



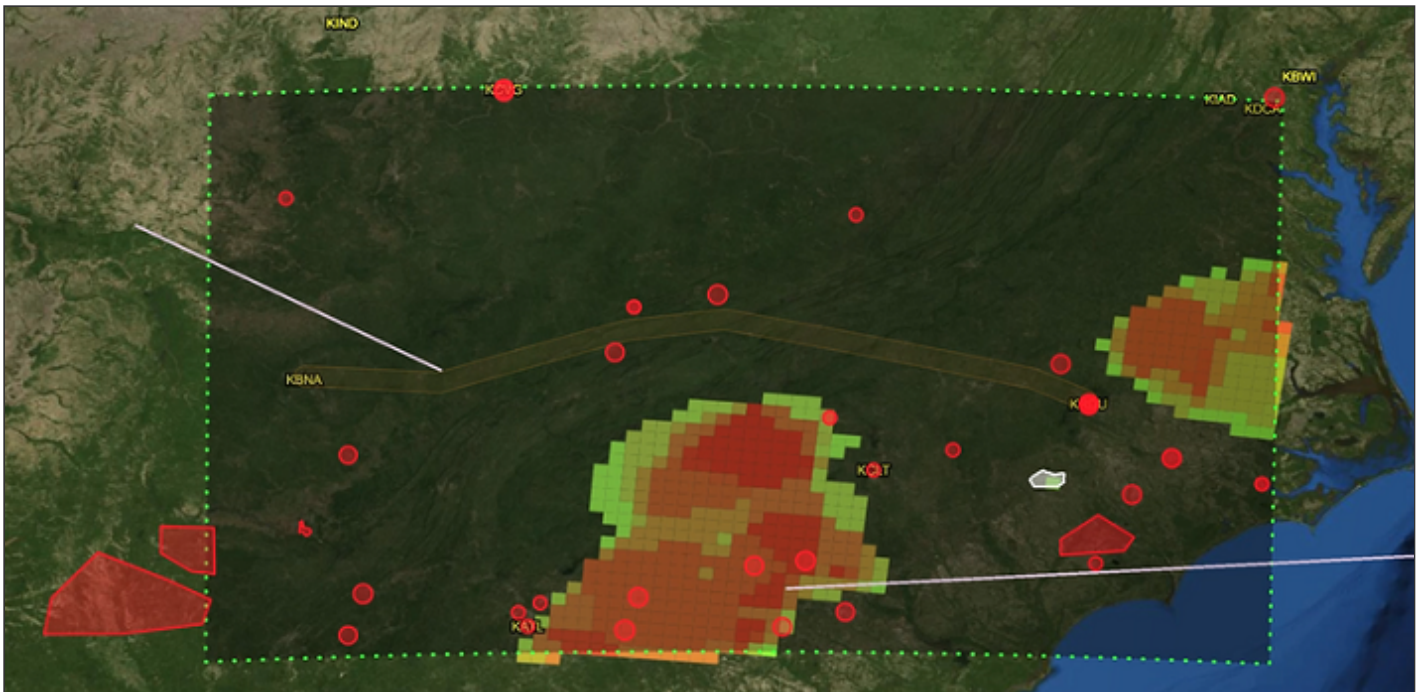
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SWIM Evolves to Meet Users' Needs

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In the future, with SWIM capabilities such as NAS Common Reference, users will be able to fuse data for better decision-making.

With new features and projects on the horizon, System Wide Information Management (SWIM) is making headway in balancing its primary role as a digital data-sharing hub for the aviation community and addressing users' needs.

At its core, SWIM provides the infrastructure, standards, and services needed to optimize the secure exchange of relevant data for the National Airspace System (NAS) and the aviation community.

SWIM was originally created to focus on supplying data for internal NAS users and to alleviate duplicative connections between systems. SWIM created a single point of access for aviation data where producers can publish once, and users can retrieve the data through a singular connection. This data covers several aspects of the NAS including aeronautical, flight and flow, weather and surveillance information.

SWIM Program Manager Kristin Cropf says that, as a service, SWIM “aggregates and shares data internally and externally to support the mutually beneficial connection between NAS systems and external stakeholders, such as airlines.” For instance, the safe and reliable exchange of pertinent data helps NAS systems manage all aspects of air traffic more efficiently. This benefits airlines that use the same data to make more informed decisions to reduce delays and navigate routes. The data further informs decisions about other factors that are critical to airline operations.

SWIM continues to remain a valuable resource for our collaborative partners, and has recently implemented programmatic updates such as the [SWIM Cloud Distribution Service \(SCDS\)](https://scds.swim.faa.gov/) (<https://scds.swim.faa.gov/>) *[Note: link can only be opened in Chrome]*, Enhanced SWIM Cloud Service (ESCS), and the [SWIM-FAA Industry Team \(SWIFT\) Portal](https://my.faa.gov/focus/articles/2021/03/SWIFT_Portal_to_Deli.html) (https://my.faa.gov/focus/articles/2021/03/SWIFT_Portal_to_Deli.html). SCDS enables external users to access data via cloud services. While this information flow is one-directional, the data is readily available to external users. Developed in 2019, the objective of SCDS was to offload data from the gateway to reduce bandwidth, which results in easier access to retrieve data and faster “on-ramping” for users. “On-ramping” refers to the process associated with initiating a SWIM user to consume or produce data.

Future SWIM initiatives are hoping to streamline this process for internal NAS users, as well. Contrastingly, Cropf said ESCS enables “bi-directional data exchange with airlines and other airspace users to support more advanced business services and processing.” Intended for operational use, ESCS provides users with data to boost strategic decision making that will result in increased operational efficiency. Lastly, the SWIFT Portal plans to launch for use in spring 2021. This enhancement to SCDS offers users a centralized location to access SWIM data, community forum to share announcements, online FAQs, ticketing system for better tracking of user issues, chat support, and more.

As a program, “SWIM strives to meet the ever-evolving needs of the NAS and the aviation industry,” said Cropf. “Striking this balance has led to identifying and implementing innovative ways to operate more efficiently and increase communication amongst stakeholders.” [SWIFT](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/technology/swim/swift/) (https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/technology/swim/swift/), from which the SWIFT Portal derives its name, was established in 2017 to realize this goal. SWIFT is a partnership with industry to unify operations, business, and technical minds to share knowledge and better leverage NAS Information Services

that drive tangible operational improvements and innovation. This meeting series is an example of how beneficial it is for the FAA and industry leaders to work in tandem to deliver exceptional service to the flying public and reliable information to the broader aviation community.

Influenced by SWIFT, Cropf is looking to replicate this knowledge sharing format internally through the creation of the SWIM Partner Roundtable, a revitalization of the SWIM Producers Forum meeting series from 2017-2018. The SWIM Partner Roundtable seeks to bolster the communication lines between stakeholders by providing a forum that connects NAS system users with each other to discuss opportunities, share programmatic updates, and ensure alignment of future initiatives. The new meeting series is still in its infancy of solidifying its audience and defining a meeting cadence; if you are interested in connecting with SWIM, email SWIM@faa.gov (<mailto:SWIM@faa.gov>).

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