

FTP/HTTP Downloading of GRIB Data

Once created several weather services upload GRIB data onto their websites for downloading by users. Some weather services do require pre-registration and there are others who require payment to be made in order to access data.

For the purposes of this book I am going to focus on those services which are available free of charge, although it should be borne in mind that more sophisticated data can be downloaded for a charge.

FTP

The most common method of retrieving FTP data is to do so via 'FTP'. This is basically a method of downloading which enables software to access a weather service computer and download directly from it.

The good news for those who are not particularly computer aware is that most of the free GRIB display programs that are available actually download and display the data automatically. Therefore there is no need to become involved with the intricacies of GRIB data, all will be done for you; before your very eyes!

You can download data via ftp using a standard internet browser such as Internet Explorer or Firefox. The download is achieved by clicking on the file that one requires and then saving it in the relevant place for the file to be retrieved and decoded by the GRIB software/

Several dedicated ftp download programmes are available including Filezilla (<http://filezilla-project.org/>) which is the programme I use and is free of charge.

Those of you who are more familiar with FTP downloading may like to know of the address of some sites where you can download GRIB data from. It is worth whole spending a bit of time to have a look around these sites as additional data is available too.

The first is the FTP server of the National Weather Services in the United States. Visit:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/>