JASON ALTIMETER DATA AT PO.DAAC

MANAGING DATA TO UNDERSTAND AND MANAGE THE OCEAN

J. ROBERT BENADA
PO.DAAC DEPUTY MANAGER
The JASON MISSION

- French-U.S. Mission to:
  - Monitor global ocean circulation
  - Discover ocean/atmosphere link
  - Monitor El Nino/La Nina
  - Monitor ocean eddies

- Measure sea level from space at a accuracy of 3 cm or better.
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Jason Data Products

- Operational Sensor Data Record-OSDR
  - Near-real-time product: < 3hrs latency
  - Uses
    - Operational products
    - Research in short term phenomena
  - Daily volume = 14 MB

- Geophysical Data Record – GDR
  - High accuracy product: 30 day latency
  - Primary research product
  - Daily Volume = 32 MB

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OSDR Distribution

- Public FTP distribution to most users
- High reliability system for Operational users
  - Double redundant systems in two locations provide continuity of service
  - Fail-over is automatic
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GDR Distribution

- Public FTP
- DVD distribution for mass distribution
  - Trade off:
    - Efficient storage on 4-6 DVDs/year
    - Timely delivery – 3 month delay
  - Compatibility issues with some unix workstations

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What PO.DAAC Supplies

- User Handbook
- Data reader software: FORTRAN, C, IDL
- Quality Assurance checks
  - Reduces risk of distribution of bad data or media
- User Services Office support
- Packaging of data for distribution
- Long-term archiving of data
- Web: News, Data, Links

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