

Database Design

Naming conventions

General

- All names of DB objects (database, table, column) should use an underscore (_) to separate different properties of that object, and [CamelCase](#) should be used to separate words that are part of a phrase.
 - For example, the table temp_cdInputTool_cd uses both. In this case, the variable in question is temperature (temp), the model is the Climate Division Input Tool (cdInputTool), and the type of data is climate division (cd). Note how the underscore (_) separates these 3 descriptive properties. However, CamelCase is used to describe the model, since it's a single property, with multiple words.
- When a table name requires a non-integer (eg. 0.5 month lead), the letters pt will be used. Following this example, the table name for the Monthly Update (lead of 0.5 months) would be temp_manual_Opt5m_01m_stn.
- Numbers will always be zero-padded to two digits (eg. 5 would become 05).

Forecasts

Wherever possible, tables containing forecast data will follow this naming convention:

```
vvvv_ssss_llu1_wvu2_ttt
```

where:

```
vvvv variable in question (temp, prcp)
ssss source of the information (manual, auto, tool)
ll lead time (08, 11...)
ww averaging window (01, 05, 07...)
u1 units of lead time (d, m...)
u2 units of averaging window (d, m...)
ttt type of data value (cd, stn...)
```

When the source of forecast data is a tool (see the [Verification Glossary](#) for a definition of “tool”), ssss will be represented by:

```
xxxx_yyyy_zzz
```

where:

```
xxxx tool that produced the forecast data
yyyy model that the tool is based on
zzz cycle of the model
```

However, when the tool has no cycle (currently only “cdc”):

```
xxxx_yyyy
```

where:

```
xxxx tool that produced the forecast data
yyyy model that the tool is based on
```

Again, when the forecast source (ssss) is not a tool, then it is represented by a single string (eg. manual, auto).

- Lead time is always taken to mean the time between the forecast initialization time and the center of the verifying window.
- u1 and u2 are not required to be equal.

Observations

Wherever possible, tables containing observation data will follow this naming convention:

```
vvvv_wwu_ttt
```

where:

```
vvvv variable in question (temp, prcp)
ww averaging window (01, 05, 07...)
u units of averaging window (d, m...)
ttt type of data value (cd, stn...)
```

Climatologies

Wherever possible, tables containing climatology data will follow this naming convention:

```
vvvv_wwu_yyyy1_yyyy2_ttt
```

where:

```
vvvv variable in question (temp, prcp)
ww averaging window (01, 05, 07...)
u units of averaging window (d, m...)
yyyy1 Beginning year of climatology
yyyy2 Ending year of climatology
ttt type of data value (cd, stn...)
```

Table Columns

Table columns will follow the follow naming convention:

- The identifier (station ID, WMO#, CD#, etc.) will universally fall under the column name id
- All tables in the observations and climatologies databases will have a column for the valid date, which will be named date_valid.
- All tables in the forecasts database will columns for both the issued date and the valid date, which will be named date_issued and date_valid, respectively.

- Tables in the climatologies database will have a column for the percentiles, as well as the 3 categories. They will follow the convention given in the next bullet point.
- For every column storing the value of the variable in question, the column name will follow the following convention:

`value_xxx`

where xxx is either one of 3 categories:

`below`
`normal`
`above`

or a percentile:

`prob_05pcent`
`prob_10pcent`
`prob_25pcent`
`prob_33pcent`
`prob_50pcent`
`prob_67pcent`
`prob_75pcent`
`prob_90pcent`
`prob_95pcent`

- Tables in the climatologies database can also contain several parameters defining an approximation of the empirical distribution. They will be named following this convention:

`param_ppp`

where ppp is the parameter in question, such as:

`alpha`
`beta`
`gamma`

Database Content

List of Databases Used

Name	Purpose
cpc_forecasts	Stores forecast data
cpc_observations	Stores observation data
cpc_climatologies	Stores climatology data
cpc_reference	Stores reference data (station lists, etc.)
cpc_vwt	Stores other information needed, such as notes/warnings for the user, etc.

Possible Forecast Tables

Forecast	Lead Times	Averaging Window	Time Units
Extended	D+8, D+11	5, 7	Days
Monthly	0.5, 1	1	Months
Seasonal	2, 3, 4...14	3	Months

List of Tables

Forecast	Example Table Name
D+8	temp_manual_08d_05d_stn
D+11	temp_manual_11d_07d_stn
Week 3	temp_manual_18d_07d_stn
Week 4	temp_manual_25d_07d_stn
Monthly (official)	temp_manual_01m_01m_stn
Monthly (update)	temp_manual_0pt5m_01m_stn
Seasonal (1/2 month lead)	temp_manual_02m_03m_stn
Seasonal (1 1/2 month lead)	temp_manual_03m_03m_stn
Seasonal (2 1/2 month lead)	temp_manual_04m_03m_stn
...	...
Seasonal (12 1/2 month lead)	temp_manual_14m_03m_stn
Observation	Example Table Name
Daily Mean	temp_01d_stn
Pentad	temp_05d_stn
7-day Means	temp_07d_stn
Monthly Means	temp_01m_stn
Seasonal Means	temp_03m_stn
Reference	Table Name
Station list	stn
Climate Division list	cd
Input data settings	dataSettings
Date lookup table	dates

List of Columns

The following list is a small subset just to give an example of what tables and column names can be expected. For a list of all the tables in a given database, use the Perl script *scripts/db_test_listTables.pl*. Run it with no arguments to print the usage.

Format of below Database information

- **Database**
 - *Table*
 - Column

Databases

- **climatologies**
 - *temp_07d_1971-2000_cd*
 - id
 - date_valid
 - prob_05pct
 - prob_10pct
 - prob_25pct
 - prob_33pct
 - prob_50pct
 - prob_67pct
 - prob_75pct
 - prob_90pct
 - prob_95pct
 - param_alpha
 - param_beta
 - param_gamma
- **observations**
 - *temp_05d_stn*
 - id
 - date_valid
 - category
- **forecasts**
 - *temp_manual_08d_05d_stn*
 - id
 - date_issued
 - prob_below
 - prob_normal
 - prob_above
- **Reference**
 - *stations*
 - id
 - name
 - state
 - climateRegion
 - climateDivision_102
 - climateDivision_344

- country
- lat
- lon

Indexes Used

To make querying the database much faster, indexes are used.

Forecast Tables

Index Name	Column Indexed
index_id	id
index_date	date_issued
index_date_id	(date_issued, id)

Observation Tables

Index Name	Column Indexed
index_id	id
index_date	date_valid
index_date_id	(date_valid, id)

Climatology Tables

Index Name	Column Indexed
index_id	id
index_date	date_valid
index_date_id	(date_valid, id)

Reference Tables

Location Lists (stn, cd, grid2deg)

Index Name	Column Indexed
index_id	id

Seasonal Signal (climatePhenomena_seasonal)

Index Name	Column Indexed
index_date	date_valid

index_enso	ENSO
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