Other Functionality

Breaking news (emergency news) and Alert Augmentation are custom features developed for the WMATA that operate outside of CommonSpot.

Objectives

When you complete this unit, you will be able to:

⟩ Understand how Emergency News works
⟩ Understand how alert augmentation works
⟩ Create an alert augmentation entry

Emergency News

Emergency news is maintained in the same database table using the same interface that is currently being used on the live WMATA website. If the table is populated, the emergency news will be displayed on the home page, advisory pages, event pages, news release pages, and trip planner pages. If prominent news is being displayed on any of these pages emergency news will take precedence. To simulate the display of emergency news, add ?emergency=1 to the url.

Alert Augmentation Management

Alerts are made available to the web site via an RSS feed. The feed is retrieved every minute and displayed on the site Status and Alerts page (/service/status/) and on other pages. If a particular alert is only displayed as long as it keeps showing up in the RSS feed.

In some situations additional information may need to be displayed along with the alert information delivered via the RSS feed. The Alert Augmentation tool was created to allow for the entry of this additional information. Additional information can be specifically associated with individual alerts, or can be set up to apply to any alert containing specified term(s) within the alert itself. Once an individual alert stops being displayed on the site, any associated additional information will also go away.

If an individual alerts has associated additional information (either by direct association or contained terms) a show details link with appear next to the alert on the status and alerts screen.

Walkthrough 8-1: Alert Augmentation

Overview

Additional information entries will be associated with individual alerts and with particular terms associated with an alert.

Objectives

After completing this walkthrough, you will be able to:

⟩ Create alert augmentation entries

Steps

1. Review the status and alerts screen and identify some terms that can be used to associate with alert augmentation entries.

2. Go to the custom admin (/admin/) and click the **Alert Augmentation Management** Link in the upper right part of the screen.

3. If you are prompted to log in, type the following user name and password:

   User name: wmatauser
   Password: wmatapassword

4. Click the **Add New Alert Augmentation** link at the top of the page.

5. Enter the text **This is additional alert information** in the **Extra Information** field. Choose a current alert from the list, and enter a term in the term/phrase 1 field.

6. Return to the status and alerts page and you should see **show details** appear next to the applicable alerts. Clicking on this link will display the alert augmentation information you entered.

—End of Walkthrough—