WxReport

A TAK Suite Plug-in
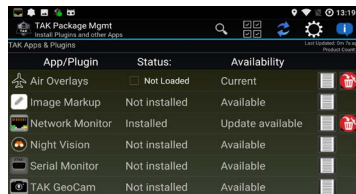
1 August 2017

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The WxReport plugin provides ATAK users with the capabilities to query for the weather forecast at a given location and add weather overlays to the map.
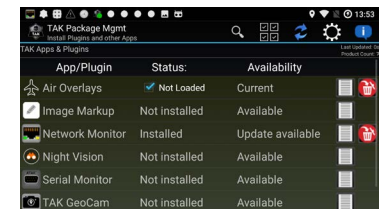
Note: An Internet connection is required to do forecast query and to download weather overlay data. When no Internet connection is available weather overlays may be displayed but they will not updated until a connection with the Internet is re-established.
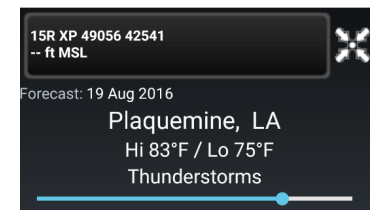
Loading a Plugin

Loading Plug-in applications into ATAK can be done through the TAK Package Mgmt Interface. Navigate to the TAK Package Mgmt screen as follows: Settings / Tool Preferences/ TAK Package Mgmt. A list of currently installed application and plug-ins will be displayed. If the plug-in is not in the list press the SYNC_ICON to update the list. You will notice the plug-in has the STATUS: unloaded. Check the checkbox to load your plug-in. You can also uncheck the box to unload your plug-in at any time. Notice that this does not uninstall your plug-in. Use the TRASH_ICON to uninstall a plug-in.

In the settings menu SETTINGS_ICON you have the option to scan for plug-ins on startup. This will insure your plug-in will load on subsequent ATAK and runs without repeating this process. You can check the version details of your plug-in by pressing the DETAILS_ICON.

Forecast

The Forecast panel shows the user the forecast for a given location for the next nine days. When the Forecast panel is showing, the user may click anywhere on the map to query the forecast data. A location may be manually entered by clicking on the Coordinate view. Clicking on the Pan To button will recenter the map over the location of the forecast. The slider bar at the bottom of the Forecast panel controls which day the forecast is displayed for. When the slider is all the way to the left, the forecast for today is displayed; when the slider is all the way to the right, the forecast for nine days from today is displayed.

Overlays

The Wx Report plugin is capable of overlaying weather data on the ATAK map. The plugin uses the same XML format used by ATAK for WMS/WMTS web imagery services for defining weather layers. The plugin comes prepackaged with a WMS configuration for a weather radar overlay using NOAA's nowcoast web services. Users may add additional weather overlays by copying WMS/WMTS XML configuration files into the atak/tools/wx directory on the Android device's local storage. Weather overlays will automatically refresh at a rate of once per 60 seconds.

Note: The NOAA overlay only provides weather radar data over the United States.

The plugin provides visibility and transparency controls for each weather overlay. Visibility is toggled by clicking the Visibility button to the left of the overlay item. Transparency is controlled by the Transparency slider. When the slider is positioned all the way to the left the overlay will be transparent; when it is positioned all the way to the right it will be fully opaque. The plugin will remember transparency and visibility settings for each overlay when ATAK is exited.