

Managing and Communicating User Alerts (Safety Bulletins)

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What is a User Alert?

- Alert users of an ArduPilot issue that affects the safe operation of a vehicle
 - *Issue = software bug or similar within the ArduPilot codebase*

Why?

- ArduPilot needs a robust way to communicate with users and regulators
- Users need timely and accurate information
 - Discrete from the “noise” of social media and forums
- Single source of truth
- Ability to track progress of issue (patching)

Proposal

- A central repository where safety bulletins are managed
- A documented process for drafting, releasing and closing User Alerts
- Machine readable (json/xml/etc)
 - Allows GCS and other websites to grab data and display to user

Discussion Points

- Process for releasing Safety Bulletins
 - Develop, Review and Authority to Release
- What data should be captured?
 - ArduPilot Version
 - Affected vehicle(s)
 - If it is limited to certain Flight Controllers or other hardware
 - If it is limited to certain software settings or flight modes
 - Description of aberrant behaviour
 - Mitigations (if any) - ie. “don’t use this flight mode”
 - Severity
 - Has a fix been created? Timeline? In master? In stable?

Plan

- Collation of information from discussion
- May: Detailed proposal to Dev Team
- July: Trial of system
- October: General release