

ATCF storm archive management:

ATCF contains a storm specific archive that may date back to the late 1800s in the Atlantic and 1940s in the western North Pacific. Each installation contains a different set of data in its archive, which is dependent on the interests of the site. The archive is structured such that the entire archive is contained in the directory specified by the \$ATCFARCHIVES variable. Inside that directory is a header file named storm.table and year directories containing storm files for each storm in the given year. For example, the \$ATCFARCHIVES/2009 directory listing below contains storm files for n1 storms in basin b1, n2 storms for basin b2,:

<2009 directory listing, probably shortened somewhat>

Each storm can have these file types:

b<stormid>.dat
a<stormid>.dat
f<stormid>.dat
e<stormid>.dat

and the associated log files:

b<stormid>.log
a<stormid>.log
f<stormid>.log
e<stormid>.log

After every year the forecasters should go through and quality control the individual storms via the ATCF user interface. Once this is done, the ATCF administrator does the final archiving and quality control. The steps for which follow:

- 1) Using ATCF, do a “cleanup storm files” for the year to be archived,
- 2) Make a backup of the \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table in the \$ATCFARCHIVES directory,
- 3) Copy \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table to \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table.new
- 4) go through and insure that each entry in the \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table.new has matching storm files and visa versa
- 5) set the STORM_STATE variable in the storm.table to “ARCHIVE” and insure that the other entries are set appropriately. See past years for examples and the ATCF database documentation for variable definitions:
www.nrlmry.navy.mil/atcf_web/docs/database/new/database.html
- 6) check for stray files in the \$ATCFARCHIVES/year directory and move/remove
- 7) gzip all the *.dat files, but leave the .log files unpacked
- 8) Copy \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table.new \$ATCFARCHIVES/storm.table

- 9) Check the storms individually using the ATCF user interface to insure that each storm displays (track, aids, fixes) and that these files are for the right storms
- 10) If storms all check out, archival is complete.