**Customizing which maps display by default when starting the GFE perspective**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#CustomizingwhichmapsdisplaybydefaultwhenstartingtheGFEperspective)

**How this works in AWIPS I**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#HowthisworksinAWIPSI)

All of the settings for the baseline look and feel of the GFE can be found in file called "gfeConfig". You can view this file from GFE in the "GFE" menu on top and selecting "Define Config and ifpIMAGE Files...". A GUI with a list of GFE Config Files will appear. Scroll down to find "gfeConfig" in the list, right-click it, and select "View...". This is a master list of all of the settings that you could change...not that you will want to do that.

GFE loads up an initial set of map backgrounds. Here is the setting in the gfeConfig file...

MapBackgrounds\_default = ['States','CWA']

You can add and subtract from this list of maps. If you take a look at the "Maps" menu on top of GFE, there is a list of maps that you can add to this setting. We added 'Zones' and 'Zones\_BYZ' to our list. (How to do this will be described below.)

You can also set a default color for any of the maps you display in GFE. Here is the setting in the gfeConfig file...

States\_graphicColor = 'green'

Width of map lines...

States\_lineWidth = 2

Pattern of map lines...

States\_linePattern = "SOLID"

For the other maps, you would replace "States" in the \_graphicColor, \_lineWidth, and/or, \_linePattern settings with the name of the map (like Zones\_BYZ), whose settings you want to change.

Every WFO/RFC has a "SITE" config file that they use to override the baseline settings in gfeConfig. The name of this file can be different from office to office. In addition, each forecaster may have their own config file that sources in the "SITE" config file or just sources in the gfeConfig file. The ifpImage program needs a config file so it knows what maps to draw on the png image that it creates. Overriding the baseline settings for maps is as simple as copying and modifying the settings from the gfeConfig file to the "SITE" config file, for example. Then you would have to restart GFE and use the new config file when you log in.

Config files for GFE are stored in the following directory on the dx1 servers...

/awips/GFESuite/primary/data/databases/<BASE, SITE, or username>/TEXT/GFECONFIG

**How this works in AWIPS II**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#HowthisworksinAWIPSII)

Unlike AWIPS I, where GFE and D2D used their own map files, AWIPS II forced these applications to share maps from a central repository. The change will make it easier on those that have to update maps, but it will create some work as you move config files from the AWIPS I GFE to the AWIPS II GFE.

The good news is that the AWIPS I config files can be copied over to your ADAM machine without any major edits and they will work (for the most part) provided that you have supplied ADAM with the weather element groups, color tables, sample points, etc that your config file references. When I first launched GFE with my AWIPS I "SITE" config file (with no edits), it returned 5 errors...one for a non-existent weather element group and four errors for maps that didn't exist that I had in the MapBackgrounds\_default setting.

If you want to move your config files over to ADAM, I have a script <https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/ncladt/wiki/AppConvertEditAreas> that will do this for you. I have a config file under SITE called gfeBYZConfig. It is stored on AWIPS I with a name of gfeBYZConfig.GFECONFG. For AWIPS II, I had to rename it to gfeBYZConfig.py. If a name had "\_FP" in it, I dropped the "FP" from the name. Where these files are located on ADAM are not as organized as we are used to on AWIPS I. Here are where the files are located...

BASE: /awips2/cave/etc/gfe/userPython/gfeConfig

SITE: /awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/site/<site id>/gfe/userPython/gfeConfig

USER: /awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/user/<user name>/gfe/userPython/gfeConfig

Once you put your config files in the above SITE and USER locations on ADAM, **use the localization perspective to edit them.**

**Changes to MapBackgrouds\_default[¶](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps" \l "ChangestoMapBackgrouds_default" \o "Link to this section)**

The MapBackgrounds\_default setting still works in AWIPS II. However, there is a big change in the naming convention of the maps from AWIPS I to AWIPS II.

\* CWA - CWA

\* CWA\_all - CWA\_All

\* Counties - Counties

\* Counties\_XXX - Counties\_site

\* FireWxAOR - FireWxAOR

\* FireWxZones - FireWxZones

\* FireWxZones\_XXX - FireWxZones\_site

\* States - States

\* Zones - Zones

\* Zones\_XXX - Zones\_site

where XXX is the upper case id of the WFO. So if your MapBackgrounds\_default setting included "Zones\_BYZ", you would have to change it to "forecastZones\_CWA". The above is only a subset of the available maps. To get the complete list of the new map names, go to the following directory...

/awips2/cave/etc/bundles/maps

...the new names match the names of the xml files in this directory.

**\_graphicColor, \_lineWidth, and \_linePattern[¶](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps" \l "_graphicColor_lineWidthand_linePattern" \o "Link to this section)**

These settings in the gfeConfig file no longer apply to map backgrounds in the CAVE perspective. Instead, these settings can be changed via two different methods.

**Perspective-Specific Changes**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#Perspective-SpecificChanges)

Users can change the color, width, and pattern of map backgrounds on a perspective-by-perspective basis by changing the map backgrounds in the legend and utilizing the **Save Map Style** option.

For example, to change the local CWA background in GFE to a dashed line pattern and dodger blue color.

1. Display the map legend in the spatial editor
2. Right-click on **Local CWA Boundary** and select
   1. Change Color… to change the color to **Dodger Blue**
   2. Line Style to change the style to **DASHED**
3. Once these changes are made, right-click on **Local CWA Boundary** and select **Save Map Style** to save the changes

The changes are saved in the following file:

/awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/user/<user ID>/mapstylepreferences.xml

The below example is created in the example above:

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>

<mapStylePreferenceStore xmlns:ns2="group" xmlns:ns3="http://www.example.org/productType">

<preferences>

<entry>

<key>

<mapName>Local CWA Boundary</mapName>

<perspective>com.raytheon.viz.ui.GFEPerspective</perspective>

</key>

<value>

<capability xsi:type="outlineCapability" lineStyle="DASHED" outlineOn="true" outlineWidth="1" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"/>

<capability xsi:type="labelableCapability" yOffset="0" xOffset="0" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"/>

<capability xsi:type="colorableCapability" colorAsString="dodger blue" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"/>

<capability xsi:type="shadeableCapability" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"/>

<capability xsi:type="magnificationCapability" magnification="1.0" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"/>

</value>

</entry>

</preferences>

</mapStylePreferenceStore>

**Note**: Notice the GFE perspective is specified, so this style is only applicable to GFE.

To make this a “SITE” setting, simply copy the file to the following directory:

/awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/site/<site ID>/

**Perspective-Independent Changes**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#Perspective-IndependentChanges)

Focal points can change the map style across all CAVE perspectives using the map bundles. The baseline map bundles are in this directory...

/usr/local/viz/cave/etc/bundles/maps

If you don't like how the maps look in the baseline, you can go into the Localization perspective in CAVE (CAVE -> Bundles -> maps) and copy any map bundle into SITE or any USER. Once a copy is moved over to the SITE or USER level, you can then edit the settings for that map. FYI, these files are stored in the following locations via the Localization perspective...

SITE: /awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/site/<site ID>/bundles/maps

USER: /awips2/edex/data/utility/cave\_static/user/<user id>/bundles/maps

When editing the settings, you are looking for this section in the file...

<capabilities>

<capability xsi:type="outlineCapability" lineStyle="SOLID" outlineOn="true" outlineWidth="2" />

<capability xsi:type="colorableCapability" colorAsString="wheat" />

<capability xsi:type="labelableCapability" labelField="zone" />

</capabilities>

So your AWIPS I \_graphicColor setting would replace the "colorAsString" setting above. The AWIPS I \_lineWidth setting would replace "outlineWidth" setting above. The AWIPS I \_linePattern setting would replace the "lineStyle" setting above.

The labelableCapability setting cluttered up the map with zone numbers in each zone, so I removed that capability line from the map bundle file. I turned the map off and then on in GFE and my changes went into effect without restarting CAVE.

**PNG Images in GFE**[**¶**](https://collaborate.nws.noaa.gov/trac/siteconfig/wiki/GfeSiteConfigMaps#PNGImagesinGFE)

GFE can also create PNG images using ifpIMAGE. Fortunately, the \_graphicColor, \_lineWidth, and \_linePattern settings will still work if used in configuration files used for ifpIMAGE. There is no need to create special bundles for this purpose.