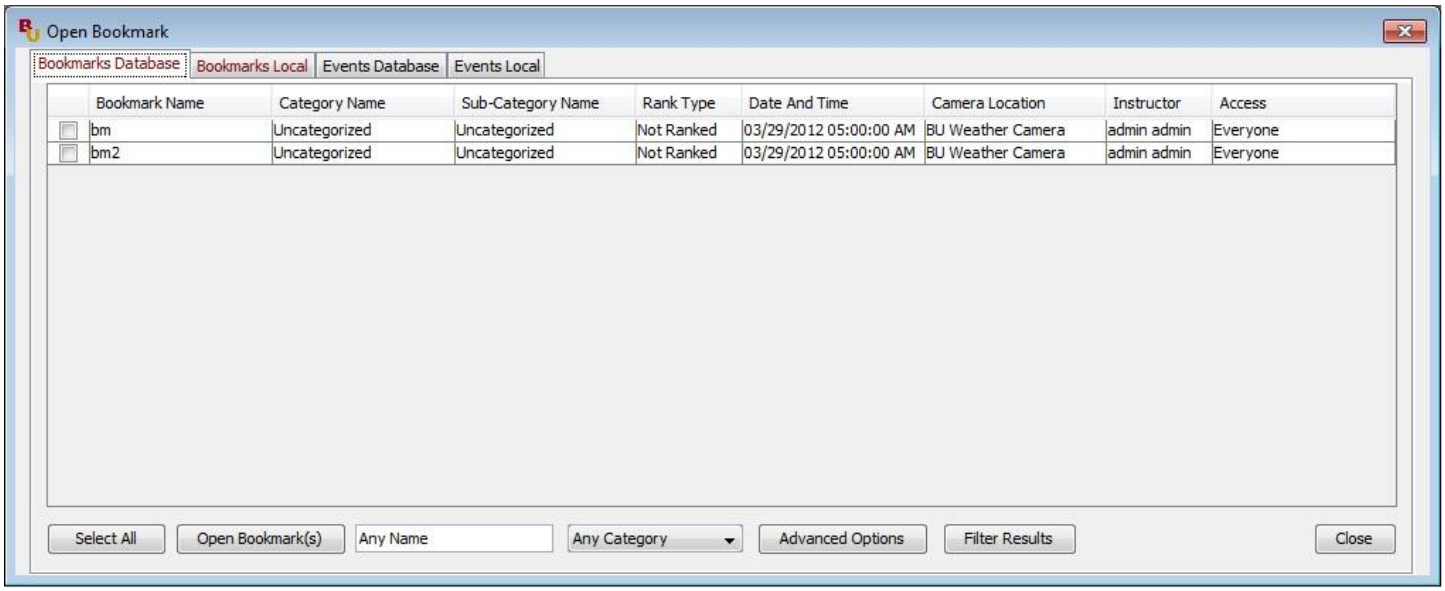
Possible Actions:

Open Bookmarks/Events: Opens an existing bookmark or event

Save Bookmark/Events: Saves the current changes made to a bookmark or event

Search Bookmarks/Events: Searches for a specific bookmark or event specific to the search criteria

Open Local Bookmark: Opens a bookmark you created



Notes Feature

This feature lets the user keep notes for what they are seeing in the movie, map or data plot and they can save them. The instructor can also create notes for the class.

Possible Actions:

Save Notes: Saves the notes just created

Expand Notes: An external window pops up so you could write more notes

Class Notes: Notes that are made available to the entire class

Refresh: Refreshes the class notes created (only under Class Notes tab)

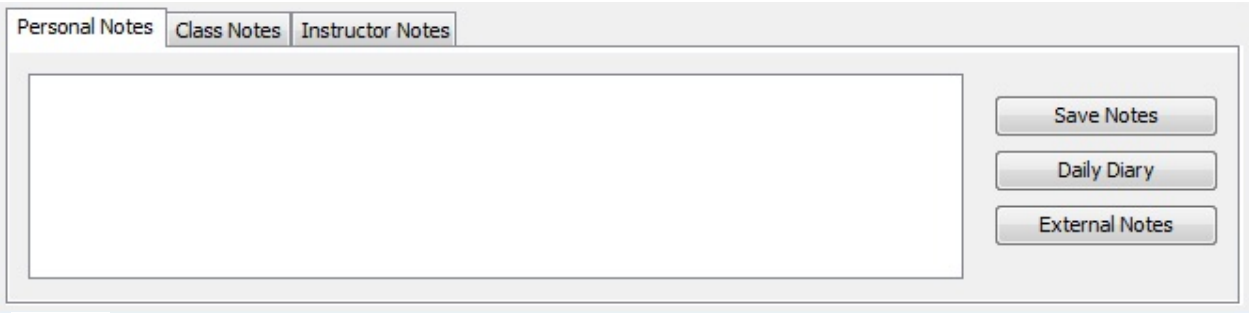


Figure 11

Daily Diary Feature

This allows the user to save specific information about a movie, map and/or data plot in a detailed entry.

Possible Actions:

Create Daily Diary Entry for a Different Day: Creates a brand new Daily Diary for a selected day

Save This Entry: Saves the current entry created

Export Daily Diary: Export the diary as a different format for a given day

Save and Close: Saves the current entry created and closes the window

Delete This Entry: Delete the current entry

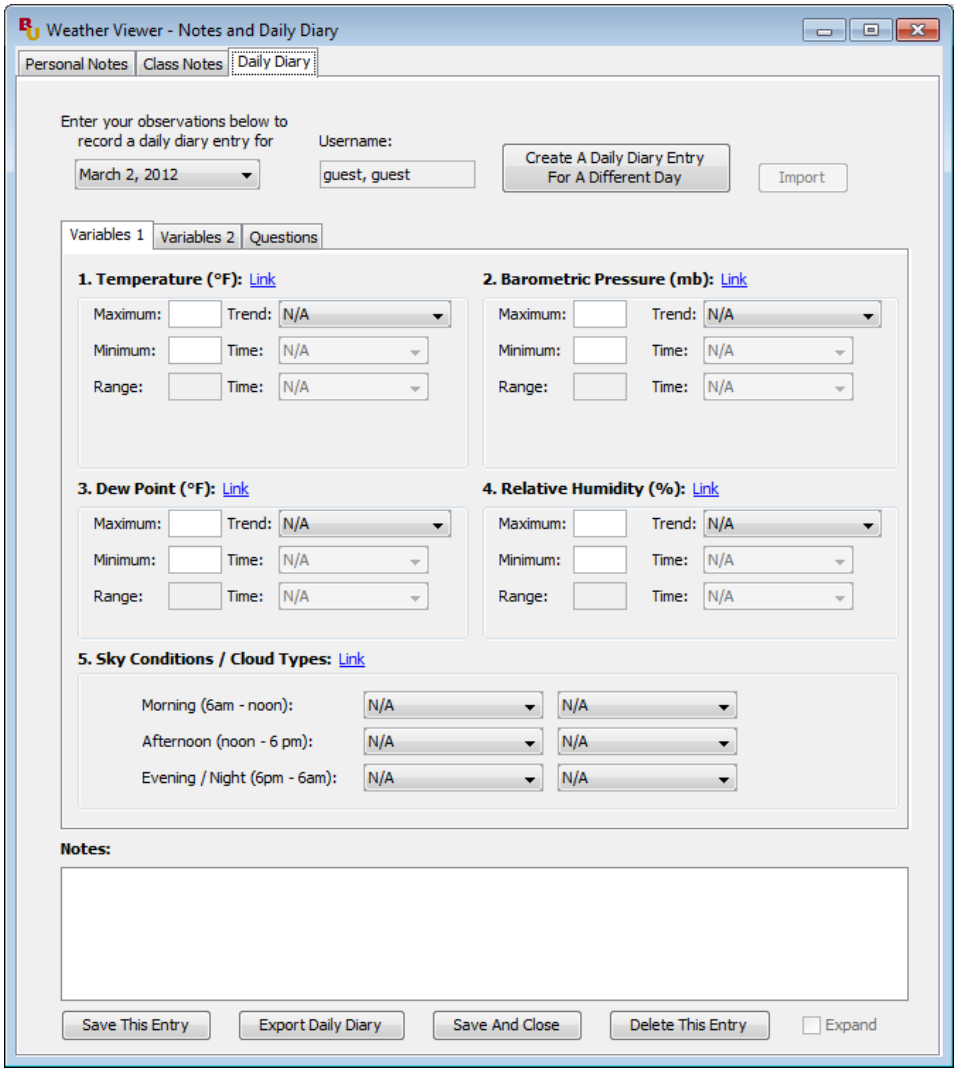


Figure 12

Tutorials

Change your password:

1) Go to Edit.
2) Select "Change Password". A window like the one below will open.
3) Enter your old password in the appropriate text box.
4) Enter your new password in the appropriate text boxes.
5) Click "Save".

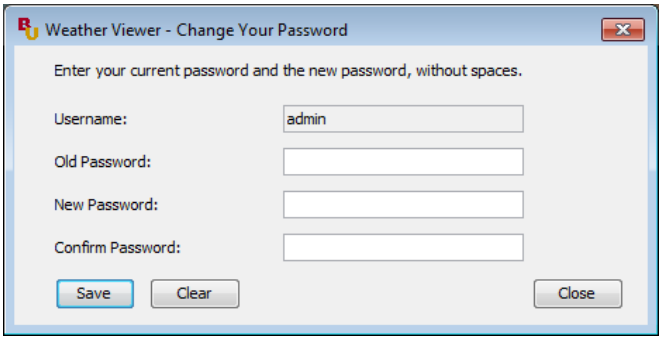


Figure 13

Bookmark Instance/Event

Create a new Bookmark Instance/Event:

1) Go to Bookmarks/Events.
2) Select "Create Bookmark/Event". An external window will open.
3) Select whether it is an Instance or an Event.
4) Enter the Bookmark name.
5) Fill in the other appropriate options.
6) Select "Create" when you have completed filling out the window.

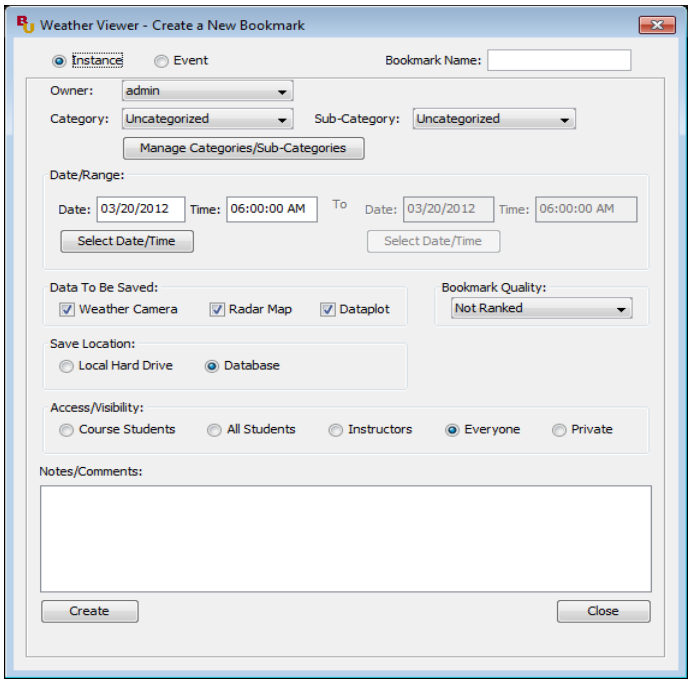


Figure 14

Open a Bookmark Instance/Event:

1) Go to Bookmarks/Events.
2) Select "Open Bookmarks/Events". A window like the one below will open with a list of Bookmarks and Events.
3) Select the appropriate tab to where you saved the bookmark.
4) Select the Bookmark or Event you just created by double-clicking it.

For the advanced way, go to page (something).

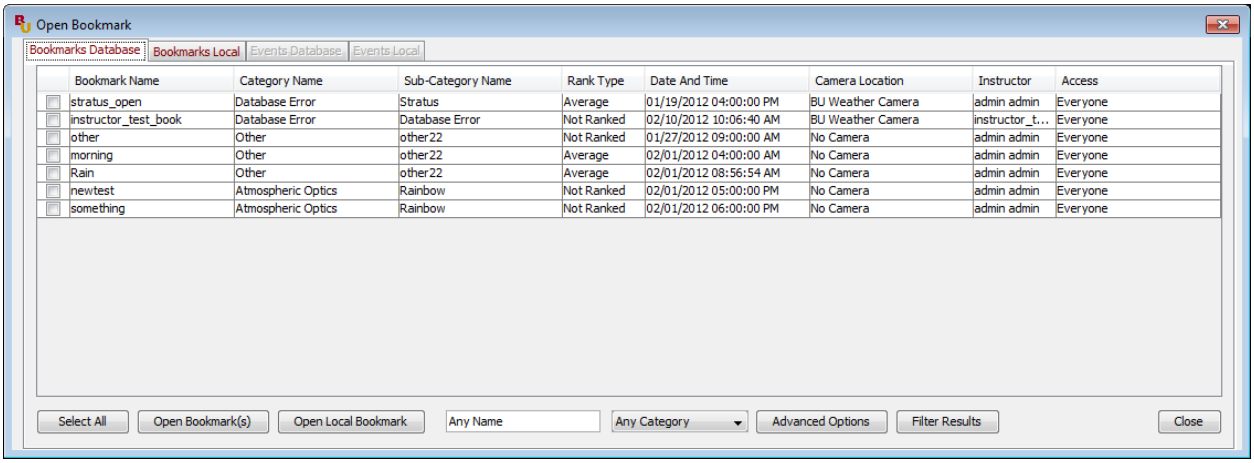


Figure 15

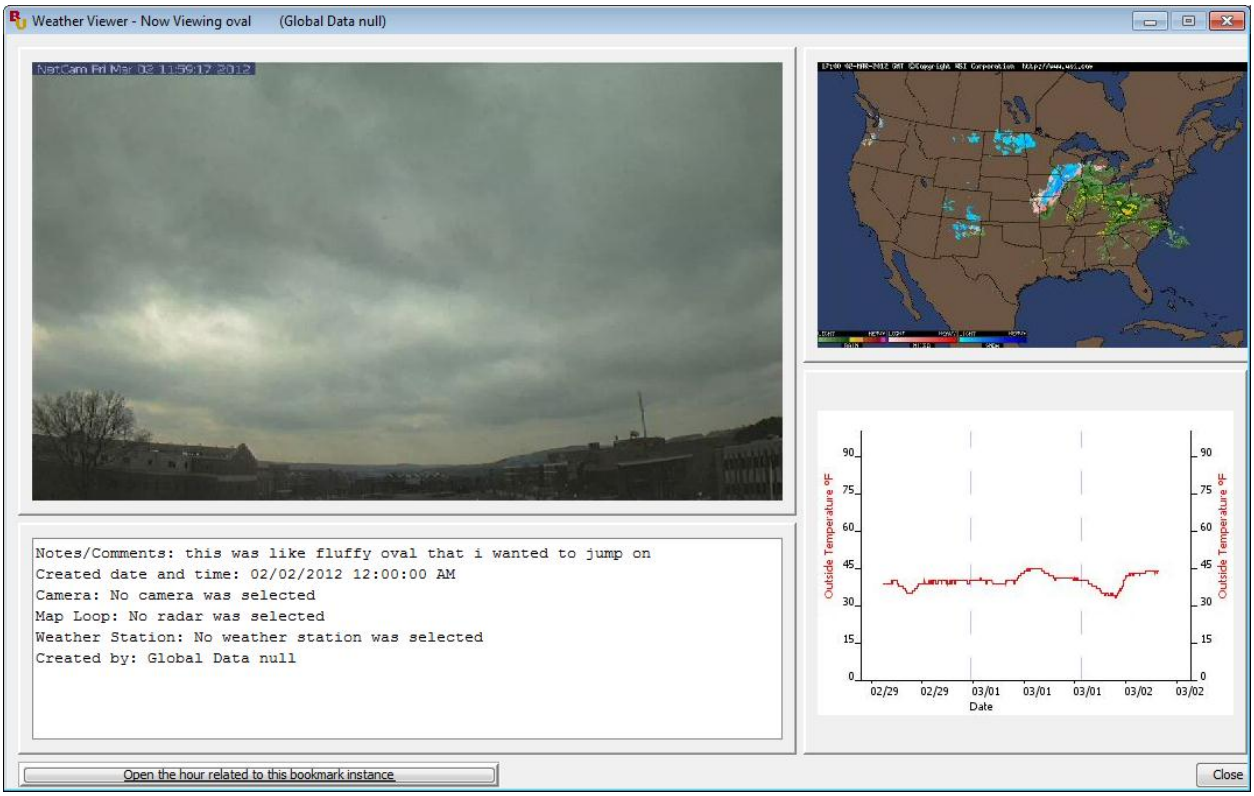


Figure 16

Search Bookmarks Instances/Events:

1) Go to Bookmarks/Events
2) Select "Search Bookmarks/Events". A window will pop up.
3) Select the appropriate category and/or Bookmark type to search.
4) Select "Search".

For the Advanced way, go to page (something).

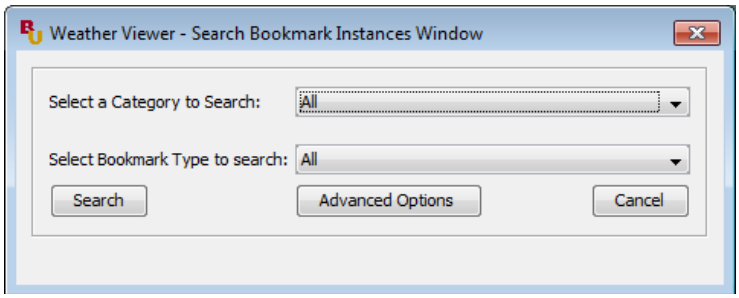


Figure 17

Daily Diary

Create a new Daily Diary entry:

1) Select "Daily Diary" on the main window. A window will pop up.
2) Enter the date for the diary entry from the dropdown, or select "Search for another Day" if the drop down does not contain the right date.
3) Enter the appropriate information needed for the diary entry. Please be sure to enter information for the "Variable 2"tab as well.
4) There are a few selections you can choose from:
    a. Select "Save This Entry" if you have finished creating the entry.
    b. Select "Export Daily Diary" if you want to export the diary into a different format.
    c. Select "Save and Close" if you want to save the current entry and close the window.
    d. Select "Delete this Entry" if you want to delete the current entry displayed in the daily diary window.

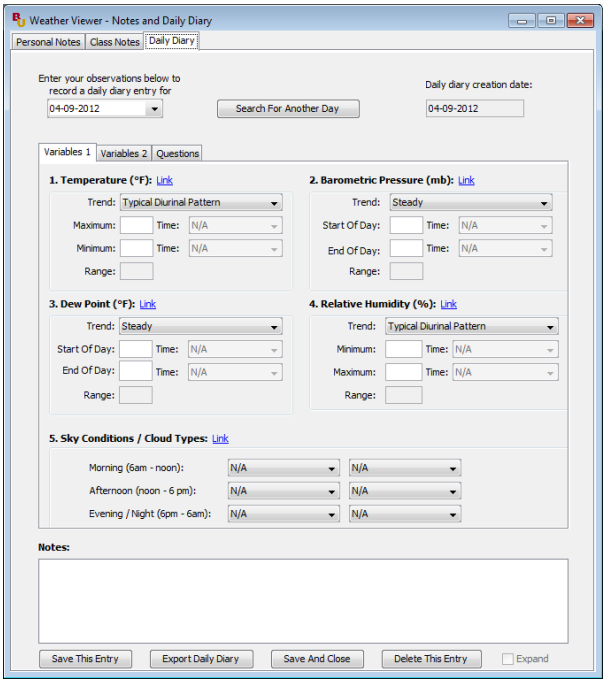


Figure 18

Export a Daily Diary entry:

1) Go to "File".
2) Hover over "Export".
3) Select "Daily Diary". A window will pop up (Figure 18).
4) Select the appropriate information as to how to export the data.
    a. Web Page (HTML) – exports the entry into a web page form.
    b. Spreadsheet (CSV) – exports the entry into an Excel CSV file.
    c. Text – exports the entry into a text file.
5) Select the destination folder of where your entry is.
6) Select the appropriate entry in that folder.
7) Select "Export".

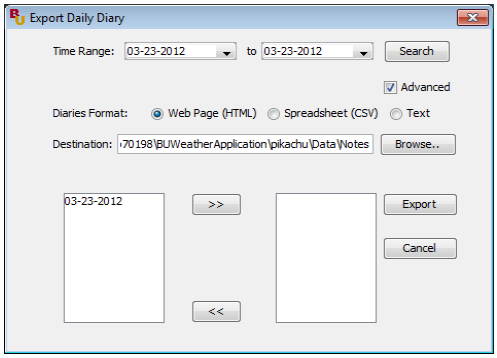


Figure 18

Lessons:

Open a Lesson:

1) Go to "Lessons".
2) Select "Open Lesson". A window like the one below opens (Figure 19).
3) Select a Lesson Category by double-clicking on it. Another window will pop up (Figure 20).
4) On this new window, a list of lessons in that specific category comes up. Double click the lesson you want to open.

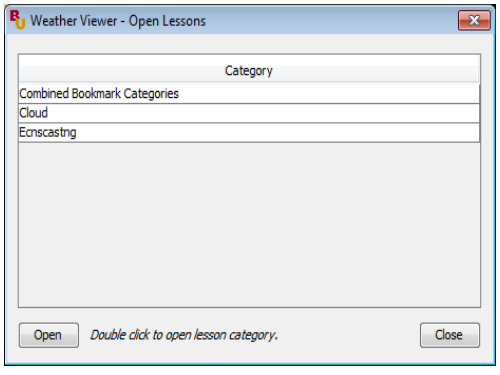


Figure 19

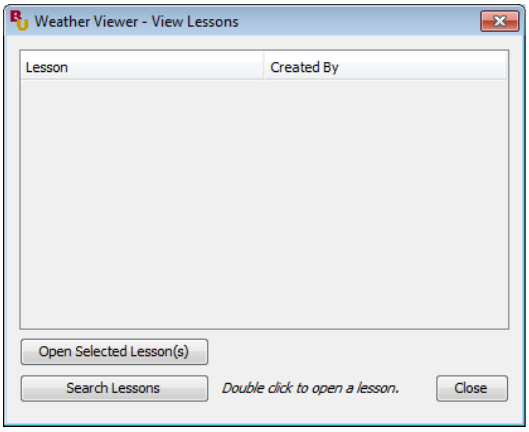


Figure 20

Other:

Contact Administrator:

1) Go to Help.
2) Select "Contact the Administrator". A window will pop up (Figure 20).
3) Fill out the appropriate comments for the administrator.
4) Click "Submit".

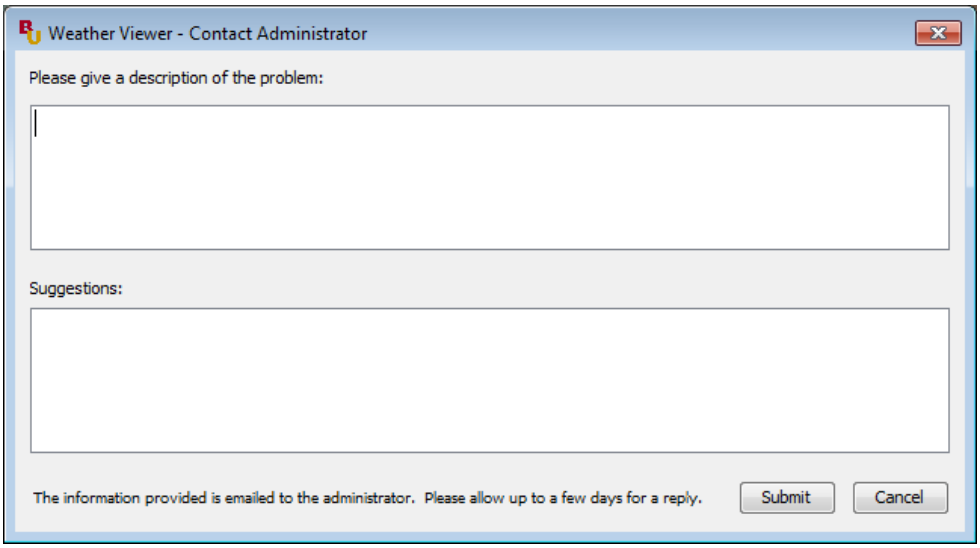


Figure 20

Instructor's Section

For Your Information

Thank you for using the Bloomsburg Weather Viewer for your class! As you may know, students may struggle with new software, so there are a few things you should know about the program in case you or your students run into any problems.

DATA: Data for the Weather Viewer comes from a variety of locations. It really depends on where the data is (e.g. If the location you're viewing is Jackson Hole, Wyoming). It generally comes from weatherunderground.com, but the Bloomsburg camera and data comes from the Weather Den at weather.bloomu.edu.

PERFORMANCE: Suppose you have students that live off campus and they need to download information or use the program. Please let them know that the program will run a little bit slower off campus than on campus and to plan accordingly.

DOWNLOADS: If you were to ask the class to download different sets of data to the Weather Viewer, students may find that they cannot download more than one set of data. The Weather Viewer allows a user to download an unlimited number of data sets, but unfortunately, the client portion of the program only will do one download at a time. In a future update, the client will be able to handle multiple downloads at once.

BOOKMARKS: It's important to know where Bookmark Instances and Events are. There are 2 options that you and the student can choose. The default location of where the Bookmarks are going is in the database. This provides the user to be connected to their Bookmarks and other Bookmarks the administrator allows the user to see. You will be able to change where Bookmarks are stored to your local drive if you choose to.

Tutorials

Change your password:

1) Go to Edit.
2) Select "Change Password". A window like the one below will open.
3) Enter your old password in the appropriate text box.
4) Enter your new password in the appropriate text boxes.
5) Click "Save".

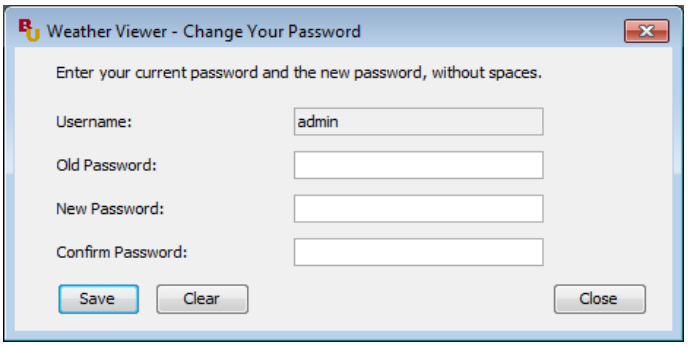


Figure 20

Classes

Add a Class:

1) Go to Instructor.
2) Hover over "Manage Classes".
3) Select "Manage Your Classes".
4) Select "Add Class…" in the bottom left corner. A window like the one below will pop up.
5) Enter the appropriate information for the class.
6) Select "Add Class".

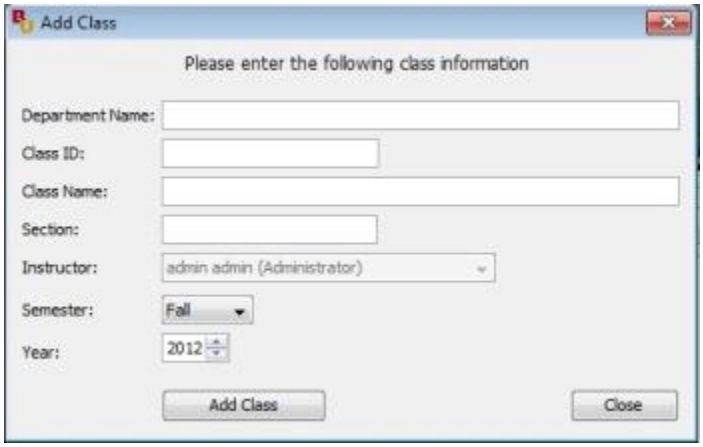


Figure 21

Manage your Class:

1) Go to Instructor
2) Hover over Manage Classes
3) Select "Manage Your Classes". A pop up window like the one below will pop up (Figure 1).
4) Select the specific class of yours that you would like to edit by double-clicking on it.
5) Edit the class accordingly.
6) Select "Save Changes" to save the changes you made to the class.

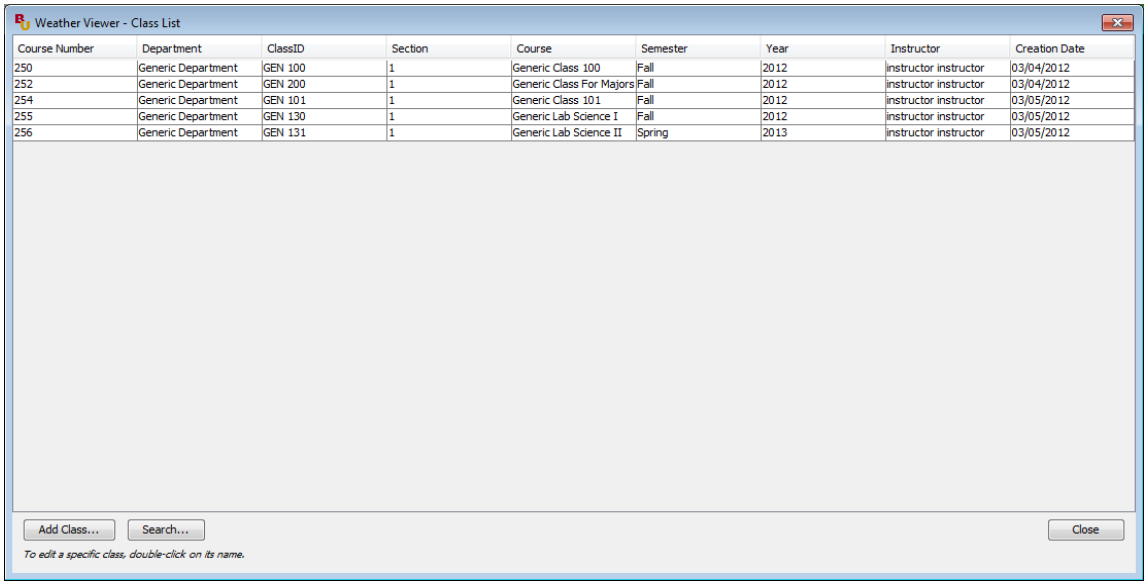


Figure 22

If you want to see the student list:

1) Select "List Students Enrolled".

If you want to add or remove students from your class:

1) Select "Add/Remove Students".
2) Then, you can select a number of options on here to do what you want to do.
    a. Select "Add New Student" to add a new user to the database and class.
    b. Select "Add Students" to add students already in the database to the class.
    c. Select "Remove Students" to remove students from your class.
    d. Select the appropriate tab to manage your student list.
        i. Add/Remove Individual Students (Figure 2) – add or remove students one at a time.

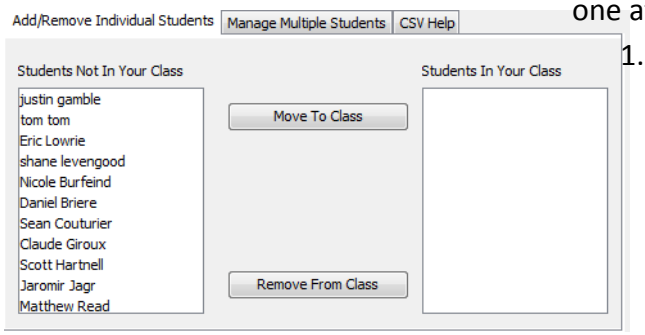


Figure 23

1. Select "Move to Class" to move a student from the list on the left to the one on the right.

2. Select "Remove from Class" to move a student from the list on the right to the one on the left.

ii. Manage Multiple Students (Figure 3) – add or remove a few students at once by following these steps:

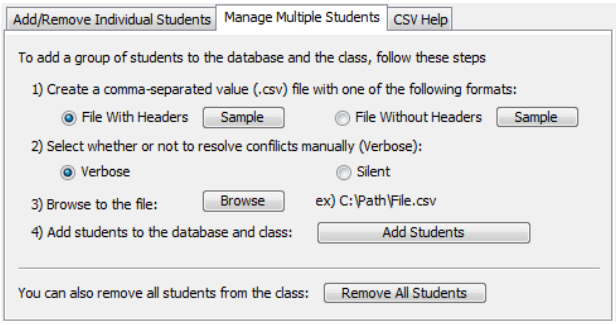


Figure 24

1. Create a Comma-Separated Value file – allow you to create a list of students and their information in a CSV file in Excel.
    a. Select "File with Headers" if you plan on creating a CSV file with headers.
    b. Select "File without Headers" if you plan on just putting the student information in the CSV file without headers.
2. Resolve conflicts manually – allows you to edit the information of the student if they are in the database.
    a. Verbose – allows you to edit the information of the student if they already are in the database manually.
    b. Silent – automatically allows the database to change the information for you.
3. Browse to the file – allow you to look for the file in the hard drive.
    a. Select "Browse" to do so.
4. Add students to the database and class – adds the students from the CSV file to the class and database.
    a. Select "Add Students" to do so.

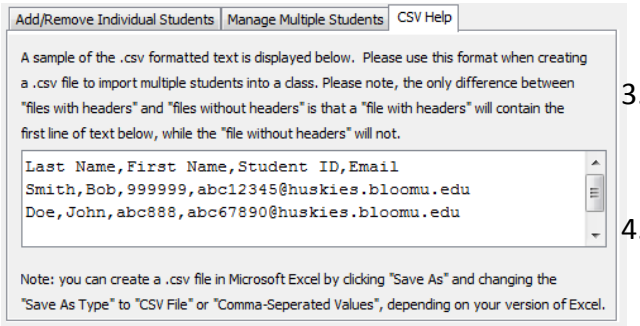


Figure 25

iii. CSV Help (Figure 4) – if you need help with creating a CSV file and an example of how a CSV file should look.

3) Select "Close" when you are done adding and/or removing students from the class.

If you would like to remove the class from the database:

1) Select "Remove Class".

7) Select "Close" when you are done editing that class.

Remove Old Classes:

1) Go to Instructor.
2) Hover over "Manage Classes".
3) Select "Remove Old Classes".

4) Select a number of years to see classes that are that number of years old.
5) Select a class in that time range to remove.
6) Select "Purge Classes".
7) A warning will pop up asking if you are sure if you want to delete that class. If you're sure, select "OK". If you're not sure, select "Cancel".

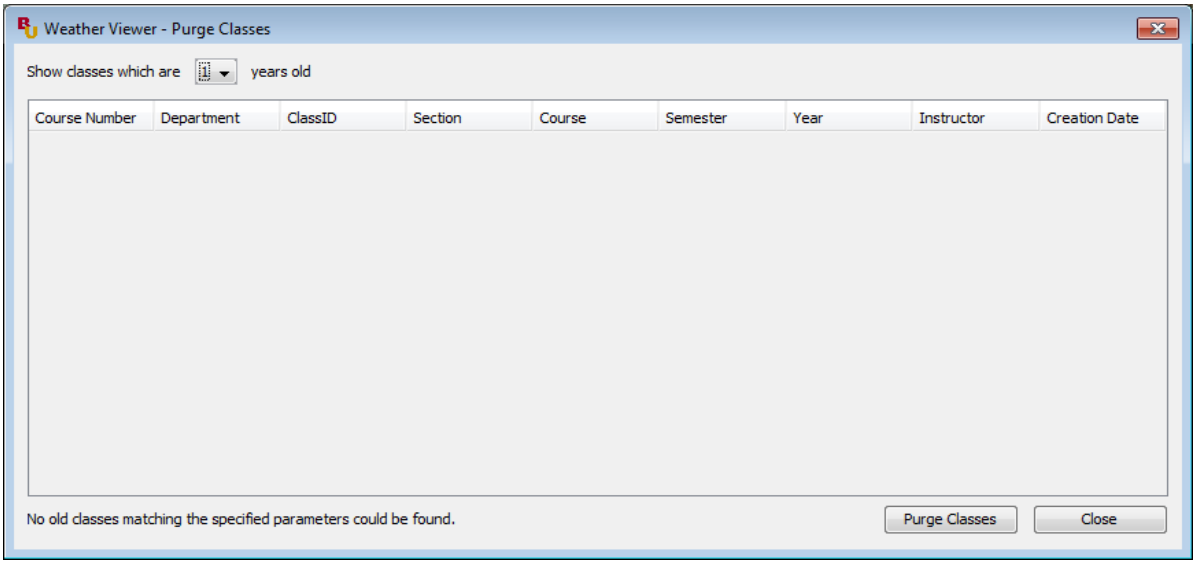


Figure 26

Manage Student Enrollment:

1) Go to Instructor.
2) Hover over "Manage Classes".
3) Select "Manage Student Enrollment". A window that looks like the one below will pop up.

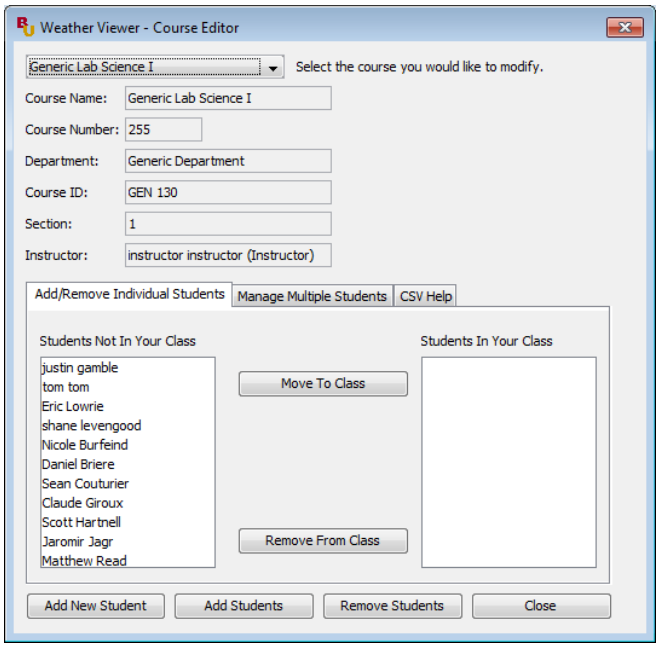


Figure 27

4) Then, you can select a number of options on here to do what you want to do.
    a. Select "Add New Student" to add a new user to the database and class.
    b. Select "Add Students" to add students already in the database to the class.
    c. Select "Remove Students" to remove students from your class.
    d. Select the appropriate tab to manage your student list.
        i. Add/Remove Individual Students – add or remove students one at a time.
            1. Select "Move to Class" to move a student from the list on the left to the one on the right.
            2. Select "Remove from Class" to move a student from the list on the right to the one on the left.
        ii. Manage Multiple Students – add or remove a few students at once by following these steps:

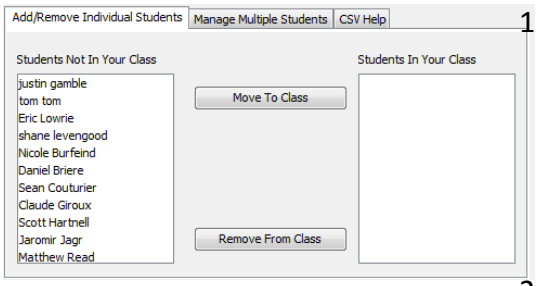


Figure 28

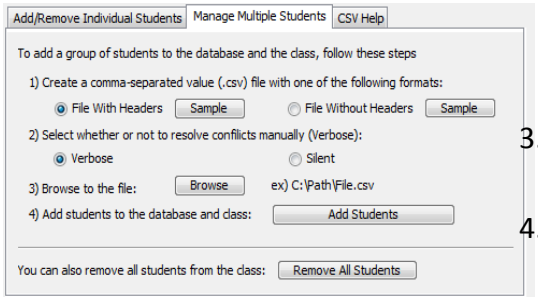


Figure 29

1. Create a Comma-Separated Value file – allow you to create a list of students and their information in a CSV file in Excel.
    a. Select "File with Headers" if you plan on creating a CSV file with headers.
    b. Select "File without Headers" if you plan on just putting the student information in the CSV file without headers.
2. Resolve conflicts manually – allows you to edit the information of the student if they are in the database.
    a. Verbose – allows you to edit the information of the student if they already are in the database manually.
    b. Silent – automatically allows the database to change the information for you.
3. Browse to the file – allows you to look for the file in the hard drive
    a. Select "Browse" to do so.
4. Add students to the database and class – adds the students from the CSV file to the class and database.
    a. Select "Add Students" to do so.

        iii. CSV Help – if you need help with creating a CSV file and an example of how a CSV file should look

5) Select "Close" when you are done adding and/or removing students from the class.

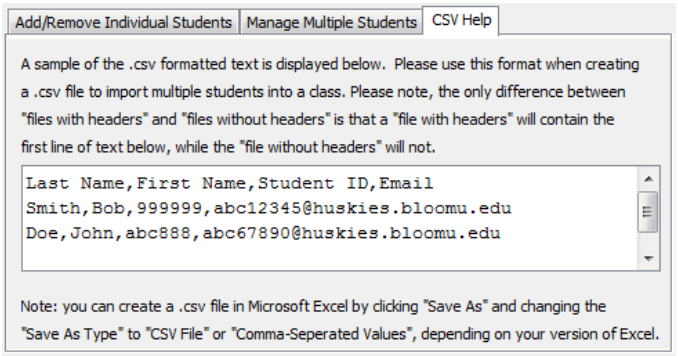
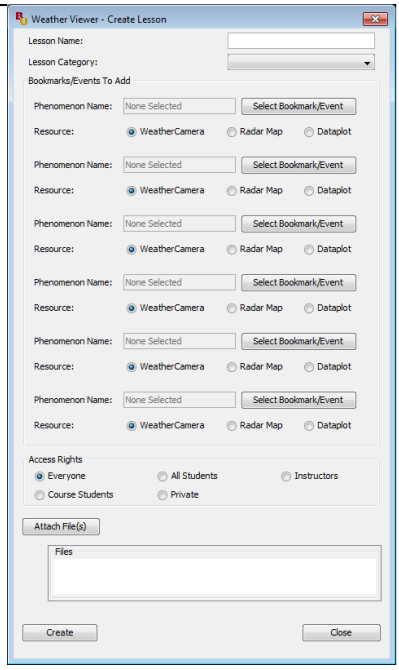


Figure 30



Lesson

Add a Lesson:

1) Go to Instructor
2) Hover over "Manage Lessons".
3) Select "Add Lesson". A window will pop up (Figure something).
4) Enter the desired information and files about the lesson.
5) After you're done, click "Create".

Edit a Lesson:

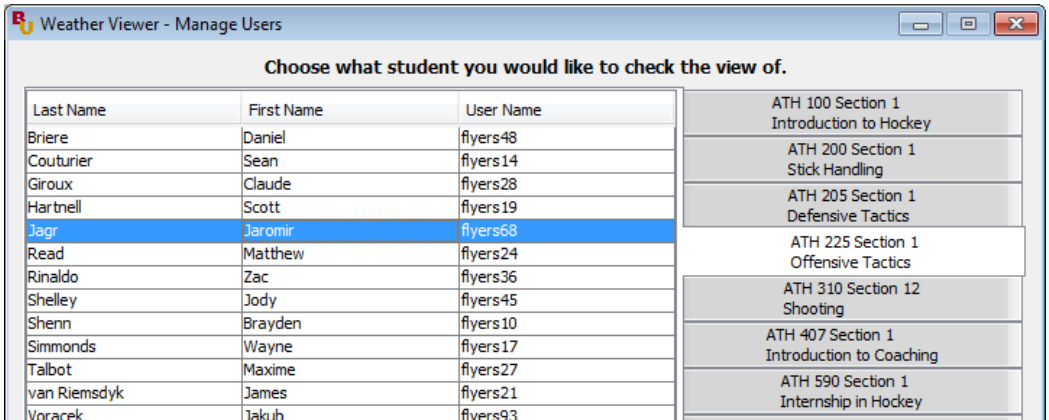
1) Go to Instructor.
2) Hover over "Manage Lessons".
3) Select "Edit Lesson".
4) Stuff happens here when it's actually implemented.

List your Lessons:

1) Go to Instructor
2) Hover over "Manage Lessons".
3) Select "List Lessons".
4) Stuff happens here when it's actually implemented.

Delete a Lesson:

1) Go to Instructor.
2) Hover over "Manage Lessons".
3) Select "Delete Lessons".
4) Stuff happens here when it's actually implemented.

View Main Window as Student:

1) Go to Instructor.
2) Select "View as Student". A window like the one below will pop up.
3) Select a student to view the main window as by double-clicking the name.
4) The main window will pop up as if you are that student.