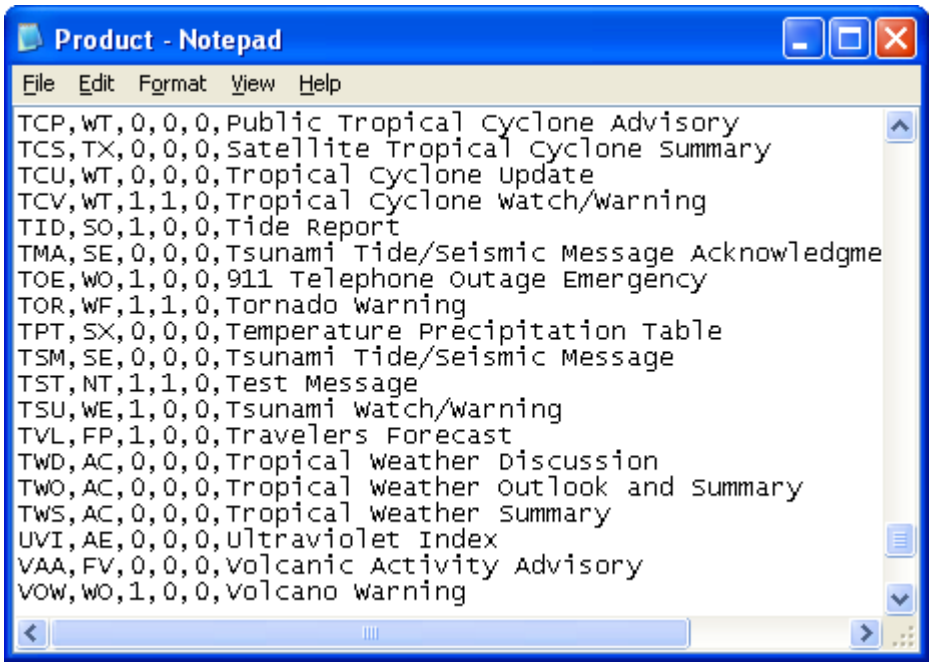
Steps to setup a custom weather product for scheduled paging.

Weather message recognizes the weather product identifiers in the Product.dat file. In order to setup a custom weather product, you will have to modify a couple of files.

The following information guides you through the steps of setting up a custom product, setting up an alarm, setting up the custom product message and establishing up a schedule.

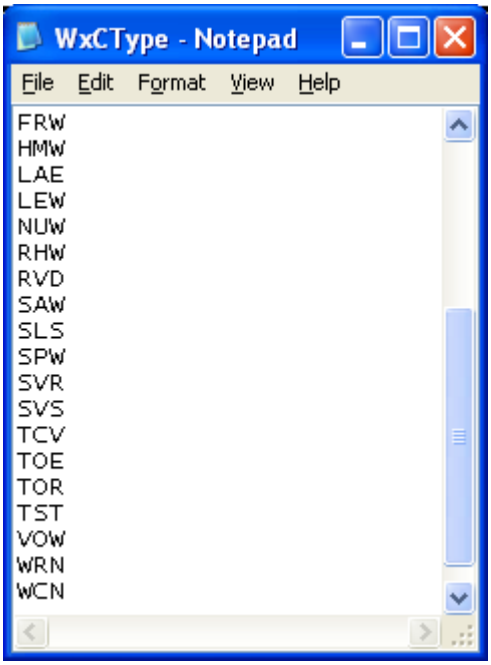
1. Edit the *Product.dat* file located in the *c:\program files\wxmesg* directory. This can be done with any editor, like notepad.



Verify that you have a “TST” product. You will notice that I have a line like the following:
TST,NT,1,1,0,Test Message

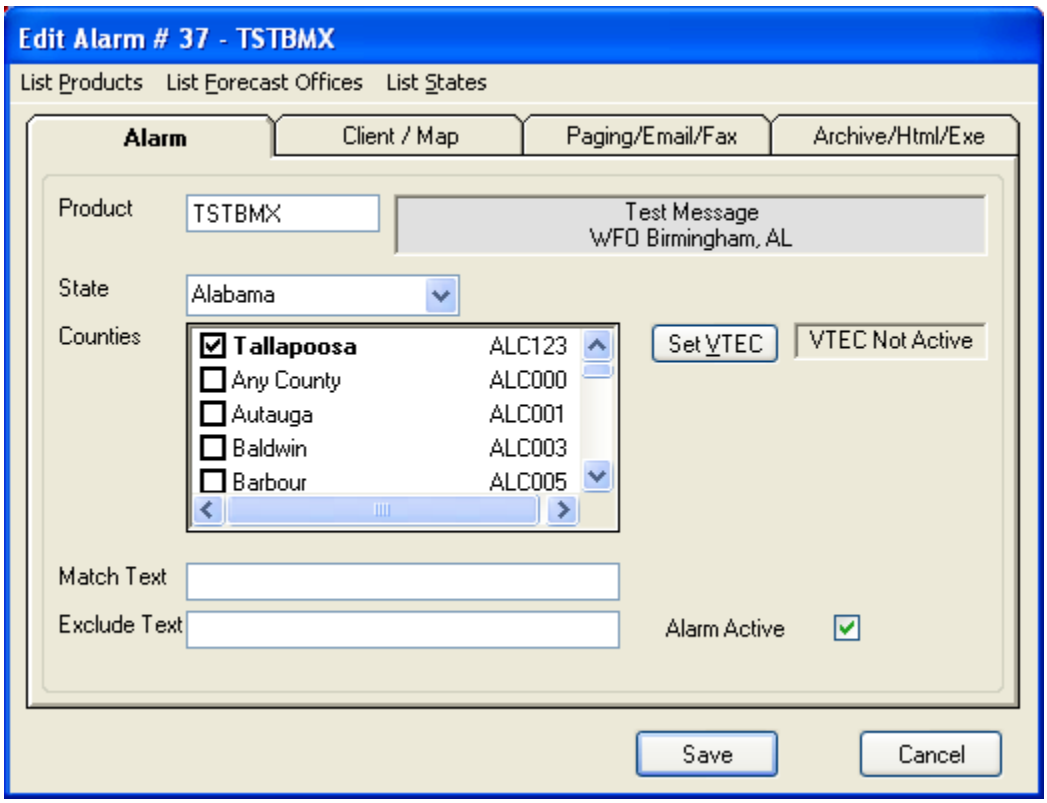
You must enter the custom product in the format shown. This establishes the product as a valid weather product. The name of your test product can be any description to fit your situation.

2. Next you will need to edit the *WxCType.dat* file.



You will see that I added the line “TST”. This establishes “TST” as a county alarm that uses FIPS codes. Early versions of Weather Message may not have this file. If you do not find the file, download WxCtype.dat from the Weather Message website or request this from from help@wxmesg.com.

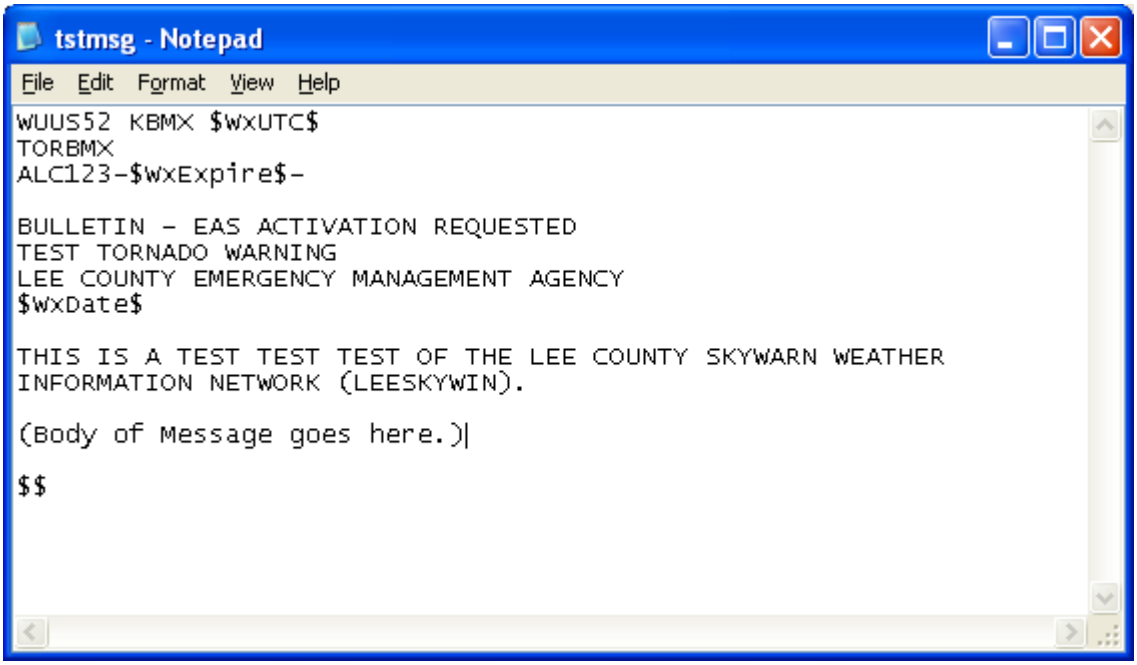
3. Next you need to setup an alarm in Weather Message.



Select your county as appropriate. You will need to select the paging group and email group based on your needs. Note: In the following steps, you will be creating a test message that will include your county FIPS code.

4. You now have a custom product established and an alarm to activate when this message is issued. You will now setup a test message to trigger this alarm.

Start NotePad, or the editor of your choice to create a message. Create a file called *TestMsg.txt* in the *c:\program files\wxmesg* directory.

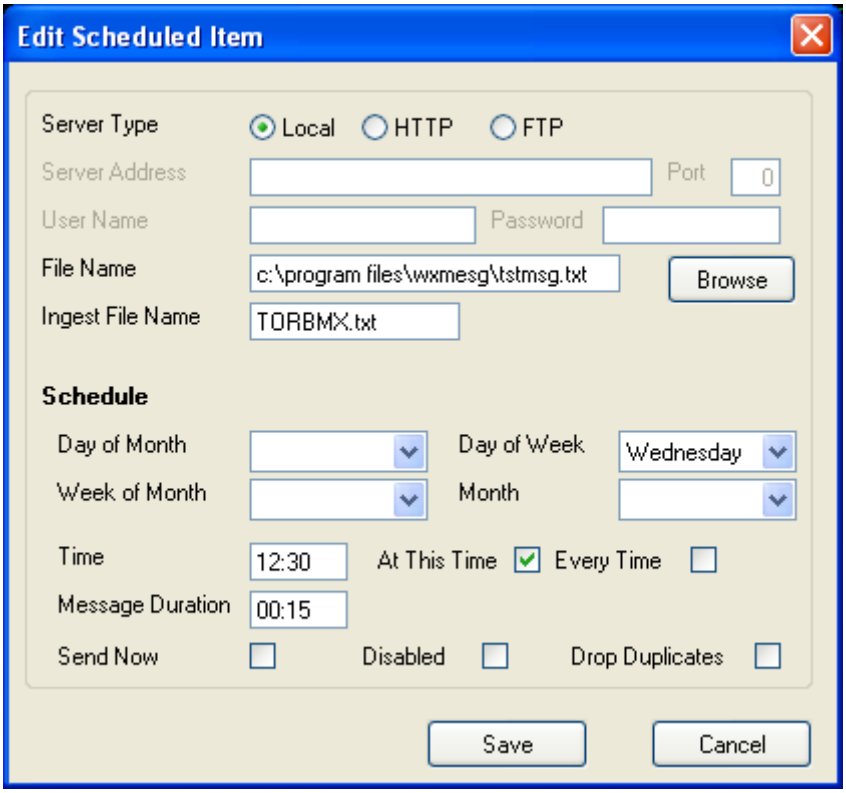


Your message should be similar to the one above. The positioning of the message information is critical. Save this file. This is the file that will be used by WxScheduler to send this test message.

Note: TSTBMX is the AWIPS identifier. Since my WFO (weather forecast office) is BMX, I used TSTBMX. You should enter your WFO, like “TSTMOB”, etc.

5. You are now ready to setup WxScheduler. Note: WxScheduler must be running at all times for this message to be sent.

Start WxScheduler and click on setup. Select the first blank line, right click and select edit.



This sets up the test message to be sent on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm. The time is in 24 hour format. The default 15 minutes in the duration field is adequate and should not have to be modified.

Click on Save to save this scheduled item. Note: If you click on the send now field, the message will be immediately sent to Weather Message for processing.

Notes:

This establishes a custom weather product to be sent at a user specified interval.

If you are using the “Short Message” format, the program will send the message title entered in step 1. It could be “Test Weather Page – Do not respond”, instead of the “Test Weather Product”.

If you want to page something every day, leave the “day of week” and “week of month” fields blank. Just enter the time that the alarm should be generated. The program will send it at that time each day.